



Working against the Clock

[対人地雷は、人々を怪我させたりあるいは殺すように、設計されている : A _____ p _____ l _____ m _____ s a _____ d _____ ed _____ h _____ or k _____ people]. [それらは、見つけてそして除去するのが、とてもしい : They are very d _____ and r _____]. Japanese scientists have joined [地雷を見つけそして破壊する世界的尽力(に) : the world e _____ t _____ f _____ and d _____ m _____ s]. Hirose Shigeo 広瀬茂男 has invented several mine-clearing robots.

① [対人地雷は、踏まれた時に爆発するように、地面の上または下に、置かれる : A _____ p _____ l _____ m _____ s are l _____ o _____ or u _____ the g _____ d _____ t _____ they e _____ when they are s _____ ed _____]. They have only one [目的 : p _____] : to kill and injure people. [地雷によって怪我を負わされた多くの人々は、緩慢な死を迎える : M _____ t _____ i _____ d by m _____ s d _____ a s _____ d _____]. [生き残った人々は、しばし、不幸、貧困、差別の人生を送る : T _____ w _____ s _____ d often l _____ l _____ o _____ mi _____ y, p _____ y, and d _____ c _____ n _____ n].

Mines cannot see or hear. [それら (=地雷) は、兵士を、子供、祖母、雌牛、あるいは象と、区別することができない : They cannot t _____ a s _____ r f _____ a child, a grandmother, a cow, or an elephant]. When anything touches them, they [爆発する : e _____]. They remain active for a very long time—50 years, maybe even a century.

[正確に地雷が世界中に何個あるか誰も知らない : N _____ o _____ knows e _____ y h _____ m _____ m _____ s t _____ a _____ a _____ o _____ the w _____]. In 2001, there were [五千万個もの地雷 : a _____ ma _____ 50 m _____ n m _____ s]. [進展はしている(受動態の進行相) : P _____ s _____ b _____ m _____], but still in 2015, over 6,400 people were killed or injured by mines. [民間人が犠牲者の78%を占める : Ci _____ s m _____ 78 p _____ t o _____ the v _____ s]; [その38%は子供だった : 38 p _____ t _____ t _____ e were children]. [80分毎に1人の犠牲者がいる : T _____ 's one v _____ m e _____ y 80 m _____ s].

②

〔地雷をなくすために努力はなされている (受動態の進行相) : E_____s are b_____ m_____ t_____ e_____ e m_____s〕. The Ottawa Treaty オタワ条約, which 〔対人地雷の使用を終わらせることを目的にする : a_____ s_____ e_____ the u_____ o_____ a_____ p_____ l m_____s〕, 〔発効した : w_____ t i_____ e_____ t〕 in 1999 and has now been 〔調印された : s_____ ed〕 by 〔150以上の国々 : m_____ t_____ 150 countries〕. Mine-clearing operations are 〔進行中である : o_____ g〕.

The important question, however, is 〔それほど多くの地雷を政府とNGOがよもや除去できるかどうか : w_____ g_____ m_____s and NGO's can po_____ y c_____ r t_____ many m_____s〕. The answer is simple: this work can never be done 〔多くの人々の助け無しには : w_____ o_____ the h_____ l_____ e n_____ r _____ people〕.

Hirose Shigeo 広瀬茂男 thinks he has a way to help. Japan makes 〔世界で生産される70%近くのロボット (を) : n_____ y 70 p_____ c_____ t _____ the robots p_____ d in the world〕, and Hirose has been building robots for many years. He 〔<物>を手伝う : has been h_____ ing w_____〕 the international effort to 〔地雷を取り除く : g_____ r_____ m_____s〕 using robotics since the early 1990s. In 1996, he 〔発表した : p_____ ed〕 his first research paper on mine-removing robots.

