

“Resurrection of Nature, Coexistence of nature and human”
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Hello everyone. Thank you very much for your participation in the 29th Kuma River (Kumamoto heavy rain) volunteers.

I am Iwamura Yoshio. I serve as a “servant” of Kobe International Sustaining Organization.

Just like “build a building on sand, so it will fall down”.

11 years ago, I realized that my life was a “*Sajyo-no roukaku* (砂上の砂:house of cards on the sand)”. The word “*Sajyo-no roukaku*” comes from an old Chinese lesson about building a house on sand. Immediately after the Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011, and the Kuma River flooded on July 4, 2020, all food disappeared from the shelves of convenience stores and supermarkets. At the time of 3.11, at a gas station in Ishinomaki City, Miyagi Prefecture, we waited not an hour but several hours to gain 1 liter of gas. We also experienced a planned outage. The period of time when water, electricity and gas were cut off and supplying time of electricity was limited. It was the time that I realized for the first time that we depend on others for our own food and energy we needed to survive. Since March 2011, we have been visiting Tohoku for 11 years almost every month.

Moderator: That is the story since Kobe International Sustaining Organization started its working immediately after 3.11.

Iwamura: Yes. This month is the 132th visit to Tohoku, and as I mentioned at the beginning, it will be the 29th visit since the Kuma River flood in July 2020. The farmland where cannot cultivate plants due to damages from the Tohoku earthquake and tsunami. And the farmland in Watanoha, where cannot plant rice nor vegetables because sludge covered it. Also, seaside harbor. Ishinomaki in Tohoku was used to be one of the Japan’s largest fishery centers, and was once a prosperous capital. But, not only agriculture but also fishery became impossible to continue here anymore. Fishing port that has lost their ports and ships, and the forestry industry have no successors either. No one want to be a lumberjack anymore. Under such circumstances, it became impossible to cut trees to make firewood. Especially, the stories of people living in evacuation centers in Fukushima, the site of the nuclear incident occurred, were heavy and painful. When we entered Fukushima in 2012, it was hardly to meet people and only we saw creatures called “boar-pig hybrid”, animal born between a wild boar and a pig. Since there is no food to eat, so some may be suggested that we grilled then and eat, but it is not possible to eat boar-pig hybrid due to the large amount of radioactive residue.

The government tried to grow seeds by replacing the topsoil of radioactively contaminated farmland that as a demonstration field through the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. And next year, they harvested rice there. Fukushima used to be the center of rice supply for Tokyo, and was an important production area for rice that went into the stomachs of the people of Tokyo. However, even they tried to grow rice in the demonstration fields, they found that the amount of cesium in the rice was too high

and that it impossible to be eaten by humans. At that time, when media covered about that, farmers were angry by saying that we should not spread a “*Nemo hamo nai* (根も葉もない: *no roots and no leaves: groundless*) rumors”. The word “*nemo hamo nai* (no roots or leaves)” is a Japanese proverb, but the roots and leaves till contain radioactivity.

How can we remove cesium-134 and 137 in Ishinomaki City? Ishinomaki City Miyagi Prefecture, where is about 2 hours away from the Fukushima nuclear power plant by car, also had high level of cesium 134 and 137. Farmers at Ishinomaki had lost the energy to grow rice. At that time, ourselves, young people from Kobe came to their place as volunteer to remove debris and sludge from cars and ships, and to restore irrigation and drainage channels. We tried to make it possible again to grow rice. Then, in cooperation with Tohoku University’s Faculty of Agriculture, we worked together how we can remove cesium from rice. The wastelands, now overgrown with weeds, were once rice fields. There are about 5,800 kinds of aquatic organisms in the rice fields. Invisible plankton, phytoplankton, and zooplankton. In addition, Japanese *medaka* (killifish), fish, diving beetles and various other creatures live there.

I worked with a team of professors who are in doctoral courses at Tohoku University in an attempt to find out whether these aquatic creatures can defeat and eat cesium and produce seeds that are harmless to humans. However, as a result, we found out 2 or 3 years later that the radioactivity remaining in rice plants, that means, remaining in the soil could not be removed by aquatic creatures or animals.

