

Naturally, the tax burden will weigh even heavier on our children and grandchildren.

What's more, even if carbon emissions were reduced to zero, estimates say it would only lower the Earth's temperature by 0.06 degrees. Is there anyone who can actually feel a 0.06-degree difference? Ten years from now, won't people wake up to the reality of, 'I don't really understand why, but we spent 150 trillion yen'? The Earth is currently in an interglacial period of the Ice Age. What will we do if the climate grows colder?

These days we often hear criticism of vested-interest groups, but they aren't the only problem. For example, systems like the renewable energy surcharge, where households with solar panels make others pay their electricity costs, or buying electric vehicles with subsidies—these are all ways of reaching into other people's wallets. Doesn't it feel disgraceful?

And then there's the troubling case of people engaged in regional revitalization. Many of them have moved from the city to greener rural areas. They frequently use promotional language as if they were driving GX forward. It's like ducks walking around with green onions on their backs, waiting to be cooked.

Perhaps saying words like 'sustainability' or 'environmental protection' feels good. Perhaps saying them is a way to get subsidies. Or maybe it just makes activities easier because it goes over well with the public. Such people are quite noticeable—especially the so-called intellectual types, who are the worst offenders.

When it rains a little, trains stop or are delayed. There are very few institutions of higher education. Not a single obstetrics and gynecology clinic. Roads are riddled with potholes. No jobs. This is Uenohara.

A society without secure food, employment, and infrastructure has no sustainability. Isn't that self-evident?

If food, jobs, and infrastructure are lacking, can childcare, education, healthcare, and welfare really be sustained?

People whose brains seem numb, who appear intellectually dubious. People who disgracefully steal from the earnings of others. People who prioritize their own pleasures over the well-being of future generations. These are the ones who spout fine words. And well-meaning people, uttering those same fine words, end up doing meaningless things—or things that will eventually lead to misfortune.

At this point, it feels almost as valid to say 'politicians are at fault' as it is to say 'the Japanese people are at fault'.

I believe that beyond despair, beyond collapse, there is hope.

It was our predecessors who rebuilt Japan after it was left in ruins following the Greater East Asia War. Surely, we can do it too.

'There is something like a conviction that we can do it.'

That is hope.

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