

## 第4部 課題

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# 第15回 毎日パソコン入力コンクール 秋季大会

【課題】

第4部 英文B

2020 Olympics a chance to boost awareness  
about environmental issues

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Editorial: 2020 Olympics a chance to boost awareness about environmental issues 

The 2020 Tokyo Summer Olympics and Paralympics are just five years away. While these are among the biggest sporting events in the world, Japan should not place too much emphasis on the construction of stadiums and other sports facilities. Rather, it should focus on handing down to future generations a legacy that incorporates new approaches and the spirit of the games. 

The year 2020 marks a milestone as the international community is set to launch a new framework for efforts to combat global warming. The second Tokyo Olympics, following the 1964 Games, should attach importance to environmental protection. It should also model to the world a vision for achieving a sustainable society. 

While past games had been viewed as opportunities for host countries to spur economic growth, construction of large-scale facilities for the Olympics can end up destroying the natural environment. There is no denying that the 1964 Tokyo Olympics had both these positive and negative aspects. 

The Olympic Charter was revised in 1996 against the backdrop of criticism of environmental destruction that began to be voiced in the 1970s. Specifically, calls for interest in the environment and promotion of sustainable development were incorporated in the charter. As such, the environment is a key pillar of the Olympic movement. 

The 2012 London Olympics are viewed as the games that gave the

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highest consideration to the environment. The organizing committee of the London Games drew up a plan on sustainability that called to avoid using waste from the games in landfills, and to reduce carbon dioxide emissions. In accordance with the plan, organizers of the Olympics succeeded in avoiding landfills by reusing materials and processing raw garbage into compost. Soil was purified in advance and greenbelts were created in eastern London, which hosted the main Olympic venue. The area is now regarded as an environment—friendly zone. 📌

The 2020 Tokyo Olympics should pay even more attention to environmental protection. It goes without saying that CO2 emissions and waste should be reduced. And eradication of resource waste will certainly help organizers cut back on the games' expenses. 📌


Since the Tokyo Olympics are scheduled to be held in the middle of summer, countermeasures against heatstroke will pose a challenge. Roads should be paved in a way that will limit surface temperature and greenbelts should be created. Such efforts would be more effective if they are to be made in conjunction with redevelopment projects under way in downtown areas. Organizers are also considering proactively using hydrogen energy. Japan's hosting of the 2020 Olympics and Paralympics will be a golden opportunity to demonstrate the country's environmental technology. 📌


The Tokyo Games bidding committee pledged in its candidate file to thoroughly eliminate waste based on a spirit of "mottainai" (a term expressing regret over waste) and to take advantage of public attention on the Olympics to enhance awareness of

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environmental issues through the games. This stance deserves appreciation. 


What is worrisome, however, is that organizers have not yet drawn up an action plan with numerical targets to achieve this. The organizing committee of the Tokyo Games is expected to announce a plan by the end of fiscal 2016, but its work to draw one up is progressing more slowly than at the London Olympics. 


It is essential for organizers to form agreements with the national and Tokyo metropolitan governments, environmental NGOs and other entities in working out an action plan. Organizers should make effective use of the next five years to that end. 

May 04, 2015(Mainichi Japan) 



Yoroku: A new type of souvenir from Iceland — an energy revolution 


The reason for the advice to pack a pair of sunglasses when visiting Iceland — even in the middle of winter — was clear upon arrival. Reykjavik, the capital city, lies at a latitude of 64 degrees North, meaning the sun hangs low in the sky and its sharp rays hit the eyes directly, even at midday. 


The city's proximity to the Arctic Circle is what allows visitors there to see the northern lights at night. There were Japanese tourists on the flight; Iceland has become increasingly popular as a tourist destination because of convenient bus tours that take visitors from hotels in Reykjavik to see the aurora borealis. 


In addition to tourists, students come to this remote northern corner of the world from countries that one may not expect, such

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as Kenya and Rwanda. Why? To study geothermal power generation. Iceland, a major volcanic country that depends on geothermal power for 30 percent of its electricity and 90 percent of its heating, has operated the Geothermal Training Programme for developing countries since it was established in cooperation with the United Nations University in 1978. 

Since the program's launch, 583 scientists and engineers from 58 countries have completed the six—month program. Trainees also have the opportunity to continue their studies in masters and doctorate courses. The students come not only from African states but from Asian countries, too, including China and the Philippines, as well as Latin America and Eastern Europe. Those who have completed their training go on to lead efforts to develop geothermal power generation in their home countries. 

According to estimates, Japan, another country dotted with volcanoes, has the third largest geothermal potential in the world. This far surpasses the resources in Iceland. And yet, because Japan has been slow to strike a balance between the misgivings of hot spring operators, environmental conservation concerns, and deregulation, little progress has been made toward harnessing geothermal energy. 

Perhaps Japanese tourists who encounter cloudy weather in Iceland and miss seeing the northern lights can, in lieu of pictures and stories of this mystical phenomenon, bring back knowledge about geothermal power. Such "souvenirs" may help nudge Japan toward geothermal power. ("Yoroku," a front—page column in the Mainichi Shimbun)

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