



Programme Script

“What we can do for decarbonizing”

by Kyoto Sanjo Radiocafe

Part 1

Hello, everyone. Today we, Ayako Naito, Koichi Takahashi, and Toyoko Okuzu are going to present you a programme.

Ayako: We are going to have COP21, Conference of the Parties in Paris, taking place from Nov. 30th. We, ordinary citizens, don't have exact knowledge about climate change, though we have a looming idea that the conference is where people discuss and conclude treaties to prevent it. So today we have a special guest, Masayoshi Iyoda from NGO Kiko Network, to dig into the issue.

Masayoshi: Hi, everyone.

Ayako: Please tell us what global warming and climate change are all about.

Masayoshi: First of all, the climate on earth gets warmer and cooler in turn in a long term. But much more CO₂ released by burning fossil fuel these days has rapidly warmed up the earth. That is global warming. The condensed CO₂ in the air functions like a blanket which keeps heat from diffusing.

Ayako: I got it. It doesn't sound good. What's the biggest problem caused by global warming?

Masayoshi: Climate change first of all. The temperature goes up and the sea level rises. Some regions have heavier rain and others much less. And we are expected to face severer typhoons or hurricanes. Today 70% of natural disasters are relevant to climate change. The digits have doubled since 20 years ago. And it's said to get more serious as global warming goes

worse.

Ayako: More frequent typhoons hitting Japan nowadays make us all feel something going abnormal. What will happen if this tendency continues?

Masayoshi: It's been already, and will be more affecting poverty, peace, human rights, and circle of life. We often read news on refugees in Syria. A research shows a long period of drought in Syria has caused the domestic unsustainability that has actually added to that big number of refugees. It's said we'll be only able to cherish autumn colored leaves in Kyoto around Christmas in 2050 if global warming advances at a pace of today.

Koichi: Then we'll eventually have red Christmas instead of white one.

Ayako: We'll lose four seasons.

Masayoshi: The beautiful nature and cultures in Kyoto won't be the same.

Ayako: Exactly. That'll be a big problem.

Well let's go back to the talk about COP. Now could you explain about it because we are not very familiar with it.

Masayoshi: About 20 years ago, an international treaty to prevent global warming was adopted in the UN among almost all the member countries. And they hold a conference every year, which is called COP, conference of the parties. The 3rd conference was held in Kyoto and it concluded Kyoto Protocol which for the first time ever in the history called upon the member countries and international community to decrease the release of CO₂. Actions against global warming have dramatically advanced since then.

Ayako: But we've been still facing various issues. So we need to set more progressive targets, don't we?

Masayoshi: Yes, scientific experts warn that current actions are not enough at all to avert more dangerous situations.

Koichi: Some people say the global warming is part of natural swing back from the ice age. Is it the case?

Masayoshi: No, it's wrong. Global warming seen in the 20th century, especially in the latter, can never be reasoned only by the natural cycle. The analyses

with consideration of CO2 released by human activities can more convincingly explain this rapid rise of the global temperature than analyses without.

Ayako: We got it. Our human activities have been impacting global warming with no doubt.

Koichi: Now we'd like to inform you of the event, Earth Parade 2015. COP21 will discuss and adopt new rules. But it doesn't seem to be very easy with many different interests of different countries involved. So to urge country representatives to hold serious and positive discussion, on Action Days of 28th and 29th of November, over tens of millions of people over the world parade and demonstrate. Demonstrations are planned in Tokyo and Kyoto in Japan. Please join us.

Ayako: It's time to wrap up the first part. In the second part we'll ask more details about COP21 to Mr. Masayoshi Iyoda.

Part 2

Hi, everyone. Today we, Ayako and Koichi, are going to present a programme.

Ayako: In the 1st part, we listened to Masayoshi about basic issues on global warming and COP21, which takes place from 30th November. Masayoshi, you are going to participate in the conference, aren't you?

Masayoshi: Yes, I'll stay for two weeks in Paris to attend the conference.

Ayako: What will be the main focus of the conference?

