

THE NMUN KOBE TIMES



Kobe City University of Foreign Studies

With the Fall Comes Highly Spirited Delegates More Confident and Eager to Represent Their Countries



As they wrapped up their Position Papers (PP), would-be participants in the upcoming National Model United Nations (NMUN) to be held in Kobe strengthened their positions as representatives of six countries of Australia, New Zealand, Ghana and Serbia, as well as Somalia and Uganda. At the third NMUN session held at the Kobe City University of Foreign Studies (KCUFS) on October 15, 2016, 36 students displayed their passion to serve their countries, as they grew more confident to represent their countries with the knowledge and policy ideas they nurtured over the last three months.

The day's class opened with a lecture by Nina Nomura, a delegate of Somalia (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees: UNHCR), who is a sophomore at KCUFS's

English Studies Department, on how to make a speech. In the NMUN, delegates make speeches when setting agendas, participating in formal debates and voting.

Nomura explained four steps that should be taken in a speech. Firstly, delegates should explain the purpose of the speech—how the topic is essential to the committee. Second, they should introduce the countries' policies. Third they should provide background or evidence of the problem, and last, they should briefly rephrase the points they mentioned. It is important that the delegates should talk not only from their country's position, but also from global viewpoints. Delegates also need to follow certain protocols when they speak; start with "Thank you honorable chair and distinguished delegates;" and end with "Thank you."

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Nomura also gave examples of how to speak in front of people. Speakers should have a confident and sophisticated attitude. She recommends that they look into eyes of other delegates, use gestures and control their voices by changing tone or tempo to attract attention. “Take the chance to express your ideas. If you do not take an action, nothing will be changed in your committee,” Nomura said. After her presentation, all the delegates practiced their speeches for 20 minutes before moving on to the next presentation.

Koyo Hayakawa, a delegate of Uganda (United Nations Economic and Social Council: ECOSOC) who is a senior at KCUFS’s International Studies Department, spoke on how to make a Draft Resolution (DR). A DR consists of two parts: preambular clauses, which address some problems that call for actions, and operative clauses, which show concrete plans for the problems mentioned in preambular clauses. According to Hayakawa, good DRs generally contain four elements: references to international agreements and past resolutions in preambular clauses; references to factual situations or incidents using a 5W1H framework or some other logical progression in operative clauses; sets of preambular and operative clauses that are connected with each other; and the inclusion of special participles (preambular clauses) and present tense verbs (operative clauses) at the beginning, such as “Recalling” and “Urges.”

While Working Papers (WP) can be changed freely, there is a limitation in changing a DR. Only operative clauses can be modified—in a process called “an amendment,” which is made to strengthen consensus on a resolution—and delegates need signatures of sponsors (authors of the DR) and signatories (supporters of the DR) to do so. When all of them agree, the amendment is called a friendly amendment and the DR is amended. If even one of them is opposed, it is called an unfriendly amendment and will be voted on after debate closes.

During the amendment process, which takes place between the end of the third day and fourth day, delegates have to be conscious of what is going on because their policy may be removed from the DR by other delegates who try to change clauses in order to make the DR more suitable for their country. Hayakawa suggested that delegates try to talk other delegates into favoring their ideas, or to put their ideas into other DRs, in order to keep their policies alive.

The conference moves to voting on DRs after: 1) exhaustion of speakers’ list (all the delegates in the list finish their speeches)/closure of debate, 2) consideration of unfriendly amendments (speeches by two delegates each in favor of and against the amendment followed by a placard vote), 3) a procedural vote on consideration of any motions for a division of the question, followed by a substantive vote to accept or reject the division of the question if the motion passes, and 4) consideration of the methods of voting.

There are three ways to vote; placard vote, roll call vote and vote by acclamation. Placard vote means that delegates vote by showing their placards to be counted. Roll call vote means that when a delegate’s country’s name is called, the delegate will express his or her opinion by saying either “Yes”, “No” or “Abstention.” Vote by acclamation means to pass a draft resolution by consensus. About 80 percent of resolutions passed at the UN are adopted by consensus.



After practicing a mock vote, the delegates broke into the four committee groups and discussed the policies of the country they each represented, putting forward their ideas for each agenda using supporting reasons from their PP which they wrote for all to see on the white boards. Their mentors and the head delegates gave advice on the ideas presented to help them develop their WP policies.