It clearly showed us the great negative legacy that cannot be solved even by combining various human wisdom and science. It has pointed out to us that nuclear power plants, which are used as an energy source, will leave disasters for our descendants. In the midst of these trials, what we started on farming was pesticide-free and organic methods.

The difference between “*Seimei* (生命)” and “*Inochi* (命)”

Iwamura: One thing I would like to confirm here is the word “*Inochi* (命)”.

A little while ago, a little girl (a local child I met during training) suggested to try to keep *medaka* at home. Her grandma said to her to return *medaka* soon as possible to where it came from, pond or rice field. It will be a pity if she killed it.

There are three ways to use the word “*inochi* (命)”. It is “*seimei* (生命)”, “*inochi* (命)”, and “*inochi*”. (*all meaning in English is “lives or life”)

There are difference among “*seimei* (生命)”, “*inochi* (命)”, and “*inochi*”. It has different meaning to write in hiragana “*inochi*”.

Which “*inochi*” grandma did use to tell importance of “life” that should her granddaughter stop keeping *medaka* at home?

“*Seimei* (生命)” is a biological term. In other words, the Greek words “βίος (*bios*, meaning a life that sustains ordinal life)” are the origin of English words such as biology. “Logy” represents “logos”, “words”, and “academic”.

We are not exercising on result of academic researching and agricultural methods.

Agriculture that nurtures life

Iwamura: “Agriculture” is not about “bios”, but about supporting to “nurture: ζωή (Greek word: *zoe* ‘life of primordial energy’)”.

While each of you are studying in the doctoral course, you are also devoting yourself to your work as an educator. The word “educate” is written in kanji as “*kuyoiku* 教育[教(to teach) and 育(to nurture)]”. On the other hand, I do like to mention the viewpoint of “*hagukumu* or foster care to life”.

A little while ago, I mentioned 5 years old little girl who participated in rice fields activities, and shall I say that we were trying to engage in “educating her”? Presupposition of teaching in kindergartens, schools and private after schools is based on responding with the correct answers. 2+2 is 4. 3 times 3 is 9. To seek the correct answers, we focus on nurturing at home and education from kindergarten and university. And we enter the community, society, and company, an adult education is waiting for us. We, Kobe International Sustaining Organization do not engage in nurturing, education and adult education. What we do is that we emphasize to put our efforts on “*hagukumu* life”. In other words, it is not to educate (teaching and nurturing). We devote to work of “*hagukumu*”. English word “educate” comes from the Latin word “*educatio*”. Essentially of “*educatio*” means to bring it the good qualities of students. It is different from teachers unilaterally to teach children, younger students and adult education. While we are serving for farming, we are not doing “*educatio*”. This is because nature-oriented farming is not an academic of education which draws out good quality of students. We serve the most important psychological attitude of “*hagukumu*”. “*Hagukumu*” is not “*educatio*” but “foster care” in English. The word “foster care” has another meaning of caring. It is very different from educating. Japanese word “*nougyo* (農業)” is agriculture in English. The English word “agriculture” is consisted by “*ager* (land)” and “*cultura* (cultivation)”.

The origin of the word “culture” is derived from “cultivate”. As a philosopher Cicero said, the essential meaning of culture of thought, philosophy and religion is a culture of cultivation of human hearts. Therefore, we focus on fostering to cultivate hearts, minds and thoughts. We contemplate the differences of “*inochi* (*zoe*)”, not “*seimei* (*bios*)”, and practice it. To let human to live on. To let us live on own. Those *zoe* foster the Greek word “*energecia* “. To foster care is not just to foster. It is not just educating someone. For example, let’s think about the situation of “raining” and “snowing” in the winter. At the molecule level, snow has the same chemical formula as water, H₂O. Each molecule that connects in H₂O is not a liquid form. It’s a gas. Invisible thing. It’s a combination of hydrogen and oxygen. When hydrogen and oxygen combine together, it become liquid water. Now, let me ask you something. Since all of you are educators, you can easily understand. What happens when the snow melts? Any volunteers?

What happened when the snow melt?

Iwamura: What happens when the snow melt?

Student: Water...

