

Over 60% of a human body is made of water. We cannot live without water. We need water for drinking, washing and other everyday activities. \*According to \*WHO, the \*amount of water each person needs in everyday life is about 50 L. Water is one of the most important things in our lives. As we will see here, there are some \*issues about water.

Japanese people can get safe \*tap water at home, but there are a lot of people who cannot get clean and safe  in the world. One report says that in 2010, about 780 million people, 11.3% of the world's \*population, couldn't get safe water \*within one kilometer of their own homes.

The \*cost of drinking water is another issue. Can you imagine that river water is sometimes  than tap water? Maybe you can't, but that is true. In one country, people need to get drinking water from rivers. <sup>(3)</sup>The cost of river water is higher because they have to give money to people [from / water / carry / who / rivers]. In such a country which doesn't have \*waterworks, the cost of 200 L of water is about 150 yen. But in another country with waterworks, the cost of the same amount of tap water is only 40 yen.

Water \*shortage is also an important issue. The \*increasing world's population is one of the main reasons for this. Another reason for water shortage is the fast \*industrialization of countries. Humans are using water not only for their everyday lives, but also for making \*products like cars and computers. People living in some areas of the world can have enough water. However, people living in other areas cannot have enough water. Like this, people in the world cannot have the same amount of water. Look at the map on the next page. 60% of the world's population lives in Asia, but Asia has only 36% of water in the world. You can understand Asia has a more \*serious situation than Africa or other areas in the world. Then, if you look at the graph on the next page, you will also understand the world will need more water in the future.

Many countries started to get together to talk about various water issues. The first \*World Water Forum was held in 1997. We have had the World Water Forum \*every three years since then. The third World Water Forum was held in Kyoto in 2003. This was the first World Water Forum held in Asia. And the sixth World Water Forum was held in France in 2012. About 34,000 people from 173 countries came together at this World Water Forum. They talked about various issues and shared ideas about water \*policies with each other. <sup>(4)</sup>By doing so, they were able to understand today's water \*conditions better.

Japan has tried to help other countries by giving information and technology to make water conditions in the world better. For example, \*the Tokyo Metropolitan Government has supported many countries. From 2008 to 2012, it invited more than 2,000 professional people from different countries. They learned about the technology to produce better waterworks. They returned to their countries with the new technology, and began using it.

Each one of us can also do something to make the world better. First, we can think about people who cannot drink safe water. Then, we can be more careful about using water. For example, we can save water when we take a bath. Also, we can reuse the bath water for washing clothes. Please think about what else you can do in your everyday life to save and reuse water.