

第一回ブループラネット賞
「地球環境問題と人類の存続に関する
アンケート調査」

THE BLUE PLANET PRIZE
RESULTS OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE ON ENVIRONMENTAL
PROBLEMS AND THE SURVIVAL OF HUMANKIND

af 旭硝子財団
THE ASAHI GLASS FOUNDATION

- 調査時期：1992年6月29日（月）から国内／海外に郵送
同年8月17日（月）までに郵便返却およびFAXにより回収
- 送付数：3724（国内：2547 海外：1177）
- 回収数：1054（国内：877 海外：177）
- 回収率：28.3%（国内：34.4% 海外：15.0%）
- 調査対象：・大学、研究所の研究者 ・政府、自治体の公務員
・自然保護団体、NGOの職員 ・国際機関の職員
・ジャーナリスト、出版人 ・会社員、役員
・その他（財団職員、国会議員等）

● Questionnaires sent out from June 29,1992. Replies collected
by mail and fax by August 17,1992

● Number of the questionnaires sent : 3724
(Domestic : 2547, Overseas: 1177)

● Number of replies collected : 1054
(Domestic : 877, Overseas: 177)

● Rate of replies : 28.3% (Domestic : 34.4%, Overseas: 15.0%)

● Targets : Member of University or Research Institute
National or Local Government
Natural Preservation Society or NGO
International Organization
Media
Corporation
Others

● 属性別の回収結果 / Respondant Data

Region 地域

日本	Japan	877
北アメリカ	North America	49
ラテンアメリカ	Latin America	11
西ヨーロッパ	Western Europe	39
CIS/ 東ヨーロッパ	CIS / East Europe	13
アジア	Asia	30
オセアニア	Oceania	9
中東/アフリカ	Middle East / Africa	9
無回答	NA	17
合計	Total	1054

Age 年齢

40才以下	Under 40	91
41～50	41 to 50	218
51～60	51 to 60	354
61才以上	Above 61	367
無回答	NA	24
合計	Total	1054

Sex 性別

男	Male	995
女	Female	44
無回答	NA	15
合計	Total	1054

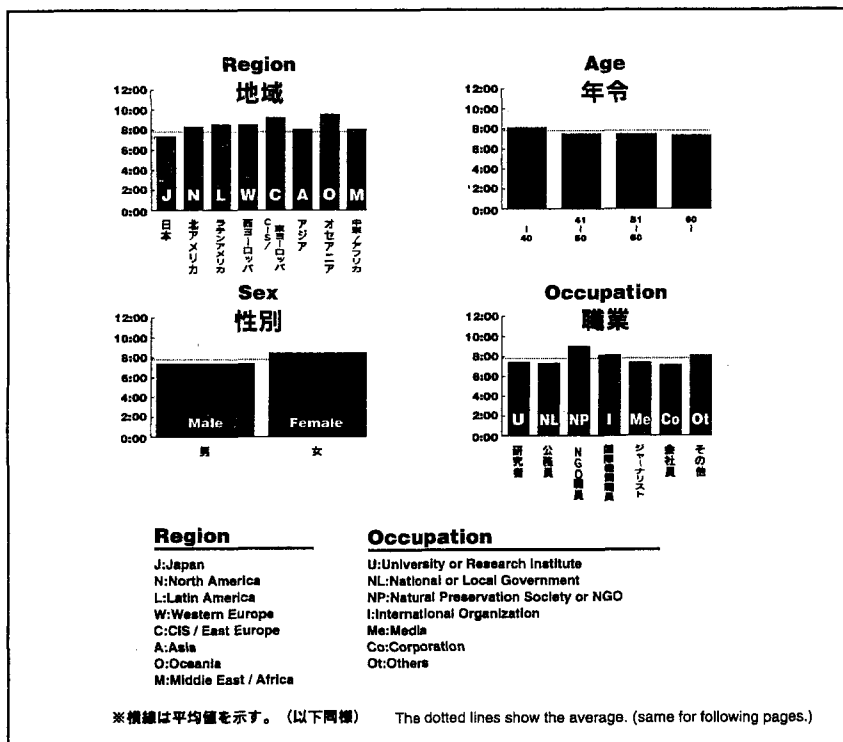
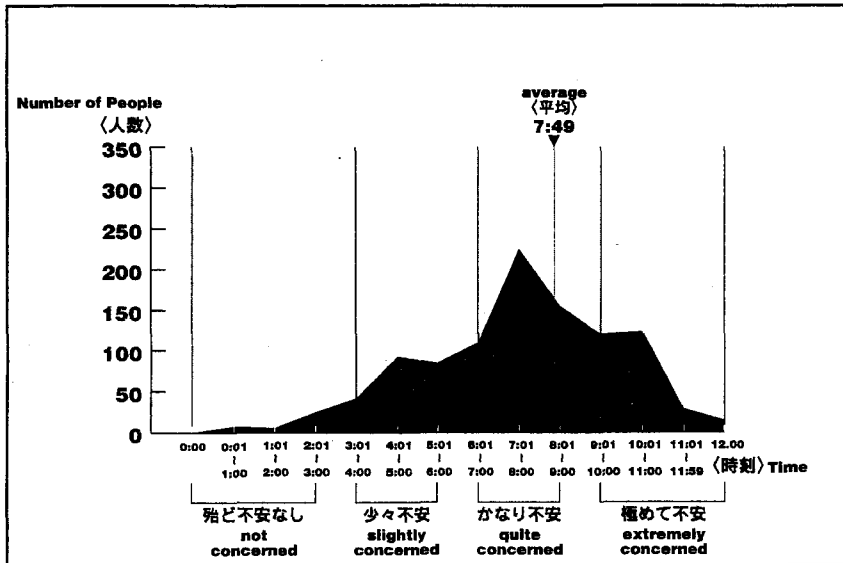
Occupation : Member of 職業

研究者	University or Research Institute	541
公務員	National or Local Government	116
NGO職員	Natural Preservation Society or NGO	41
国際機関職員	International Organization	30
ジャーナリスト	Media	26
会社員	Corporation	166
その他	Others	110
無回答	NA	24
合計	Total	1054

1

人類の存続は地球の変化によって危機に瀕しているといわれていますが、あなたは現在の危機の程度をどのように感じていますか。時計の針に例えてみてください。

It has been said that the survival of humankind is on the brink because of environmental changes. At this point in time, to what degree do you think the danger has progressed. Please think in terms of a clock.

