

The 29th Kansai High School Model United Nations

June 19th~21st, 2019

Kyoto International Conference Center

organized by

Kyoto Gaidai Nishi High School

The 29th annual Kansai High School Model United Nations was held from June 19th – 21st at the Kyoto International Conference Center. Over 260 students from eleven high schools participated, deliberating on the agenda topic of Reducing Poverty through Sustainable Development. The students represented 54 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 19th, included speeches by the following:

- **Mr. Satoshi Kitamura**, *Principal*, Kyoto Gaidai Nishi High School & *Chairman*, Kansai High School Model United Nations Organizing Committee
- **Mr. Shunichi Uchida**, *President*, Kansai International Conference Center
- **Mr. Toshiki Kumagai**, *Chairman*, United Nations Association – Kyoto, *Vice-president & Director* of Division of International Affairs, Kyoto University of Foreign Studies

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) Ensure proper nutrition in children under 5 years old; 2) Access to education for children under 12 years old; and 3) Improve the standard of living for families. By the end of day one, student delegates returned home with three draft resolutions to study.

Day two began with poster presentations as country teams presented on their assigned country, providing information on the agenda topics and their proposals for resolution clauses. Delegates rotated around the room to engage with as many poster presentations as they could. This was the second year to hold the poster presentations and the activity is a good motivator for the students and provides a casual “ice breaker” activity for them to interact with each other before the more formal debates.

Following the poster presentations were three, 3-hour General Assembly sessions, each devoted to a draft resolution. Delegates gave speeches, participated in debates, and amended the draft resolutions. Requiring a 2/3 majority 'in favor' vote in order to be adopted, all six resolutions were adopted.

The 29th 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. The efforts of teachers, administrators, staff and local organizations results in a world-class educational event that impacts the lives of all that participate.

Angus McGregor

Director, Kansai High School Model United Nations