

Panel discussion

Theme: Mottainai Saves the Earth

Ms.Yuriko Koike



Granted, "Mottainai" is a crucial concept, but we should also make efforts to develop technologies not heavily dependent on fossil fuels and to institute such systems as environment taxes. Spirit (Mottainai), combined with Work (technologies) and Body (systems), would lead Japan to an environmentally-oriented nation. What is needed is also to educate adults as well as children. Nurturing leaders through education will result in involving more people in green activities.

Prof.Wangari Maathai



She stressed the importance of "Respect (for vegetation and greenery)" as well as the key word 3 Rs ("Reduce", "Reuse", "Recycle"). She affirmed, amid a thunderous applause: "We humans need trees purifying the environment. We cannot survive without vegetation and greenery. Trees, however, can survive without humans. We should be grateful to trees".

Ms. Mariko Bando



It is not wise to pursue immediate gains from a short-term perspective. What is most important is not to waste things. Having a sustained relationship with things would result in more returns. The point is to take loving care of the lives of things to the end, not throwing them away nonchalantly.

Mr. Eiichi Sato



He talked about a variety of governmental efforts based on the spirit of Mottainai. He pledged to continue to carry out the Mottainai Movement, stressing that the movement, the essence of which is peace, will contribute to respect for life.

Ms. Chamine Koda



Mottainai, which carries vital connotations such as respect and gratitude, is a great word. We should spread this word with proud.

Presentations on eco-activities

【Shimazu Corporation】 (Kyoto Prefecture)

Awarded the Minister of Environment Prize in 2006 for its efforts to stem global warming. Its project team, "Eco Club", comprised mainly of female employees, provides know-how on environmental preservation to local communities, centered on schools. Children learn the spirit of Mottainai playing a game with "Eco Kyoto Sugoroku (Japanese backgammon)" and other tools for environmental education developed by the team.

【Non-profit organization Space Fuu】 (Yamanashi Prefecture)

Awarded the Minister of Environment Prize in 2007 for its efforts to promote the 3Rs (Reduce, Reuse and Recycle) movement. It launched a reused tableware rental business in 2003. The following year, it succeeded in supplying recycled cups to the Ventforett Kofu, a professional soccer team. It has seven bases throughout Japan, which are connected by the Reused Tableware Fuu Net set up in 2006.

【Okayama City Government】

In Okayama City, a wide variety of groups have been working together to tackle the Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). Efforts to network diverse local groups and to nurture leaders have resulted in the increase in the number of participating bodies to about one hundred. The city is recognized as "Regional Hub for ESD" by the United Nations University.

【Ibaraki Prefectural Tsuchiura Kohoku Senior High School】

Awarded in 2007 the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology Prize for its efforts to promote the 3Rs movement. The school aims to contribute to the preservation of the environment by reducing the volume of garbage, a cause of global warming, through a clean-up campaign. To this end, it has conducted surveys on garbage disposal in and around the school, among other themes. It is convinced that awareness-raising activities will contribute to reducing the current volume of garbage by 90 %.



Tsuchiura Kohoku Senior High School students give a presentation.



The Second National Convention on Mottainai
Mottainai Saves the Earth
 Let's nurture the spirit treasuring humans, things and the earth **in Utsunomiya**



Prof. Wangari Maathai Ms. Yuriko Koike Ms. Mariko Bando Ms. Chamine Koda

The Second National Convention on Mottainai Declaration Statement

The earth is shedding tears.
 It is showing the symptoms of global warming that include:
 Abnormal climate such as rainstorms and droughts,
 Glacial retreat in the Himalayas,
 Desertification and
 Extinction of species.
 Human activities such as heavy consumption of fossil fuels and forest destruction are damaging the earth.

Peace remains at risk.
 In repeated wars, terrorisms and brutal crimes,
 Many precious lives are lost somewhere in the world at this moment.
 Respect for others is fading in importance.

So as to pass on the beauty of our earth to future generations, and
 So as to bring peace to the world,

In line with the spirit of Mottainai,
 We are determined to educate children, bearers of our future,
 Bring peace to the world,
 Restore the natural environment, and
 Pass on the beauty of our earth to future generations.

On this occasion, we declare our commitment to promoting MOTTAINAI, the spirit we Japanese have cherished since ancient times, throughout Japan and subsequently throughout the world.



Fifth and sixth graders at Nishi Elementary School read out the declaration statement.

June 2, 2008
 The Second National Convention on Mottainai

Secretariat of the Executive Committee of the National Convention on Mottainai
 Environmental Policy Division, Department of Environment, Utsunomiya City Government
 Tochigi-ken Utsunomiya-shi Asahi 1-1-5 TEL028-632-2417 FAX028-632-3316 E-mail: mottainai@city.utsunomiya.tochigi.jp
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Eiichi Sato, Chair of the Executive Committee of the National Convention on Mottainai, Mayor of Utsunomiya City



The City of Utsunomiya hosted the Second National Convention on Mottainai on June 2 and 3, 2008. With the total number of visitors reaching approximately four thousand, the convention resulted in a great success. They identified with the aspirations of Prof. Wangari Maathai and other guest speakers. We believe the convention will contribute to disseminating the spirit of Mottainai, which treasures humans, goods and the earth, throughout Japan and the rest of the world. We appreciate your support for our cause.

