

平成 22 年度 経営学部 公募制 推薦入学 試験 問題  
小 論 文

森林の荒廃を防ぐ間伐を推進する取組みについて論じた次の英文を読んで、設問 1～5 に答えなさい。

To revitalize dying forests and hand them over to the next generation, thinning of trees is essential. However, the practice has fallen behind all across the country. This is because even with official subsidies from central and local governments to thin forests, it costs far more to build passages, do the actual work and then transport the felled trees. As a result, even if thinning takes place, the wood is left on the spot. Nearly 60 percent of the thinnings are treated in this way.

Office Chonai-kai, an environmental nonprofit organization in Tokyo, has started a project to fix this situation. The idea is to gather companies that will support forest thinning, and have them buy up paper products made from the thinned materials. The costs of thinning are added to the paper prices, so the products cost 10 percent more than regular market prices. But by doing so, paper manufacturers buy forest thinnings at twice the market price. The system of placing advance orders for “paper that supports forest thinning” is introduced to alleviate concerns about unsold goods.

With this project, the town of Iwaizumi, Iwate Prefecture, has made forest thinning economically viable. The number of companies supporting this plan grew from four, when the project started six years ago, to 70. All the companies need to do is pay the extra bit for paper. More than 360 tons of paper is sold each year, and has increased the size of thinned forest space from 1.8 hectares to 25 hectares. In February, neighboring Kuzumaki town joined the program, and this May, Misawa city in Aomori Prefecture will also take part.

Juon Network, another Tokyo-based NPO, is spreading the use of disposable wooden chopsticks made from tree thinnings. Through its activities, 64 university co-ops now use 10 million pairs of such chopsticks each year. These kinds of activities that support forest thinning should be used to start forest improvement programs.

Owners of land in mountainous areas are also coming up with new ideas. In Nantan city in Kyoto Prefecture, the forestry union consolidated ownership of multiple forests. By introducing high-performance machinery, the union has been able to cut costs and stay economically viable while working to revitalize the forests.

Japan has pledged to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 6 percent below the 1990 level. Of that percentage, the country must rely on the CO<sub>2</sub> absorbing power of forest for 3.8 percent. Japan's success hangs on our forests.

Of course, the flagging forestry industry cannot be expected to revive overnight. But we should expand our efforts to protect and nurture our natural environment.

問1. 上の英文では、何が問題として提起されているか日本語で述べなさい。

問2. 「オフィス町内会」が採用している運営体制について日本語で述べなさい。

問3. 「オフィス町内会」の活動が実際にもたらした効果について日本語で述べなさい。

問4. 「樹恩ネットワーク」および南丹市の森林組合の取り組みについて日本語で述べなさい。

問5. 下線部に関して、あなた自身の考えや提案を本文の内容をふまえて日本語600字程度で論じなさい。