In the General Assembly (General Assembly: GA), their positions were varied according to each country. The delegates of Somalia, for example, emphasized the fight against terrorism. They stressed the importance of monitoring illicit trafficking of nuclear material, which can be transformed into nuclear weapons. The delegates of New Zealand supported the pointed out that the UN should not overlook the illicit transfer of arms to non-state groups and should add SALW (Small Arms and Light Weapons) to the UN Register of Conventional Arms.

In the ECOSOC, delegates tried to help each other by finding out other countries' contradictions or a lack of information in their policies. For instance, regarding the idea of the delegates of Somalia to solve domestic problems through education by the teacher-training program undertaken by the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), it was pointed out that the approach lacks a universal point of view. Nanako Ueda, the committee's Assistant Director and the group's mentor, suggested the delegates watch for regional platforms on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR, see "Did you know?" below), the other agenda, in order to catch up with the latest developments.

In the SC, the delegate of Japan emphasized empowerment of local women, citing a discussion in WAW! Tokyo 2015: World Assembly for Women, held in August 2015. Regarding the situation in North Korea, the NZ delegate mentioned the importance of reinforcing international frameworks to control and stop proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

In the UNHCR, the delegates of Uganda, Ghana and New Zealand called for education programs for displaced children, while their Australian counterpart urged the establishment of mental health care programs to help mentally scarred child refugees. A delegate of Serbia presented a housing construction project financed by the EU, effectively utilizing unused land to provide shelters for refugees. It would also create jobs for refugees, she said.

All the delegates turned in their final draft PP by the end of the day. The delegates were assigned to prepare speeches for agenda setting and to formulate WP ideas, two for each topic, for the next session to be held on October 22.



Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) and SALW (Small Arms and Light Weapons) to the UN Register of Conventional Arms.

~Did you know?~

Disaster risk reduction (DRR) is "the concept and practice of reducing disaster risks through systematic efforts to analyze and reduce the causal factors of disasters." (<http://www.unisdr.org/>) To implement this goal, the United Nations Secretariat for International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) was established in 2002 based on the Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action for a Safer World that was adopted at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction held in Yokohama in 1994.

Since the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake on January 17, 1995, which killed more than 6,400 people, Hyogo Prefecture and Kobe City have been at the forefront in research, education and cooperation on DRR. The International Recovery Platform (IRP) was launched in Kobe to support the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action adopted in the 2nd World Conference on Disaster Reduction held in the city in 2005. In 2007, UNISDR opened one of its offices in the city. On 23 November, UN Forum on DRR will be held as part of NMUN's opening events.

We found some students from overseas among the delegates at NMUN. Let's listen to their stories about what brought them to KCUFS and NMUN.

From Germany

The three German students Anna Deekeling, Nora Halsternberg, and Kjell Schwarz are exchange students from the Modern East Asia Department at the University of Duisburg-Essen, Germany. They have been studying East Asia as their major, and started their exchange term in this university from this semester. During the upcoming NMUN, they will be playing the role of the head delegates of Japan. Anna talked about her interest in Japan since she was living in a city in Germany where there is a Japanese district. Kjell started to study Japanese in 2010 and decided to study abroad in order to improve his language skill. They enrolled in the Japanese language program at KCUFS, and additionally applied to participate in the NMUN as a big opportunity to learn more about Japan and interact in international society as representatives of Japan. Nora told us that she found it difficult to do research in order to fill in her PP since she can find few sources in either English or German. It is already hard to express their policies and opinions of a country they are not very familiar with, let alone in front of the large group of Japanese students who are participating in the NMUN. However they are looking forward to gaining some knowledge about Japanese politics, and to debate and negotiate with people from different cultural backgrounds. (Yuzuri Funabashi)



From left, Kjell, Nora, Anna



From China

Dai Danyan is a first-year graduate student at KCUFS, studying in the English Studies Program (Interpreting and Translation Unit). She is from Shaoxing in Zhejiang Province in China and has studied Japanese for two years at a university in China. As her dream was to improve her Japanese language skill and to experience Japanese society and culture, she transferred to the Department of English Education at the Kansai University of International Studies as a third-year student. After graduation, she decided to move onto the master's program at KCUFS to study translation between English and Japanese.

When Dai happened to be in the same class with some of the NMUN veterans in the previous year, she was fascinated by their excellence in English. That motivated her participation in the upcoming conference. Through this opportunity, she hopes to improve not only her English skill, but also self-management skill in order to overcome difficulties. "I realized that I need more time to study for the NMUN than I had expected," Dai says.

She will be representing New Zealand (SC). "I share information with my partner more than once a week, and as I've heard before, I found that Japanese are really good at cooperating with others." (Honoka Morita)

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