

The Problems of Japan

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There are a lot of problems to solve in Japan. In the discussion with an assistant language teacher (ALT) and other students, we talked two things about the problems of Japan.

First, we discussed about waste of food. It is a big problem in Japan. Japan's annual food waste is approximately 25.31 million tons. Of that amount, 6 million tons of food was discarded even though it was still edible, which is called food loss. Japan is one of the most wasteful countries in the world. We talked about two solutions at the camp. The first solution is to utilize doggy bags. In the United States, when you go to a restaurant, you can put the leftover food in a doggy bag and take it home. By eating the leftover food on the next day, you can reduce food waste. I think it is a very good solution for reducing food waste. But, doggy bags are not very popular in Japan. If the popularity of doggy bags increase in Japan, I think we can help solve the food waste problem.

The second solution is to practice the food waste prevention methods that have been adopted in Italy. In Italy, they set up food collectors in public places where people can put food that they don't need anymore but is still edible. The food placed in the collectors will be taken by others who need it and whatever is left will be donated to countries that need it. Introducing such a system in Japan can help solve a part of the food waste problem and also support a lot of countries.

Second, we talked about vaccine. Nowadays, many people around the world are receiving the vaccine for COVID-19. According to the newspaper, the effectiveness of the vaccine gradually decreases in about half a year, so some countries like the United States and Australia have considered a third vaccination. In Japan, vaccination for the public began in February of this year, starting with the elderly. Therefore, in Japan, the effect of the vaccine may be diminishing for the elderly people who were vaccinated early. Now that the spread of infection is becoming more difficult to suppress, it is highly possible that the number of elderly people infected will increase. As a result, the end of the pandemic will be further and further in the distant future. That's why I think that Japanese should also consider the third vaccination.

These are problems of Japan that we discussed. By introducing doggy bags like the United States and creating a place to collect food which is doing in Italy, we can reduce the number of food wastes and help countries in need of assistance. Vaccines of COVID-19 are a hot issue in the world. The current situation in Japan is improving, but it is important to consider and incorporate a third vaccination so that the situation will not be as difficult as it used to be. There are many other problems to solve in Japan. So we have to find problems and think about how to solve these problems.