

Name: **Ik Joon Seo**

University : **Incheon Univ.**

Major: **School of Northeast Asian Studies**

-Essay-

### **Sustainable Development Goal: Life Below Water**

The Earth, which we stand on right now is a giant planet and it is composed of various factors, including land, water, air and more others. And as we all know, water holds an important place in the surface of the Earth – about 71%. However, even though there is such an enormous amount of water in the earth, human is now facing an important and serious problem related to water. Problem is not only about lack of useable water, but also about the pollution on the water, especially marine resources.

Marine resources which includes the life below water, is as important as the life on the land. We take advantages from water by actually ingesting marine animals and plants, and also by investigating and researching marine resources which helps to develop science. However, along with the development of science and technology, the environment of water has been seriously destroyed. At first we did not realize the seriousness of the pollution, but as the time passed we could recognize and feel the impact. Since then, the world started to solve the problem and find out the way to sustain the usage of marine resources without any harm to the environment. And we name this action as the ‘sustainable development.’

There are many diverse actions between countries, and each has merits and demerits. However, covering every actions, the one thing that I think important is that in order to successfully proceed its policy, not only nation, but also companies and individuals should take actions together. So, this is what I want to talk about today. What nation, companies, and individuals should do to save the environment.

Firstly, the nation should do a practical legal regulations toward any attempts to pollute marine resources. The enacted law should include fishery of marine living things and disposal of various things from land. Considering that we are now living in a huge ecological pyramid, excessive fishery which could affect the ecological system should be avoided. In addition, when disposing various contaminated things from land to the ocean, it should not overwhelm the limit of nature restoration. In order to successfully proceed these actions the nation should enact and enforce strong, practical legal

regulations.

Secondly, the companies should be aware of the seriousness when disposing of factors from the factories. In the process of activating factories, various contaminated materials can be emitted and it is an undeniable fact for sure. However, by installing and operating facilities which can eliminate those contaminated materials, the amount which is emitted can be decreased and be less harmful to the environment. Along with the strong regulations from the nation, the company itself should be aware of the seriousness of disposing of those materials and actually do the environment-friendly actions.

Lastly, the individuals should try to change from the small things that could help the environment. For example, less using disposable things can reduce the cost and environmental factors in making those and also can reduce pressure on the ocean. Moreover, there are so many other ways that each individual can do to practically help the environment. The interesting thing is that those things start from small actions in our daily life. So, I suggest that we from now on think over and try what we can do to help the nature.

In the 18<sup>th</sup> century in England, after the Industrial Revolution, there actually was 'The Tragedy of the Commons.' At that time the place was the range, and nowadays only the place has just changed to the ocean. The ocean, which covers most of the surface of the Earth, is a common gift for every human being that lives on the Earth. As the demand for using ocean and marine resources overwhelms its supply, we should realize the given situation and try to preserve our property. Although nature itself has the ability of natural restoration, in the past years we overused marine resources and the situation is more worse than we think. Nevertheless, we cannot live without marine resources and need to gain support from the ocean. That's the reason why we need to consider sustainable development of the marine resources. I strongly think that it is now time to think and take actions toward it.

### **Sustainable Development Goal: Partnerships for the Goals**

In economics, one of the basic principles is the equilibrium between supply and demand. When this basic form is applied to the real world, we can say that the supplier is the nature, and the demander is us, human. As a demander, we try to use and get something from nature, but the amount that the nature can give us is always limited. Nowadays, thanks to the development of technology, we live in quite comfortable circumstances, but on the contrary, the pollution of the environment has become worse and worse.

Due to present situation, many countries around the world came up with future-oriented and environment friendly development, so-called 'sustainable development.' However, when considering that the size of the Earth is enormous, one country's attempt toward environment significantly has its limits. That's the reason why we should take actions together, covering all countries around the world. As we all know, human is a social beings, and we live in a world with many other people. By making social cohesion on the basis of partnerships between countries, we may go through present severe situation.

Especially, the partnerships between countries should cover science and environment. On the process of trade and exchange, many factors can be shared and may work as a stepping-stone toward development. However, when considering the fact that we should focus on the sustaining development, it is so simple and so important to put more weight on science and environment together. All countries, regardless of its size, power, ability, and more others, should put one's heads together to find a solution for environment, for better development.

It is also fact that there is a significant differences between countries and because of this, making partnership can be hard. However, as a human beings that live on this planet, this giant planet, we have duty to save and preserve the nature which is given to all of us. This is not just like a problem of one country. This is not confined to one country, rather it is a problem for the whole world, so we should think about this again and take common actions toward it. Only on the basis of partnerships between countries, the sustainable development can finally get attention and can practically make a change.