

THE NMUN KOBE TIMES



Kobe City University of Foreign Studies

All Committee are Reaching the Final Stage of the Conference



The third day of National Model United Nations (NMUN) was held at the Kobe Conference Center. In the four committees—the General Assembly (GA), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNCHR), the Security Council (SC) and Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)—discussions matured through two sessions. November 25 is the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, and begins 16 days of activism against gender violence. The campaign is called, “Orange Your Neighborhood.” The orange color is a symbol of a better future with no violations of human rights. Badges for the day were provided to the delegates, who displayed their raised consciousness of justice.

How to achieve disarmament in the General Assembly (GA)

Eight working papers (WP) were successfully submitted yesterday, and today the delegates continued to improve their WP as they progress towards DR.

In a formal Session, Lebanon referred to a

Hiroshima survivor and read aloud from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 1 which states; *All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.* Referencing Article 1, she insisted that the delegates could work together and recommended that the working groups (WGs) were collaborating during this Conference. The delegates continued to convey their policies more and more meaningfully through the referencing and researching of various kinds of information.

In the afternoon, a WG, consisting of Afghanistan, Turkey, Lebanon, Iran among other countries, worked to reach a consensus on the idea of a Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMDs) Free Zone in the Middle East. The Republic of Congo also stressed the necessity of preventing the use of all of WMDs, not only nuclear weapons but also chemical and, biological weapons. The P-5 countries—China, Russia, France, the United Kingdom and the United States—worked on a nuclear weapons Non-Proliferations Treaty (NPT) with many other countries. (Continues to the next page)

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The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

The fifth session of the UNHCR began without two countries, Italy and Pakistan being absent, thus a total of 51 member states were present.

In formal debate, many delegates made speeches about child refugees. China stated that, "Every child refugees should have a guardian they can depend on and trust." Switzerland worked with many European countries to create a comprehensive and sustainable plan to solve many of issues that child refugees and their families face". At the end of the session, Argentina gave an inspiring message to other delegates that, "No opinion, no idea is better than another, so it is important for us all to converse with one another. We can make our society a better place and create better draft resolutions."



At the beginning of the afternoon session, WPs which had been previously submitted were returned to their groups. Delegates continued to try to reach consensus for their WP.

Australia explained the content of two WPs; the first, about providing refugees with safe spaces and the second, about providing refugees with mental health care. Australia stated, "They can overcome their trauma through our policies." Other WGs highlighted different topics. For example, Congo, Israel, and Peru spoke out that, "Residence is the key point to solve the problem of refugees."

Delegates struggled to find compromises between other delegates, as the meetings continued to the final day.

Successfully voting procedure carried out in the Security Council (SC)

There had been four WGs for DR1 which included one unfriendly amendment and three friendly amendments in the operative clauses. In the second formal debate, Malaysia expressed its concern about the DR1/1, while Russia encouraged the country to propose a friendly amendment to the resolution. Uruguay also raised concerns voiced by Russia during the previous evening's session and emphasized that DR1 represented a very important aspect of the work in this council. In the fourth formal debate, Russia stated that the country regarded DR 1/1 positively and that new language which replaced restrictions on NGOs with regard to trading with the DPRK's nuclear programs specifically. Moreover, Russia tried to remove the excessively harsh language in clause 8

which would damage the economy of the DPRK. During this session, Japan ended its speech with by saying, "Goseicho Arigato Gozaimasu," which means, "Thank you for listening," in Japanese. As some delegates advocated the need to close the speakers' list, the session moved forward to vote for DR.

In the sixth session of the SC, Venezuela made the first speech, followed by Malaysia and the UK. There were two unfriendly operative clauses in DR1/1 which regards the situation of North Korea. Two speakers, both for and against the operative clauses, made speeches. Then it was put to a vote. One (DR1/1/1) passed and so was removed from the DR and the other (DR1/1/2) failed and so remained. Then DR1/1 went to the roll call vote by a motion from Russia. Eventually, it failed since the permanent members of the UN Security Council, China and Russia voted "no" or "opposed."

Then DR1/2 was adopted by acclamation and became Resolution1/1. Next, DR1/3 was opposed to acclamation and therefore was adopted by placard vote to be Resolution1/2. Since



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Three Days of Hard Work Produce Possible DR in Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

Delegates submitted four WPs yesterday—the first is urban infrastructure development and climate change; the second about information and communication technology; the third about education and gender equality; the fourth about Assistant Communication Technology Training (ACTT)—to the *Dais* and received feedback. Next, they must complete and submit a DR as voting will begin in the next session.

In formal speech, the Republic of Moldova seemed to be proud of their WP, announcing they had reached broad consensus, “We are focusing on how to get funds and extra support for the economy, but we should consider how to develop our own economy, too. To do so, we need to build partnerships between developed and developing countries.” On the other hand, the US insisted, “We should tackle expanding the Sendai Framework on various issues, such as storms, floods and so on.” He added, “We cannot easily agree, but it is necessary.”

After lunch, Session VI, in which delegates had the last chance to add their own ideas to the WPs, began.