Masayoshi: Well, in short, it'll be whether we can adopt Paris Protocol in which the international community agrees to prevent dangerous climate change. The change won't stop if actions continue to be as they've been. We've tried to limit temperature rise by less than two Celsius compared to the industrial revolution era. But it can't be accomplished if each country keeps its current target of CO2 release reduction. So towards Paris, a series of negotiations are going on to set a tougher scheme.

Ayako: How many countries are going to participate in the conference?

Masayoshi: About 195 countries.

Ayako: Tell us some update of the negotiations.

Masayoshi: About 150 countries have already submitted their targets from 2020 onward to the UN. Among them are the US and China, which occupy the 1st and 2nd positions in terms of CO2 release volume, sending their clear message that they'll eagerly commit themselves to success of the Paris conference. So this time the international community shares intention and momentum to make the conference successful, though some people in Japan had been a bit skeptical.

Ayako: I got it. By the way, how is Japanese government's effort evaluated?

Masayoshi: Unfortunately it's not considered positive by scientists over the world finding it inadequate. They especially consider it problematic for the government to have a policy to allow more coal-burning power plants. We should stop this trend.

Ayako: Tell us more about the government's energy policy. Some say nuclear power plants are efficient in terms of less CO2 release.

Masayoshi: I don't think it's the right discussion and nuclear plants are useless to avert global warming. Although it's true they don't emit CO2 when they generate electricity, they use and produce negative materials for environment and leave debt to the next generations. So we should, instead of nuclear plants, seek more energy saving and rely on natural energy 100 %.

Ayako: Are those issues also covered at COP21?

Masayoshi: COPs actually focus on how much of CO2 release we reduce, not referring very much to technologies and means to do so while some participants hope to create a momentum which leads to discussion over 100% supply by recyclable energy. So far it's dependent on each county what technologies they use to accomplish their targets, which means it's up to each one of us.

Ayako: What is important to prevent global warming?

Masayoshi: We should make stronger efforts not to use fossil fuels that emit much CO2 but to save energy and replace traditional power generation with renewable energy completely. G7 summit in Germany last June

declared they'd pursue decarbonization by the end of this century. They had sought less-carbonization before but now turning into the new era of zero carbon emission.

Ayako: Decarbonization. The very first time to hear. I'll remember that. For decarbonization it should be very important to save electricity as well as to reduce usage of fossil fuels.

Masayoshi: Exactly. Although it's efficient to turn off electric switches as often as possible when you don't use them, it's also very effective to buy home electronics with high energy efficiency to save environment and keep your electricity bill low. Those electronics are a bit more expensive but in a long run, you can save expenses in total.

Ayako: We got it. We need to raise our awareness about that. In that sense, we'll have a very good opportunity very soon. Tell us about that.

Masayoshi: Yes. We plan to have a public parade, "The parade towards the Paris conference to protect our climate." We gather in the Maruyama park around noon on Sunday, November 29th and parade through downtown Kyoto. Actually it's part of the international action called "Earth Parade 2015." Responding to the same cause, in many cities all over the world, tens of million people join parades to call the international leaders including Abe and Obama to eagerly work to reach the successful agreement in Paris. This action is to demonstrate our strong hope and intension for the fruitful conclusion in Paris to the world leaders who might not be keen enough without the pressure from the world citizens.

Ayako: We should definitely join them to show we keep an eye on how the leaders behave.

Koichi: Let me inform you of the event again. We have the international action days on 28th and 29th of November. In Japan, parades are planned in Kyoto and Tokyo. In Kyoto please gather at the Maruyama park at 1 p.m. Let's get involved to urge the world leaders to hold very positive discussion for the successful agreement. For more details please contact NGO Citizens Environmental Foundation at 075-211-3521.

Ayako: We've listened to Masayoshi Iyoda from Kiko Network about COP21.

We now understand every one of us affects and is affected by global warming and climate change. Together let's make the Paris conference succeed.

Thank you very much today, Masayoshi.

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