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# THE NMUN KOBE TIMES



Kobe City University of Foreign Studies

## NMUN Course Kicks Off at KCUFS, Awaiting November Kobe Conference

Hello! We are student journalists at KCUFS. We will be covering the NMUN Conference in Kobe to be held on Nov. 20-26.

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Preparation classes began on July 9, 2016, for the delegates of the NMUN—National Model United Nations—to be held on November 20 through 26 in Kobe for the first time in Japan. Kobe City University of Foreign Studies (KCUFS) will be hosting the conference. Thirty-three students, including 30 students from KCUFS—23 delegates and seven student journalists to cover the upcoming event—participated in the session.

The first class opened with the MUN-style roll-call—participants were called by the combination of country name and committee they belong to—and they responded by raising their placards, saying “present.” Then as the student delegates did not know each other, they were asked to go out into the hallway to introduce themselves, their countries and committees.

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Prof. Lori Zenuk-Nishide

In the following lecture, Professor Lori Zenuk-Nishide explained how the United Nations (UN)— established in 1945 for world peace, security and human rights, and now consists of 193 countries—works. She went in detail on the operations of four organizations, including General Assembly (GA), Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and Security Council (SC), which NMUN Japan simulates. “You have all been studying the United Nations...through Model UN, you will really be able to experience it because you really have to know what your organ or part of the United Nation is all about,” Prof. Zenuk-Nishide said.

Hidekazu Tanaka, a senior of the English Studies Department who is the Assistant Secretary-General in the upcoming conference, talked about "Position papers," a written statement of each country's position on agendas to be discussed in the upcoming conference, which the delegates will be writing before the conference convenes to submit to the directors of each committee.

The student delegates discussed in groups of four to six how a position paper is different from usual essays. Tanaka pointed out that in position papers, the subject should be not “I” nor “We,” but the country, and that it often refers to international treaties, organizations and country policy. The delegates should also become familiar with specific words used in the international political arena.



Hidekazu Tanaka

Sachiho Tani, a senior of the International Relations Department who is the Secretary-General in the conference, explained how NMUN meetings proceed. First of all, she said, there are two kinds of debates—formal debate and informal debate. The former is when delegates make a speech in front of everyone, as well as decide how the conference will proceed. The latter is also known as “Caucus,” in which delegates are engaged in group work, to write and combine working papers or action plans, and to make amendments on draft resolutions after working papers have been submitted.

Tani also spoke on how to research to write position papers. She said it is important to base their paper on numerical facts, scientific facts, economic constraints, and political reasons, as well as cultural and regional background. She recommended referring to government sources on the Internet.



Sachiho Tani



Four Assistant Directors, who will be chairs of the four committees in the upcoming conference—Tomomi Hashimoto in charge of Security Council; Saeko Yoshimatsu, General Assembly First Committee; Emily Johnson, UNHCR; and Nanako Ueda, ECOSOC—introduced themselves and briefed their committee members on the structure, roles and mandates. They are seniors and juniors of the KCUFS' International Relations Department.

The delegates are required to state an opinion from the country, which they are going to be in charge, but not their individual opinion. At the end of the session, Professor Zenuk-Nishide asked the participants, "What does it mean to be delegates?" She continued, "It means you are ambassadors. You are not working for the United Nations. You are an ambassador for your country. That is what you have to think. You represent your government. You are working for your country. That is your job. So take it seriously."

Model United Nations (MUN) was designed to offer students active learning opportunities through simulation of actual UN meetings. Delegates play the role of diplomats of assigned countries, and try to achieve consensus and solve problems by discussing and negotiating with diplomats from other countries. It was first introduced by Harvard University in 1927 as a Model Assembly of the League of Nations. The program adopted its current format after the creation of the United Nations in 1946. The National Collegiate Conference Association (NCCA) was established



From left to right, Hashimoto, Yoshimatsu, Johnson and Ueda.

in 1968 as a non-profit educational organization to run the conference.

Every spring, NMUN is held in NY, with the final day at the UN headquarters. About 6000 people from around the world participate. The first overseas NMUN was held in China, in the fall of 2008, and was held in other countries every two years until 2013 when it became an annual event. KCUFS succeeded to be chosen to host the 2016 NMUN, when it marks the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its founding.

