

THE NMUN KOBE TIMES



Kobe City University of Foreign Studies

Conference Comes to a Full-Swing on the Second Day of NMUN in Kobe



Under the cold sky, it was certainly heated on Thursday at Kobe Convention Center where three sessions of the National Model United Nations (NMUN) took place. Some 330 delegates from across the world took part in earnest discussions and negotiations in four committees to produce a working paper on the agendas that were adopted the day before. The delegates formed working groups (WGs) with other delegates who have similar ideas in order to submit a working paper (WP) to the *Dais*, which will be a draft resolution when accepted. Today was the longest day in the four-day conference that will end on Saturday. Some delegates took initiative to become a conference presence, others tried to approach closer to their goals little by little.

General Assembly (GA)

Session □ started with a formal debate speech by a delegate who represents Lebanon. He said that Lebanon targeted confidence

building, disarmament, and securing weapon materials. In addition, he suggested that Lebanon was working to initiate a Middle East Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Free Zone with other countries in the Middle East. Following Lebanon, eight countries—Iran, Australia, Moldova, Ghana, the USA, and Mexico, as well as Burkina Faso and Switzerland made speeches referring to their country's positions. The delegates tried to get other countries' attention in order to cooperate, and appealed to other delegates to work together. Mexico, for example, favored adoption of the Non-Proliferation Treaty in its region, and called for cooperation in the second session on Thursday morning.

Moldova also called for collaboration in order to work with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). The US started with a statement that included the phrase; "...70 years ago, the atomic bomb changed the world," and requested other members to discuss this issue.

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The USA worked with India, Lebanon, Afghanistan and the UK and wanted to share more information with various other countries. There were also two informal debates, in which delegates shared their ideas and discussed problems. If they had different opinions some of the delegates changed groups.

At the third session in the afternoon, delegates began to create a number of working groups to work toward their goals, so that the *Dais* had to make a suggestion at the beginning that they should only make one draft resolution at the end just like actual UN conferences. He said NMUN delegates also should try to combine all of the working groups. Respecting his remarks, the following speakers tried to invite people to each working group in order to negotiate and combine into a bigger group, referring to the countries who are sponsoring working papers.

The biggest groups were the working group of the EU, which had the most comprehensive opinions, the Middle Eastern group which proposed a WMD free zone, and the Venezuela group supported by Argentina, Angola, and South Korea which suggested three themes of awareness and education on nuclear power, disarmament, and implementation of peace-building plans, and the group of Latin American, South Asian and African countries.

Some countries didn't support the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) because they do not accept that only the permanent members of the Security Council (P-5 countries) —China, France, Russia, the UK, and the US—can possess nuclear weapons. However, most of the countries that made speeches in Session IV supported the NPT.

P-5 countries, however, also formed a working group among P-5 countries. By cooperating with each other, they tried to prevent stricter agreements in terms of WMD so that non-state actors would not be a threat to the world. Greece had also supported the NPT and they asked other delegates to join their working group. The US also joined the group. There are some countries that accept the use of nuclear material in a peaceful way. Finland suggested using it to reduce CO2. By the end of the day, eight WPs were submitted to the *Dais*.



High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

Session II in the morning opened with four countries' speeches; Ireland, Sweden, the Republic of Korea and Ghana. Then the meeting was suspended for 60 minutes by a motion of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in order to find countries which have the same ideas to form working groups.

In the following formal debate, Italy focused on the health care systems because the country believes health is essential for children's mental and physical development. India said, "We lack protection for children. If children could access mental health care and education, we will be able to help today's children join the international community."

In the third formal debate of this session, all four countries referred to refugees, which is a global problem. The US said, "We can solve this issue as a global community, and to do so, we need international cooperation". In the last formal debate of this session, all countries indicated that education is a key to solve the problem.

Delegates in UNHCR principally advocated the importance and necessity of education for displaced children. In addition to that, they also discussed how to return children, who got separated from their family due to conflict, to their families and what kind of care we should implement for them. All delegates worked together with the members of WG through discussions and negotiations.

The delegate of France was concerned about public safety in the refugee camps because crimes committed against children and adults in refugee camps include abduction, rape, and gender-based violence and recruitment for armed forces for military aims. She argued that child soldiers should be

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abolished and “Children, Not Soldiers”, the campaign by UNICEF, can be a successful example and helpful to prevent the recruitment and use of children in conflict.

