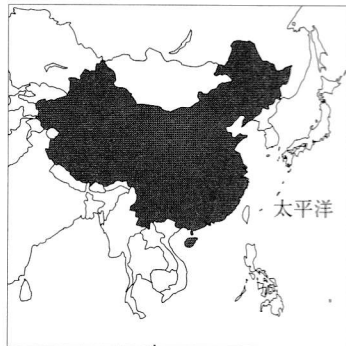


One Out of Five People in the World is Chinese

人口過剰と1人っ子政策

21世紀初頭の中国の人口は13億人である。地球上の全人口の5人に1人が中国人という計算だ。これではいくら経済成長を続けても国民は豊かになれない。そこで中国政府が懸命に推進しているのが「1人っ子政策」だ。1組の夫婦は子供を1人もうければそれでいい。2人以上は賃金カットなどの罰則である。労働力になりにくい女の子が生まれると役所へ届けず、男の子が生まれてやっと届け出る。2人目以上の男の子も届けない。こうして、戸籍のないヤミっ子がふえていき、すでに2,000万人にもなったとか。中国の人口はとっくに13億人を超したとの推計もある。



中国

According to an estimate by the United Nations, the total global population will reach 6.3 billion by the beginning of the 21st century, including 1.3 billion Chinese (excluding overseas Chinese). This means that one out of five people in the world will be Chinese. The global population is expected to increase to 7.2 billion by the year 2010 and to 8.5 billion by the year 2025. In the long history of this planet, there has never been such overpopulation before.

What kind of problems lie ahead? Strong possibilities include food shortages, an energy crisis, and international conflicts arising from the flow of people from developing countries to developed countries.

China is preparing for the future with its strict "One-Child Policy" which is said to be born from the following story. In 1978, Feng Hong Peng, a 26-year-old female worker of a national factory in Tianjin had a three-year-old daughter. However, her husband and her mother-in-law kept asking her to give birth to another child, perhaps a boy, but she didn't give in to them and replied, "In order to contribute to my nation, I want to have only one child." She was then given the highest commendation from the company as she continuously worked

■ Total Global Population(in billions)

