

Appendix 4

Letter from Musician Ryuichi Sakamoto to the Governor of Tokyo Metropolitan Government (Translated from Japanese)



Musician, Ryuichi Sakamoto 2013
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Feb.24, 2023

Dear Ms Yoriko Koike,
Governor of Tokyo Metropolitan Government,

Please excuse my abrupt letter.

I am Ryuichi Sakamoto, a musician.
I would like to tell you my thoughts on the redevelopment of Jingu Gaien.
Please read on.

Frankly speaking, we should not sacrifice the precious Jingu trees that our predecessors have spent a century protecting and nurturing for immediate economic gain.
These trees can benefit everybody, but from the development, only a handful of wealthy people will benefit.
These trees are nature itself, and once lost, they can never be regained.

In New York City, where I live, in 2007, the Mayor at that time, Bloomberg launched a project to plant one million trees in the city. This was based on environmental and mental health considerations, social justice, and above all, goals for the future. It is a profound thought for the next generation.
Following the lead of NY City, afforestation campaigns are underway in Boston, LA, and other cities in the USA.

Now, people all around the world are working toward the realization of the SDGs. However, the development of Jingu Gaien is far from sustainability.

If you are going to achieve sustainability, you should suspend the Jingu Gaien redevelopment project that is currently underway, and review the plan totally so that we can hand these trees to our future children.

You should clearly identify that Tokyo is a "sanctuary of the city and nature" and take the political initiative to achieve this goal. I believe that you will win the admiration from the world.

For protecting Jingu Gaien forever, I respectfully request that you will take this opportunity to designate Jingu Gaien as a Place of Scenic Beauty.

I am looking forward to your leadership.

Ryuichi Sakamoto
<https://www.tokyo-np.co.jp/article/243643>