

The 35th Kansai High School Model United Nations
June 18-20, 2025
International Conference Center Kyoto
organized by
Kyoto Gaidai Nishi High School

The 35th Kansai High School Model United Nations was held from June 18 to June 20, 2025, with about two hundred students from ten schools participating, deliberating on the agenda of “The Global Refugee 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 distinguished speakers: Mr. Yoshitaka Choja, Principal of Kyoto Gaidai Nishi High School and Chairman of the Kansai High School Model United Nations Organizing Committee, and Ms. Yoshie Hirokawa from the non-profit organization RAFIQ, which works to help refugees in Osaka, Japan. At the closing ceremony on Friday, June 20, they also heard again from Mr. Choja and Mr. James Nicholl, a teacher from one of the participating schools.

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 second day, delegates presented poster sessions about the countries they represented, focusing particularly on the challenges related to the refugee crisis and their proposed solutions. 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. In addition, delegates discussed the first of three General Assembly topics, “Immediate Humanitarian Assistance,” in two commissions that offered a more formal setting for discussing problems and solutions.

On Friday, June 20th two more General Assembly sessions were also held discussing the last two topics under the agenda: “Local Integration and Resettlement” and “Repatriation.” Through these meetings, student delegates learned many valuable skills. Not only did they study a different country and its serious refugee-related issues, but they also improved their critical thinking, communication skills, and 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: Kyoto City Board of Education; Kyoto Prefectural Board of Education; Kyoto Shimbun; Kyoto UNESCO Association; Model United Nations Osaka Executive Committee; Omotesenke; Osaka-Kobe U.S. Consulate General; The Kyoto Chapter of the Japan Association for Language Teaching; United Nations Association of Japan Kyoto Headquarters; Urasenke.

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