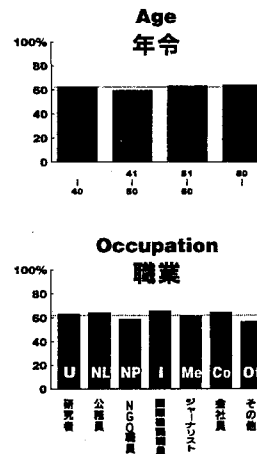
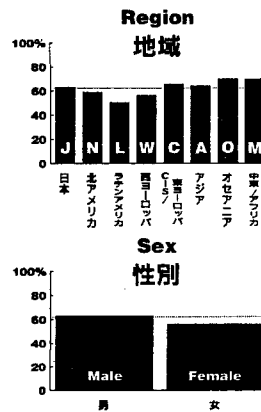
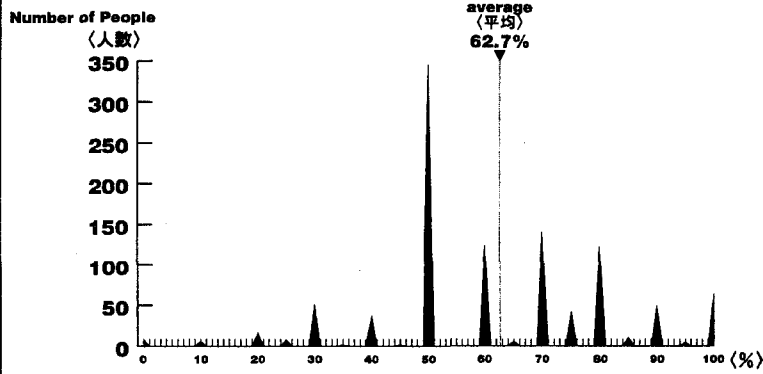


2

地球環境問題の解決に、科学・技術は寄与できると思われませんか。

How far are science and technology able to contribute to the solution of environmental problems?

For the answers to questions two to seven, respondents marked 100% to indicate an "absolute possibility" and 0% for an impossibility, with intermediate scores indicating varying degrees of certainty.



Region

- J:Japan
- N:North America
- L:Latin America
- W:Western Europe
- C:CIS / East Europe
- A:Asia
- O:Oceania
- M:Middle East / Africa

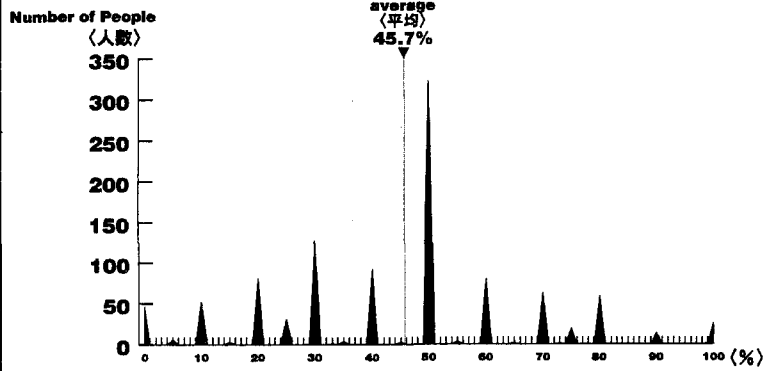
Occupation

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- NL:National or Local Government
- NP:Natural Preservation Society or NGO
- I:International Organization
- Me:Media
- Co:Corporation
- Ot:Others

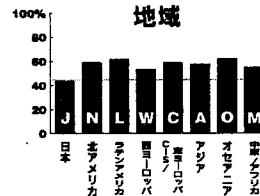
3

市場経済システムの改善や政治的な規制策によって、世界の消費と生産の拡大傾向やそれを追い求める人々の欲望を抑制できると思われますか。

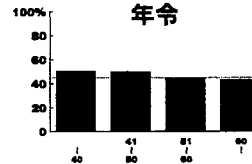
To what extent can changes to economic systems and political regulations restrain increases in production and consumption and curb the desire of human beings to pursue them?



