

## Tokyo Olympics 2020 Speech

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“Nice job! That was a good move!”, a boy high fives the girl who just made a goal in a game of basketball. Waiting for my turn on the bleachers, all I could see were sweat and smiles on everyone’s faces. I was in a summer camp, me and my friends just met two days ago. We live in different parts of the world, we all spoke different languages, but here I see, a bond forming. In times like this, I always think, “What if the whole world actually worked like this? We would all play sports and we would all come together as one.” And I realize, “Oh that’s what the Olympics do!”. Now, as I am doing this speech you may wonder whether I currently play a sport. And to be blunt, the answer would be “No. I don’t”. And you would ask “Well, how do you know the significance of a sport then?”. Here I am today to answer that question. So please bear with me for a few minutes.

In Japan, there is a culture within students called the *bukatsu*. It’s an afterschool sports curriculum in almost every middle school and high school. They spend hours and hours practicing every day, to achieve their goal, that they’ll defeat the other teams in the upcoming competition. When I was in middle school, I used to be in a school basketball team. I loved playing basketball and I loved my teammates. But one day, I just couldn’t do it anymore. I started fainting frequently, and my breath would run out the moment I started running. Something was wrong with my body that kept me from continuing to play. By the time I have given the name for my symptoms, I was not able to compete anymore. What helped me heal from this sad moment, was a memory of when I visited the Philippines to volunteer, when I was 13. During the trip, I had the amazing opportunity to visit a village where the Aeta tribes live. The village had no electricity and water. There were a lot of kids in the village and I remember myself playing basketball in a worn-out court with them. Despite the fact that we lived in completely different environments, playing basketball had created such a comfortable atmosphere with no boundaries that kept us apart from playing. I know the significance of a sport because this experience of mine, made me think and realize that sports isn’t all about trying to win and competing. It’s about how we share emotions and concord. It’s about how we come together as a whole, no matter gender, ethnicity, or race. Sports can bring us peace in a way that no other subject can do.

Now, the Olympics and Paralympics are often greatly influenced by the nations’ politics and relations since the very first game in 1896. In the present age where inequality comes to surface without doubt, where instance influence of power and politics are possible by way of technology, it is not late to recognize that peace making is not a role played only by governors and politicians, or by creating treaties and laws. Sports, Olympics and the Paralympics are role models of what truly represents unification of the world. The upcoming Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics 2020, could be the utmost method of peace making we are all looking for, also known as unity, love, and acceptance. Thank you.