The first robot that Hirose developed for finding and removing mines was called Titan IX, 〔長さ1m、幅90cmの : a o_____ -m_____ r-l_____, 90-c_____ r-w_____ robot〕. With its four legs, this robot can walk around on rocks and sand to find and 〔解除 : di_____ m〕 mines. Hirose is now 〔開発している : d_____ g〕 a snake-type robot which can go through bushes 〔地雷に圧力をかけ (て起爆させ) ることなしに : w_____ t p_____ t_____ g p_____ e _____ m_____s〕.

③

In 2020, the Japanese government formed a study group to [～を調べる : l_____ i_____] the technology for [検知する (こと) : d_____ing] and removing mines. The study group was Japan's part of an international effort to [アフガニスタンが戦争の荒廃から復興するのを助ける (原形不定詞) : h_____ Afghanistan r_____ f_____ the ra_____s of war]. Hirose went to Afghanistan with this group.

[彼は地元の人々が地雷を武装解除しているのを見た (知覚動詞) : He watched the l_____l people di_____g m_____s] — [一つつつ : o_____ b_____ o_____] — with simple tools. First they had to [場所を突き止める : l_____] the mine. Then they [掘った : d_____] around it very carefully with a knife and [その上から泥を取り除いた : c_____ed d_____ f_____ the t_____]. When they could see the mine, they removed the [導火線 : f_____] with their fingers or [それを起爆装置で爆発させた : b_____ it _____ with a de_____er]. [この仕事がいかに難しいかを見て、広瀬はそれを彼のロボットでやる方法があるに違いないと思った (完了分詞構文) : Ha_____ s_____ h_____ d_____s this work w_____, Hirose thought t_____ m_____t _____ a w_____ d_____ it with his robots].

Hirose explained to the Afghan people [どのようにしてタイタンIXが彼らが地雷を除去するのを助けられたかを (原形不定詞) : h_____ Titan IX c_____d h_____ t_____ c_____r m_____s]. [彼の驚いたことには : _____ his s_____p_____], they did not think that this robot would work in Afghanistan. There were a couple of problems. First of all, it was too expensive. Second, it was difficult to [修理する : f_____] when it broke. Third, and most important, the Afghans were afraid that [それが彼らの地雷除去の仕事を奪ってしまうだろう : it w_____d t_____ a_____ their demining jobs].

④

Back in Japan, Hirose went to work to solve the problems he had found in Afghanistan. The idea he [思いついた : c_____ w_____] was to use an [普通の四輪の乗り物 : o_____y f_____ - w_____l v_____e]. He developed Gryphon V, which has [可動腕 : a m_____ b_____ a_____] that can [場所を特定する : l_____e] mines. [その長い腕を延長して : E_____g its long arm], it can [地雷がある場所に印をつける : m_____k w_____ the m_____s a_____]. After that, Afghan workers can remove them with simple tools, [それ (前文内容) は、彼らが彼らの仕事を保持できることを意味する (非制限用法の関係詞) : w_____ m_____s that they can k_____ their j_____s]. Gryphon V is [ずっとより高くない (≠ずっと安い) : m_____l_____e_____e] than Titan IX and can be easily fixed if it breaks. And [この新しいロボットは、アフガニスタンの労働者が操作するのが簡単/単純だ : this new robot is s_____ f_____ Afghanistan w_____s _____ o_____r_____].

Other Japanese scientists and engineers have been working to develop different types of robots. Researchers at a university in Chiba are working on [金属探知機のある昆虫のようなロボット : an i_____ -l_____ robot w_____ a m_____ l d_____r] . An NPO has developed a robot which shows an image of the mine on a screen. A company in Yamanashi has developed [それらを爆破させることにより地面から地雷を除去する機械 : a machine which c_____s the g_____d _____ mines b_____ e_____g them] .

Hirose and other Japanese scientists and engineers [地雷除去技術において順調に進んでいる : are m_____g g_____ p_____s i_____ demining technology] . Japan [~に貢献している : is c_____ing _____] the international movement to [地球から地雷を除去する : c_____ the e_____ m_____s] .

There is no time to lose. [我々は時間と競争して/時間に追われて活動している : We are w_____ing a_____t the c_____k] .