The delegate of the Republic of Costa Rica is convinced that the best way to improve the situation of refugee children is not only by providing education for children, but education for teachers about their recruitment. She believes building more schools does not necessarily solve the problem, but better teachers will meet the children’s needs and also they can contribute to providing health care for their communities. It will be the way to solve this problem, she said.



The Security Council (SC)

The morning session opened with a speech by the Republic of Korea on the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) who came to the committee because this topic is relevant to other states. The Republic of Korea has a fear of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) because the Republic of Korea is close to that country and strongly emphasized to the international community that the situation is at an important crossroads. Also, he called for sanctions for the DPRK, saying that the pursuit of WMD is causing hardships to the people in the DPRK. During the session, the US, Russia, New Zealand, Uruguay and China emphasized the importance of holding Six-Party Talks to discuss the situation of DPRK. Also, Venezuela introduced the 2017 North Korea Reintegration Security Initiative, on which Ukraine and the UK are working together. After holding some informal debates, Angola advocated that they were very positive about the initiative. Most of the speeches could be divided into three groups, depending on the country’s position on the DPRK.



In Session III in the afternoon, the UK worked with China, Russia, Egypt and Ukraine. Angola wanted to support the 2017 North Korea Reintegration Security Initiative to produce a firm, but fair dialogue to achieve international peace and security in the region. Russia said it would not support any sanctions on the DPRK.

By Session IV at night, six WPs were submitted to the *Dais*. New Zealand finally worked out a way to bring the DPRK back into negotiation, by having eight-party talks in hopes of imposing sanctions against the DPRK, to provide humanitarian aid to the people of the DPRK. The US reported in his formal speech that WP A on eight-party-talks (six party-talks together with Malaysia and Mongolia) and WP B on regional talks were successfully integrated. A Draft Resolution (DR) was then submitted.

Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

The morning session was opened with a roll call. Eleven countries made speeches in three formal debates. The Speaker’s List was opened from Chile. Chile explained the importance of creating a resilient society. The country also indicated the necessity of founding infrastructure for educational facilities. Then the motion of the Republic of Panama to suspend the meeting for 60 minutes was passed and delegates started to make working groups.

After that, the Speakers List re-opened with Brazil’s speech. Nigeria focused on people, and the country joined the working group of the Republic of Peru, Argentina and the Republic of Panama. They mainly worked on education. South Africa said, “As we heard yesterday from Sadako Ogata, think globally and act locally.” She also cited Nelson Mandela’s phrase—“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” She then called on the government for investment in the future. Children should not be left behind, she said.

In Session IV in the afternoon, delegates tackled the challenge to make solid WPs. The working groups in the committee could be divided into four groups—on infrastructure, education, preparedness, and gender.

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China, for example, thought that sharing information is important to prepare for disaster, so it maintained the necessity of a database. In fact, 21 countries agreed with this and it was the most supported working paper submitted on Thursday.

Then the heated discussion continued until 10 pm.

The Speaker's List was opened by Australia. Australia was working on education, environment and women with eight different countries. They showed their willingness to cooperate with other delegates to achieve the targets.

Then Afghanistan warned about a lack of information and explained that an updated warning system could cause serious damage to countries. Then she explained the usefulness of their plan called Assistance Communication, Technology and Training (ACTT) to improve all countries' safety at all levels. She highlighted "Informing people is invaluable. With collaboration, lots of lives can be saved through a program like ACTT. We must act together." Then they moved to informal debate for 60 minutes to enhancing their WP.

The next formal debate was started by Belgium. France worked on an international post-disaster mental recovery program with the US, Switzerland and other countries. They mentioned the importance of helping victims of natural disasters with counseling services to cure mental illnesses such as traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

Different groups came out to form four groups, including two big groups for WPs. The one is focused on education, preparedness awareness, and gender. The other mainly considered infrastructure, open planning development, climate change and Information and Communication Technology (ICT).