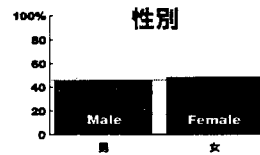
Region
地域



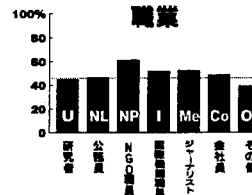
Age
年齢



Sex
性別



Occupation
職業



Region

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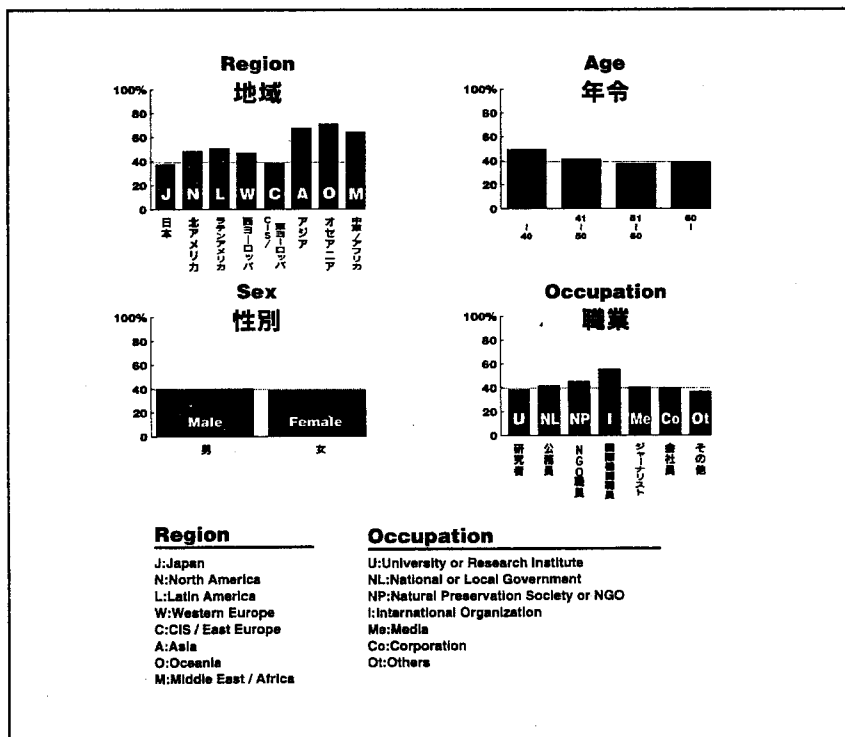
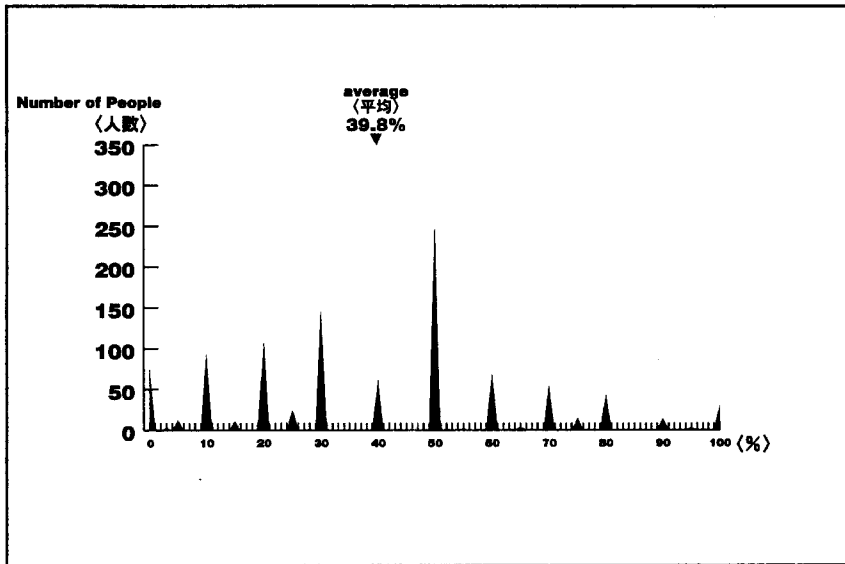
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4

ヒューマニズム（人類愛）に基づく行動が、
環境破壊によって危機に瀕している
人類を救えると思われますか。

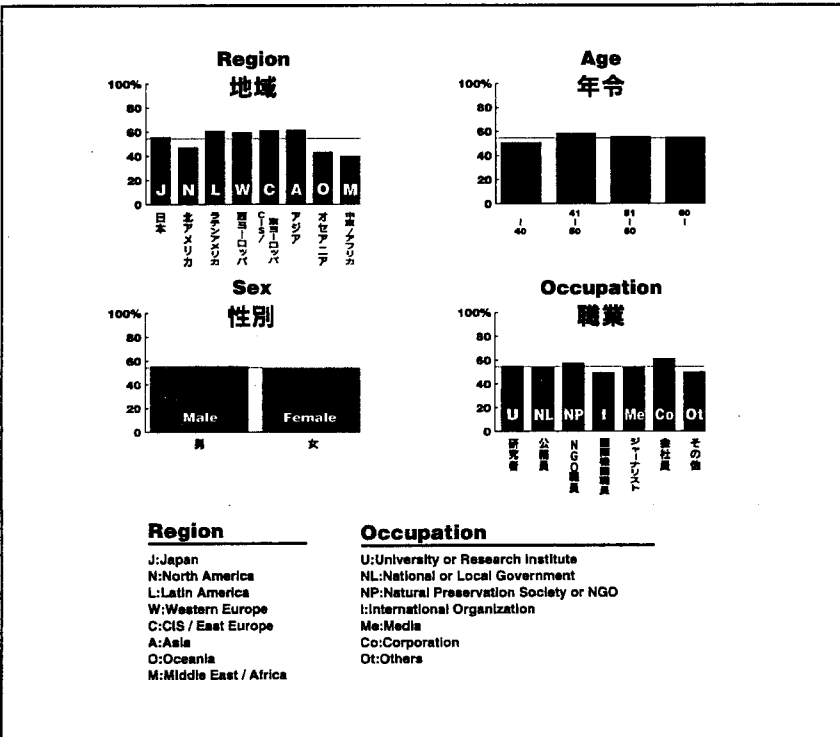
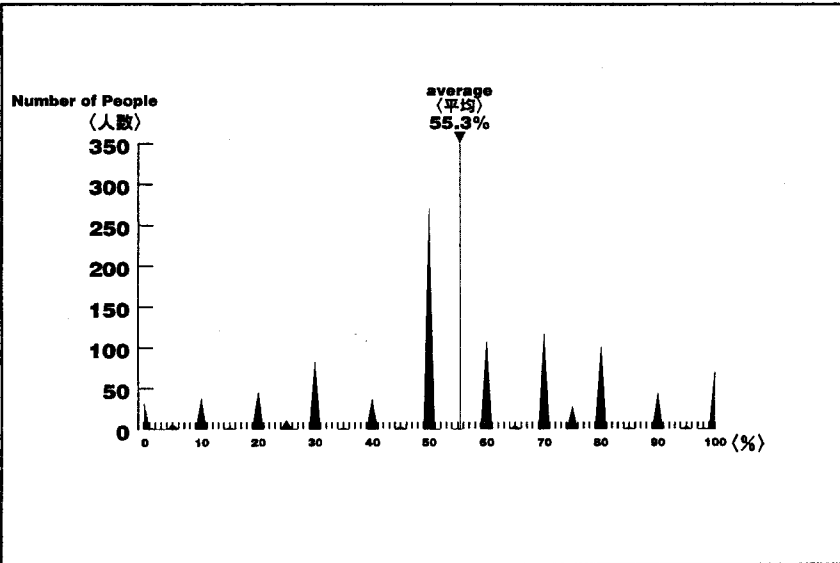
To what extent are humanistic activities able to save human
beings from the current crises that are caused
by destruction of the environment?