Moderator: Shall I ask one by one?

Venue: Water and dust?

Iwamura: Thank you for your answers. When the snow melts, “Spring has come”. This is the idea of

“fostering”. At home, it is called as foster. It is called as education at kindergartens and schools. And it is called as adult education. But it is not understanding things in head nor understanding things in logically and scientific way. “Fostering”, so as to say, nurturing people is not putting intelligence into people. In other words, to present the idea of spring will come when the snow melts is a transformation of our sense of values. Changing own values is not something that can be understood through study. We aim for “*inochi (zoe)*” in the true sense of the word. We do not call such cultivation as “*nou-gyo (農業: agriculture)*”. We call it as “*nou-hou (農法: a method of farming)*”. I translated the English word “agriculture” as “*nou-hou*”. The farming method (*nou-hou*) of the Edo period Japan is “fostering”. It is also “fostering” who raises adopted children who are not their own children as if they were their true ones.

Earlier, I called the people you met for the first time as Brother Noda, Brother Tsuji, and Brother Hirota. We call each other brothers and sisters. It may sound funny to you if you will be called like that. It maybe looks odd in Japan. In Japanese society, if I call someone with “brother”, people will say to me that “What are they? They are group of strange people, a group of weirdos”. However, when we get close to each other even in areas like Ishinomaki City Miyagi Prefecture and Sagara in Kyushu, we sometimes call each other brothers and sisters. At that time, what do the locals think about that? Even though we are not related by blood, we treat each other like family, so there is no sense of incongruity.

In the Bible, which is said to be the best-selling book of all time, it is said that Christ did not use these terms to his immediate family, but only members of a new community (Mark 3:31-35).

Moreover, there is his words, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.” What do you think about the word “rule over” in Genesis chapter 1 verse 28? Does it mean to rule over the 145 million hectares of land on the earth after giving birth and increasing the number of children? Christianity distorts an interpretation of the Bible and rule over animals and nature. And it can be said that they are responsible for causing environmental pollution and public hazard. It depends on how you interpret the original Hebrew word for “rule over” in the Bible.

I am a bit of Hebrew and Greek language teacher. When I teach languages, who the most influential person to me is a Ukrainian Noam Chomsky. Chomsky focused on sentence structure. For example, in Japanese, there are three patterns; “water cold”, “dogs’ animals”, and “flowers boom”. There is no verb in Japanese sentence “dogs are animals”. Even without verbs, Japanese sentences are complete. In the United Kingdom also, they say “water is cold” that always need to use “be verb”. There is always a verb. In Hebrew, verbs are important, and there is a fundamental meaning in the verb triphone. In Japanese, the expression “snow falls” shows non-human thing can be the subject. When an inanimate object become the subject, Anglo-Saxon English, so as to say, English structure called syntax requires verb, that is transitive verb, and subject, and an object complement. I was taught by Chomsky about this syntax, and I use it when I teaching languages.

Taking care of the earth instead of ruling it.

Iwamura: The Christian church was established on the Mediterranean coast around the 4th century. We have a history of being complacent about destroying, concurring and exploiting nature because we misinterpreted the words of the Bible to “rule over” and “reign over” the earth. However, the Hebrew word “רָדַד *radad*” that is translated as “rule over” has a meaning of “taking care of”. It’s the same as thinking about “educating” and “fostering” of “*distanciation*”. “*Radad*” means “to take care of”, not “dominion”. It means taking care of the earth. If you read through the verse 2 to 5 in the Chapter 34 of Ezekiel, you will see the same use of “*radad*”. Just as a shepherd takes care of his sheep, we take care of this farmland, we gently take care of it, and do not cause any public disasters. Therefore, since it is pesticide-free organic methods, there are *medaka* and loaches. Because there are 5,800 kinds of lives in there, we don’t need any agrichemicals. We don’t need neonicotinoid pesticides used by agricultural cooperatives. A pesticide called “biotope” was banned in Germany last year by a protection ordinance. Biotope, which kills insects but is safe for humans, is no longer allowed in Germany. But we use it without any problems in Japan. All rice is grown by using neonicotinoid pesticides, which kills insects but are harmless to humans, because farmers in entire Japan use it. Therefore, *medaka*, loaches, and giant water bugs have been disappeared.

