English lesson #3 (15/3/2022)

【article】  
Title: “Russia faces brain drain as thousands flee abroad”

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-60697763>

【summary】

Thousands of Russian people have left their country since the start of the war.

Nearly 200 countries have agreed to start negotiations on an international agreement to take action on the "plastic crisis"

Discarded plastics have many negative impacts on the environmental and one country can’t deal with the problem alone, so we need a global agreement to reduce plastic waste.

This decision is one of the world’s most ambitious environmental actions since the 1989 Montreal Protocol.

World leaders have until 2024 to agree the plastic pollution treaty, including which elements will be legally binding and how the deal will be financed.

【my comments】

This news is the big progress of the world to deal with environmental issues of plastic and many countries will take actions towards reducing plastics.

In Japan, the government has made a mandatory charge for plastic shopping bags in order to reduce plastic waste since 2020.

According to the research, the rate of people who refuse ~~decline~~ plastic bags when on shopping has increased to about 70% from 30%.

Actually, I have started to use a reusable bag for shopping since the policy.

I feel the consciousness of Japanese people for environmental issues is definitely changing.

But, there are also criticisms of the government policy that the reductions of the usage of plastic bags is not effective to reduce the total amount of plastic waste.

Moreover, the government will introduce enforce a new law that makes plastic cutlery charged from April. But it won’t solve the actual cause of the problem.

I wish the government would work not only on changing ~~of~~ our consciousness but also on reforms that are truly effective to deal with environmental issues.

【unknown words：Japanese translation】

brain drain：頭脳流出

parliament：議会、国会

heave：（重いものを）持ち上げる

parcel：小包

affordable：入手可能な

lapel：（上着・コートなどの）襟の折り返し

arrest：逮捕する

protest：抗議する

launch：発進させる、発売する

regime：政権

emigration：移住、移民

exodus：（移民の）出国

repression：抑圧、鎮圧

sanction：制裁、処罰

impose：負わせる、課する

surge：（価格が）急騰する

jail sentence：懲役刑

revolt：反乱

geopolitics：地政学

entrepreneur：起業家

rally：（政治的な）大集会

troop：軍隊、部隊

expat：国外駐在

nothing like：～に及ぶものはない

【Questions】

Q1：Prof Steve Fletcher of the University of Portsmouth said the plastics problem spans international borders and boundaries.

Why did he use two words “borders and boundaries”?

What is difference between “borders and boundaries”?

Q2: Environment minister for Rwanda said they were optimistic the negotiations would put in place a framework "to end plastic pollution".

Which does this “optimistic” means that the negotiations will go well or not work?

Q3: Government minister for international environment in UK said "In the space of just one human lifetime, we have caused unimaginable damage to the global environment, choking every single part of the global ocean with plastic pollution"

Does this "In the space of just one human lifetime” means the most recent century?

Q4: What does "the plastic tap" mean?

I imagine the tap from which plastics come out. Is this word common?