5

科学・技術に依存した現代文明の欠陥を補い、
環境と共生できる新たな文明のかたちを、
人類は創造できると思われませんか。

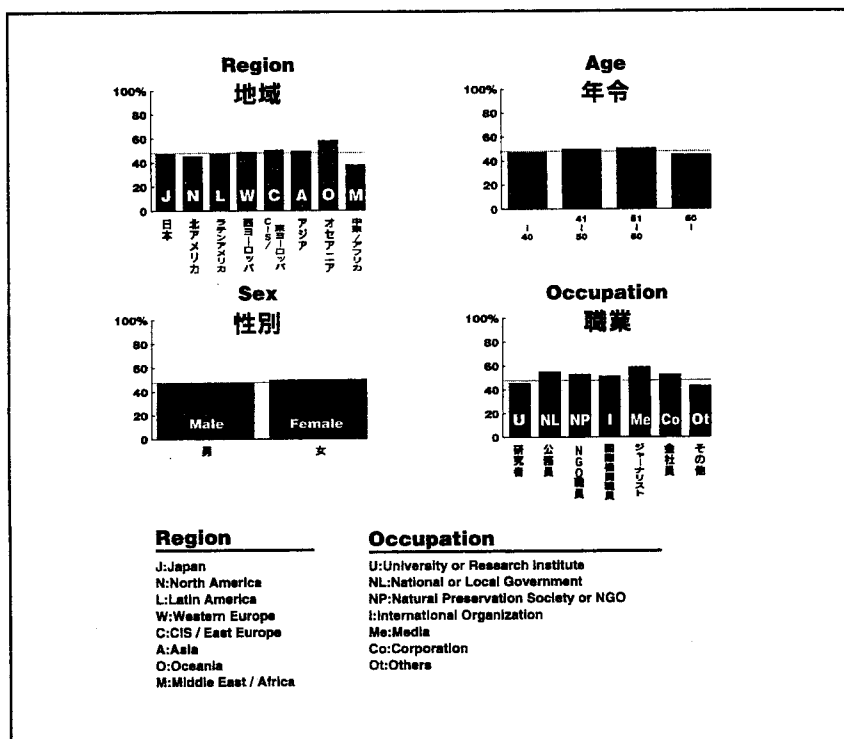
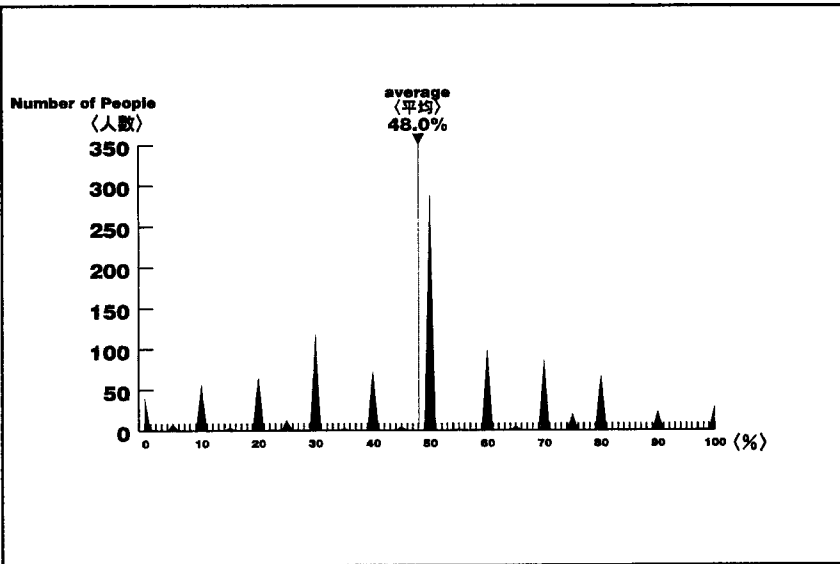
Is it possible to compensate for the problems of the present civilization in which certain science and technology exists to create a new civilization in which people develop and live in harmony with the natural environment?



6

地球環境を守るために、先進国の人々は、
物質的な豊かさを抑えたライフスタイルに
移行することができると思われますか。

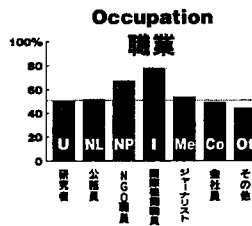
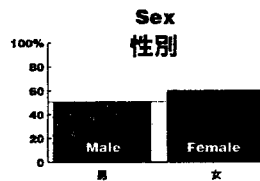
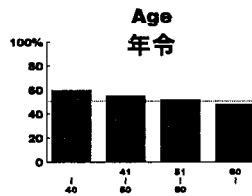
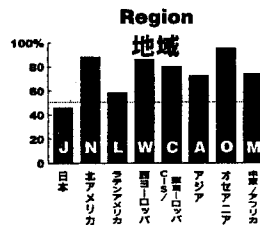
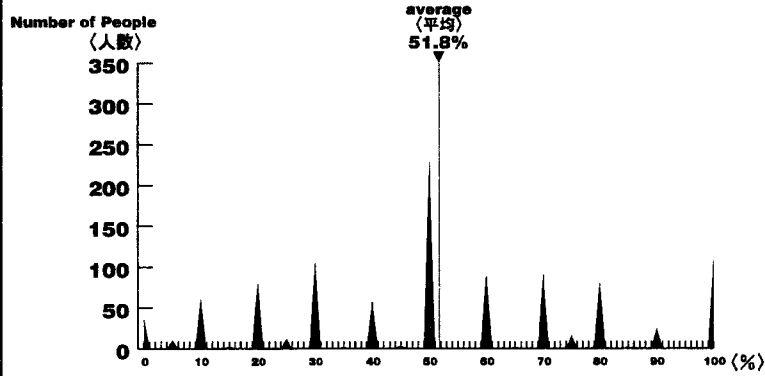
**Do you believe that people in developed nations can change
their fundamental desire for a rich material life to save the Earth?**



7

先進国は、途上国の経済発展のあり方や人口の抑制に関与することはできると思われますか。

Do you think that industrially advanced countries should concern themselves with the population problems and economic growth policies of developing countries?