Resurrection of Rice Field, Mountain, and Bay

Iwamura: Nearly 2,000 people immediately flew from Kobe to the disaster affected areas under the flag of “Resurrection of Rice Field, Mountain, and Bay” to serve the people. When I talk about the circulation from “forest (奥山: *mountain recesses*)” to “*satoyama* (里山: *undeveloped woodland near populated area*)”, young people do not understand the meaning of “*okuyama*” and “*satoyama*”. For example, butterflies do not fly around *okuyama*. There are deer and bears in *okuyama*, but not in *satoyama*. Fruit trees such as peaches, persimmons, and chestnuts grow in *satoyama*. But there is no fruit trees in the *okuyama*, forest. In these days, *satoyama* are disappearing. Clear water comes out from *okuyama* to be groundwater, and it go through *satoyama* and become a small “spring stream (narrow waterway on the shore), and it flows into “*tambo* (田圃: *rice / farm field*)”. About 5,800 kinds of lives are fostering in paddy fields. It becomes a “*satokawa* (里川: *limpid river*)” and eventually change to be a river. The stream carries organic substances to “*satoumi* (里海: *local sea*)”. Nothing flows suddenly into the sea. *Satoumi* is a place where kelp, wakame, and seaweed grow, and fish lay their eggs in seaweed cradle. Little fingerling will be fostered in these cradles. Later, they become bigger and go out to the open sea. The Bible describes this natural cycle in Ecclesiastes 1:7, that was written around 2,300 years ago.

Restoration of ecosystem circulation

Iwamura: “All streams flow into the sea, yet the sea is never full. To the place the streams come from, there they return again.” (NIV)

That is “the sea is never full”. Why is that?

It is because that it evaporates, eventually becomes clouds, and then turn into rain. Rain permeates into the surface of the land as groundwater at *okuyama* (奥山: *forest*), and it helps to produce leaf

mold. Groundwater comes out from “*Sasayama* (里山: *undeveloped woodland near populated area*)” and it flows from “spring stream” into “*tambo* (田圃: *rice / farm field*)”. Thanks to this circulation, humans have been able to live on with the food that sprouts from the soil. Then *satokawa* (*limpid river*) becomes the river and then flows into *satoumi*. The words of *satoyama*, spring stream, *satoumi* are no longer used in Japan. It rather already has been forgotten.

In other words, it has the original *zoe*, *inochi*, that take care of nature. Fewer and fewer humans have *inochi*, no *seimei*. Due to the development of industry, the technological society, and the residential land development, there are no successors to the agriculture, forestry and fish industry. How can we restore nature world?

We also go out to overseas with a mission to restore ecosystems. From a religious perspective, it is “the Theology of Restoration”.

And we are establishing a new community relationship of brothers and sisters. Living with orphans, widowed single women, and refugees. Such way is the work of Kobe International Sustaining Organization.

Before I came here, the day before yesterday, I became friends with a person from Cameroon on Facebook. I have never visited Cameroon, but people in the country seems have darker skin color. Not brown, but true black color. I believe that Jesus Christ also had black color skin. However, since I was a child, growing up in the third generation of the Roman Catholic Church family, I grew up seeing drawings of Jesus Christ having blond hair, blue eyes, and being white skin color. But that is not correct. Because Jesus Christ is an oriental man. He is Jewish by birth. In Judaism, even black color people from Ethiopia are called as Jews. Jesus has darker skin. If you don't sympathize with that, you cannot empathize with the ethnic conflicts, starvation, hunger, suffering, and crying of sorrow among Africans.

Therefore, only matters of Ukraine get attention. But even worse than Ukraine, 828 million people a year under starving condition because they have nothing to eat. In such places, how can we implement “Resurrection of Rice Field, Mountain, and Bay” on agriculture, forestry, and fishery industry? Kobe International Sustaining Organization will continue to work with such people regardless of race, religion, or nationality. I would like ask all of you to help us with your “*kyoshin* (共振: *Sympathized resonance*)”, “*kyokan* (共感: *sympathy*)” and physical strength. And please join in our circle of serving to the people of the Middle East, Africa, Asia, and South America, who are victims of strife, killing, and hurting each other as many as possible. So, “Give me your hands, will you?”. I do apology that I talked probably a little bit difficult to understand, but thank you for your patience to keep listening. Then, I would like to move on to the “complaint” session. Please be critical to me.

