

## Eiken P1 Speaking Exercise 2017-1

### 1. **Would the global economy benefit from having a single world currency?**

I disagree with the idea that a single currency would be beneficial to the global economy. The idea sounds attractively simple, but it would create some serious complications. I'll talk about three of these. First, the world is made-up of independent countries with different political systems and economies. Most countries and their citizens value their independent currencies. Having their own currency gives their government more flexibility concerning economic policies and currency valuations. Second, since it is natural that currency values fluctuate, there are problems in putting all economies under the umbrella of a single currency. We can see from the euro what happens. Less wealthy countries in Europe have gained more purchasing power while wealthier countries have suffered from this imbalance. This has had a negative effective on European productivity. Finally, the dollar is today's international standard, since the American economy plays such a dominate role in the world economy. This may change in the future, but it's natural that a dominant economy has the safest currency, which becomes in principle the global standard. This is what free markets are all about. By trying to manipulate all currencies to make a single global currency, the global economy becomes more complicated and less fair. That's why a single currency is a poor idea.

### 2. **Is it possible for developed countries to sustain present standards of living?**

I do not agree that developed countries can sustain their present standards of living. Let me explain. First, history shows that once dominant countries or empires lose their leading positions, their standards of living drop as a result. There are various reasons for this, including such things as losses in wars or a reduction in citizen motivation to work hard. Second, the world economy today is tied together in many ways. There are periods of growth and contraction in individual economies and the world economy as a whole. During periods of contraction, standards of living are bound to decline. We have experienced several recessions since World War II. More recessions and even a depression are likely to occur sometime in the future. Finally, the world economy is dependent on the use of resources, which are often on-renewable. Global warming and other problems have been created due to our dependence on non-renewable resources. All nations have to face the consequences of these actions as well as reduce their dependence on non-renewable resources, even if it means the standard of living will decline. We must change our priorities from continuous economic growth and consumption to creating a more sustainable world. As a result, developed countries must prepare for a drop in their standards of living.

### 3. **Agree or disagree: Technology is undermining the role of teachers in the classroom**

I disagree with the idea that technology is undermining the role of teachers. While technology is certainly changing many classrooms, teachers are as important as ever. I will now present three reasons why I believe this to be true. First, there is no too much faith being put on technology for the curriculum in the classroom. Technology is only a tool, not a magic bullet. Teacher are using technology appropriately to enhance their lessons, to provide additional learning experiences for students, and to track student progress. It is not meant as a replacement for teachers. Second, teachers offer something that technology, including artificial intelligence and robots, cannot replace, and that is the human touch. Teachers influence students in so many ways, including offering an ear, encouragement, and advice. We have all had teachers that positively impacted our lives. It is hard to imagine a robot or computer program affecting us in the same way. Finally, though technology plays an increasing role in our lives, we need teachers to explain how to use it and for what purposes. Teachers can be responsible for keeping up with new developments in educational technology and be the bridge to technology as learning resources. For these reasons, I feel technology will continue to support the role of teachers, and not

undermine it.

**4. Will infectious diseases become a greater threat to humanity in the future?**

Despite the many advances in medicine, it appears that infectious diseases are becoming a greater threat to humanity year by year. Let me identify three reasons why infectious diseases are spreading. Firstly, the world is now experience global warming. Infectious diseases thrive in warmer climates and, as temperatures climb in once cooler countries, tropical disease are becoming more common. Japan has already experienced numerous cases of dengue fever, with mosquitoes carrying parasites that now live and thrive in Japan's warmer climate. Malaria is also spreading around the world. Secondly, with faster means of transportation, the world have become much smaller today. People can travel all over the world quickly and easily. Some people returned to their home countries with infectious disease they picked up while traveling overseas. In this way, disease such as influenza spread much faster than in earlier times. Finally, the overuse of modern medicine such as antibiotics has helped create new strains of viruses and bacteria that are drug-resistant. As germs have evolved to survive drug therapies, some types of tuberculosis, malaria and pneumonia are becoming difficult to cure. For these reasons, infectious diseases will likely become a greater threat to humanity in the future.

**5. Are the police in Japan equipped to deal with the challenges of a modern society?**

I believe Japanese police are well-equipped to deal with the challenges of a modern society. Let me explain, First, to arrest criminals who utilize state-of-the-art technology, Japanese police departments are provided with advanced equipment. They have surveillance cameras placed at many public locations and use facial recognition software to catch the criminals and terrorists. The facial recognition software is installed at such places as airports. I hear that the police also use drones with nets to catch illegal flying devices, such as other suspicious drones. Second, Japanese police are trained to fight new types of crimes, such as cybercrime and terrorism. Japan created a cybercrime and terrorism. Japan created a cybercrime force several years ago by hiring many computer experts. This force protects infrastructure such as utility companies and military assets as well as top secret and sensitive government information. Some cybercrime offers know English or other languages, which enables them to handle cyberattacks that originate overseas. Finally, the system of koban, or the neighborhood police box, is a useful system for identifying potential criminals. The offers who work there have a lot of interaction with people in local communities and can gain intimate knowledge of them. In these ways, I believe Japanese police are well prepared to meet future challenges.