2020 International Essay Contest for Young People [Youth Category – Honorable Mention]

2030: The Decade Humanity Bounced Back

(Original)

Marco Erano Almarinez Dumale (Age 16, Philippines) De La Salle University- Integrated School

"The Great Barrier Reef nearing recovery!" Those were the headlines in today's paper. Reading the news is my favorite thing to do during the first few minutes of my day because now, after years and years of waiting, newspapers are finally pumping out good news after good news: shortening endangered lists, healing forests, and even greener technology.

Being a Campus Journalist as a student before, I know that you and I were fond of reading the news ever since we were kids. We enjoyed writing and news casting about current events happening around the country and the world, but I can only faintly remember how heartbreaking it must have felt to read and deliver article after article about unpleasant news. Now, reading the paper feels like a reminder that ever since the world defeated the COVID-19 Pandemic of 2020 once and for all, it could face any problem that it's thrown and shine through as long as humanity sticks together.

During your time ten years ago, some people may have already been preparing to run away from Earth or hide somewhere underground, or do almost anything to escape from all the problems that were plaguing humanity. Doctors might've just been considered to be in the most dangerous job in the world and just about everybody was trying to stray away from hospitals. The world is indeed an unpredictable place because now, just ten years later, humanity has never been as vibrant and as strong. Ten years later as well, I now go to the hospital every day to practice medicine as a Doctor of Epidemiology, putting myself, together with other young members of society, at the helm of researching and preparing if ever the next major pandemic were to come.

It is truly amazing how the world's story could change its course so radically in just a matter of a decade. In truth, no one expected this great of a change because as things were turning out then, hope seemed to be lost. Unbeknownst to many, it was already brewing. Changes all started with the youth as halfway through the pandemic, medicine became the most populous course and line of work. The next generation, just like doctors and medical

workers then and now, put their fears of the pandemic aside to take a leading role in trying to preserve the world. Soon, the pandemic no longer stood a chance against united humanity and quickly disappeared off the face of the Earth. In a matter of months, parks and buildings burst to life, scientists and engineers began finding ways to develop technology and preserve the environment simultaneously, and Nations across the Globe began strengthening their worldwide initiatives to build a sustainable world. Since then, the world discovered the power of unity in diversity. It may not look like it now, young friend, but humanity in your time is at the dawn of a new era- an era of bluer skies, greener cities, clearer waters, and brighter futures.

Large strides have been made by the Human Race to preserve our little blue marble-Global cooperatives are now more tight-knit than ever before, and we have never gone this close to actually integrating technology and environmental sustainability. Behind this optimism, though, even I understand that there is still a long way to go and so much sacrifices to be made. Despite this, humanity needs only to turn its head to ten years ago to be reminded that when life challenged us once, we rose up stronger than ever before. This challenge to preserve our home could be the most important challenge that we will ever face because the chances to save our planet are slowly starting to run out. We've already won in Man against Disease- it's time to conquer Man against the Clock.

How your future will turn out still massively depends on what you choose to do now. In the end, no one can be completely certain about what the future holds, and while a new era indeed dawns over your time, the most important step is to take action because after all, just as Abraham Lincoln once said, "The most reliable way to predict the future is to create it."