Panama worked on a WP concerned with education and gender equality. They mentioned that weaker people such as women, people with disabilities and indigenous people have always have been the primary victims of natural disasters. By providing technical knowledge on natural disasters, it is possible to stop worsening of their living conditions.

At the end of the session, Democratic Republic of the Congo announced their DR had been successfully submitted.



Local People Greet NMUN for the First Time

During the NMUN convention, a student organizing committee created a guided tour for local residents and Gaidai students. The participants in the tour could register online, and three students from KCUFS, one student from Hyogo Medical University, and one native English speaking individual who teaches English at KCUFS and Kobe Gakuin University student, and one lady whose husband works for the NMUN gathered to get a glimpse of the new international event for the first time. Takashi Ito of KCUFS who is studying Spanish, said he seldom speaks with native English speakers, thus this is an amazing opportunity for him to talk with so many foreigners.

Chikara Watanabe, who came with Ito was surprised by what he witnessed. He had an image of people in the actual UN, sitting at tables quietly and nervously; however, he saw so many delegates caucusing with others sitting on the floor casually. Nanako Kio of KCUFS' English Studies Department applied for the tour because she was a student volunteer for the cultural visit to Kyoto. She was interested in watching the MUN event, and wanted to know more to have a better understanding of global affairs when she works as a volunteer.

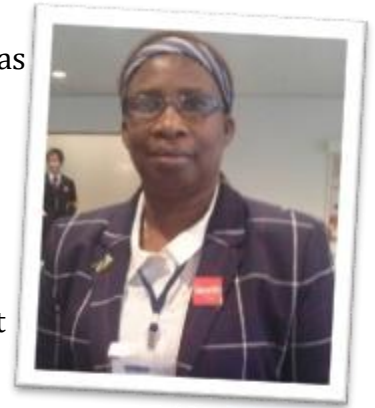
On the contrary, Prof. Anthony C Torbert, has already worked for JUEMUN several times so he knows how it works, but he never saw an NMUN before. He pointed out a few differences between JUEMUN and NMUN such as that the average age of the participants is older in NMUN. He found it interesting that both conferences have their own advantage.

There was one student from Hyogo Medical University named Emi Furuyama, and local resident named Hitomi Iwasa. Both had a family member which had access to the NMUN such as a KCUFS student or an NMUN worker, so that they wanted to see what they are actually doing. Iwasa said that it is hard for the locals to find information about the NMUN unless they are already aware of it, or one was a KCUFS student so that it is great that the university offered such NMUN tour.

Interview

A delegate Describes the Story of her Struggle

Susan Stuart made a speech during formal debate in a GA Session as a representative of Lebanon. She comes from Long Island University-Brooklyn Campus, and thus it was a long trip to get to Kobe. She has mostly been spending her time on research about WMDs. In her speech, she cited the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 1, because she wanted to criticize that the NPT encouraged other countries to have WMD. Speaking as Lebanon, she stated, "we can all work together." In addition, she said that she is enjoying her stay in Japan. However, she felt sad when visiting Hiroshima and understood the events of August 1945, during the Cultural Tours and Site Visits. (Ayami Tomae)



Spending meaningful time in Japan

Kristine Kivle, from Norway attends Hawaii Pacific University, is representing Malaysia in the Security Council. She expressed how delighted she was to be a part of the SC and to meet many new people. Also, she was happy to participate in this conference and especially to be here in Japan, as she is interested in the culture. She experienced working in the GA before in NY and thinks that representing in the SC is important to understand how the UN works in real life. Through this conference, she aims to work cooperatively with other nations in the SC. As she has interest in Japan, she was excited to join the tour of Hiroshima. "It's a really memorable experience to go there and I learned a lot. It was great to see the culture." She also expressed her appreciation to the volunteers who helped during the Cultural Visits. (Honoka Morita)



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Teaching students what it means to live in a global community

Mariam Bojang, emphasized that the most important thing during the NMUN is diplomacy. She studies political science at the University of Texas at Tylor as a Masters student. She also trained and supported delegates from the same university as the head delegate of the Russian federation. Mariam talked about the essentials of NMUN and international society. "What bring us here is to be One," she said. The UN is about compromise, not flexing muscles or showing power. She thinks that each delegate must think about the reality living in a global community. For example, although the United States appears to be a large, independent country, most of its products are made in China. She expects students not to be competitive because all countries are dependent upon each other and none should be prioritized during diplomacy or while cooperating with each other to reach compromise. She also found so many differences between her own culture and Japanese culture, especially in fashion. Having a West African background and living in the United States, she feels that the fashion in Japan is completely different and unique. "Everything is completely new to me. I am enjoying the cultural differences, and now I have to try the Sushi!" She laughs. (Yuzuri Funabashi)



In the evening on Friday, 33 faculty members from participating universities joined a Jazz Night event at Sone, which is a famous jazz club on Kitanozaka in Sannomiya, and enjoyed a selection of Frank Sinatra's hits which have become global jazz standards.



