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A Message from Young Scientists in Asia

The Asia Meeting of Young Scientists 2016

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The Science Council of Japan

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Summary of the Message

1. Towards Being Inclusive
2. Making Palpable Impact towards Sustainable Ecosystem

Foreword

Inclusiveness and sustainable ecosystem were the two major goals we envisioned to achieve, after considering the various challenges that surround us. Among the social challenges we young Asian scientists raised, we classified the issues related to gender, economic inequality, brain-drain, globalization/mobility, ageing society, terrorism, science diplomacy and networking as those connected to inclusiveness. Meanwhile, we classified the issues related to education, pollution, natural disaster, role/use of the artificial intelligence, disease, and mental health as those connected to sustainable ecosystem.

Herein, we propose the possible actions for the two goals.

1. Towards Being Inclusive

Inequalities exist on many different levels both within and across societies and cultures. There are many bases for inequality including age, gender, appearance, race/ethnicity, income, education, sex, etc.

We recognize that inequalities are inherent and functional to some degree. We also realize that inequalities are value-laden and driven by those who benefit from it. Some potential ways to address inequality could be: a) to promote more equitable distribution of wealth and resources, b) to ensure diversity in decision making bodies, c) to promote freedom of thinking and expression, including academic freedom, d) to facilitate bi-directional mobility.

To implement these goals, we propose the following recommendations:

- become aware of our own values and the benefits we make out of maintaining various inequalities
- to develop Asian pride, which facilitates collaboration, transfer of knowledge and information and mobility within Asia.

We however, consider that affirmative action is questionable as it is a form of discrimination, which maintains inequalities.

2. Making a Palpable Impact towards Sustainable Environment: Key Identified Problems and Possible Solutions from the Lens of Young Scientists

Creating a sustainable ecosystem is much related to the macro- and micro factors including various pertinent issues, e.g. inequalities, natural disasters, pollutions, social and mental health issues.

In this context, the ultimate goal is to achieve a holistic environment through engagement of education and scientific approaches, which translates impact of socio-economic and environmental on the quality of life, wealth and health perspectives towards harmonious, greener and sustainable ecosystem.

In order to achieve this (but not restricted herewith), we, young scientists propose these recommendations:

1. Scientific approach
 - To collect and use data in order to obtain possible solutions, based on statistical methods including big data analysis: eg. ways of quantifying root causes and reducing the damages
 - To use knowledge and cutting-edge engineering technology in designing more robust machinery and building
 - To incorporate pertinent elements of green and energy efficient township through proper planning and environmental impact assessment
2. Education
 - To promote awareness to public concerning the importance of sustainable ecosystem
 - To train and equip public with necessary surviving skills in the events of emergency
 - To implement relevant legal acts, policies and regulations in law enforcement
3. Research/medical treatment
 - To develop effective therapeutics for curbing mental illness and stress management
 - To encourage healthy life-style and work-life balance through exercise and spiritual faiths
 - To provide research supports in the prioritized areas for knowledge advancement and betterment of mankind