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The Philosophy of Environmental Problems

Toru ADACHIHARA

Looking back on his own experiences as a student and practitioner of agriculture, the author describes his attempts to establish both a theoretical philosophical basis and a critical activist stance in response to the question of how to maintain farming, forestry and village life in the wake of the various environmental and human problems that have occurred since Japan adopted the Western model of an industrial and urbanized society. The author believes that in the human quest for happiness both our present growth-fuelled economic system and the scientific method of problem-solving through the development of ever-new technological tools are fatally flawed. In the future economics and science must be based on a mature and accurate awareness of life's meaning and the natural processes of birth, growth, decay and death.