

National News

Dalai Lama to Japanese youth: 'Study English and see the world!'

The Tibetan spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama urged Japanese youth to "study English, and see the world" during a speech and Q&A session at the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan on Saturday. The Dalai Lama, currently visiting Japan, made the remarks, when he touched on the problem of the increasing number of Japanese youth committing suicide.

"Now, you should participate, wisely, (in) the outside world. But, the youth of Japan remain here, and (having) some problems here. Go (to the) outside world! To Arabia, Africa, Latin America ... You can make many contributions," the Dalai Lama said.

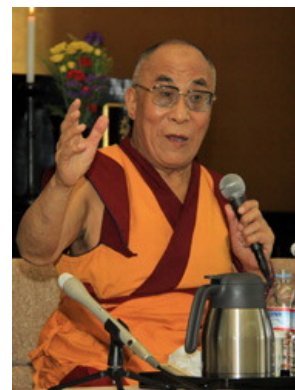
The Dalai Lama characterized Japan as "a country technologically highly developed." But, "Japanese youth are (under) too much stress and (feel) lonely. As a result, some (commit) suicide. I heard that that rate is increasing," he said.

"Whether you like it or not, English is the universal language. Study English and go out. This is very important." The Dalai Lama's comments seem to come from his own experience of having to lead a life in exile in India, but creating a circle of support in many places in the world by using English.

He drew laughter from the audience when he jokingly said, "But, it's not necessary to become like Fujimori," -- Alberto Fujimori, the Japanese-Peruvian former president of Peru, who was convicted for his role in the massacre of fellow citizens.

About his visit to Japan, the Dalai Lama explained: "My purpose is to promote a message of compassion and no violence. There's no political purpose." He made clear that he had no plan to meet with Japanese officials. To the question of the future results of the FIFA World Cup, being held in South Africa, he, again, made people laugh, by responding: "I'm not interested at all," saying that he does not understand the rules of sports games. (By Naoya Sugio, Foreign News Department)

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Dalai Lama