Question and Answer

Moderator: Thank you. Like today, Pastor Iwamura sometimes gives a sermon like this in the morning on every Sunday. After giving his sermon, there is always a session for complaints, and there is time for the members to express them complains one by one.

Venue: Everyone have to complain.....(laughing)

Moderator: Yes, indeed. (laughing)

Iwamura : There is no prayer. Because prayer is action.

Leading teacher: How do you all think about that?

Moderator: I think that the talking about taking care is actually a key word in the last three days, and in the discussion just before that. I have spent three days. For example, yesterday, I spoke with a river fisherman. I will probably pass the complaint book to the students while showing the model of the complaint. Just yesterday, a student (student#2) was talking about a story of dam, which exist 1,000 years before, in China. The student (student#2) pointed out what he felt during the two days until yesterday was that people are overthinking to have a thought that everything is the dead end if construct something. I connected the story of Foster earlier by associating it. If you don't mind, student (student#2) could you start with the story of the dam 1,000 years ago.

Student#2: Next to Chengdu in Sichuan, there is a something like a natural dam called the Dujiangyan Irrigation System, which was built 1,000 years ago. That was made by only people's physical power at that time, but every year, they need to do to some repair work for it. Nowadays, there are hybrids materials like concrete and other things. However, even now, it has not become a new composite dam, but the materials are always renewed every year, and it still plays a major role in Sichuan Province. In order to utilize the 1,000 years old dam up even now, it is necessary to be repaired or rebuild every year. However, there is a lot of cases that dams are repairing just as it was built several decades ago, and just like the nuclear power plant, for example Fukushima, it was built in the 1970s, but it still can be used as it is and nothing has been renewed. And at the end, tsunami attacked it and caused a severe accident.

From a philosophical point of view, I get a strong feeling that if a building is constructed in a modern way, it will be fine, so it is unnecessary for them to renew or maintenance as annual basis.

Iwamura: Thank you. When there was an natural disaster, earthquake in Sichuan in 2014, I also went there alone to do volunteer work with only 100 yuan, a backpack, and a sleeping bag. At that time, the sentiment toward Japan in China was very bad, and the sentiment toward China from Japanese people was very bad so people around told me not going there. I was planning to go there by hitchhiking, so I took a transfer from Shanghai. Back then, the one of the biggest impacts on me was Yu the Great¹

He tried to prevent floods by suing natural materials for the benefit of the people. In Japan, there are more than 130 flood control monuments and places named dedicated to Yu the Great. Do you know that? This is because Japan also has a long history of suffering from flood damage.

Student#2: Yes.

Iwamura: When it comes to how to prevent flood damage at that time, we learn from Yu the Great, and it is extremely scary when there is water flood, but how humans can bring calm by taking care of ecology, protection and foster of *zoe* in the natural world, not as living bios. And those things are actually not well known. Even the Japanese have forgotten that. As you just said, for example, 52

¹ On the way back from downtown Wenchuan County, there is a huge statue of "Yu the Great" (founder of the fist dynasty in China "Xia"). Yu the Great made a name for himself in flood control projects for the Yellow River, which flooded almost every year.

people have lost their lives due to the release of water from Ichifusa Dam. Officials of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport do not admit that they had been released water. The important thing is to set condition when they build a dam. Once you build it, it should not be left along, but excavated it and raise the heights level of embankment. In other words, sediment accumulate very quickly inside of dams within two or three years. For example, if a sediment control dam was built, it will be filled with sand two years later and become ineffective. Then they will make another one right above the older one. Therefore, there are cases where 200 or 300 are made in one mountain. Constructing means to make it with concrete, not with stone. It is fine if it's an old-fashioned embankment made of stone. The sand also naturally flows from the cracks in the masonry. However, concrete completely blocks the flow of sand.

