

いよいよ最後のレッスンです。今回は、環境問題と国際問題の両方に関わるテーマである「水戦争」について書かれた記事を取り上げます。まず全文を読んでみましょう。

Coming Water Wars

It goes without saying that water is essential for humans to live. But there are a lot of places in the world where people can't get healthful water. The estimated number of people who don't have access to healthful water is about 1.3 billion.

The water shortage is caused by many factors such as climate change, the increasing number of people and the increasing consumption of water for industrial purposes.

① The planet we live on is sometimes called a “water planet” but IMO estimates 97.5 percent of its water is salt water and the amount of fresh water on the planet is only about 2.5 percent of the total. Almost all the fresh water is distributed in the ice at the two poles and the amount of water available for humans is estimated to be only 0.01 percent of the total.

This water should be shared fairly among all people but the gap in water use between regions or countries is not small.

For example, in some countries in Africa, the amount of water consumed per person each day is calculated to be less than 10 liters. On the other hand, in Japan, per person use is about 300 liters. Including industrial water, the amount of water consumed for a person in Japan is calculated to be about 3 tons.

China is known as a developed country with about 20 percent of the world's population but also a country that faces a critical water shortage. In this country, industrial waste water and domestic waste water have polluted about 80 percent of the rivers, and nearly 30 percent of the people can't get safe, drinkable water.

語注 ②.9 … consumption : 消費

「テキスト4」では、“総合演習”と銘打って「テキスト1～3」で取り上げたさまざまな分野や文書を、やや難易度の高い題材で改めて学習します。翻訳に取り組む際は、これまでに学んだ“分野や文書タイプごとの着眼点”を思い出し、実践することで、着実に自分のものにしていきましょう。

China is also known as a country that has a lot of big rivers like the Yellow River and the Hai River. These rivers used to give the people domestic, agricultural and industrial water, which helped the country's population grow. Recently, however, the supply of fluent water has been decreased by climate change and an increased amount of water intake.

As we speak, the precious 0.01 percent of water is being consumed or polluted by many countries. By the middle of this century, the number of the people who face water crises is estimated to reach over 4 billion. Ismail Serageldin, the then vice president of the World Bank stated in 1995, “If the wars of this century were fought over oil, the wars of the next century will be fought over water.” And his remark is turning to be true.

② Already at the end of the 20th century, among many countries located along the large rivers in the Middle East, trouble over water has broken out. And in this century, conflicts over water between China and India, and the US and Mexico have occurred. It is clear that the limited supply of water cannot be shared equally without worldwide discussion and cooperation.

To deal with the issue of sharing water, an independent, international organization, the World Water Council (WWC), was established in 1996. The association, which has a special consultative status granted by UNESCO and ECOSOC, has held a global forum (WWF) every three years starting in 1997.

However, this association supports the idea of privatization of the water industry. Privatization of the water industry sometimes causes steep water prices and brings domestic conflicts around the world. Some experts and NGOs have remarked that water prices should not be decided by the market and that the WWC is strongly connected with water industries.

It seems very hard for any human to be in smooth water any more.

語注 ②.2 … Hai River : 海河

翻訳演習①

原文の次の箇所を「である・だ」調で訳してみましょう。

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語注 0.16 … water shortage : 水不足

◆ 着眼点 ◆

地球上に存在する人間が利用できる真水の量と、各国における水の消費量の違いについて述べられています。何が水問題の本質なのかをしっかりと読み取って訳しましょう。

< 解答欄 >

セクション3のレッスン3では、通常の「翻訳演習」に比べて、2倍のボリュームがある長文を翻訳します。前ページでご紹介した長文の網掛け部分を「翻訳演習①」と「翻訳演習②」に分けて取り組みます。一文一文を正確に訳すのはもちろん、「長文全体の流れや論旨」にも気を配りながら丁寧に翻訳してみましょう。

翻訳演習②

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語注 0.12 … privatization : 民営化

◆ 着眼点 ◆

前半からの続きで、水戦争の発生と水問題に対処する国際機関について言及しています。機関の正式名称や用語の適切な日本語訳に注意して、記事として読みやすい文章表現を心がけましょう。

「テキスト1～4」でさまざまな分野と文書タイプを通じて、「リライト演習」→「翻訳演習」→「翻訳演習（長文課題）」というステップにより翻訳の基礎力・実践力を身につけたあとは、総仕上げとして「添削課題」に取り組みましょう。
全4回の「添削課題」で優秀な成績を収められた方には、DHCのオンライン翻訳サービス『eスマート翻訳』の登録翻訳家として推薦を受けられます（詳細は、DHC通信講座ホームページにてご確認ください）。