Region

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O:Oceania
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8

If you feel that your ideas and opinions regarding environmental problems and the survival of humankind are not adequately expressed in the answers to the questions above, please feel free to write any other comments you might have.

The following are the order of themes most frequently written in the comment column of Q8.

1. 人類存続の重要課題としての人口問題の解決
2. 教育・環境教育の重要性
3. 東洋思想・文明（西洋近代主義の反省）の重要性
4. 進化・遺伝子の必然としての人類の滅亡
5. 資本主義・市場経済システムへの疑問
6. 平和の重要性（核・戦争への不安）
7. 環境ファシズム（警察国家・管理社会への不安）

1. solving the population problem to ensure the survival of humankind.
2. education, including that concerning the environment.
3. the importance of Eastern philosophy and culture, in contrast to Western modernism.
4. the inevitable annihilation of humankind in line with evolution and genetic makeup.
5. doubts over capitalism and market economies.
6. the importance of peace, and anxiety toward nuclear weapons and war.
7. environmental facism, and fear of a police state and controlled societies.

**FREE ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONNAIRE ON
ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS AND THE SURVIVAL OF HUMANKIND**

- * Respondents provided free answers to questions two through eight. For space reasons, not all of the replies are included below, although all have been duly noted.
- * The response to the questionnaire was overwhelming and the range of answers exceptionally varied. Similar replies have been grouped together to facilitate a comparison among the varying types of response to each question. The number of printed replies in a given response type reflects the actual frequency of that type of response. Also included are several original and interesting replies that lie outside the mainstream responses.
- * All responses are anonymous. In an effort to reflect the original language as closely as possible, the replies have been translated faithfully or edited for clarity. The replies to questions two through seven are reproduced herein in their entirety, while some of the answers to question eight have been paraphrased. Sections that have been selected are indicated by an ellipsis.
- * Replies to question eight have been divided into response types, or themes. The most commonly recurring theme is ranked first, and so on. Questions two through seven have not been divided in this way. Of the responses to question eight, group one contains more than 90 replies; group two contains more than 40 replies; groups three and four contain more than 20 replies each; groups five, six and seven contain more than 10 replies each; and groups eight to 12 contain less than 10 replies each.
- * The number of replies to each question are listed below.

Question two:616

Question three: 539

Question four: 516

Question five: 546

Question six: 514

Question seven: 516

Question eight: 435

Total number of respondents: 1,054

Question two: How far are science and technology able to contribute to the solution of environmental problems? (616 replies)

- Science and technology have limitless potential for development.
- Not entirely, but to a large extent.
- Paradoxically, environmental problems can probably be solved only by science and technology.
- The ability of science and technology to contribute to the solution of environmental problems depends on how economic, social and structural changes are introduced.
- Science and technology are merely the means. More relevant is how mankind tackles cultural and developmental issues.
- Science and technology have clearly made contributions to date and will probably continue to do so in the future. But do we have enough time?
- Many people would argue that science has become all-powerful, but many things remain unexplained.
- Humankind is still powerless against such natural phenomena as volcanic eruptions and earthquakes.
- They will make no difference unless humanity adopts a new set of values and priorities.
- Even where science and technology are applied to the solution of environmental problems, they end up causing further environmental destruction.
- The key issue is the relationship between population growth and economic growth, i.e., that population growth is causing increased poverty. Thus, science and technology are irrelevant to the argument.
- The major problem is population growth, and its curtailment depends on moral and economic factors.
- Science and technology have developed to an incredible extent since the industrial revolution. However, it is undeniable that this development has been a detriment to the globe's health. Unless there is a fundamental change in the values of dominant societies, science and technology can contribute nothing to solving environmental problems.
- It is difficult for present-day scientific knowledge to contribute to solving environmental problems. We must successfully develop and apply next-generation technologies, such as nuclear fusion.
- Current technology cannot provide the lead. Rather, a fundamental change in perceptions of science is necessary.
- To my regret, science cannot limit our needs.
- Science probably cannot provide an adequate response to the problem of human desire.
- Appropriate scientific and technological solutions have not been applied because of pressure from business interests.
- The main problem is the cost-effectiveness of solutions.
- In the end, it's a question of economics.
- Science needs public support and participation within the framework of the law.
- The crisis is one of civilization as a whole, and it must be tackled simultaneously on the political, economic and scientific fronts.
- Many issues are political and social, not simply scientific.
- Scientists and technologists are not autonomous, but controlled by government. Therefore, they alone cannot solve the problem.
- An explanation of the solar system is of primary importance. Otherwise, we will place too much stress on political factors.
- We must stress the importance of the link between nature and humanity.
- Most of the problem — fear and greed — lies in man's heart.
- Many factors are beyond our comprehension.

Question three: To what extent can changes to economic systems and political regulations restrain increases in production and consumption and curb the desire of human beings to pursue them? (539 replies)

- We must trust humankind's wisdom.
- Humanity can do what humanity most needs to do.
- Humans are not simply animals controlled by desire. They are capable of a range of different responses to the problem.
- History has much to teach us.
- The question is whether regionalism or democracy can provide the answer to the problem.
- Long-term educational efforts toward effecting a change in values are essential. Changing economic systems and political regulations alone will not be effective.
- We find it easier to resist hard drugs because we can readily see their adverse effects; however, the damage caused by alcohol is initially less noticeable and so we are less concerned about drinking.
- Such measures will be ineffective unless we adopt ascetic lifestyles.
- We cannot change human desires unless we make a conscious effort to do so.
- Humanity must develop on theological, moral and philosophical levels. Human desire cannot be manipulated by economics and politics, which are more concerned with the concepts of efficiency and power.
- Humankind, like other animals, is governed by the laws of nature, including a finite life span.
- Desire is a natural part of human existence.
- There is little hope unless we can control the roots of desire.
- It is impossible, as the problem is not desire but rather the inevitable result of the pursuit of a civilized lifestyle.
- Capitalism itself is based on the concept of desire. However, there is no sign as yet of a viable alternative system.
- Now that capitalism has survived as the only viable economic system, humanity is trapped in a mind-set that values the pursuit of material wealth above all else.
- The current economic system is built on various imbalances. However, the rectification of these imbalances will lead to economic disintegration.
- Rather than the underdeveloped countries curbing their desires, the developed countries should cease to exist.
- The outlook is grim for Asia, which contains more than half of the world's population.
- Political measures aimed at reducing human desire will not work.
- Most people are greedy. Change must come from inside, not from political regulation alone. Still, we need some regulations.
- We cannot build a new social order simply by trying to persuade people that the world is in crisis and that they should therefore exercise self-restraint.
- Persuasion is better than regulation.
- You cannot control human desire through political regulation and market incentives. Religion is important.
- It's generally impossible unless you use authoritarian methods.
- Humans need to individually change themselves: totalitarian measures from above can only lead to social conflict.

