

## **Panta Rhei (Everything flows)**

Nobuhiko Tsunefuka

The Hojoki (1212, The Ten Foot Square Hut) by Kamo no Chomei (1156? - 1216, poet, critic and essayist) begins with phrases “Though the river's current never fails, the water passing, moment by moment, is never the same. Where the current pools, bubbles form on the surface, bursting and disappearing as others rise to replace them, none lasting long. In this world, people and their dwelling places are like that, always changing.” These phrases probably strike a chord in hearts of Japanese who love a view of life as something transient and empty and many people recite them from memory. These phrases are a noted composition now and even in old times.

- About Kamo no Chomei and the Hojoki, visit:

[http://www1.kcn.ne.jp/~kosho/koshoken/ourai/85\\_araki.html](http://www1.kcn.ne.jp/~kosho/koshoken/ourai/85_araki.html)

- For the original texts of the Hojoki, visit:

<http://www2s.biglobe.ne.jp/~Taiju/hojoki.htm>

- For an English translation of the Hojoki, visit:

<http://www.washburn.edu/reference/bridge24/Hojoki.html>

A Greek philosopher Herakleitos (Heraclitus) coined a wise saying “panta rhei” (Everything flows). Unlike literature of a view of life as something transient and empty of Hojoki, this wise saying seems to philosophically describe Logos, which is the truth of the world.

“Panta rhei” seem to be the words that are popular to the Occidentals also and John Maynard Keynes, an economist, is said to have succeeded by naming a company he established by himself “Panta Rhei.”

- About Herakleitos, visit:

<http://philos.fc2web.com/presocra/heraklei.html>

[http://www.societasviaromana.org/Collegium\\_Philosophicum/herakleitos.php?lang=fr](http://www.societasviaromana.org/Collegium_Philosophicum/herakleitos.php?lang=fr)

- About “Panta rhei” by Herakleitos, visit:

<http://atky.exblog.jp/958400/>

- About a journey in Ancient Greece and “Everything flows,” visit:

<http://www004.upp.so-net.ne.jp/Space-Time/index3.html>

- About John Maynard Keynes, visit:

<http://cruel.org/econthought/profiles/keynes.html>

<http://cepa.newschool.edu/het/profiles/keynes.htm>

Migratory birds are living creatures that periodically repeat journeys of vicissitudes every year. Migratory birds fly over when the migrating season arrives crossing a continent. Recently, these migratory birds are counted as one of most likely carriers of avian flu and an early alert system for migratory birds is now being built. Avian flu may migrate from birds to birds, from birds to animals and from animals to humans, which is “Everything flows.”

- About avian flu, visit:

<http://www.maff.go.jp/tori/>

- About an early alert system for migratory birds, visit:

<http://news.goo.ne.jp/news/asahi/kokusai/20051122/K2005112201260.html>

One of things that undergo changes over the times is tools and machines used by humans. Machines that attracted attention most at the 2005 Earth Expo in Aichi were robots. The word “robot” was started when Karel Capek, a Czech playwright, used it in his play. Definition of robots is difficult, but if automatic vending machines are also included in the definition, first automatic vending machine was already installed in a sanctuary of ancient Egypt pouring sacred water when a coin was inserted. In Japan, mechanical dolls were made in the Edo Period (1600 - 1868) to shoot an arrow and to bring a teacup. These mechanical dolls were popular as shows. Now robots are necessary and indispensable things, such as welding robots in automobile assembly lines and inspections and maintenance robots for nuclear reactors that are used in places that are dangerous to humans. Humanoid robots for use at homes including cleaning robots and nursing care robots are now standing at the dawn. What will be future “Panta rhei” for robots?

- About mechanical dolls, visit:

<http://www.cjn.or.jp/karakuri/index-j.html>

- About Karel Capek, visit:

<http://www.seibunsha.net/capek/capek.html>

<http://capek.misto.cz/english/photos.html>

- About robots, visit:

<http://ja.wikipedia.org/wiki/%E3%83%AD%E3%83%9C%E3%83%83%E3%83%88>

- About robots and robot toys, visit:

<http://www.toyculture.org/notice/robo.htm>

By the way, one of the nuisances for robots that work in an adverse environment is a discharge of static electricity. Electronic circuits that are the hearts of robots are sometimes destroyed by one impulse. “Everything flows.” All conditions at trouble spots constantly change. It has become very difficult to discover and reproduce

accidents caused by static electricity discharge.

- For essays about static electricity, visit:

<http://www.fsinet.or.jp/~mad/0030.htm>

- About design of ESD protection circuit, visit:

<http://pcweb.mycom.co.jp/articles/2005/08/31/esd/>

- For images of Gas vapor explosion due to spark from an ESD gun demonstrated by Mr. Wallash, visit:

<http://www.wallash.com/>

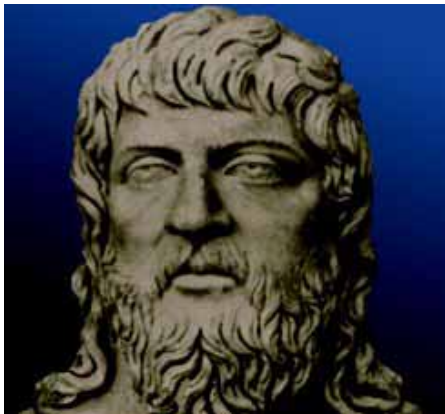
Entering the 21st century, the utilization modes of radio waves have become more diverse and radio waves are used fully from high frequencies to low frequencies. All electronic equipment must comply with laws, must be compatible in radio environment and must provide comfortableness to the human society. After celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, more active “panta rhei” is expected for the activities of VCCI in the coming decade till celebrating its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

- The website for the VCCI 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary:

<http://www.vcci.or.jp/20th/>

- For frequency allocations of radio waves, visit:

<http://www.tele.soumu.go.jp/j/freq/index.htm>



Herakleitos



John Maynard Keynes



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1991 ~ Engaged in education on EMC related matters at Hitachi Institute of Technology

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