

THE NMUN KOBE TIMES



Kobe City University of Foreign Studies

With the Conference Only One Month Away Delegates Set Themselves in Practical “Motion”!



Feeling chilly autumn, the delegates of the upcoming National Model United Nations (NMUN) stepped up to a more practical level. In the fourth preparation class held at Kobe City University of Foreign Studies (KCUFS) on October 22—just a full month before the opening of the conference—they competed to raise motions and made speeches. The whole class was designed like an actual conference—the class proceeded in accordance with the flow of the conference, with motions offered by delegates, and speeches and discussions taking place in formal/informal debates.

The class opened with a vote to make the speaker’s list to set the agenda order. The delegates raised placards or sent notes to the Dias to make a speech and they were added to the speaker’s list. Delegates of Ghana (General Assembly: GA), Somalia (United Nations High

Commissioner for Refugees: UNHCR) and Uganda (Economic and Social Council: ECOSOC) made 90-second speeches respectively about the agenda order.

Ghana (GA), for example, wanted to prioritize Agenda 1 on the Elimination of the Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD). Ayaka Yamane, one of its delegates and a freshman at KCUFS’s International Relations Department, said, “Although we already have some treaties about this topic, there is still some smuggling of uranium, and the number of nuclear weapons has not decreased.”

After a motion to suspend the meeting for 10 minutes, the session shifted to an informal debate to discuss the agenda order, during which the delegates tried to lobby other delegates in a presupposed setting as if they were meeting for the first time.

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After three more countries made speeches in formal debate, a motion was raised to set the agenda order as 1 and 2, which was passed by a placard vote. Here again the speaker's list was opened and Ghana (UNHCR), Australia (GA) and Japan (Security Council: SC) gave policy speeches on their agendas.

Ghana (UNHCR), for example, spoke on how children suffer from violence. Tina Inoue, the delegate and a freshman at the KCUFS's English Studies Department, said, "Approximately 220 million children worldwide have experienced sexual or domestic violence during their lifetime,

according to the World Health Organization. Ghana believes that

in order to save children from this situation, sexual and contraceptive education in schools, establishment of child labor related laws, and providing shelters to the victims are needed."

After a motion to suspend the meeting for 10 minutes, the delegates moved to another informal debate where they tried to organize working groups and to discuss the agenda with other delegates to explore the possibility to work together on a Working Paper (WP).

After two more countries spoke on their policies on Agenda 1 in another formal debate, the delegates broke into an informal debate, where they practiced making speeches in their committee groups, which were divided into two or three small groups, and their mentors gave them advice.

The debate then went back to a formal session and four more countries made policy speeches. Somalia (ECOSOC), for example, highlighted its problem of literacy rate in its policy speech. Motoko Akabe, a junior in the Department of Liberal Arts and Global Studies at the Nagoya University of Foreign Studies, said, "Somalia suffers from a tremendous lack of educational programs that leads to 62.2% of its total population above age 15 cannot read and write." She called for "material support of giving education and knowledge on sustainable living rather than financial support from other countries to maintain sufficiency."



After the policy speeches, a motion was raised to suspend the meeting for 40 minutes and the delegates again broke into their committee groups to discuss their policies and WPs.

The GA was divided into three groups. In one of the groups, the delegate of Australia mentioned the urgent need to discuss the implementation of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), which regulates the spread of nuclear weapons and promotes the peaceful use of
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Some of the cases when a motion is requested:

- to ask for an agenda setting
- to suspend the meeting for a defined period
- to set or change the time allotted to each speaker
- to close debate to go into the voting process on amendments and DRs
- to add no more speakers to the speakers' list
- to have a roll call vote
- to adopt a DR by acclamation
- to adjourn the meeting

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nuclear energy. He also spoke on the increasing threats of terrorism. The delegate of New Zealand suggested strengthening of the Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty (FMCT), which aims to prevent nuclear materials from spreading throughout the world, and the expansion of the Nuclear Weapon Free Zone (NWFZ) in the northern hemisphere. The mentor suggested that the discussion should include ways to achieve those goals.

In one of the two ECOSOC groups, Somalia appealed for help with the problem of pirates, such as attacks on fishing boats in the nearby water that caused extensive damage. A delegate of Somalia said that this is aggravated by a lack of education, and asked other delegates for cooperation to educate people and prevent them from becoming pirates. The group also discussed how to solve the problem of the high unemployment rate in African countries; suggested solutions include learning a foreign language.