Question four: To what extent are humanistic activities able to save human beings from the current crises that are caused by destruction of the environment? (516 replies)

- Hope lies in humanitarianism.
- If humans can't save themselves, what can?
- Humanitarianism is all we have.
- If humankind does not change, nothing else is going to solve the problems of the environment.
- The promotion of human welfare, or progress, has led, ironically, to environmental destruction.
- Humanitarian activities alone are useless without a love of all life.
- Humanitarianism alone is insufficient. We need to adopt a new morality that encompasses a love for the earth and all living creatures, as well as for human beings.
- Humanity tends to see itself as supreme, but such a view is often at odds with the global environment.
- Only if human beings embrace a new morality based on concern for the whole globe and the welfare of future generations.
- Love for the earth, not humanity, is what is needed. We must pay attention to all forms of life and form a more holistic global outlook. The concept of humanitarianism is merely the arrogance of developed countries.
- As problems of global resources and the environment grow more acute, survival of the fittest, rather than humanitarian activities, will take precedence.
- In terms of evolution and genetics, humanitarianism itself is the thing that most imperils the future of the Earth.
- To the extent that humanitarianism means the promotion of a country's development, it also means the destruction of forests and the pollution of the sea.
- Realistically, not much evidence to date.
- Humanitarianism will save the environment. However, this humanitarianism entails establishing higher environmental ethics rather than just human compassion.
- It is too much to expect human beings, who still indulge in war, to undertake humanitarian activities.
- It is almost impossible, as many people regard war as a humanitarian activity.
- Humanitarian activities are impeding a solution to the problem of population growth.
- Man is by nature selfish.
- Humanitarianism is the product of a prosperous and comfortable society.
- Confronted with the problems of human desire and poverty, humanitarianism will always fail.
- Modern humanitarianism, which believes in the primacy of humanity, is an egocentric doctrine.
- If man's egoism, in the positive sense, cannot be made to work, then we're in trouble.
- Love is sometimes violent, but it is also extremely fragile.
- The humanities and philosophy have been unconcerned about the environment for too long. Philosophy has always put man at the center of the universe.
- Humanitarianism is not a love of humanity. Rather, it is, as Kazuo Watanabe, a scholar of French literature, put it, the constant questioning of what humans create.

Question five: Is it possible to compensate for the problems of the present civilization in which certain science and technology exists to create a new civilization in which people develop and live in harmony with the natural environment? (546 replies)

- Human beings are intelligent.
- I believe in the future of humankind.
- It is not possible to create a new civilization, but we can create a new culture.
- No new civilization but a gradual shift to more awareness and reduction of environmental destruction.
- If we exclude the problem of population, it is possible.
- If it is God's wish that humanity perish, is it right for humanity to resist? If humankind is to coexist with nature, right now the human population is expanding too quickly.
- It is possible to build a new civilization based on coexistence and development. However, just a few insane people have the potential to destroy the good intentions of the majority, and we therefore have to prevent them from gaining influence.
- If we don't think we can create a new civilization, we are better off dying quickly.
- We can create a new civilization in space.
- The concept of living in harmony with the natural environment exists in Japan, so Japan should assume leadership in this field.
- It depends on how far we pursue environmental education, including that of children.
- Greater harmony with the natural environment depends on the development of new science and technology.
- Living in complete harmony with the natural environment entails a complete back-to-nature lifestyle. Before we came to rely on science and technology, we lived in an era of divine rule.
- Humans must return to a simpler, more wholesome way of life.
- Both modern and premodern lifestyles have shortcomings. Further, the natural environment does not need humankind in order to live.
- There is a danger that a new civilization might lead to an antihumanitarian and antiscientific movement, which will be extremely difficult to suppress. Such a development is not impossible.
- A lot depends on political will.
- It will be impossible as long as people's desire for action is blunted via politics.
- Good idea but impractical.
- If humanity is to survive, the current "developed" lifestyle must be renounced. But that will not happen.
- Since environmental problems are shared by all, they should be solved by all. However, civilization as we know it consists of differences in race, language, customs and religion, all of which cannot possibly be unified. One example is the artificial country of Israel, whose people have developed a bellicose national psyche.
- The creation of human civilization is the job not of human beings but of a divine force. Humans should acquire the intelligence to gradually change civilization.
- We must hope for the appearance of another charismatic leader similar to Jesus Christ, Mohammed or Buddha.
- To what extent are human beings intelligent?

Question six: Do you believe that people in developed nations can change their fundamental desire for a rich material life to save the Earth? (514 replies)

- It is obligatory that we do so.
- By a combination of compulsory, guided and voluntary actions we should be able to restructure our wealthy, independent lifestyles.
- It will require comprehensive scientific, technological, social and political analysis, coupled with a universal reeducation of future generations.
- Yes, if one starts with the young.
- It is difficult to relinquish comforts that we already have. However, there is hope if people begin to recognize how too many material comforts imperil humanity's existence.
- I am extremely pessimistic. However, when the imbalances between the Northern and Southern hemispheres reach a crisis point, a solution might arise.
- It's possible outside the United States and Japan.
- Those of us whose generation endured severe hardship can do so, but Americans and young Japanese cannot.
- Over time, perhaps, but the "haves" want even more.
- We might do so two to three hundred years down the line, when we are confronted with the exhaustion of energy resources and food supplies.
- It is possible if we adopt a lifestyle without private ownership, like other animals.
- It will be difficult, but not impossible.
- We are currently in a state of impending crisis. If we can scientifically determine the extent of the crisis, we will definitely change our lifestyles.
- We have to change our notions of wealth. For example, we should not regard the consumption of endangered animals to be a luxury, but a sin.
- If they reject the current materialistic modern lifestyle.
- If they can reduce their selfishness.
- Why should we resist that desire? Indeed, is it resistible at all?
- Surely we shouldn't try to encourage a lifestyle that views material wealth as wrong.
- Rather than resisting material wealth, we should try to preserve the environment.
- It is impossible to change our lifestyles.
- If the current income gaps persist, it will be impossible.
- It will be impossible to change social systems as long as there is a gap between thought and action.
- No! No! The population explosion will not permit it!
- Rather, decadent cultures will weaken and be swallowed up by the tide of large population movements.
- Not without a major crisis.
- Religious strength is required, but it probably won't manifest itself until mankind is really in a bind.
- Is the resisting of desire something we should seriously contemplate, or should we give up on it?
- As Immanuel Kant said, if we have to do something, we will do it.

