

# The 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Kansai High School Model United Nations

June 21<sup>st</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>

The 22<sup>nd</sup> annual Kansai High School Model United Nations was held from June 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Kyoto International Conference Center. This year's conference was the largest ever with 330 high school students from 13 Japanese high schools participating in three commissions. The student delegates spent 3 days deliberating on the agenda topic - **Protecting the Rights of Children**.

## Day 1 (June 21<sup>st</sup>)

### **Regional Bloc Meetings**

During day one, student delegates met in regional bloc meetings to prepare for the General Assembly sessions to be held on days two and three. Each region had been assigned a topic and an issue with the goal of producing an English draft resolution on the topic that would be debated during the general sessions. The assignments were:

Topic 1: **Rescuing Child Soldiers**, Africa & the Middle East

Topic 2: **Rehabilitating and Reintegrating Child Soldiers**, Europe & Others

Topic 3: **Defining Acceptable Conditions for Child Work**, Latin  
America & the Caribbean

Topic 4: **Education as Means to Escape Poverty**, Asia and the Pacific

During the morning session, student delegates presented in English their own two ideas for draft resolution clauses. After presentations and a lunch break, students then went into smaller working groups to improve the resolution clauses that were presented during the morning session. During this time, delegates were allowed to use Japanese as a working language. Delegates reconvened to once again discuss the clauses and decide upon an order for the clauses to be written. A draft resolution was then presented to the KHSMUN teachers to be typed, copied and distributed to all participating delegates. They returned home that evening to prepare to debate the resolutions in day 2 and 3.

## **Day 2 (June 22<sup>nd</sup>) – Child Soldiers**

### **General Assembly Session 1 - Rescuing Child Soldiers**

There were 3 General Assembly commissions debating the same agenda. The topic/issue for session 1 was Rescuing Child Soldiers and the resolution was prepared by the Africa and Middle East bloc. The main ideas of the resolution focused on the following: 1) disarming child soldiers; 2) demobilizing child soldiers; and 3) negotiating strategies for convincing armed rebel groups and governments on how and why child soldiers should be demobilized.

During the session, delegates made speeches on the topic and their own country's situation. Students also motioned to go into informal debate and caucusing time. As this was the first session, debate was not that active. Students were nervous and also not so comfortable with the rules and procedures. Amendments were made and the resolution was voted on. The resolution results were:

- Commission A Defeated
- Commission B Adopted
- Commission C Adopted

### **General Assembly Session 2 - Rehabilitating and Reintegrating Child Soldiers**

Student delegates returned from a lunch break with more confidence and energy to debate the second issue related to rehabilitating and reintegrating child soldiers. The draft resolution had been prepared by the Western Europe and Others bloc and focused on how to better take care of former child soldiers and how to assist them in returning to society.

Students had a better understanding of how a Model United Nations meeting was conducted and were more active during informal debates and in making amendments. As a result, the presidents had the difficult job of choosing country delegates to speak when more than 20 placards were raised. The presidents were also just getting used to running a meeting and all did a fine job of controlling the procedures and making sure that the meeting finished on time. Some delegates did become frustrated when they were not chosen to speak, but soon the commissions found a rhythm and the session proceeded smoothly. The results of the voting on the draft resolutions were:

- Commission A Adopted
- Commission B Defeated
- Commission C Defeated

## **Day 3 (June 23<sup>rd</sup>) - Child Labor**

### **General Assembly Session 3 - Defining Acceptable Conditions for Child Work**

Student delegates attended the final day of Model United Nations ready to debate and speak as much as possible. The resolution for session 3 was prepared by the Latin America and Caribbean bloc and proved to be a popular resolution. Student delegates could relate more to the topic of trying to decide how old to allow children to work and what kind of work was appropriate for their age.

