

Translator's Note

It has been an honor and a pleasure to help in translating this book by my old friend and colleague Mac Takahashi.

There is a Japanese word, *yasashii*, that has two different meanings: “kind and friendly,” and “easy.” The first impression gained on reading Mac’s original book is that it is expressed in a kind and friendly manner: to that extent it is *yasashii*. As for “easy,” it cannot be said that the book avoids complex technical details just in order to remain reader-friendly. It grapples honestly with some shocking aspects of modern human civilization, and makes some proposals that can only be understood or accepted if you have understood their technical and scientific background. It is not over-simplified. The author’s skill is in making his story, his suggestions and his appeal all readable — expressing complex specialist ideas and facts and statistics in a way that any ordinary reader can follow, and in the end agree.

I do hope that my English translation, aided by Dr. Kazuhiro Kitazawa’s earlier draft, has succeeded in transmitting both Mac’s friendly approach and his devoted enthusiasm for the use of DOW to save Spaceship Earth.

Non-Japanese readers may find a lot of examples specific to Japan, but this is still a universal problem, and DOW is a universal solution. It is perhaps only a coincidence that Mac happens to be Japanese; but on the other had it is probably a good coincidence. For Japan is a country that has long relied heavily on the sea, and this new direction in saving the world’s resources will at last give Japan an opportunity to play a central world role in pioneering its development.

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