Question seven: Do you think that industrially advanced countries should concern themselves with the population problems and economic growth problems of developing countries? (516 replies)

- Absolutely not! Such an idea is mere hubris.
- No! The rich will exploit the poor even more. Look at the past 500 years.
- The developed countries should not dictate population and environmental policies to developing countries, which are simply aspiring to developed countries' levels of comfort and convenience.
- It is wrong to try to control overall population growth by curbing the populations of those countries using the least energy resources.
- ODA in its current form and GEF under the leadership of the developed countries will only provoke a crisis.
- They should concern themselves more with their own activities.
- The problem is that the desire to do so will become too strong.
- Indeed, they should take wholehearted action.
- By shying away from the issue of population, we are avoiding the heart of the problem.
- Demography is the key to understanding and solving the problem.
- At the very least, Japan should get involved in Southeast Asia.
- The economic progress of developing countries should not be stressed at the expense of population problems. China and India have not been successful in curbing population growth.
- Although they are not completely qualified to give advice, developed countries do have certain expertise. The problems cannot be solved unless developed countries participate actively in such areas as economic intervention and educational and technological assistance.
- They have an obligation to take action as constituent members of the world community.
- They should concern themselves with these problems to make sure that the mistakes of the developed countries are not repeated.
- It is viable if utmost consideration is given to the interests of the people — especially the disenfranchised and poor — in the process.
- Yes, but not in most of the present ways.
- These are indeed the most serious problems that confront us, and the countries of the world must decide what measures should be taken.
- Does a solution exist to the problems of poverty in developing countries?
- Cooperation between nations is difficult given the likelihood of ethnic and religious complications. A completely different framework is necessary.
- As the developed countries are arrogant, their interference in the internal affairs of developing countries will simply be rejected.
- Because multilateral interference in other countries' internal affairs is deemed essential, it will be difficult to restrain the egotism of individual countries.
- To do so would require not only scientific and technological aid but also enormous financial investment. Consequently, the selfishness of the developed countries will make appropriate action impossible.
- Yes, because developing countries' problems ultimately affect the developed countries.
- There are difficulties, as population growth is complicated by religious factors.
- One way to control population growth is for a country to become affluent and thereby promote the independence of women, which should in turn precipitate a fall in the birth rate. However, can the world withstand unchecked population growth until that time?
- Even if it were possible to do so, we should not. Regardless of which path is best, the question is of secondary importance to the issue of humanity's survival .

Question eight: If you feel that your ideas and opinions regarding environmental problems and the survival of humankind are not adequately expressed in the answers to the questions above, please feel free to write any other comments you might have. (435 replies)

1. Opinions stressing the importance of controlling population growth as a means of solving environmental problems

- There will be no solution until human numbers cease to increase.
- Looking at the overall problem, there will be no change until the human population decreases by half. If at that point we do not take serious remedial action, humanity will die out altogether.
- The crisis facing humanity is not the sudden increase in carbon dioxide emissions, but rather the explosive growth of the world's population. It is difficult to find a solution from within the developing world. The problem must be overcome by providing the developing areas with political stability, material wealth and improved education.
- Most environmental problems are fundamentally a result of overpopulation.
- We should thoroughly investigate the connection between population growth and environmental problems. To find causes is not a way to postpone dealing with the problems.
- At the end of a war, the occupying army is referred to, euphemistically, as the resident army. Similarly, the population explosion and the attendant extinction of humanity are referred to as the environmental problem.
- The most important themes are population growth and the prosperity gap between North and South. An organization needs to be set up at the UN specifically to focus on these problems.
- Environmental problems are worsening precisely because of population growth in Africa, Latin America, China and Southern Asia. In all of these regions, concrete solutions are not being developed for a range of political, bureaucratic and religious reasons.
- The two most serious long-term problems for humankind are unrestricted population growth and dwindling energy resources.
- If population growth can be curtailed, environmental problems will be easy to solve. However, if we have only limited success in curtailing population growth while continuing to improve medical capabilities, a survival-of-the-fittest situation will develop, from which humanity will be unable to emerge.
- The environment's sustaining capacity is flexible. However, we must now try to achieve an appropriate global population level so that humanity can survive.
- That too many people live on this Earth is the single most important cause of environmental problems. Unfortunately, it is impossible to stop population growth.
- If we are slow to tackle population growth, the world's energy resource needs will grow exponentially.
- The only way that we can protect the environment is to curtail population growth.... In the end, it looks as if drastic measures will be the only way to bring this about.
- We have the choice between prizing our own right to personal happiness above all else, in which case we will perish in glorious fashion, and reaching a consensus on the need to limit population.

2. Opinions stressing the need for education and, more specifically, environmental education

- Human morality is most important. Consequently, we need to reassess our educational priorities.
- We need to develop an education system that teaches us to recognize the real value of resources and to feel a common sense of purpose with the rest of the world, thus making us aware of the need to promote the continuation of humanity.

- If we are to solve the problems of the environment, it is important that we change our lifestyles and ways of thinking. We must conduct wide-ranging environmental education in the schools and elsewhere in society.
- Education is very important, because young people in developing countries need to obtain basic skills.
- In particular, the educational level of women in developing countries should be raised.
- We must make the most of education at the elementary level.
- The role of primary and secondary school education is of the utmost importance.
- At present, we are perhaps hysterically reacting to the problem because it makes good news. We need to rethink education starting from the primary school level.
- Private education is the long-term solution.
- Present adult generations are in a state of despair and do not have the courage to think about the problems and take appropriate action. Consequently, we must thoroughly educate our children to enable them to tackle environmental problems when they are adults.

