

The 34th Kansai High School Model United Nations
June 19-21, 2023
International Conference Center Kyoto
organized by
Kyoto Gaidai Nishi High School

The 34th Kansai High School Model United Nations was held from June 19 to June 21, 2024, with about two hundred students from ten schools participating, deliberating on the agenda of “The Crisis of Pollution and Waste.” 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. Yoshitaka Choja, the Principal of Kyoto Gaidai Nishi High School and Chairman of the Kansai High School Model United Nations Organizing Committee, and Dr. Misuzu Asari from the Research Institute for Humanity and Nature. At the closing ceremony on Friday, June 21, they also heard from Mr. Akash Suri, Public Affairs Officer for the United States Consulate-General Osaka-Kobe. Unfortunately, the Consul General, Mr. Jason R. Cubas, was unable to attend at the last minute, but we were still grateful for his inspirational speech of encouragement.

On the first day, delegates worked together in bloc meetings to reduce their approximately thirty-four 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 problems with pollution and waste 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 three General Assembly sessions, held in two commissions, discussed the three topics under the agenda: “Plastic Waste,” “E-Waste” and “Fast Fashion Waste.” Through these meetings, student delegates learned many valuable skills. Not only did they study about a different country and about the serious waste-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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