The Challenge of Global Aging

We should not wait to take a step forward to address the problems of an aging society, said Keisuke Nakashima, an associate professor of Global Issues & International Business at KCUFS. In his lecture on Thursday conducted for NMUN participants, he stressed that we have to take estimates of the aging population seriously, based on which we should prioritize our effort, "Our mission is deciding which field, region and generation to focus on," he said. Nakashima showed the timetable of two forces behind the age wave: Falling fertility and rising longevity. Japan has the lowest fertility rate (births per woman) of 1.3 in 2005-2010. The country also has the highest percentage of an aged population in the world. The trend is also true for other developed countries, he said.

What's more, Japan ranks top in average life expectancy at birth—86 years old for women and 80 years old for men followed by Germany, Italy, Spain and Korea. These countries all seem to have traditional families as well as their own unique culture. It is difficult for women to work in society. Even worse, such a society has a lower birth rate, Nakashima said.

At the moment, Japan holds 1,500 trillion yen in assets which is very high compared to developing countries. However, with the birth rate decreasing, there will be fewer workers and taxpayers, and more expenses for people of advanced age. In the future, we may have to rely on foreign investors or immigrants and outsourcing to help provide jobs for Japanese workers, Nakashima said. Building new relationships with developing countries to cooperate together is also important as an open global economy can allow young people to help themselves by supporting old people across international borders.

Interview



Passionate about Negotiating with Others

"I'm a competitive person," Amanda Nash laughs. She participated in Model United Nations (MUN) three times before. The reason she keeps participating in it is that she loves persuading people and loves representing other countries. Moreover, she can learn about herself because she has to make her ideas clear to negotiate with others. Nash first learned about MUN from her sister who was involved in MUN activities. The senior at the University of New Haven, Connecticut, US, enjoys representing different countries on committees with different topics in each conference. This is the first NMUN Nash has taken part in, so she felt it is whole different adventure and learning experience. In addition to representing Afghanistan on the GA, she advises others to make sure the team is doing all right. "As the head delegate of my team, I aim to lead the team to win prizes at the conference," Nash said. It may be likely as every member of her team has gone to past MUNs so they are very experienced.

To be Competitive or Not to Be

Nadine Givovich is a student from Universidad Santiago de Chile and a delegate of Egypt in the GA. She came with 14 other people from Chile, however her university is the only one participating from Chile and also from Latin America. Givovich found it really difficult during the research and writing the position paper because most of the sources were written in Arabic, and she did not have enough knowledge. Givovich was glad that she and her partner delegate are not so competitive as the other delegates; however, this conference's goal is not about being competitive but to learn about different people and different cultures. Thus, she is becoming more confident during the sessions. She is working for her life goals to keep learning through the experience of this convention.



To Reach the Goal of a Universal Approach

Azade Esther Kakavand is from Erfurt University in Germany who represents Peru as a single delegate in UNHCR. She participated in NMUN as a part of a seminar offered in her university. During the course, she went to several conferences, and this was her final and the biggest conference. Coming to NMUN Kobe was not mandatory, because it is far away from Germany, however, Kakavand is currently studying in Istanbul, Turkey which is better than coming all the way from Germany. Thus, she decided to take this opportunity to visit Japan. After the first session, Kakavand successfully set the agenda and made progress in forming working groups. She expects to cooperate with as many countries as possible to generate a universal approach to the UNHCR topic.

cooperate
UNHCR topic.

Their New Challenge

Andrea Bojas and Sharon MacAllan—delegates of Botswana on ECOSOC from Hawaii Pacific University—shared their reflections on today and the day before. After their speech, Andrea showed her thankfulness toward the *Dais*. "This was our first time to make a speech so I was very nervous," Boias said. "But the *Dais* were always very helpful to develop our ideas and get various ideas from different perspectives." Then MacAllan mentioned her goal for the conference. "My major is biology which is not specifically related to the topic," she said. "However, as a science major, an overview of politics and the UN's work is important to understand how people should be treated. So, I'd like to make sure people are taken care of properly."



"However, as a

Kobe as a Cradle of Jazz

By Hiroka Abe

Originally, the birthplace of jazz is New Orleans, Louisiana in the U.S. was an ethnic patchwork composed of various races such as Europeans and Africans, so it is not hard to imagine that the cultures they had brought could be fused easily. Jazz is considered to be one of the fruits of those cultural fusions, the mixture of American music that consist of hymns, folk songs, work songs, gospels, blues and ragtime and the beat of drums that was peculiar to African music.

