

Nature's Wisdom, the World's Wisdom



By Nakamura Toshio

IN order to create a new interface between nature and life in the 21st century, the global community needs to invent a new way of life – one which is compatible with the natural environment at the global level. This is why Japan has decided to host EXPO 2005 with the main theme of “Nature’s Wisdom.” Visitors will experience “Nature’s Wisdom” in the following three contexts.

Rediscovering Nature

Learning more about how the Earth works is something we should do first. The 2005-inch wide screen at the Message Theater, Global House, can help us learn about the circumstances of humankind and the Earth with data on birth, population, water, breathing, walking and energy.

You will see an extinct mammoth that was recently excavated from the frozen soil of Russia – a stark reminder of the true meaning of global warming. The EXPO site itself is located in unspoiled natural surroundings, where you will feel the mystic forces of breathing trees and flowers.

An Eco-Friendly Life with Nature’s Wisdom

The history of humankind has been one of learning from nature’s wisdom, and there are many examples of ancient wisdom which show how humankind and nature can coexist in harmony. Fused nicely with modern technologies, such traditional wisdom will grab the spotlight again: FCHV (Fuel Cell Hybrid Vehicles), which will carry visitors to and from the site, produce no carbon dioxide or harmful pollutants. The tableware used in the food courts consists of earth-friendly utensils made mainly of biomass derived from plants and other recyclable organic matter. All of the electricity supplied to the Japan Pavilion will be generated through a new on-site energy system, in which even the garbage thrown away by visitors is converted into fuel.

Visiting the Future with Nature’s Wisdom

By fully exploiting the infinite potential of science and technology, we can travel forward in time to see the Earth-friendly communities of the future. You will see a variety of robots moving around the site; some of them will be cleaning up the site, and some of them will be playing music, some of them will be calling out to you like a friend. A convoy of three intelligent buses (IMTS) will move automatically – without any driver on board – and a smart futuristic vehicle (i-unit) for individual personal use will also be introduced to the public. The EXPO’s “ubiquitous” information technology environment, filled with advanced mobile communication technologies, will

Photos : Japan Association for the 2005 World Exposition



assist visitors in moving efficiently around the site.

More harmonious interaction between nature and human life may be feasible through technological progress. However, technology alone cannot solve the global issues we are facing. It is the will of the peoples of the world, and their ways of life, that will determine the kinds of technology to be invested in and utilized, and in which ways. It should be kept in mind that our way of life is closely related to our customs, traditions and culture. It is obvious that the preservation of nature cannot be pursued country by country, as nature knows no borders. It can only be promoted and achieved collectively, through efforts on a global scale. In fact, this is also true for culture, as no one culture has been or will be completely independent of other ones.

International Symposiums on sustainable development will



be held at the opening ceremony and every month from April. We have already received many recommendations for their speakers from the official participant countries. This will be exactly what we call the symposium of the World's Wisdom.

The declaration of the symposium, "Aichi Forum for a Peaceful Earth," will be drafted by the following five members; Ogata Sadako: President of the Japan International Cooperation Agency, former High Commissioner of the UNHCR, Shirayanagi Seiichi: President of the Japanese Committee for the World Conference of Religions for Peace, Catholic Cardinal, Maurice F. Strong: Chairman of the Earth Council Foundation-Canada, Special Advisor to the UN Secretary-General, Qu Geping: Chairman of the China

Environmental Protection Foundation, Professor of Peking University, Alpha Oumar Konare: Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union, former President of the Republic of Mali.

EXPO 2005 – be embraced by Nature's Wisdom, and be awoken by the World's Wisdom.

We expect this exposition will give impetus to the establishment of programs for the development of nature, technology, and culture as well as new and well-balanced relationships among them, with the goal of bettering our lives and our planet. This will be achieved through collecting and presenting both traditional and new aspects of "Nature's Wisdom" from each nation and its people. **JS**

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