

## Hope - the power to change the world

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Hope is an image of yourself achieving the goal. In this speech I will talk of how hope has helped me, and how I believe having hope could make the world become a better place. Having hope improved my life and has helped me to achieve many things. It also can help to solve world-wide problems that we all face.

In my first year at Tokyo Kosen, I applied for a qualification test that would allow me to use high voltage when doing electrical work. I studied hard and was determined to pass the test. However, I failed. I was sad and upset with myself. I tried to identify the reasons why I could not pass the test. Was it because I didn't have enough time to study? Or was it because I didn't concentrate enough? I did not know. Then, after a while, I found an answer. I realized I didn't have a specific hope of what I wanted to do after I passed the test. In this case, I believe that a goal is a thing that we want to achieve, or obtain, whereas hope is an image of what we could gain by achieving the goal, such as our future selves being successful, or someone else being happy thanks to our achievement. Back to the story, because I didn't have hope, I could not bring out my full potential. So, I tried to think of the specific things that passing the test would enable me to do. With the qualification, I could help fix my grandmother's doorbell that had been broken since the previous year. I could also help install air conditioners for my family. There would be a lot of things I could do after I pass the test. This motivated me to study a lot more to pass the test. As a result, I was able to pass the test.

From then on, I understood that hope or having an unclouded vision of your ideal future self can boost your ability. And I believe that hope can also make the world a better place. When we have an idea of how to solve a particular world problem, we should not only focus on the process of removing the problem but also think of the benefits that come after the problem is gone. Let me give you an example. I learned at school that the availability of clean water supply is low in poor countries. My teacher taught me that a plan to solve this problem has been made and is progressing. However, he also taught me that there are many problems slowing down the plan at that moment too. I think what we have just discussed would help solve this problem. In other words, we should have a clear image of what this

achievement would bring. For instance, people will be able to reuse the water. Also, animals that live near the river will be saved from pollution. This could result in a better society where people and animals could live happier. Keeping this in mind will boost our motivation to keep on moving and can eventually solve world-wide problems.

Finally, I'd like to point out again that hope has helped me to achieve my goals, and that hope has the power to solve world problems. So, we could say to have hope is important especially in this world where problems lie all around. Also, I'd like to share a quote that I love from Desmond Tutu. Desmond Tutu is a bishop who fought to end apartheid in a most difficult time. He was even threatened with his life, and the government didn't listen to what he said. Yet he held strong to hope and said, "Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness". He had a difficult life as a human rights activist in the dark age of war, yet he pursued hope, and brought many people happiness. So indeed, hope brings us and the world to a better place. So, may we continue to pursue hope.