3. Opinions related to Eastern philosophy and civilization as a counter to modern Western civilization

- We need to adopt a new philosophy — that of communal living, which is the basis of traditional Eastern thought.
- There must be a new faith practiced by the human race.
- Western science is nothing more than a comparatively new way of viewing nature. Thus, it is fundamentally impossible to solve environmental problems with Western science.
- We must adopt a culture and set of values that does not prize science and economic growth above all else. In this respect, there are many things that we can learn from Eastern philosophy.
- We must adopt a new set of ideas about life and discard the current ones. One such idea subscribes to the Newtonian mechanical civilization idea — that happiness is based on more material goods.
- Traditional feelings that the Japanese have towards nature, both visual and spiritual, are important.
- The application of Eastern ideas to an environmental morality will effectively change humankind's value system over the next three centuries.
- In the next 10 years, we will probably see a major shake-up of Western civilization. This will lead humankind to look for a sustainable philosophy based on new values and Eastern ideas.
- In the end, will it be Eastern philosophy that transcends worldliness?

4. Opinions that the disappearance of humankind is an inevitable consequence of evolution and genetics

- The human species will probably survive for a few hundred thousand years more, albeit at greatly reduced numbers and barring the occurrence of a nuclear holocaust.
- The environment is in a constant state of change, with living creatures evolving and climatic changes occurring naturally. It will be very difficult for us to defer the eventual extinction of humanity in the distant future, but by working with nature we could postpone that eventuality a little.
- As a result of environmental destruction, the disappearance of humankind will probably take place as part of the process of natural selection among all living creatures.
- Human beings are just one living species, and the problems of environmental destruction are not so grave that they will cause humankind's extinction. However, environmental destruction might speed up that process.

- Humankind is not intelligent enough to avoid extinction. It is humankind's fate to die out just like other living creatures. By the time all human beings realize this it will already be too late.
- The world has seen so many great disasters in the past that if even 1% of humankind survives, that will be better than might be expected.
- The extinction of humanity is not such a terrifying prospect.
- In natural history, even those living creatures that have flourished eventually die out. Humankind will be no exception.... The reason that living creatures die out is that even their most valuable defenses are insufficient to combat changes in the natural environment. Humankind's greatest defense, its superior mental faculty, is also the cause of its problem.
- To be frank, I couldn't care less if humankind continues to exist or not.

5. Opinions on the limitations of capitalism and market economics

- We have to create an economic philosophy to replace capitalism.
- Global environmental deterioration is not only a scientific and technological problem; it is also political, economic and social. The nature of our environmental strategy will depend on whether we affirm or reject the present capitalist structure, the aim of which is personal gain.
- Market capitalism will in the future become more disorderly even than communism did at its end.
- A capitalistic society based on personal freedom is probably ultimately damaging. Now that communism has dissolved, capitalism will be the next to crumble.
- Even though capitalism has survived, we have no cause for celebration. Since capitalism is based on the principle of growth and expansion, we will end up perishing along with the globe. Changes to our economic systems are essential to the survival of humankind.

6. Opinions reflecting concern about war and peace

- We must urgently address the most serious environmental problem, which is the threat of nuclear holocaust.
- There is always a war taking place somewhere in the world. As war is the greatest destroyer of the environment, it is important that we find ways to prevent it. First, we should ponder the great inconsistency between the manufacture and export of weaponry on the one hand and peacekeeping operations on the other.
- If it is not possible to stop civil wars in Yugoslavia and other regions, how can the industrialized nations impress their ideas on the leaders of developing countries?
- The selfishness and self-righteousness of the nuclear powers is completely irrational.
- Military spending is approaching the stage where the world leaders must now focus on ensuring humankind's survival.
- If there is no peace, we cannot protect the environment. How can we maintain peace? It is impossible to do so by militarization, and antiwar movements are inadequate. Thorough research into peace is important.

7. Opinions on environmental fascism: moves toward a police state and controlled society

- Environmental protection is all very well, but one hopes that it doesn't lead to a more controlled society with stronger regulations.
- The global environment has now reached a breaking point as far as the human population is concerned. Consequently, a big shake-up is on the way. We must hope that the shake-up will be a "soft landing" rather than a severe dislocation.
- Those who lived through the years of austerity that followed the end of World War II probably understand. However, for those who were raised in a period of uninterrupted prosperity, it might

not be so apparent that when the world transforms into a controlled world economy, a lot of people are inevitably going to be left behind.

- There is a great worry that religious organizations adhering to extremist views or whose real nature is unclear will rise to prominence.
- One way to save the environment is to introduce a kind of environmental fascism, which would forcefully suppress population growth and limit the sale of goods. Although a frightening alternative to democracy and capitalism, it might ironically have the effect of saving the environment.

8. Opinions on a global scientific solution

- Japan should take the lead in setting up and overseeing global research centers to better investigate global scientific systems.
- Science and technology need to be utilized more to establish the real extent of the environmental problems highlighted in the media. The development of global systems engineering is necessary to find out whether the world's resources really are finite.

9. Opinions on the global warming issue

- There is likely some correlation between the increase in carbon gases and rising atmospheric temperatures. However, we need to look at changes in average temperatures over a fifty-year period. As yet, we do not have concrete data for temperature changes on a global scale.

10. Opinions on the speed of change

- The rate of environmental destruction in Japan, in particular, is too fast.
- The problem is not so much the current state of the environment but the speed of deterioration.

11. Opinions on space development

- We should encourage scientific and technological development that dramatically increases our natural energy resources and living space. We should invest in scientific and technological education to promote space exploration and the establishment of farms, factories, electrical power stations and residential cities in outer space.

12. Opinions on the importance of social science

- The relatively slow development of the social sciences, including philosophy, economics and law, compared to that of science and technology has serious implications for humankind's survival. The development of the social sciences should be encouraged in step with advances in science and technology.