There was much debate, many speeches, and many amendments. The debate was lively and also more mature than previous sessions. Student delegates seemed to be learning not only how to be effective debaters, but also how to be effective diplomats. They used the caucusing time efficiently to strategize and check in with other members of their bloc. Many amendments were accepted as Friendly amendments and these strengthened the resolution. The results of the voting on the draft resolutions were:

- Commission A Adopted
- Commission B Adopted
- Commission C Adopted

### **General Assembly Session 4 – Education as a Means to Escape Poverty**

Student delegates seemed to understand that this was their last chance to participate in the Model United Nations, as session 4 was the last scheduled General Assembly session. The resolution for this session was prepared by the Asia and Pacific bloc and the topic, using education to get out of the circle of poverty, was easier for student delegates to understand. This allowed many of the lower level delegates a chance to participate during informal debate and as a result, the debates were longer and livelier. Amendments were made and the resolutions were strengthened. Many delegates also made more than one speech, often not relying on notes for their second speech. The results of the voting on the draft resolutions were:

- Commission A Adopted
- Commission B Adopted
- Commission C Adopted

## **Conclusion**

The 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Kansai High School Model United Nations was a great success. This year's conference with 330 student delegates was the largest to date, and running three commissions did add to the preparations. Commissions A and B both had more than 115 students in each room. As a result, it is more difficult for students to get a chance to speak during the informal debates. Many teachers thought that an ideal number would be between 80 and 100 students per room, as was the case in Commission C. However, even with the large numbers, this event continues to be an important high school event for both teachers and students. Once students return to the classroom after the event, they often write how lucky they felt to participate in a Model United Nations conference, and how nice it was to hold the conference at the Kyoto International Conference Center. The event is definitely motivating for students in their own language development and confidence.

The KHSMUN's success is due to the work of many teachers and administrators.

- Mr. Morita, Chancellor of Kyoto University of Foreign Affairs, has continued to support the KHSMUN and its growing number of student delegates.
- Mr. Kitamura, Head of Kyoto Gaidai Nishi High School and Chairman of the KHSMUN organizing committee, has continued to provide his leadership on making decisions.
- Mr. Kano, Manager of the business office at Kyoto Gaidai Nishi High School, has continued to provide support in budgeting and financing for the event.
- Mr. Kuboi, Head of the Course of International & Cultural Studies at Kyoto Gaidai Nishi High School, for managing Japanese communications, support with the budget and scheduling guest speakers for the Opening Ceremony as a representative of Kansai High School Model United Nations Office.
- Ms. Toriida, 3ICA homeroom teacher, worked very hard organizing her students, creating materials for the event and preparing a curriculum to prepare students.
- Mr. Adamson, 3ICB homeroom teacher, worked very hard organizing his students, organizing regional bloc leaders and day one's meeting, and preparing a curriculum to prepare students.
- Mr. Coates, 3ICB subject teacher, worked very hard in preparing a curriculum and organizing regional bloc meetings.
- Mr. Miyake, 3iCA homeroom teacher, was very supportive in organizing his class and assisting with reception duties during the event.
- Mr. Ogawa, 3ICB homeroom teacher, was very supportive in organizing his class and assisting with reception duties during the event.
- Ms. Asami, IC office assistant, was always ready to assist in preparing materials and offering support during the preparations.
- The staff at the Kyoto International Conference Center was very helpful in assisting with the growing numbers, organizing the conference and giving advice on how to run the event.

I look forward to working with all involved on how to make the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Kansai High School Model United Nations an even better event.

Angus McGregor

Vice-Chairman of the KHSMUN organizing committee

Director, Kansai High School Model United Nations

Resolution: GA/C/1  
Agenda: The Rights of the Child  
Topic 1: Child Soldiers  
Issue 1: Rescuing Child Soldiers  
Author: Africa and the Middle East Bloc

### The General Assembly

Strongly affirming that children should not be enlisted, voluntarily or otherwise, by armies or armed groups and should not participate in combat under any circumstances,

Recognizing that effective disarmament and demobilization must be organized quickly and efficiently after combat with separate plans for children,

Noting with concern that many children are unaware of the possibility for demobilization, particularly girls, disabled children and support troops,

Noting with deep concern that child soldiers sometimes volunteer for military service or are coerced into enlisting due to poverty or fear,

Highly concerned that the large number of unaccompanied children in developing countries are at great risk of abduction,

