

The 27th Kansai High School Model United Nations

June 20th~22nd, 2017

Kyoto International Conference Center

Organized by

Kyoto Gaidai Nishi High School

The 27th annual Kansai High School Model United Nations was held from June 20th – 22nd at the Kyoto International Conference Center. 262 students from eleven high schools participated, deliberating on the agenda topic of Reducing Inequality through Sustainable Development. The students represented 56 countries in each Commission A and Commission B and leadership for the conference was provided by Kyoto Gaidai Nishi High School students and teachers.

The opening ceremony, held on June 20th, included speeches by the following:

- Mr. Koshin Otani, President, U.N. Association, Kyoto Chapter
- Mr. Allen Greenberg, US Consul General, Osaka-Kobe
- Mr. Junichi Nakamura, Former Japanese Ambassador to Belgium

After the opening ceremony, student delegates proceeded to participate in bloc meetings. Each bloc was assigned an agenda topic and the task of writing a draft resolution. The three resolution topics were: 1) Quality Education; 2) Decent Work and Economic Growth; and 3) Sustainable Cities and Communities. The resolutions were introduced to each commission, requiring a 2/3 majority 'in favor' vote in order to be adopted. For each of the three resolutions, delegates gave speeches on the topic, participated in debates, introduced amendments and then voted on the draft resolutions. All six resolutions were adopted.

For the fourth and final General Assembly session, Commissions A and B were given an imaginary, emergency-situation located in the fictitious country, Libonia. Libonia had recently experienced a terrible earthquake near the main city of Veraton and the region was needing reconstruction. Both commissions were tasked with drafting a resolution that would rebuild the region based on the SDGs, sustainable development goals. Each bloc was to present 4 actions clauses, which were related to the three agenda topics of sessions 1-3. The time allowed for the emergency session was only 3 hours, with 1 hour dedicated to bloc meetings for writing the action clauses. The

remaining two hours were spent in General Assembly sessions to discuss, debate, amend and then vote on the resolution.

The action clauses student delegates created focused on the following assistance for the imaginary country of Libonia.

1. Rebuilding local, safe and efficient educational facilities using renewable energy;
2. Establishing a new curriculum that focused on education for sustainable development;
3. Providing safe and disaster-proof housing;
4. Building a new public transportation system that would access all points of the community;
5. Working closely with United Nations specialized agencies to finance the rebuilding of the region;
6. Establishing rules for foreign companies operating in Libonia to provide livable wages, energy efficient factories and sustainable business practices;
7. Working with international urban design teams to create urban areas in the region that adhere to sustainable development goals.

Student delegates applied what they had learned in preparing for sessions 1 – 3 and created an action plan based on the 17 sustainable development goals. Both resolutions in Commission A and B were unanimously adopted.

The 27th Kansai High School Model United Nations was a great success, as all the past conferences have been. The MUN format continues to challenge students to go beyond the classroom and apply what they are learning in a simulation environment where they are encouraged to not only interact with each other in English, but also cooperate in negotiating, challenging, arguing and creating solutions for real global issues. Students enjoyed the formality of the event being held at the Kyoto International Conference Center and joining so many students from different schools for the three-day event. The efforts of teachers, administrators, staff and local organizations resulted in a world-class educational event that impacts the lives of all that participate.