

第3回中央大学学長賞 英語スピーチ・コンテスト開催される

去る10月29日(火)午後1時20分から多摩校舎8号館8302号教室において、第3回中央大学学長賞英語スピーチ・コンテストを開催した。

応募資格は英語を母語としない本学学部学生で、テーマは自由とし、書類等による事前審査を10月17日(木)に行い、28名の応募者の中から10名を本選出場者とした。

本選では、鈴木康司学長が校務のため、御船洋商学部長の挨拶の後、コンテストが開催された。1人約7分程度のスピーチの後、それぞれ3分程度の審査委員との英語での質疑応答が交わされた。

午後3時50分からの表彰式では、審査委員長のヘッセ、S トンプソン法学部教授から講評があり、御船洋商学部長から、経済学部1年の戴 蘇燕 (Dai SuYan) さんに学長賞、副賞10万円が、法学部4年の入村夏実さんと商学部1年の岡村茉侑さんにそれぞれ優秀賞、副賞3万円が授与された。

コンテスト終了後、会場を1号館に移し、学長賞を受賞した戴さんをはじめ出場学生を囲み、審査委員とともに懇親会を開き、午後5時30分に終了した。

学長賞

Share a better life with Marine turtles!

戴 蘇燕 (Dai SuYan)

Ladies and gentlemen, today I would like to tell you about endangered marine turtles and arouse our desire to protect them. This remarkable reptile is revered in culture and custom around the world. Although it symbolizes longevity, fertility and strength of survival, today marine turtles are sadly dying out. They are dying in our fishing nets, are made for our accessories and are being eaten in our restaurants. We are the source of the problem.

This summer I was lucky enough to work with the World Wildlife Fund. When I got to know the crisis that marine turtles had faced, I was very shocked indeed.

My job in WWF is to research the turtle shell's market with varieties of products, item prices and trading conditions. Since Cuba and Japan have been promoting to the resumption of trade in turtle shells, my report should help to decide on whether it is appropriate to reopen such trade.

Now let me start with basic understanding of marine turtles! Did you have an idea that they have lived on the earth for over 150 million years? There are seven living species. You can find them everywhere from coastal tropical to subtropical waters and all of them are now in danger. One species has been listed as critically endangered, which means the top level of endangered categories. The other might go extinct within the next decade.

It is human beings who have damaged marine turtles seriously. Their population has been declining drastically for more than 30 years. Threats to turtles can be categorized into two main

groups, direct and indirect factors. The direct one is consumption by humans. People eat their meat and eggs to get their high quality protein. The indirect factors include longline fishing, which would accidentally catch not only turtles but also sharks and other endangered species. Besides, tourism, heavy metal pollution causes serious problems as well. And guess what: because we enjoy decorative turtle shells, many are killed because of their beautiful shells. On the other hand, global warming is another great enemy. Marine turtles will lose their reproductive habitats when the sea level rises. At the same time, the sex balance of new-born baby turtles will be ruined.

So far, I suppose these stories have already affected you in some way, haven't they? However the marine turtle is just the tip of the iceberg. Today and every other day, 70 animal and plant species become extinct. 10 to 20% of all creatures may disappear from the earth in the 21st century because of human damage.

You are probably wondering why each species is crucial? Why do we have to protect them? To answer these questions, I would like you to appreciate certain facts. First is the function of species in natural ecosystem. Every species contributes to the stability of the biological community. They also maintain a food chain, help natural production and purification. The next is the evolution of species. On average, it could take more than several hundred thousand years for one species to be formed. You should get an important message here. Once a certain species becomes extinct, it will never revive again. Any species extinction causes a collapse of the natural ecosystem in the long run. To focus on turtles, scientists consider them as great genetic resources. In short, they are expected to contribute to develop new medical products. Here it is very clear why we should save them, isn't it?

Now let's return to the marine turtle's protection. A large number of projects and campaigns have been conducted by WWF throughout the world. They started regional team surveys and encouraged using turtle excluder devices in fishing. As matters got worse, the WWF has tried to persuade local governments to ban excessive fishing and establish conservation areas. Nowadays, more than 140 nations are carrying out the prohibition on the trade of marine turtles. Such efforts have already brought some results, but if we do them halfway, marine turtles will eventually go extinct.

At the individual level, what actions can we take? What can you and I contribute? Let me give you some suggestions. First, never keep marine turtles in aquariums. The rate of survival is low. Second, keep bright lights away from the beach at night, since hatchlings get disoriented by bright light. Third, do not throw plastic bags in the ocean. Turtles will eat them and die. Finally, keep in mind what I mentioned about the effects of global warming; try to economize on energy consumption in our daily life.

At this moment, what do you think of marine turtles? Remember every creature has its own existential meaning. There are still many mysteries about such wonderful animals. Do you want to lose them without ever really knowing them? If your answer is NO, let's take action right now to share a better life with them starting with our generation! As a distinctive part of biodiversity, the survival of marine turtles is up to you and me, and every individual on the planet.