It is expected 350-400 student delegates from across the world will be participating in the upcoming conference in Kobe. A UN forum, opening ceremony and first session on November 23 will take place at KCUFS, and then, the conference will move to Kobe International Conference Center on the following days.

KCUFS students will be representing Australia, New Zealand, Ghana and Serbia, as well as Somalia and Uganda. This summer, delegates will be writing their position papers on two agendas for each committee, which will be announced on the 1st of August by NCCA.

The Background Guides for the four committees are now being co-written by the Assistant Directors. At the beginning of the NMUN conference, one of the two agendas will be chosen by a delegates vote. At the end of the July 9 session, participants were asked to submit the first draft of their position paper by September 4<sup>th</sup>, prior to the next session to be held on September 24.





~Did you know?~

Japan is President of the Security Council for the month of July 2016 for the first time in six years. The presidency is assigned to one of the 15 countries of the Security Council, where Japan became one of its non-permanent members this year.

In addition to the delegates from KCUFS, the Consortium of Universities in Hyogo and Consortium of Foreign Studies in Japan (Gaidai Rengo), there were two delegates from the Japan Model United Nations (JMUN) in the opening session, who are also KCUFS students that came as observers.

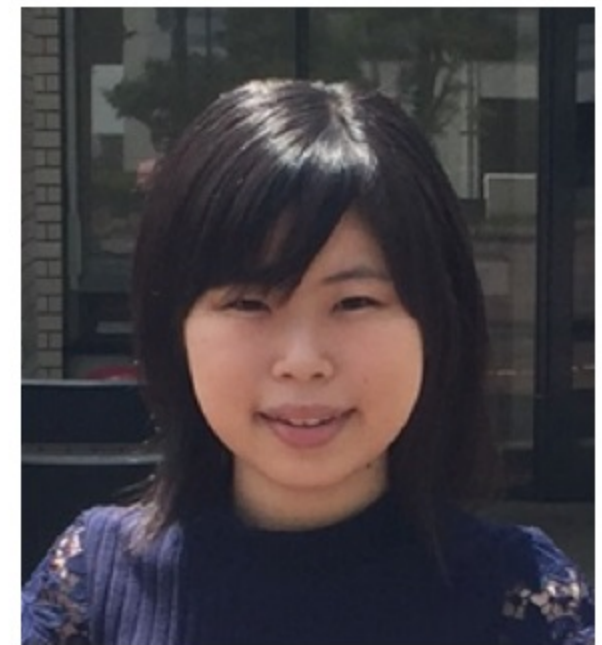
Ayumi Komiya, a junior of Russian Studies Department and a member of JMUN Kobe Branch, told in an interview with a student journalist, that she was excited to have been able to be immersed in the atmosphere of NMUN already in the session, from handshakes with other delegates to all-English discussions. She said participating in MUN is a great way to learn global issues.

Sakiko Umetani, also a junior of Russian Studies Department and a member of JMUN Kobe Branch, hopes to make a lot of friends and improve her English skills through participating in the conference. Having experienced other MUN conferences, she said she realized that the most important skill was communication abilities both in English and Japanese.

(Takahiro Kamo, Sae Oishi, Hiroko Shiotani, Shione Shiraishi, and Ayami Tomae contributed to this article.)

## Eager to Know More about Ghana

Nao Takato, a third year student at KCUFS who majors in English, will participate in this conference as a delegate of Republic of Ghana (GA). "I didn't have any idea about Ghana except for the cacao trade," she says. Yet, she isn't pessimistic. That's because she's interested in Ghana. She wants to know more about the country. "Participants in NMUN conferences are professional so I believe I will be able to learn various ways of thinking from them and we will have a mutual influence on each other. I'll prepare for the conference and cooperate with my partner." Actually, this is not her first time to take part in MUN. She was a delegate of Republic of Angola recently in the Japan University English Model United Nations. (Ryo Ueno & Honoka Morita)



## Wanting to Help Newcomers



As an experienced delegate who participated in NMUN in New York this spring, Taichi Maemura, a sophomore at KCUFS, said that he wants to help new delegates. He is interested in international issues and, he said, it is fascinating to debate about international problems from many angles in NMUN. In New York, he was one of the delegates of Jamaica, but in the upcoming conference he will be a delegate of Serbia. He wanted to represent the country because he majors in Russian and there are some resemblances between Russia and Serbia as they share Slavic languages. (Tomomi Yamazaki)