Recognizing that traumatized children may find disarmament a difficult and fearful process and may try to avoid it for fear of stigmatization and prosecution,

Recognizing with concern that demobilized children are at risk of reprisals and reenlistment, both forced and voluntary,

Emphasizing that long-term plans are essential to change attitudes, limit the availability of weapons and prevent the reoccurrence of the problem,

1. **Calls on** all government in countries that have child soldiers enrolled in their national armies to demobilize these children and guarantee their earnings by 2015;
2. **Asks for** all developed countries to contribute at least 3 volunteers for two years to support the demobilization of child soldiers;

3. **Insists** that all countries who have not signed the Optional Protocol on the Rights of the Child, which sets 18 as a minimum age to join armed organizations, do so immediately;
4. **Urges** all countries to stop military and economical support to countries which violate the CRC and the aspects of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on The Rights of the Child relating to the involvement of children in armed conflict;
5. **Recommends** that knowledgeable trainers be sent to conflict zones to the teach local people on how to negotiate with armed groups on why they should not be using child soldiers;
6. **Requests** all countries to support an international NGO to monitor and collect information about all child soldiers' recruitment and serious offences such as murder;
7. **Urges all** countries to complete the Arms Trade Treaty in order to abolish using small-sized weapons.

## KHSMUN Commission A

**ADOPTED – June**

**22, 2012**

Resolution: GA/A/2  
Agenda: The Rights of the Child  
Topic 1: Child Soldiers  
Issue 2: Rehabilitating and Reintegrating Child Soldiers  
Author: Europe and Others Bloc

### The General Assembly

Deeply regretting there are still an estimated three hundred thousand child soldiers around the world and that every year the number grows as more children are recruited for use in active combat,

Alarmed that child soldiers are recruited into deplorable conditions and subjected to cruel and inhumane treatment such as but not limited to undergoing a brutal initiation and being forced to kill or maim family members and peers who have attempted to flee,

Further believing that demobilized child soldiers model their behavior on the violence and assertiveness learned in armed conflict and that overcoming the mistrust they learn is difficult and takes time,

Recognizing the deep psychological effects which include abandonment issues, post-traumatic stress disorder and depression,

Noting with deep concern that many child soldiers have no immediate family to return to after demobilization,

Bearing in mind that many child soldiers are not permitted back into their communities and in some cases, are rejected by their family because they have been forced to kill and slaughter in their own villages,

Expecting that the diverse and often violent experiences of armed conflict have profound effects on child development and well-being,

Recalling Articles 38 and 39 of the Convention on the Right of the Child,

Further Recalling Article 7 sub-clause 2 sub-sub clause (b) of ILO Convention 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour which directs states to provide the necessary and appropriate direct assistance for the removal of children from the worst forms of child labour and for their rehabilitation and social integration,

Noting with deep appreciation the work already undertaken by UNICEF in the rehabilitation of child soldiers in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East,

Noting with satisfaction the success of Interim Care Centers (ICC) and Drop-in-Centers sponsored by the Children's Assistance Program in Liberia,

1. **Requests** that hospitals be built only for former child soldiers in safe places in each region affected by conflict by 2017;
2. **Requests** the United Nations and the World Health Organization provide health checks, care and support for former girl soldiers who suffered sexual abuse while a child soldier;
3. **Suggests** educating former child soldiers who are young mothers and making facilities for their children by hiring experienced mothers who can teach them about health and social skills, providing long term financial support for at least 5 years, and building a "WOMEN'S VILLAGE" so the mothers can help and support each other;
4. **Calls** for counseling programs to be created for former child soldiers to assist them in their recovery from the horrible experiences and to open their minds, by establishing facilities which are relaxed and also hire counselors from NGOs and NPOs;
5. **Calls on** the staff of child soldier rehabilitation centers to make videos of former child soldiers to assist in the reunion process with families;
6. **Also requests** all developed countries to fund the programs outlined above.