To get Involved in International Society

Enrico Mantovani from Italy, is energetically challenging the NMUN for the first time. He is representing the Republic of Congo at the committee of General Assembly(GA). Even though he went through several conferences of Models of the Italian parliament and the European Commission, this is his first time to participate in the NMUN and in a conference which discusses international politics all in English. He talked about a difficulty he found during the conferences. "In highly developed discussions I feel it is hard when it goes further than my studies." He is also thinking of working at the UN in the future, so he took this opportunity to experience the real atmosphere of the UN.

During the NMUN sessions, the agenda that he had prioritized was skipped,

however, he is trying his best to achieve his goal.

(Yuzuri Funabashi)

Working in Collaboration with Other Delegates

Bianca Diaz, from the University of Bridgeport, Connecticut USA, is a delegate of Ukraine on the Security Council. After she went through three days of sessions, she found it great to work with everybody and it was also really fun. "Every voice was heard and that's one of the most important things at the Model United Nations," she believes. Ukraine has an interesting position in the sense that their areas of interest should be met while the needs of others must also be considered. She said "It's been really great representing Ukraine and playing that middle ground." Regarding Japan, she loves it so much that she always wanted to visit.

Since this is her first time to come to Japan she was grateful for this experience in

this type of format. Recalling the cultural tours in Hiroshima and Kyoto, Bianca especially admired the would like to see Tokyo with her own eyes to learn what life in Japan's big city is like. She likes Japan and *katsu!*

(Sae Oishi)



Taking the initiative in a highly developed conference

"I just want to pay forward to the NMUN which gave me the chance to notice my own talent and what I love," said Matthew Craig, a fairly young Faculty Advisor of the age of 22 from Riverside City College(RCC). He is soon starting a Bachelor's Degree at the University of California(UC) but he has suspended his study in order to get involved in the NMUN. He was also a delegate in an MUN two years ago at RCC and now he is in charge of training all of the delegates from RCC. He talks about the big advantage of assigning the NMUN from

RCC. RCC is the only community college that has come from the US,

however their contribution is amazing.

The Faculty Advisor negotiated with his college and made it possible to participate in the NMUN with full financial support, even in Japan, a place far away from southern California.

"Participating in the NMUN not only gives my students the opportunity to talk about international issues but also takes them to a different country and widen their world experience," he says. He also prepares training programs for the students to learn how to act as a delegate, so that the delegates from RCC are showing their ability and their will, full of confidence. "I told them to act as leaders in the conference, which empowers our group and enhances the conference." He is also amazed by the politeness of the Japanese and with the heated toilet seats in the bathrooms. "My delegates even suggested that we should pool our money to buy one," he laughed. Matthew is flying to Tokyo this evening, and looking forward to challenging so many interesting things in Tokyo.

(Yuzuri Funabashi)

DO YOU KNOW KYO-VEGETABLES?

By Tomomi Yamazaki

In Japan, there are a lot of vegetables, but do you know traditional vegetables of Kyoto? They are called “Kyoyasai”. According to JA Kyoto, special conditions must be met for vegetables to be labeled Kyoyasai. For example, they have to have history from the Meiji Era (1868-1912) or earlier, they have to be grown in Kyoto and so on...Some of them have been chosen as “Brand vegetables of Kyoto”. For a very long time, people in Kyoto have tackled the improvement of vegetables because Kyoto is separate from the sea. And there are underground water of good quality, rich soil, mild wind and distinctly different temperature between summer and winter. Because of these factors, Kyoyasai have different taste and higher nutrition value, compared with normal vegetables.

First I will introduce “kujo welsh onion.” I think this vegetable is relatively famous in Japan. Welsh onions already were grown as early as the Heian Era. And kujo welsh onion was born in Edo Era. So it has long history.

The feature of it is to eat the green part and in the part we enjoy eating with slimy, sweetness and tenderness. First we eat the green part and then enjoy the part that is sweet and tender, and also a little slimy.

Next I will introduce “Horikawa burdock”. It is softer than normal burdock. Everyone agrees that it has good smell and flavor. But it is much more expensive than normal burdock. Generally most people in the world have never eaten burdock, I have heard. So I want you to try some while you are here.



There are some restaurants in Kyoto that feature Kyoyasai. For example, at Fukahori, a bakery in Kyoto, you can find cakes and pies which use Kyoyasai like “Leaf pie with kujou welsh onion and sesame” and “Financier with horikawa burdock”.

Now, not only in Japan but also around the world, original vegetables have decreased lately. Instead of them, single kinds of vegetables are popular because they are easier to grow, more prolific and keep longer.

However, we should think again. We have to save original vegetables. According to research, we lost more than 30 kinds of them. Most of the people who raise original vegetables are more than 70 years old (according to the Yomigaerinoresipi website), so there is a high possibility that these vegetables will disappear in the near future. We must save original vegetables from extinction because they are “living cultural properties”.

Generally most people tend to like sweet vegetables, so farmers grow vegetables that were improved to be sweet. They sell well, but if everyone does this, we will lose a vital tradition.

But the most important thing is saving traditions while adapting to this age. Some Kyoyasai have improved to adapt to the nuclear family which needs vegetables that are rather small. But the improvement needs only to be size, not taste or quality. So let's save the tradition of taste.