Although there are various theories about where the cradle of Jazz is in Japan, some say it is Kobe, because a professional jazz band was formed in 1923 in Kobe and a jazz concert was held by them for the first time in Japan. Thereby we can find a lot of opportunities to enjoy jazz in Kobe.



In Kitanozaka, you can find several restaurants and bars that offer dinner and live performances of jazz music. Some owners try to create an approachable atmosphere in their restaurants because they are eager to promote jazz among young people. Furthermore, around Sannomiya, there are jazz-themed coffee shops where we can enjoy coffee while listening to swing music.

“jam jam” is one of those coffee shops, near Motomachi station. It is in the basement of a building. The inside of the coffee shop is illuminated and decorated in classic style. Jazz music plays loudly on the stereo speakers that the owner chooses carefully gives us the feeling of being at a live performance. The seats are divided into listening seats that are near the speakers and enable you to enjoy the music and conversation seats where you can talk to your companion. The owner is a jazz disc jockey, so he has his record collection in the coffee shop and plays what he chooses.

People of all generations regardless of age, such as a group of women in their late twenties, middle-aged guys in their fifties, an adult couple in their thirties and a young guy with a guitar on his back visit and have a wonderful teatime listening to jazz music. The coffee shop serves drinks such as coffee, tea, alcohol and some juice, light meals like hot dogs and sandwiches and tube cakes baked by the coffee shop staff. What is a little bit unique about this coffee shop, there is the guest book in the restroom, so you can write down your comments.

If you like anime and jazz, I recommend you to watch “Kids on the Slope.” The synopsis is that, Kaoru Nishimi transferred to a high school in the Kyushu area due to his father's job and met Sentaro Kawaguchi who is the drummer of a jazz band. Kaoru who has played the piano since he was an elementary school student, was inspired by Sentaro and was attracted to jazz music. Through playing his instrument with other people, he enjoys interacting with them although he was socially awkward before. You cannot miss the music performance scenes played by authentic professional musicians.



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Things You Should Not Miss Out in Kobe

By Hiroko Shiotani

Kobe is located in the southern part of Hyogo Prefecture, of which it is the capital. As the sixth largest city in Japan, Kobe has a lot of sightseeing spots that you shouldn't miss.

Some tourists come to Japan to experience "Onsen," known as hot springs baths. Surprisingly, Kobe has one of the oldest onsens in Japan, which is called Arima Onsen, located 30 minutes away by train from Shin-Kobe station. Arima Onsen has a long history of having been loved

continuously by royal and noble families. Thus, some people say that Arima Onsen is quite pricey compared to other onsen spots. However, if you go there on a one-day trip, not staying overnight at Ryokan, then you can experience it with reasonable prices.

A Ryokan is a traditional Japanese inn that is similar to a hotel, but the biggest difference is its level of customer service. Since the guests are provided meals in their room, staff visit their room pretty often, so there is a time to communicate with each other. They even prepare bedding (futon)

for the guest.

Moreover, there are important rules to follow when you go to an Onsen. The most important point is that people with tattoos are not allowed to enter the Onsen. In addition, you need to be undressed completely; then you need to wash and rinse your body before you get into the tub. Don't dive or jump into the tub. Also, don't put your towels or soap in the bath, and certainly don't swim – the baths are for relaxing.

The water's temperature is approximately 40 to 43 degrees, and it contains a lot of mineral elements which are good for your skin, so I recommend not to have a shower after you get out of the Onsen.

Another spot you should visit when in Kobe is Mt. Rokko, a famous mountain not far from Arima Onsen. Mt. Rokko is acknowledged as one of the three major night views of Japan. In fact, it is called The Million Dollar Night View. You can get there by taking the Rokko cable train at a cost of 1,000 yen for the round trip.

During autumn, you can enjoy seeing maple trees at the Kobe botanical garden near Rokko. Also, there are trees which you can see only in Japan. The entrance of the park is free of charge and it is open from 9 in the morning to 5 in the evening.

Talking about illuminations, there is a unique event called "Kobe Luminarie" that is held at the beginning of December. This amazing event began in 1995 as a memorial for the victims at the Great Earthquake in Kobe that happened in the same year on January 17.

