Rino Watanabe

I want to rescue the earth. For myself and more children to come in future and for all the other living creatures, I want to let the earth return to what it could really be. I want to do whatever I can do in my life without giving up.

So many species are becoming extinct. I believe all the living creatures are just like a big family on the earth. I don't want to see our brothers and sisters dying out. But at the moment the earth is not a comfortable place for them to live, which we human beings are aware of, too. We are responsible for making the earth a difficult place to live by destroying nature.

Maybe we have forgotten that our life is sustained by nature. Our oxygen supply comes from photosynthesis of plants. Also this process helps us by consuming CO2, one of the factors causing the global warming. We can relax by seeing and feeling nature. Nature has been supporting us but we keep on harming it instead of thanking it. Why? Is it because nature does not revenge itself on us immediately or because it does not verbalize complaints? If so, it is just the same as bullying. I can never apologize to nature too much.

I'm living in Japan, where it is safe to drink tap water. We are fortunate that Japan is wealthy enough to have good facilities such as dams and water purification plants.

Japan is one of the countries that have become rich through industrialization. But these countries emitted a lot of smoke from factories, exhaust gas from cars and CFCs to deplete the ozone layer. As a result we injured the earth and the global warming has become a big issue with glaciers melting, sea levels rising, desertification, strange weather, acid rain, ozone holes etc. We cannot repair the ozone layer with today's technology yet. This problem is not just domestic but global and we were not able to avoid harassing people living in other countries.

We human beings must have been obsessed with the idea of making our life easier and more comfortable and paid little attention how to protect nature. Even when we were happy enough, we wanted more and kept on destroying nature instead of protecting it.

We should have begun sharing what we have with those who do not. We are totally spoiled by wanting and having too much and cannot remember the way back to live with the least we really need. Also we are addicted to competition and always want to win over others, which created unnecessary gap between the poor and the rich.

I wonder what our descendants could learn about our age? Will they call it an age of invention and convenience? I'm afraid not. They will learn about the extinction of species and the natural destruction of our age. What will they think of our age? I cannot expect a positive answer. I want to do something to change the situation. I believe there are a lot of people who want to change as I do. The way the earth is now is not the way I want.

The world should not be a place to feed our greed. We need to protect and nurture nature to regain it. To do so I'll begin with what I can do in my daily life. I'll save electricity and water and use daily goods with care so that they last long. I want to grow up as an adult who can do all these things as a matter of course. All these small actions will make a big difference in the world.

I believe Rio+20 is a precious opportunity to have another look at the way the earth is now. It is also a good chance to discuss how to change our future on earth. I would love to take part in the choice to be made at Rio+20.

The current nature has been being destroyed by us, human beings. The earth I want is a convenient and rich planet where nature and human being can live together. That's why I would like us all to work together to recover and protect nature on earth.

Thank you for your listening.