

## Hope lies in action

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What kind of world do you want to see in 2030? Picture this, a neighborhood street with all kinds of people. People of every age, sex, gender, race and ethnicity. You might think that this would create a hostile atmosphere, a war of wills. Yet there is peace, love and happiness as far as the eye can see. We call this hope. If people take action, this can be our reality.

You should know that some people are already taking action for this dream and a plan has begun. The plan is Sustainable Development Goals, or SDGs for short. SDGs are 17 goals for peace and prosperity around the planet and are planned to be achieved by 2030, just ten years from now. However, unfortunately, it is not going well. The target speed has been slowed down by COVID-19. How do you feel about this situation? My name is Issei Hosoda and today, I am going to tell you what kind of attitude is needed to improve the future.

At the same time that the infection of COVID-19 has spread all over the world, negative thinking has also spread by social media. Most comments are slander or criticism with no useful advice. Seeing these words, it seemed clear that they are too selfish and should be more cooperative. We are all living on the same Earth, sharing limited resources and oxygen. Alfred Adler, a psychologist, theorized that to make trouble zero, you must be alone, the only person in the universe, but as you know, that is impossible.

You cannot create the world that you want to see in ten years, all by yourself. You need help. You need cooperation, but who will be the leader? That is us, the younger generation. In ten years, when I turn 30 I will be a better person. I will probably have children. But I don't want to lay these problems at my children's feet. On top of that, I don't want to prove that human beings were unable to cooperate.

In short, what we need now is to have a sense of community. A sense of community is a feeling that members in that community have. A sense of belonging, a feeling that people matter to one another and to the group, and a shared faith that everyone's needs will be met through their commitment to be together. This world is not only for you. You cannot use this world just as you want.

My elementary school teacher told me about the key to making a comfortable school. He always said "a good school is not created for you but by you". I have finally understood the meaning of his words now.

Some people say that "history repeats itself". However, I hate that phrase. I feel that the phrase is for people who have given up, who don't take action anymore. I offer some advice for the generations who hope for a better future without actively reaching for change. The penalty in case we cannot solve the issues of our time falls to us in the future. It is useless to put the blame at government's feet. We will lay our problems onto

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our children and they will say “you didn’t do anything? we don’t have time!” The days will pass faster than you think. Nevertheless, there are many problems that still must be solved. I say clearly, it is a waste of time to only have hopes for the future. Because real hope lies in action right now.

Thank you.