

The 23rd Annual Kansai High School Model United Nations

June 12th – 14th, 2014

The 24th annual Kansai High School Model United Nations was held from June 11th to 13th at the Kyoto International Conference Center. This year's conference welcomed 220 student delegates from ten Japanese high schools participating in two commissions. The student delegates spent 3 days deliberating on the agenda topic – **Global Food Security**.

The Opening Ceremony was held on June 11th and was attended by all schools. Along with Mr. Masayuki Nakano, Deputy Executive Director of Kyoto International Conference Center, three distinguished guests joined the Opening Ceremony to share their own experiences from the real world of international diplomacy: Mr. Hideichiro Hamanaka, former Japanese Ambassador to Portugal; Mr. Patrick Linehan, United States Consul General for Osaka-Kobe; and Mr. Koshin Ohtani, Head Priest Emeritus of Nishi Hongwanji Temple and President of the United Nations Association-Kyoto Chapter.

Day One (June 11th)

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: **Availability of Food**, Developing Countries Bloc

Topic 2: **Access to Food**, Least Developed Countries Bloc

Topic 3: **Use and Utilization of Food**, Developed Countries Bloc

Each economic bloc was assigned a Google group to facilitate communication amongst student delegates. Delegates were to post their opinions, questions and comments to the group. 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 12th)

General Assembly Session 1

During GA session 1, student delegates deliberated on the agenda topic of Global Food Security and Food Availability. The resolution, focusing on the belief that all people should have quality food available on a consistent basis by emphasizing the need for food to be properly produced, distributed and exchanged, was drafted and introduced by the Developing Countries Bloc. Delegates debated the details of various clauses and amended the document resulting in a draft resolution with 12 operative clauses that called on the United Nations to:

1. Put more emphasis on public education campaigns that focused on the need for food availability in many developing nations;
2. Better fund those organizations in the developed world that assist with agriculture training for farmers in the developing world;
3. Expedite research in eco-friendly sustainable agriculture for all countries;
4. Work with all countries to strengthen small farms and small agricultural projects that will develop local economies.

General Assembly Session 2

General Assembly session 2 focused on the agenda topic of Global Food Security and Food Access. The resolution was drafted and introduced by the Least Developed Countries Bloc. This resolution recognized that access to food depends on the economic strength of countries and regions. After much debate and caucusing, the draft resolution was amended to include 12 operative clauses that called on the United Nations to:

1. Assist local communities in least developed countries in strengthening primary education as a base to strengthening local economies;
2. Provide low-interest loans to those countries in need of improving infrastructure, especially in rural areas;
3. Encourage the establishment of micro-financing institutions in local communities to develop small businesses;
4. Provide funds for the establishment of vocational training schools in least developed countries to assist in the development of the local economy.

Day Three (June 13th)

General Assembly Session 3

General Assembly session 3 focused on the agenda topic of Global Food Security and the Use and Utilization of Food. The resolution was drafted and introduced by the Developed Countries Bloc. The resolution declared that proper health, sanitation, nutrition and clean water are essential to the proper use and utilization of food. The draft resolution was amended to include 11 operative clauses that called on the United Nations to:

1. Build more health centers in remote local areas to assist with local health care;
2. Help fund the establishment of school lunch programs in poor areas where schools are in need of assistance;
3. Form a committee to create new food guidelines for all countries that reflect the cultural traditions and dietary needs for a nutritious food supply;
4. Assist in the making of a public education campaign that emphasizes the importance of proper sanitation in maintaining a healthy life.

General Assembly Emergency Session 4

Delegates were called together for their final session and given the details of the hunger crisis facing displaced persons in South Sudan. Due to internal conflicts the region has seen a large increase in the number of people seeking refuge in refugee camps run by the United Nations. Delegates drafted a resolution that would guarantee food security for the refugee camps by calling on the United Nations to:

1. Provide security for food supplies, so staff could equitably distribute food to refugees;
2. Increase the construction on infrastructure in the camps to provide for better food access;
3. Call for more international funding to meet the required \$1.2 billion needed to fund the refugee camps;
4. Provide training seminars for women in the camps on the proper use and utilization of food.

Conclusion

The 24th annual Kansai High School Model United Nations was a great success. 220 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 currently facing the United Nations. They came to the emergency session with new energy and excitement and really showed their new skills of international diplomacy.

The 2014 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 KHSMUN a wonderful event. We look forward to working together with you again for the 2015 Kansai High School Model United Nations.

Angus McGregor
Kansai High School Model United Nations Organizing Committee
June 19th, 2014