

**The 33rd Kansai High School Model United Nations
June 21-23, 2023
International Conference Center Kyoto
organized by
Kyoto Gaidai Nishi High School**

The 33rd Kansai High School Model United Nations was held from June 21 to June 23, 2023, with about two hundred students from ten schools participating, deliberating on the agenda of “The Global Water Crisis.” The student delegates, representing United Nations member states, took part in bloc meetings, poster presentations, and three General Assembly sessions, and leadership for the conference was provided by Kyoto Gaidai Nishi High School students and teachers.

At the opening ceremony, students were fortunate to hear from two speakers: Mr. Koushin Otani, the President of the Kyoto Chapter of the United Nations Association of Japan, and Dr. Misuzu Asari from the Kyoto University Graduate School of Global Environmental Studies. Before the General Assembly session on the second day, they also received an inspirational speech of encouragement from Mr. Richard Mei, Jr. the United States Consul General from Osaka.

For the first time since 2019, the event was held as a 3-day, face-to-face meeting. On the first day, delegates worked together in bloc meetings to reduce their approximately fifty clauses to a more manageable fifteen for the final draft resolutions. This involved a great deal of negotiation and compromise, as well as offering the opportunity for forming new friendships.

On the morning of the second day, delegates gave poster presentations about the countries they were representing, focusing in particular on their water-related problems and their proposed solutions for them. The quality of the presentations and the ensuing questions and answers was impressive, as students strove to explain the ideas contained in the draft resolutions in greater detail and with more persuasive power in a less formal context.

The first two General Assembly sessions, held in two commissions, discussed the two topics under the agenda: “Water Scarcity” and “Water-Related Disasters.” The third and final General Assembly was an emergency session, considering a resolution in support of Haiti. In early June this year, Haiti suffered massive flooding, immediately followed by severe earthquakes, causing a serious humanitarian crisis. In this session, students collaborated to use what they had learned to propose solutions to a real-life emergency.

Through this event, student delegates learned many valuable skills. Not only did they study about a different country and about the serious water-related issues facing the majority of the world’s population, but they also improved their critical thinking, their communication skills, and their confidence.

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

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