Answer a questionnaire & get a gift!

We need your suggestions to help make our magazine a better publication. Please fill out the questionnaire inserted in the current issue and send it back by fax (+81-3-5565-4828) or by e-mail (japanspotlight@jef.or.jp). For e-mail correspondence, either scan the paper and attach it or just write all question numbers and your answers. Both Japanese and English answers will be accepted.

10 winners selected from among respondents in a lucky draw will receive a "Kenzo" mini leather wallet each.

Your entry must arrive not later than June 30, 2010 (Japan time).



SPOTLIGHT
Editor's postscript

"Avatar" As I Saw It

Recently, I finally got around to seeing the movie "Avatar," which I had been meaning to for some time. The plot was a straightforward one. A team of powerfully armed warriors searching for a precious mineral travels in outer space to invade a moon of a faraway star, battles against local inhabitants living peacefully in lush nature and eventually fails to pillage the material due in part to the inhabitants' resistance and the heroic acts of warriors wakened to the need for conserving nature and other things. The movie certainly lived up to my expectations for beautiful visual effects and rich imagination. I was deeply impressed. Even discounting the 3D effects that the movie must have had on me, my impression still remains the same.

However, what I did not find quite agreeable was the shattering sounds and colors with which the inhabitants and nature were kept bombarded and, for that matter, the scenes of destruction seemed a little too long.

How the movie is viewed may vary from one person to another. As for me, I thought that the movie literally visualized the sin having been committed by mankind from of old – the use of force and violence to get what they want – telling the audience about the absurdity of force and violence as well as the sterile outcome of the destruction of nature.

With the Age of Discovery being a distant past of almost 500 years ago, few countries in the world resort to violence or a similar act to seize what they want from others. However, not a few countries are busy developing weapons with more destructive power by way of showing off their strength. Nuclear weapons are the ultimate tool of destruction.

They are the kind of weapons that could bring about an end to all living things on the earth, not just us mankind. We live in a shared environment resembling a sealed plastic bag, and anyone in their right mind will understand that a nuclear blast would wreak havoc not only on an enemy, but also on the country that used it as well as their neighbors.

Unfortunately, however, the owners of nuclear weapons will not let go and do everything to stop other countries from

possessing them while some non-owners are making every effort to get hold of them as soon as possible.

I think this is the right time for all human beings living on the earth to ask themselves if they really need nuclear arms for their survival. I also think it is the obligation of mankind to do so.

Only a fool would want to lead a nation possessing nuclear weapons to destroy the world, but a decision to eliminate them must be taken as soon as possible.

E. Kozawa

