## Akiho Hamaguchi

It is twenty years since Severn Cullis Suzuki made the legendary speech at the global summit in in 1992.

What Severn brought up...has not been solved yet. Desertification has not stopped. Another ozone hole was found above the Antarctic recently. Street children, refugees, people living in slums are still living from hand to mouth. Thanks to your effort, the situation today may seem slightly better than what we see in photos of the world twenty years ago in school textbooks. But the improvement is not significant enough.

Is Severn's voice still ringing in your heart at all? If it's fading away, we will appeal for Severn again.

Not only those of you working for the United Nations but all grown-ups are going to hand over the society to today's children in future. Until that day you hold the baton of the society. How much you can solve environmental issues set our starting line. If you manage to solve a lot of issues, we can start from a better position. If little, we have to dash from a worse position toward the future we want. If we have to start from a bad position, our children, grandchildren and great grandchildren may also be affected. So do please face the issues more wholeheartedly than ever. The future we and our descendants are going to live depend on your effort.

We are only children. As children we have no social or financial resource and one child cannot begin a big eco-movement. But there is always something small we can do in our daily life. For example we can use a fan instead of an air conditioner, use both sides of paper or recycled paper, and try not to leave food over to decrease CO2 emission in incineration. There are so many things we can do and I've been trying, too. One person is not enough to make a big eco-movement but if many people get together, they can create a big movement. We can also donate some of our pocket money for tree planting.

Adult people have big social and financial resources. Of course you can do a small eco-movement like a child but when you unite your forces you can organize worldwide movements. If all the people in the world share the will to protect the earth and work together, the earth will surely be a wonderful planet. I was interested what kind of future other people wanted and asked several people including adults and children, men and women. I thought my question might help them to take a step toward the future they want.

Most people said "the world free from poverty or starvation", "the world where wars and conflicts can be reconciled shortly", "the world of coexistence and co-prosperity with all creatures." One adult person said "I hope my children say 'we are so fortunate to be born on this planet.'" Everybody was sincerely hoping for a positive future story.

There is only one earth, our planet of life. I really do not want to make our irreplaceable earth a planet of death.

On this planet we truly want to realize our future free from all the environmental problems, that is, war, poverty, famine and extinction of creatures and resource exhaustion. This is I really wish for from the core of my heart.

We trust and support you all who work to improve the situation on our planet earth day after day.

Thank you.