

## **The 28<sup>th</sup> Kansai High School Model United Nations**

June 18<sup>th</sup>~20<sup>th</sup> , 2018

Kyoto International Conference Center

Organized by

Kyoto Gaidai Nishi High School

The 28<sup>th</sup> annual Kansai High School Model United Nations was held from June 18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> at the Kyoto International Conference Center. Over 250 students from eleven high schools participated, deliberating on the agenda topic of The Impact of Climate Change on Children. 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 18<sup>th</sup>, included speeches by the following:

- Mr. Koshin Otani, President, U.N. Association, Kyoto Chapter
- Ms. Karen Kelley, US Consul General, Osaka-Kobe
- Mr. Junichi Nakamura, Former Japanese Ambassador to Belgium

The Opening Ceremony was only attended by about 60 students as at 7:58 am the area was hit by a rather large earthquake that shut down public transportation, preventing many students from attending the first day. As a result, the KHSMUN organizing committee decided to cancel the first day's proceedings, contacting all teachers and schools about the situation.

On June 19<sup>th</sup>, the schedule was changed to accommodate the cancellation of day one's meetings, so poster presentations were held from 10:00 – 12:00. These presentations were attended by most student delegates. After lunch, the delegates divided into small bloc meetings on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor to work on their assigned draft resolutions. The student delegates created resolutions that presented various solutions to the problems many children face during violent storms and natural disasters that can occur as a result of climate change.

On June 20<sup>th</sup>, two General Assembly sessions were held to debate the two resolutions drafted during the bloc meetings. The resolutions were introduced to each commission, requiring a 2/3 majority 'in favor' vote in order to be adopted. For each of the two resolutions, delegates gave speeches on the topic, participated in debates, introduced amendments and then voted on the draft resolutions. Of the four resolutions, two passed the GA with a 2/3 majority vote.

Due to an earthquake on June 18<sup>th</sup> and a severe weather warning on June 20<sup>th</sup> the 28<sup>th</sup> Kansai High School Model United Nations was presented with some administrative challenges. However, the organizing committee, teachers, student delegates and Kyoto International Conference Center staff all cooperated to, firstly, ensure the safety of all participants, and secondly, to hold the conference once the situation was pronounced safe.

The MUN format continues to challenge students to go beyond the classroom and apply what they are learning in a simulated 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. Students enjoyed the formality of the event being held at the Kyoto International Conference Center and joining so many students from different schools for this three-day English conference. The efforts of teachers, administrators, staff and local organizations resulted in a world-class educational event that impacted the lives of all that participated.