And there are no living things can go upstream through concrete. Rainbow trout, salmon, *ayu* (sweetfish) can't live. Therefore, if a dam in build here in Itsuki that is the place where you can catch delicious ayu, which is called *shyaku-ayu* (about 30cm long size), but we won't be able to eat it anymore.

The Japanese people should not only humbly learn the wisdom from our teacher, Chinese predecessors that has been developed in China over 3,000 ~ 4,000 years, but also properly preserve, take care of, and coexist with it. If we don't realize this, I think Japan will perish. You are right. Thank you. *Xièxiè* (謝謝: thanks), *Xièxiè nǐ* (謝謝你: thank you).

Chinese student: (laughing)

Iwamura: Thank you.

Chinese student: *Kamusahaminida* (thank you in Korean)

Venue: (laughing)

Iwamura: is there anyone who can speak Korean? (smile)

Moderator: Ok. What are you grateful for now?

Iwamura: It is not good just making things without maintenance it.:

Because it is written in the Bible to repair the cracks in the citadel (Isaiah 58:12). So, it is very important to repair cracks.

Leading teacher: what about the others?

Iwamura: Please give your critics on me.

Student: I learned a lot from hearing your talking. I think you said that "Resurrection of Rice Field, Mountain, and Bay". Originally in the Bible said to take care of the earth. On the other hand, today's society is, so to speak, a capitalist system, or something that has already been established after being industrialized. I think about that is very difficult, and after I listen to various people's saying of bad things about dam, and saying of nature is important, I totally can understand its reason. I agree with it but also on the same time, some people cannot make their living by just saying that best way of living is with nature because of economic disparity and social class gap in the society. I have been thinking about how to look at that balance for a past few days in my mind. What do you think, Pastor?

Iwamura: Your meditation has a very good point. You are going to Lyon this time, Paris and Lyon. The place is a wine-producing region. France is now a neo-liberal economy state, not a capitalist one.

In other words, it become a class-based society from the economic gap society. The gap between rich and poor became really big. Under the gap of rich and poor is expanding in France, the percentage of people working in agriculture and succeed its industry is still 70%, but it is less than 30% in Japan. The average age of farmers is really old. Because they have no successors. They are in 70s. If we think about 20 years, 30 years from now, if Japan continue to be neo-liberal economy society, we will enter the era of no longer be able to live on own hump. In that case, no one will be able to oppose the government's policy of increasing the armaments to 5 trillion yen of the national budget and increasing 2% of GNP. Under such situation, the number of people to engage in agriculture, forestry, and fishery won't increase. Then you are strangling yourself. When I was in my 20s, I had fell into a biased view of Japan's security. At that time, oil was a precious resource because Japan was consuming 500,000 tons of oil per minute. At that time, we believed the crisis without any doubt that if tankers were unable to pass through the Strait of Malacca, the Japanese economy would stop. It was 40 years ago from now. But rather than the matter of no oil supply to Japan, the reason why Japanese forces attacked Pearl Harbor on December 8, 1940 with code name "*tora, tora, tora*", was because of the ABCD encirclement based on the hull note. In other words, the encirclement makes Japan impossible to import oil. However, those in power in Japan today are manipulating the people saying that if we strengthen our military power, we will be able to protect our country. Threat from neighboring countries. How can we defend the Senkaku Islands in the event of an attack from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea or the People's Republic of China. For this reason, politicians have been trying to strengthen country's armaments. However, why I am saying what is important right now is "Resurrection of Rice Field, Mountain, and Bay" is that "food security" is much more important than military security. And awareness of how important food security is. It is a fragile task like pilling up stones one by one to see if we can have that kind of public consciousness Without a model of change, we would be indifference, ignorant, and irresponsible. So, in that sense, even if it seems impossible to overturn the neo-liberal economy, someone has to do it. Japan will have no choice but to vanish from the map of the world as it continuous to be poor.