We have compiled a preliminary report on the convention. We hope you will find the report a helpful guide to promote the Mottainai Movement. We would like to ask for your further cooperation.



The main hall was filled to capacity.

June 2 (Mon.)

Memorial Trees Planting

Utsunomiya Municipal Chuo Elementary School 11:00 – 11:40
Prof. Maathai planted memorial trees together with schoolchildren. She called on them to think over what they can do for the cause of Mottainai individually and do their best for our planet.



Prof. Maathai plants memorial trees together with children.

Plenary session Tochigi Prefectural Sogo Culture Center 13:00 – 17:00

1. Stage show

Choral singing by the Tochigi Prefectural Utsunomiya Chuo Girls' Senior High School Choir

2. Opening ceremony

Opening remarks by the organizers
Speeches by guests of honor

3. Report of donation of a school bus to Tuvalu

4. Keynote speech: Prof. Wangari Maathai, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize,
Kenya's former Assistant Minister for Environment, Natural Resources and Wildlife

5. Panel discussion

Prof. Wangari Maathai

Ms. Yuriko Koike, a member of the House of Representatives, former Minister for Environment

Ms. Mariko Bando, President of Showa Women's University, author of "*Women's Dignity*"

Mr. Eiichi Sato, Mayor of Utsunomiya City

Moderator: Chamine Koda, Head of the United Nations Information Center



Stage show

Get-acquainted reception Utsunomiya Tobu Hotel Grande 18:00 – 19:30

Around 370 participants exchanged information on their Mottainai activities, enjoying *gyoza* dumplings, an Utsunomiya's specialty, cocktails and jazz music. They had a good opportunity to deepen their relationships.



Around 370 persons took part in the get-acquainted reception.

June 3 (Tue.)

Presentations on eco-activities Tochigi Prefectural Sogo Culture Center 9:30 – 12:30

Shimazu Corporation

Non-profit organization Space Fuu

Okayama City Government

Ibaraki Prefectural Tsuchiura Kohoku Senior High School



Presentation on eco-activities

Keynote speech

Speaker: Prof. Wangari Maathai, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, Kenya's former Assistant Minister for Environment, Natural Resources and Wildlife

Theme: Handing over our beautiful planet to the next generation



Prof. Maathai speaks with *furoshiki*.

Encounter the word "Mottainai"

She encountered the word "Mottainai" while at the invitation of the Mainichi Shimbun, she stayed in Japan in 2005. She recalled that time, saying, "Mottainai denotes to have sympathy and gratitude so as not to waste resources. It comprises every key concept. I was really impressed by the word".

She hoped the world leaders who would participate in this year's G-8 summit, to be held in the Lake Toyako resort in Hokkaido, would become aware of the great concept "Mottainai" as well as the 3 Rs ("Reduce", "Reuse" and "Recycle").

Conserve limited resources

Prof. Maathai has been disseminating the spirit of Mottainai mainly through her tree planting initiatives. Citing scientific studies which attribute global warming to human activities, she appealed, "We humans must stem global warming. The forests which absorb carbon dioxide and exhale oxygen are the earth's lung. Therefore, it is vital to preserve forests".

Further, regarding conflicts erupting in Africa and other parts of the world, she pointed out that they are in conflict with one another in order to secure water, land, forests and other natural resources. So peace is closely associated with our environment. As long as humans do not share limited resources in a fair manner, conflicts will only multiply.

Let's do our best

In closing, Prof. Maathai talked about her favorite fable, "A drop of a hummingbird". This is about a fire in the forest. It was really a conflagration. Animals were struck dumb with surprise, grief and despair. However, a hummingbird was frantically going and coming and putting a drop of water over the fire. Other animals made fun of the bird, "It's no use doing that". The hummingbird retorted, "I'm just doing what I can do", concluding, "You may think we creatures are too powerless. But each and all should be a hummingbird and do what he or she can do".

Report of donation of a school bus to Tuvalu

The report was made by former Chairperson of the Utsunomiya Chamber of Young Entrepreneurs Mitsuyoshi Ishige and Nachi Ishikawa, a member of the Utsunomiya Future Association.



The first National Convention on Mottainai encouraged the chamber to carry out a fund-raising campaign so as to donate a school bus to children of Tuvalu, which is on the brink of submersion due to rising of the sea level caused by global warming. Around 2,400,000 yen raised was used to purchase and ship the bus. On the other hand, members of the Future Association painted the bus with their strong desire to join forces to save Tuvalu.

Mr. Ishige, who visited Tuvalu to attend a donation ceremony there, was heartily welcomed by Prime Minister Apisai Ielemia and children. He mentioned retreating sandy beaches and other horrifying situations, adding that we should address such menaces with the spirit of "Mottainai".