

I am Ruka Sakaguchi from Higashiosaka. Today, I will talk about accepting diversity. My mother is Japanese and my father is Cuban. I heard that they had a lot of problems right after they got married. But they made a good effort so that they could get along with each other. Cuban people are very cheerful. Their society is based on Individualism. However, Japanese people have different characteristics. Collectivism is the base of their society. They do not bark at the moon. Recently, I have seen a lot of foreigners from Africa, South East Asia and South America. They work in Japan to make a living because they cannot make enough money in their own countries. Most of them get a job of manual labor. Usually, they create their own community to maintain their culture in Japan. However, conflicts often occur between local people and immigrants from abroad because there are a lot of cultural differences between them.

Shouldn't we accept other cultures? Of course, we should. But it depends on each person. People are divided into two groups; conservative ones and progressive ones. It is very difficult for the former to accept other cultures, but is easy for the latter. The United States, Russia, China, and India are multiracial countries. That citizens of the countries can get along with each other well although groups which discriminate other races exist. For instance, people who discriminate people of color, especially African Americans. Apparently, they do not understand spirit that people are people, which means they have a feeling that they are ethnically superior to people of color.

The concepts of SDGs have been getting more and more popular around the world. Among them, there is a goal of 'REDUCED INEQUALITIES'. 'Apartheid' and 'Caste' are typical political policies which discriminate against certain people. Why can't we get rid of discrimination?

Now more than 2,300,000 foreign laborers live in Japan. I often hear that foreign workers have a lot of problems with residents who live in the same apartment building. Japanese people hate noisiness especially at night. But immigrants from Latin America love to party with music. As a result, two different cultures clash with. What is necessary to solve this issue? It is, of course, to show respect to other cultures. We all human beings, are all earthlings. This means that we should show our love and patience in everything.

It is natural that diversity exists in society. Because this planet has diversity, ethnic personality also works. If all people were exactly the same in way of thinking, creativity would not be necessary.

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