The delegates of UNHCR were divided into two groups. In one group, Uganda spoke on the usability of drones to find water resources to cope with drought. Somalia talked about the usefulness of earth system models that allow prediction by computer of environmental changes, such as changes of sea levels and drought. She also recommended the Agroecosystem approved by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and already introduced by some Latin American countries, frameworks to establish policy and encourage the use of natural energy resources, and organization of conferences to develop sustainable farming.

In the SC, Japan advocated the importance of working with South Korea, North Korea, and Russia, as well as China and the US in Six-Party Talks, which have been not held since 2007, to prevent farther nuclear tests and to deal with the issue of peaceful nuclear energy in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). New Zealand called for a stronger sanction on DPRK, and ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), by eight remaining countries of the 44 nuclear capable countries, needed to come into force.

(Honoka Morita, Takahiro Kamo, Shione Shiraishi, Ryo Ueno, Hiroka Abe, Hiroko Shiotani and Sae Oishi contributed to this article.)



for cooperation to educate

“It is important that you make eye contact with every person in the committee. You do not have to say a lot but you just want to specify important points that you will slowly and clearly state in the speech. Also, try to use specific numbers in the speech.” Nanako Ueda

Suggestions From Mentors

“You should explain in more details, not just abstract improvements. It would be better if you could go on to say how to improve it, or why you focus on that part of improvement, and what effects it would bring if you implement that improvement.” Tomomi Hashimoto

“You need to make convincing and memorable speeches. For that you will need quotes. You cannot just share data because that would be the same as most of the other people.” Emily Johnson

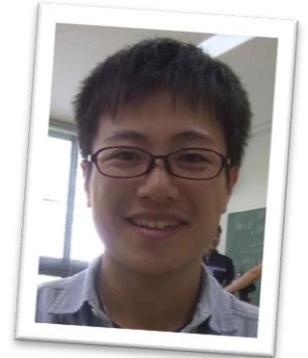
“Please listen to other's ideas and do not focus on your ideas too much. If you are stuck saying something, e.g. your working policy, then ask others what they think about the policy and wait until they give you a response.” Takashi Kishimoto

Interview

For this issue we interviewed four head delegates for the NMUN committees who have experienced Model United Nations.

Make Your Speech Strong with Your Own Ideas

Koyo Hayakawa (Uganda, ECOSOC) said it was difficult to gather information he really wanted in English, because the problem he is dealing with is not well known. Initially, he only thought Uganda was not developed and was just a recipient of support. But in the process of the investigation, he discovered that Uganda needs supports certainly but it is trying to tackle problems like developing a national plan by itself. He said that making a speech in English is hard because with the limited information it makes him nervous and insecure. So having his own ideas and expressing them aggressively is important, he suggested. (Tomomi Yamazaki)



Finding a New Aspect of New Zealand

Miyu Higashi (New Zealand, SC) says making a speech in front of people makes her nervous especially in this NMUN course because she is always concerned about whether the audiences understand what she wants to say since Japanese people have fewer facial expressions and bodily gestures. As for researching New Zealand, Higashi works on it positively. "I often compare with the last conference where I was a delegate of Jamaica. New Zealand is a developed country so it's much easier to find information online than it was for Jamaica. Also, I enjoy finding new aspects of New Zealand." Through this conference, she hopes to improve herself. "No matter how hard I work, there is always someone better. I suffer from fear of defeat, which makes me always motivated." (Honoka Morita)



Filling the Language Handicap

Takumi Nakamura (Australia, GA) is energetically preparing for NMUN. When writing the position paper, he had difficulty having a broad perspective as a delegate. He had to think about other's positions because Australia is one of the developed countries, which has an influence in determining the direction of the conference. He also tries to assume how the conference will be going, and is preparing phrases, verbs, or nouns that can be used in various situations. Because of the language handicap, it's important that Japanese delegates deeply understand the sources written in English by absorbing them in Japanese. (Ayami Tomae)



Keep It Positive

Nina Nomura (Somalia, UNHCR) had very little knowledge about Somalia at first when she started writing position paper. However, Nina read so many English articles on the country and made contact with so many scholars and experts on African countries that she now knows more about Somalia than anybody. Nina remembers to express Somalia's policies in a friendly fashion in her speeches but to convey her points strongly to other delegates, who have similar situations with Somalia and possibly may cooperate with her to reach her goal. "The most important thing is not to be shy and afraid of making mistakes. We have to enjoy this opportunity in a positive way." (Yuzuri Funabashi)

