

The 31st Kansai High School Model United Nations

June 5th, 21st-23rd

Kyoto International Conference Center

organized by

Kyoto Gaidai Nishi High School

The 31st annual Kansai High School Model United Nations was held June 5th, 21st – 23rd with over 200 students from twelve high schools participating, deliberating on the agenda topic of: The Social Impact of COVID-19 on Children. The student delegates, representing United Nations member states, participated in four General Assembly meetings and leadership for the conference was provided by Kyoto Gaidai Nishi High School (KGN) students and teachers. On the dates of June 5th, 21st and 22nd, an online inter-school MUN conference was held, and on June 23rd, 63 student delegates from KGN's Course of International and Cultural Studies participated in a one-day MUN conference for KGN students only at the Kyoto International Conference Center (ICCK), applying the agenda topic specifically to the region of South Asia.

The KHSMUN is traditionally held annually as a face-to-face student conference at the ICCK, but due to the ongoing need to cancel or hold events online because of the situation with COVID-19, this year's inter-school conference was held online, as it was in 2020. Teachers worked to apply what was learned in 2020 to further adapt the Kansai High School Model United Nations to this online format which allowed students to join remotely and fully participate and debate the issues of the agenda. Using Google's Workspace applications and Microsoft's Flipgrid video site, student delegates joined the online inter-school conference presenting recorded speeches, exchanging opinions, writing draft resolutions, and engaging in video meetings regarding the agenda topics.

The KGN only Model United Nations, held on June 23rd, was conducted in a traditional face-to-face format at the ICCK. The KHSMUN organizing committee worked with the staff of the conference center to ensure social distance measures and safety precautions were followed for the conference. KGN students divided into two large conference rooms to simulate two General Assembly meetings, deliberating on the agenda: The Impact of COVID-19 in South Asia.

The Kansai High School Model United Nations Organizing Committee would like to thank Kyoto University of Foreign Studies and the Kyoto International Conference Center for their ongoing support and understanding of this student conference. The committee would also like to recognize the following organizations for their cooperation in supporting this event: Kyoto Chapter UN Association of Japan; The United States Consulate General, Osaka-Kobe, Kyoto UNESCO Association, Kyoto Prefectural Board of Education, Kyoto City Board of Education, The Kyoto Shimbun, Omotesenke, Urasenke, and the Osaka Model United Nations Executive Committee.

The 31st Kansai High School Model United Nations faced some unusual challenges due to the current situation with COVID-19, yet the organizing committee, teachers, staff, and most importantly, the students, all rose to the occasion in order to provide an educational opportunity for over 200 students that challenged them to use not only their knowledge of global issues and international diplomacy, but also their digital skills in learning different ways to communicate and solve problems during uncertain times.