And the first is ecology. Ecology is life. There were used to be *medaka* a while ago, but nowadays, I can't see them anymore. You can see red *medaka* called *himedaka*. However, it is hardly to find *honmendaka* and *Kurobedaira* in anywhere in Japan. Ecology is economy. The word "eco" comes from the Greek word "**οἶκος** *oikos*" and it means "home". The economy of the home/house is no longer stable. In other words, under the neoliberal economy, the strong one will continue to oppress and exploit the weak without considering the human rights of the weak. This structure will eventually kill themselves too.

The original of ecology. Economics. We should re-establish economics based on *oikosnomos* ecology. And how can we properly take care of *oikos* (home), the home called the earth? Do you take care of it rather than manage or dominate it? Where should we start the spirit of fostering and to create a tidal wave? Where should we start from? I think it should be started from the poorest area. Africa. Although 6.5 million people are said to have been displaced in Ukraine, the number of people being

slaughtered in Congo is much higher. But the media of Western countries, including Japan, do not cover about it. How do we deal with these contradictions?

However, if things continue as they are, we cannot solve exploitation, oppression, falsehoods, and contradictions by the authorities such as politicians, officials, economic leaders, scholars, and media. But we should not have been just watching it without trying to attempt something. We should not be an outsider. First of all, as I said earlier, our church has a complaint session at the end, because we should not end our prayer with self-satisfaction, self-salvation, and narcissism. Prayer brings out its power when it directly linked to action. Action now! Act now! After all, those are probably most needed in the world now. If you think about it with your clear eyes, you can't turn it upside down no matter how you think about that.

Student: By the way, wow, basically, it doesn't sound like Christianity.

Iwamura: Because by hierarchical Christianity, the “smallest” who are with feeling of angry, suffering and frustration won't be free. It is definitely.

Student: Aren't you a Christian?

Iwamura: I am a *Bitsukuristian* (*bitsukuri: Surprised / kuristian: Christian*).

Student: You are!!

Venue: (laughing)

Iwamura: Christianity world appeared in the Mediterranean in the 4th to 5th century. A hierarchy was produced. Like the Pope of Rome. Vatican City. So as Europe. Non-English-speaking countries. But not the West, but England and the United States, this is called American-Christianity. There is the hierarchy. Such as President, Queen Elizabeth, and prophet Billy Graham. And in Russia and Ukraine, they have an Orthodox hierarchy. For the most of Christianity, power is all about. “*Exousia*”. All about is power. Obedient people inside of the power, they must obey. But we do not accept such authority and power within the church. Only Jesus Christ has authority. Jesus Christ said, “Live by the sword, die by the sword”. Therefore, naturally, I am in the position of saying “no” to the policies of Japan's Liberal Democratic Party.

Student: At first, I understood in wrong way, I was thinking that it might be Christianity by myself. I was thinking to ask about the Pope's interpretation of the Bible and what your interpretation, and where the position of each Christianity sects. But they are different each other in the first place.

Iwamura: I am a heretic, but I think people around me are the same.

Student: (laughing)

Iwamura: You don't find the world Christianity in the Bible, do you? Therefore, we do not all ourselves as Christians, but the one belongs to the way of Christ. The way, the *Volunteer-dō* (The principle way of volunteer). Yu the Great ordered to stop producing of armaments, and protected rice field and farmland, so he gained the trust from farmers. Japanese authorities should also learn from the idea of wiseman about flood control by Yu the Great, renunciation of war, and the heart to value farmers. It is the way to follow in the footsteps of those who made great achievements against flood disasters. If we are not able to realize it in Japan, Japanese people will forget to be thankful for nature, and we will become easily to depend on what we create and just we will have over confident in

technology. But we must not rely too much on the technology. Since the time of Nimrod, just like when they built the Tower of Babel. We become arrogant. I think we have to be humbler. Even the Three Gorges Dam is said to be the best dam in the world, in the beginning, the coverages of the People's daily and Mao Zedong was against to construct it. However, hydro-mafia, great enterprises and banks of Japan are supporting the construction of the Three Gorges Dam, so Japanese engineers exist on back story of this dam construction. Because of such crazy Japanese technocrat, big problems are happening in the world consequently. So even in North Korea, their flag is dam. The Sup'ung Dam. Laos too. They have a dam in their national flag. But these are technocrat of Japan from pre-war. The bureaucrats and technical experts unite and promote it, and they grew arrogant to think that if the technology become superior, people will be happy. That's why we don't use machines. We, Kobe International Sustaining Organization, use the written of "*denbo* (田圃: rice / farm field)" to distinguish it from the general world "*tanbo* (田んぼ: rice field)". The old kanji for rice paddies "*denbo* (田圃)" that are cultivated without using agricultural machineries. Combine harvester, etc. Everyone is working for machines. Nowadays farmers.

