

FOREWORD

“Japan is a rich country.”

One of my former students called me just after the Japan Earthquake on March 11th, 2011. He said,

“Japanese government affords to buy enough land in Canada or Australia to move all the Japanese citizen. You can wait there until the radiation get weak enough.”

He continued,

“It is a huge waste of money to pay for the complicated ineffective process for a small reduction of radioactive substances at this stage. Discussion of the evacuation area of residence is also nonsense. The land is anyway contaminated. It will take long time, fifty or one hundred years, until the land recovers. If you really think about your children, why don't you move? You can come back to Japan whenever the radioactive contamination is cleaned out. Why don't you do so?”

It was a very sound argument. No counterargument was found. I replied to him,

“Well, this is a new idea for me. No Japanese has discussed on that point, so far. I wonder why. Let me think. We, Japanese, feel that we won't be Japanese anymore if we leave our lands.”

Islands of Japan are located at the hot spot of earthquake. We also have typhoons and heavy snow. Japanese have been living in these islands for long time. Japanese people today are the descendants of those who kept living in this country.

Japan has been constantly and repetitively attacked by various natural disasters and people living there have been knocked down by these disasters from time to time. Those who could not make it must have already escaped from Japan or already have died out.

Japanese people have been selected in this manner through severe natural conditions for thousands of years. We, Japanese, are the descendant of those selected people. We keep the gene of them, who had chosen to stay Japan for all these ordeals, in our cells.

Therefore we never dream to leave Japan even after such devastating calamities, such as the Japan earthquake, March 11, 2011.

In spite of these frequency and harshness of natural disasters, and being beaten and stretched on the ground by these disasters, the gene tells us to stay in Japan.

Such gene features us the forgetfulness, unyielding spirit and optimism. Submissiveness and renunciation under the power of nature, sincere appreciation of the beauty of seasons and blessing from nature.

As the result of these inherent characters we can accept the facing hardships and can live with indifferent manner without any panic, even in the greatest disaster. This picture of our attitude,

especially the quiet behavior of the refugees of the Japan Earthquake, reported through various media, might have impressed the people in the world.

However, this time, the situation brought about by the failure of Fukushima nuclear power plant is not the same as the other natural disasters before. Nuclear power had never existed in our history of natural disasters. Despite the never experienced disaster, our gene leads us in the same manner as it functioned in the precedent disasters. Nobody knows whether our actions, following the reaction of our gene, go to the best results.

The Japan Earthquake, March 11th in 2011, put various unexpected problems under our noses. The poor crisis management prepared by the power companies and our government for nuclear power plant was the main cause of the unnecessary failure. The recovery from the damage by earthquake and Tsunami is restricted by complicated administrative process. These are mainly due to the dysfunction or the bureaucracy of the government system of Japan. These are becoming much serious problem than the natural disasters themselves since such situation may block the smooth recovery or may even become the main cause of the unnecessary disasters.

The social systems are also created by human being. The ERS group should extend their scope to include the improvement of such situation.

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