

Southeast Asian garbage problem becoming serious by waste plastics



~By one empty plastic bottle, we can change the future~

Hirano Senior High School Attached to Osaka Kyoiku University Akane Kawamura Rinka Ishihara Aoi Yoshikawa Konoka Wada

Summary : Garbage problem has been occurring in Southeast Asia because Japan exported a lot of waste plastics. In response to that, we considered that it is important for each of us to reduce plastics not to put out it to foreign countries.

1. The current status in the world

China The Chinese government stopped importing waste plastics from January 2018.

Japan occupies one third of waste plastics importing Decrease by the regulation

Some Southeast Asian governments stopped importing waste plastics from June or July 2018.

There are a lot of plastics around exporters

Waste plastic import volume

Country	The first half of 2017	The first half of 2018
Malaysia	~100	~100
Vietnam	~100	~100
Thailand	~100	~100
China	~400	~25

China's waste plastic importing volume from Japan

Year	Volume (10,000t)
2006.1	37
2006.2	62
2006.3	74
2006.4	72
2006.5	64
2006.6	76
2006.7	70
2006.8	64
2006.9	63
2006.10	73
2006.11	72
2006.12	77
2007.1	49
2007.2	74
2007.3	77
2007.4	73
2007.5	73
2007.6	84
2007.7	74
2007.8	86
2007.9	53
2007.10	40
2007.11	42
2007.12	25
2008.1	2

Because of Japanese exporting waste plastics, garbage problem has occurred in Southeast Asia

Need to process exporting plastics in Japan. **Let's reduce plastics**

2. Methods and suggestions

For individuals

Current status ①

- Plastic emissions in Japan : 9 million t/year
- Exporting plastics : 1.5 million t/year

Divide by the population and 365 days (111 million people (over 15 years old))

Emit : 200g/day Export : **33g/day**

1/6 plastics

The amount of **1 plastic bottle**

If a person reduce 1/6 as many plastics as usually, exporting plastics would disappear.

For organizations (school, company, and public facility)

Current status ②

- Plastic emissions in Japanese school : 75g/day (1 class(40 person))

We researched a trash box in our school (2 days). 150.48g

If every high school carries out "No trash box day" (remove all trash boxes) once a week...

If every high school student do it... **Decrease 30t/year**

The amount of 12 hippos

We should make "No trash box day" once a week.

3. Conclusion and action plans

Conclusion

- For individuals : reduce 1/6 as many plastics as usually.
- For organizations : remove trash boxes once a week. (No trash box day)

Action plan

- Make a leaflet to tell about seriously of Southeast Asian garbage problem and necessity to reduce plastics.
- Carry out "No trash box day" in our school
- Suggest "No trash box day" to the government.

Source : Ministry of Environment, Japan External Trade Organization, Global Trade Atlas, Plastic waste management instituteVOA, asiaone, vnexpress