Student: They work to develop its facilities, and increase the newest facilities, and work harder to maintain those facilities that you made larger scale, and make it even bigger. I guess things keep continuing like this.

Moderator: I think that is part of it, and as a practical matter, I was talking about the tobacco farmer a while ago that they don't have any successor. Of course, I think it is same situation for tobacco farmers, the land management is the problem. You cannot manage land anymore unless using the machines as much as possible. By a little number of people or by alone in their age of 70s to work on many hectares, sometimes they need to use machines. As so, how do you buy a machine? When I thought about it, a single farmer doesn't have enough money to buy one. They are not rich with that much income. In the case of ordinary part-time farmers, they is an agricultural organization in Japan, so they can borrow machines from them. They have to pay a lot of money for renting it. For making the money to rent the machines, they sell crops that were cultivated by using pesticides, and they pay for the price of renting. But in order to keep their farming they also need to keep renting machines, so they have to pay continuously. They work for money for renting machines. That's a vicious repeating cycle.

Iwamura: All of our actions and principles are based on the words of the Bible when deciding which direction to take. When we talk about Christianity, it means to go into hierarchy and organization, but it denies the Christian "religion" hierarchy. Even while I am denying it while I make my action based on the Book of Scripture. I am accused of being an anarchic pastor because I deny hierarchy.

I just said it. (laughing)

Student: Personally, I really like religion as an academic subject, but in terms of experience, I'm not very good at religion.

Iwamura: I am the same as you.

Student: To be honest, religions that I saw when I was in Brazil at my child days, were different from you. You don't act like what they were so pressing others. I'm just saying that a sense of belongings

that religion must join in. I just felt something like that, and when that happened, even though you don't believe in the religion, such as Christianity, you take action based on that spirit.

Iwamura: I am the same as you.

Student: So, then, for example, even if I don't go to your church, is it fine?

Iwamura: As long as you are making action. As long as you practice with what is called the least small brothers of Christ, those least brothers of Christ who are oppressed, discriminated and rejected. But if you do that, you may not be called as a Christian by others. But as I said earlier about black people, we live together. Live in solidarity. Therefore, the word organization is unnecessary. There are no such things to make you "belonging to organization" in the Bible. Jesus Christ never asked you to become a Christian. He never told people who believed in Shintoism or Buddhism to convert into Christians, you don't find that kind of Christ's evangelism in the Book. But in terms of religion, they go outside to do evangelism, so it will be important to belong to a certain group. But you cannot find any backup for this in the Bible.

Student: Rather, reading the Bible, it sounds very anarchic analogy (laughing). Jesus Christ is. When I was a junior high school student, my school was Christian school, so I am pretty much familiar with the Bible.

Others: Oh, I see!

Iwamura: The truth that Iwamura is an anarchy is a secret so please don't say it loud voice.

Moderator: Oh, I see. Excuse me!

Iwamura: (Laughing)

Iwamura: I am "heretic" in Christianity. Do you know which country has the largest number of Christian in the world today? There is an overwhelmingly large number of Christian in a country. Christian population.

Student: Considering population, China?

Iwamura: Yes. Its China. So, we don't know what will happen in 10 or 20 years later. Right now, Christian is not persecuted now, but I don't know what will happen in the future. Christianity is a religion that recognizes hierarchy, so there is possibility to join hands together with authorities in power. Our work is different from Christianity, so I don't what will happen from now on. America probably will get in the way. Since it is the country with many Christians, China will expand their power overseas. America cannot keep their silence. They are meddlesome. They look like the world's righteous policeman, so they will do something too much. The same problem can be said for the current Ukraine issue.