

Hiroshi Nishizuka

I was born in Shonan, an area covered with green, where you can see the pacific and Mt.Fuji in the distance. I grew up happily there.

On the other hand some Japanese people tend to believe that happiness comes only from having a lot of money and waste their life in a urban jungle of towering buildings pressed with work day after day. They seldom take a day-off or have a good time with their families. I wonder if they are really happy or not.

This is what I witnessed recently. One day I was on a bus. There came a stranger in his late forties and sat next to me. He looked exhausted, sleepy and lonely. Looking at him, I wondered "Is he living a happy life?" There must be a lot of people like him among Japanese people, which made me sad. I wondered what we could do so that these people live happily with a smile on their faces.

So that everybody in Japan can live happily, I believe the following things are essential.

Firstly we need to live a satisfactory life. To be satisfied we need to be thankful for what happens in everyday life.

Secondly we need to take good care of human relationship. We should promote communication among classmates at school, among colleagues at work and among local residents.

Lastly it is essential to make Japan a green-rich country. We Japanese people feel comfortable seeing green. Natural resources such as sea, rivers, forests etc. have been supplying us with affluent water, food, minerals and woods, I mean, natural energy resources.

However, environmental destruction in Japan has got worse and many creatures are on the verge of extinction. If we don't change our direction now, we will run short of these resources and be unable to support our own living. Wars and conflicts may take place. To protect and recover nature in Japan, each one of Japanese people should make an effort; to take good care of nature and use as little resource as possible. We shouldn't be driven by your desire alone.

I hope everybody living with Japan have gratitude, connection with people and take part in natural conservation. Then we all can live happily smiling.

If possible I'd like to call out to the world to try the same and always live happily.