

The 23rd Annual Kansai High School Model United Nations

June 12th – 14th, 2013

The 23rd annual Kansai High School Model United Nations was held from June 12th to 14th at the Kyoto International Conference Center. This year's conference welcomed 225 student delegates from ten Japanese high schools participating in two commissions. The student delegates spent 3 days deliberating on the agenda topic – **Water for Life**.

The Opening Ceremony was held on June 12th and was attended by all schools. Along with Mr. Kinoshita, President of the Kyoto International Conference Center, three distinguished guest joined to share their own experiences from the real world of international diplomacy: Mr. Seiji Kojima, Japanese Ambassador to the Kansai Region, and former Japanese Ambassador to Thailand and Pakistan; Mr. Christopher Bishop, Consul on Political and Economic Affairs, the United States Consulate Osaka-Kobe; and Mr. Junichi Nakamura, former President of the Kyoto International Conference Center and former Japanese Ambassador to Belgium.

Day One (June 12th)

Economic Bloc Meetings

During day one, student delegates met in Economic Bloc meetings to prepare for the General Assembly sessions to be held on days two and three. The blocs were organized according to the United Nations official economic distinctions: Least Developed Countries; Developing Countries; and Developed Countries. Each bloc was assigned an agenda topic and the goal of producing an English draft resolution on that topic that would be debated during the general sessions. The assignments were:

Topic 1: **Drinking Water**, Least Developed Countries Bloc

Topic 2: **Sanitation**, Developing Countries Bloc

Topic 3: **Conservation**, Developed Countries Bloc

Each bloc was assigned a Google BBS board one month prior to the KHSMUN to facilitate communication amongst student delegates. Delegates were to post their opinions, questions and comments on the board. Student delegates were also assigned the task of posting up to two resolution clauses to be included in the draft resolution. At the Economic Bloc meetings delegates presented more details on the clauses they had submitted and worked together to combine, edit, and/or delete clauses to prepare their draft resolution for the scheduled debates on days 2 and 3. Draft resolutions were submitted to teachers by 4:00 pm and then copied and distributed to all student delegates before returning home.

Day Two (June 13th)

General Assembly Session 1

During GA session 1, student delegates deliberated on the agenda topic of Drinking Water. The resolution, focusing on the belief that clean drinking water is a basic human right was drafted and introduced by the Least Developed Countries Bloc. Delegates debated the details of various clauses and amended the document resulting in a draft resolution with 12 operative clauses aimed at improving the availability of clean drinking water to all. Delegates introduced clauses that called on the United Nations to:

- 1) Collect drinking water data from all countries in order to rank the safeness of water around the world;
- 2) Create a special economic aid fund that would dramatically improve water facilities in least developed countries within 10 years;
- 3) Work with communities in least developed countries to set up education centers and programs in order to educate local communities on water and sanitation issues;
- 4) Create a program that delivered special bicycles and tricycles for hauling water to communities where local residents have to walk great distance to fetch water.

The resolution was voted on and adopted.

General Assembly Session 2

General Assembly session 2 focused on the agenda topic of Sanitation. The resolution was drafted and introduced by the Developing Countries Bloc. This resolution recognized that access to hygiene education, safe water and improved sanitation is essential for the healthy development of all communities and, especially, all children. After much debate and caucusing, the draft resolution was amended to include 11 operative clauses that called on the United Nations to:

- 1) Work with developing countries to centralize sewage and sanitation facilities, install water meters and create a fair water usage tax system for all countries;
- 2) Create an AID package aimed at insuring that all households and communities have appropriate and private sanitation facilities that are appropriate for that area;
- 3) Work with local communities to set up sanitary garbage dumping facilities in order to keep residents from dumping in or near water sources;
- 4) Set up a technical advisory committee to advise developing and least developed countries on how to set up water filter systems for contaminated water, and treatment plants that use UV technology;
- 5) Calls on local communities to empower girls and women so they can have an equal say in the creation of new sanitation facilities in their communities.

The resolution was voted on and adopted.

Day Three (June 14th)

General Assembly Session 3

General Assembly session 3 focused on the agenda topic of Water Conservation. The resolution was drafted and introduced by the Developed Countries Bloc. The resolution declared that water conservation is any beneficial reduction in water use, waste and loss, and water management practices that improve the use of water resources to benefit people or the environment. The draft resolution was amended to include 12 operative clauses that called on the United Nations to:

- 1) Educate local communities on the importance of collecting rain water;
- 2) Establish a global public education campaign on the importance of water conservation;
- 3) Create an AID package aimed at fixing the water and sanitation infrastructure in order to stop waste;
- 4) Encourage more investment and development of desalination, purification and conservation technology and share this technology globally;

- 5) Work with regions in each country to set up Water Conservation governing institutions to monitor water conservation at the local level.

The resolution was voted on and adopted.

General Assembly Emergency Session 4

Delegates were called together for their final session and given the details of the humanitarian crisis of Syrian refugees fleeing the civil war and traveling to the world's largest refugee camp in neighboring Jordan. With summer on the way and a dry and arid climate, the camp has a mounting water and sanitation crisis. Delegates were to draft a resolution that called on the United Nations to provide assistance and financial aid concerning water and sanitation. Delegates submitted over 20 draft clauses that called on the United Nations to:

- 1) Provide emergency water supplies, tanks and storage facilities for clean drinking water;
- 2) Provide 24 hour security for water and sanitation facilities, especially to protect women and children;
- 3) Educate the camp's residents on water use and conservation within the refugee camp;
- 4) Ensure a consistent supply of clean drinking water;
- 5) Bring together a special coalition of Arab countries to provide AID and assistance to the refugee camp;

The resolution was voted on and adopted.

Conclusion

The 23rd annual Kansai High School Model United Nations was a great success. 225 students came together to use not only their English skills, but also the skills of negotiation, debate, teamwork, and perseverance as they simulated the workings of a United Nations General Assembly. As the days progressed and students became more accustomed to their tasks, the meetings proceeded in a smoother fashion and often those observing commented on the difficult content and professional style of the students' debate and speeches. The 4th and final session was especially challenging as the delegates had to apply what they had studied to a specific humanitarian crisis that was really happening. They came to the emergency session with new energy and excitement and really showed their new skills of international diplomacy.

The 2013 Kansai High School Model United Nations was a great success due to the hard work and dedication of many teachers, administrators, supporters and students. The organizing committee would like to express its gratitude to all who participated in making this year's MUN a wonderful event. We look forward to working together with you again for the 2014 Kansai High School Model United Nations.

Angus McGregor
Kansai High School Model United Nations Organizing Committee