Resolution: GA/B/ 3  
Agenda: The Rights of the Child  
Topic 2: Child Labour  
Issue 1: Defining Acceptable Conditions for Child Work  
Author: Latin America and the Caribbean Bloc

The General Assembly,

Deeply disturbed that one third of the world's children live in countries that haven't ratified ILO convention 182 on the worst forms of child labour and convention 138 on minimum age for work,

Noting with deep concern that more than half of all child labourers worldwide do hazardous work and that many are enslaved in bonded labour,

Further deploring that hazardous work has been increasing among older children, age 15 to 17,

Understanding that families are often dependent on their children's income for survival,

Recognizing that there are cultural differences in how "child" is defined and how children's roles are understood,

Strongly believing that all children need to be educated for their future and to break the cycle of poverty,

1. **Recommends** that all governments sign the International Labour Organizations Convention #182;
2. **Confirms** that child labour be defined as the worst forms of labour where children are under the age of 15 working in dangerous conditions; being exploited by their employer; and not free to quit their job;
3. **Recommends** that all governments set the minimum age for child work by 2015;
4. **Recommends** that every child who works outside of his or her family earn a minimum hourly wage set by the government;

5. **Requires** all governments to make employers submit information about work performed by children to the government in order to get permission for employment;
6. **Calls upon** all developing countries where children continue to work create a system that requires all employers to be licensed and managed by the government to employ children in safe conditions;
7. **Insists** that local monitoring groups trained by the United Nations staff work to end debt bondage by 2020 in countries where there are child labour problems;
8. **Demands** random safety checks in the manufacturing industry be carried out by United Nations staff in countries which have not signed and ratified ILO Convention #182;
9. **Urges** all countries to ensure compulsory education systems;
10. **Requests** that all governments that have children who have not finished compulsory education restrict these children from working more than 4 hours a day, and restrict all children from working more than 8 hours a day;
11. **Recommends** all countries to establish vocational schools for parents and children in order to allow them to earn a living without their children working;
12. **Urges** all governments to provide child-care centers to provide children with physical and mental care while in school;
13. **Requests** all governments promote education as a means to improve the lives of children.

Resolution: GA/A/4  
Agenda: The Rights of the Child  
Topic 2: Child Labour  
Issue 4: Education as a means to escape poverty  
Author: Asia Bloc

### The General Assembly

Acknowledging that achieving Universal Primary Education by 2015 is one of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals,

Noting with deep concern that over 70 million children are currently unable to attend school,

Recognizing that a high enrollment of children in school is likely to stimulate economies and reduce poverty,

Recognizing the various reasons behind low school enrollment such as the insufficiency of school facilities, lack of proper legal protection for children, poverty and cultural issues,

Taking into account that enrollment of girls in school is particularly low and that female students have additional needs requiring the provision of female teachers and facilities such as separate toilets,

Acknowledging with concern that more teachers are required if many countries are to meet the second Millennium Development Goal by 2015,

1. Recommends that each nation should strengthen its government's determination to spread education and administration of education for children;
2. Recommends to establish "a model education area" within 3 years in order to develop the suitable way for local society;
3. Requests United Nations organizations to work harder to provide free school lunch for children at school in order to encourage children to attend school;
4. Further requests that all governments provide equal education, meaning education with no discrimination concerning race, religion and gender, by the teaching which fits to the area;

5. Calls for more public awareness in each country by:
  - a) creating public relations campaigns to tell all people especially parents that education is one of the best methods to decrease children's problems;
6. Requests that developing countries establish compulsory free education system for 9 years with UNICEF and NGOs providing financial aid in order to continue compulsory free education for 9 years;
7. Insists developing countries establish a social welfare program like "Bolsa Familia" which provides financial aid to poor families so that their children can go to school;
8. Suggests each government create schools for teachers;
9. Suggests that the UN establish night classes where children can receive basic writing and reading skill education, and agricultural education for children who are engaged in agriculture work during the day time;
10. Calls on developed countries to provide 750 billion dollars as financial aid in 20 years in order to realize better education and health of children;
11. Recommends to make mobile schools for children who live in far-off places from schools and whose villages have no schools;
12. Suggests developed countries give funds to raise teachers' salaries to prevent teachers from going overseas.