



Haf a Adai

Letter of Japanese
School of Guam
February Issue
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Principal 1/31/2024

Feeling is the starting point of learning

Since January 1, Japan has been hit by a terrible disaster. The Noto Peninsula Earthquake. This is a phenomenon that occurs frequently in Japan, which is an earthquake-prone country, but for those who are affected by it, it is the most painful thing that can happen. Even those who have not been directly affected by earthquakes can feel the pain in their hearts. Perhaps this is because they can feel the pain themselves, as if it happened right here and now. Those who don't can't understand it.



Now, we can take a lesson from this. First of all, it is important to "feel". After that comes thinking and acting. Consider the following example.

From May 19 to 21, 2023, the G7 Hiroshima Summit was held. Hiroshima is Prime Minister Kishida's hometown and was the site of the world's first atomic bombing at the end of World War II. At this summit, Prime Minister Kishida had the major objective of promoting nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation by highlighting the tragedy of the atomic bombing as he discussed various issues around the world. He invited the leaders of the world to the Hiroshima Atomic Bomb Memorial to see the damage caused by the bombing, and the Japanese people watched with bated breath. However, I am sure that many Japanese citizens could not hide their disappointment at the lack of response that they had expected. The following words speak for themselves:



"The G7 leaders need to feel 'Hiroshima' before they understand it."

Let me also cite the following example. There was once an action movie star named Bruce Lee. I was a big fan of his, and in one of his best-known movies, "Enter the dragon", he said to his apprentice, "Look at that moon". And the apprentice is looking at the moon and thinking hard to figure out his master's intention. Then Bruce Lee said,

"Don't think. Feel."

I believe this is the very essence of learning. When I was a child, I was not good at "social studies" because it didn't move me. No matter how much I was taught and made to remember things like "who did what in what year," I could not remember it and I had no desire to pursue it further. In retrospect, I wish they had taught us the background of the historical facts and the feelings of the people at that time in a way that would have resonated with our modern sensibilities. Conversely, I think this is the essence of learning. I think that the underlying causes of the world's events are people's emotions. On the other hand, I am fascinated by mathematics. I find beauty in perfect logic. In the novel "The Professor's Beloved Equation",

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"A single flower on the street is like the universe".
Mathematics has romance and infinite grandeur.

I hope that the children of the Japanese School of Guam will continue to learn with a rich sensibility and enthusiasm. I wish them a happy and prosperous future.