

The 26^h Kansai High School Model United Nations

June 20th~22nd, 2016

Kyoto International Conference Center

The 26th annual Kansai High School Model United Nations was held from June 20th – 22nd at the Kyoto International Conference Center. About 230 students from ten high schools participated, deliberating on the agenda topic of Protecting the Rights of Refugees. The students represented 56 countries in Commission A and 51 countries in Commission B. Leadership for the conference was provided by KGN 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. Alan Greenberg, US Consul General, Osaka-Kobe
- Mr. Katsuya Soda, Member of Japan Forum for UNHCR Japan and Host of 'Nanmin Now' radio show on Kyoto Sanjo Radio Café

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) Refugees and Migration; 2) Refugees and Camps; and 3) Refugees and Resettlement. 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. In the 2016 KHSMUN all six resolutions were adopted.

For the fourth and final General Assembly session, Commissions A and B were given the task of creating a resolution that presented 12 action clauses calling on the international community to assist the Central African Republic as it deals with an ongoing refugee crisis. Each bloc was able to present 4 action clauses, which were related to the emergency situation these refugees are facing, to the GA session meeting. 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 refugees fleeing the Central African Republic.

1. Medical assistance
2. Housing and facilities assistance
3. Educational assistance
4. Financial assistance
5. Refugee camp infrastructure assistance
6. Food and water assistance

Both resolutions in Commission A and B were adopted unanimously. Student delegates were able to apply what they had learned in preparing for sessions 1 – 3 and create an action plan for assisting refugees from the Central African Republic.

The 26th Kansai High School Model United Nations was a great success. 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 KHSMUN continues to be a challenging event that requires the work and effort of many administrators, teachers and students. Yet, the rewards are easily seen as the students gain a better understanding of global issues, the modern world of geo-politics, the use of negotiating strategies, and also develop more confidence in using their English in settings outside the language classroom.