

Panel Discussion : Restoration of Japan's Environment After the High Economic Growth

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Resume of Presentation:

RESTORATION OF JAPAN'S ENVIRONMENT

AFTER THE HIGH ECONOMIC GROWTH

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1. INTRODUCTION

Since the defeat of the World War in 1945, Japan had been making effort to reconstruct the devastated country and to overcome natural disasters. Reconstruction almost succeeded, and the High Economic Growth in Japan had started. However, this growth brought the environmental destruction. In 21st century, we reflected on the environmental destruction of the past 50 years, and started activities for the recovery of our environment. The restoration project of the Nihombashi Bridge is a representative example.

2. HIGH ECONOMIC GROWTH AND ITS END

National Highway Network, Tokyo Olympic, Bullet Train, Large Dams, coastal reclamation, realized the High Economic Growth by the sacrifice of environment. In the course of economic growth, The Nihombashi Bridge and River which had been the symbol Tokyo cultures for over 400 years has been covered for 40 years by highway constructed for Tokyo Olympic.

The limit of the economic growth had been acknowledged due to the Roman Club Declaration, Oil Shock in 1973 and lead to the social, industrial and political changes. Since then, Japan has been growing steadily with eco-cultural mind. In the 1990s, the environment preservation broke into one of the purposes of infrastructure. (The New River Law, 1997)

3. RESTORATION OF THE NIHOMBASHI BRIDGE

Restoration of the Nihombashi Bridge and the River is now considered the new symbol of all the restoration of Japanese culture and infrastructure.

Next Tokyo Olympics restore The Nihombashi Bridge broken by past Tokyo Olympics

The restoration of the Nihombashi Bridge becomes the pioneer and symbol of urban scenery and river restoration not only in Tokyo but also all the Japanese cities.

4. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND EXCHANGE OF EXPERIENCES

Like Japan in '60s, developing countries adopt their policy that sacrifice environment and prioritize economic growth over environment.

I hope them to learn the experience of Japan to find more sustainable way of development.