

THE NMUN KOBE TIMES



Kobe City University of Foreign Studies

Second Day of Cultural Visits Wrap Up Prior to the Opening of NMUN in Kobe



Some 240 overseas delegates to the National Model United Nations (NMUN) Japan completed the final day of relaxation and education in Kyoto and Hiroshima on Tuesday, just a day before the opening of the conference. The second day of the tours followed the itineraries of the first day, except that there was no visit to Kinkaku-ji temple in Kyoto. Also the departure of the Shinkansen (“bullet Train”) from Shin-Kobe Station was delayed for about 15 minutes due to a magnitude 7.4 earthquake that struck off the coast of Fukushima at 5:59 am on Tuesday. The delay, however, was recovered by the time the delegates arrived at the Peace Park in Hiroshima from Miyajima, thanks to the time-keeping efforts of the student volunteers.

The end of the cultural visit program marks the beginning of the conference. Prior to the first session by four committees—General Assembly (GA), Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), Security Council (SC), and High

Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)—late in the afternoon on Wednesday, a UN Forum will be held at the main hall of Kobe City University of Foreign Studies (KCUFS). The forum will be followed by the opening ceremony, which features a keynote speech by H.E. Motohide Yoshikawa, former Japanese Ambassador to the UN. After the keynote speech, Sachiko Tani, Secretary-General, will declare the opening.

During their Hiroshima tour on Tuesday, the participants stayed for about two hours in Miyajima, a 10-minute ferryboat ride from Hatsukaichi, Hiroshima Prefecture. After enjoying Miyajima, they traveled to the Peace Park in Hiroshima, where they saw the Atomic Bomb Dome, the Children’s Peace Monument, and the Cenotaph for the A-bomb Victims. At the hall of the Hiroshima Peace Museum, Keiko Ogura, founder of Hiroshima Interpreters for Peace (HIP), a non-profit organization that offers volunteer interpreters and translators

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for non-Japanese speaking visitors to the city, spoke to the group about her experience as a survivor. She spoke for an hour, at the end of which she received a standing ovation. The previous day's delegates also had the experience of listening to Keiko Ogura.

In Kyoto, the participants visited Fushimi Inari Shrine and Kiyomizu Temple. Because of some unexpected contingencies, they could not make it to Kinkaku-ji.

These visits have likely motivated some delegates to work harder in the conference. Christopher Pridat, a sophomore at the University of Erfurt, Germany, who visited Hiroshima, said, "Seeing today's buildings in the city, it is hard to believe it was once destroyed. It testifies that we can overcome the past. It is remarkable." He further realized, "It is ironic that we still cannot get rid of our own weapons of mass destruction when we already know what they could do to us. As a delegate of China (SC), I will work hard to convince the US

to get rid of its weapons."

At the UN Forum on Wednesday, Kaoru Nemoto, Director of the UN Information Centre (UNIC) in Tokyo will deliver her opening remarks on "The 60-Year Relationship between the United Nations and Japan." Her remarks will be followed by a panel discussion entitled, "Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction: Japanese and Global Perspectives." Participants in the discussion include Yuki Matsuoka, head of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) in Japan; Yoshiaki Kawata, Executive Director, Disaster Renovation Institute Director and Chair Professor, Research Centre for Social Safety Sciences, Kansai University; Kimio Takeya, Distinguished Technical Advisor to the President, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA); and Sanda Wu Wen-Hsiu, Chairperson and CEO, Kokusai Kogyo Co., Ltd. Co-Founder and Director, Japan Asia Group Limited. The UN Forum audience will include 70 students from 12 local high schools.

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KCUFS President Chuta Funavama Welcomes



As the president of the host university, I sincerely welcome delegates and their faculty advisors who traveled all the way to Kobe. It is such an honor to host the NMUN for the first time in Japan on the occasion of commemorating 60 years since the country's accession to the UN and the 70th anniversary of the founding of this university. NMUN offers a great opportunity for students to communicate with other people in a conference setting. Students who play the role of a delegate will develop their skills in communication and negotiation through discussion with other delegates. I hope our university will be able to contribute to the global community by nurturing human resources who are capable of coping with the complicated problems of international politics. Model United Nations (MUN) is one of the most effective ways to learn the process of solving such problems. KCUFS is proud that it took the first step when we incorporated an MUN course into our official curriculum. I hope it will spread out throughout Japan as a college program.

Hiroshima Survivor Speaks about Overcoming Tragedy

Keiko Ogura was eight years old when the atomic bomb was dropped. She was exposed to the bomb at her home in the Ushita area north of central Hiroshima, some 2.4 kilometers from ground zero. She started her speech by briefly sharing her life story—how she came to study English, which she did to make a living when her late husband passed away in 1979. Her first assignment was to interpret for a German journalist who was a friend of her husband when he came to Hiroshima in 1980.

Ogura explained the effects of the atomic bomb—what she saw from the nearby hill the next day, how people died, craving for water, how they lived with the fear of the possible aftereffects of the bomb and prejudices against them, and what it meant to possess a survivor's guilt. Ogura said, "What I saw was a hell. [At that time] people could only think of how to survive until tomorrow. But the reconstruction of the city is a living legacy. It shows we can overcome tragedy." At the end of her lecture, she told the delegates, "We should solve problems through discussions. You have been doing it and that's great. And you already started acting for peace when you decided to come here."

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In the opening ceremony, which will also be attended by 55 local high school students, H.E. Motohide Yoshikawa, former Japanese Ambassador to the UN, will make the keynote speech before the opening declaration.

After a 30-minute break, the first committee session will be held. In this opening session, each committee will discuss the agenda order through formal and informal debates, and set the agenda. The agenda of one committee will be selected from two topics, which were announced on Aug. 1. The



Photo: Keiko Ogura

delegates will consider their assigned countries' benefits or social problems, and try to reflect their opinions in the discussion. While the first sessions are being held, 59 high school and KCUFS students will take a walking tour conducted by the KCUFS students Organizing Committee. The Committee members are expected to introduce the concept and procedures of the NMUN.

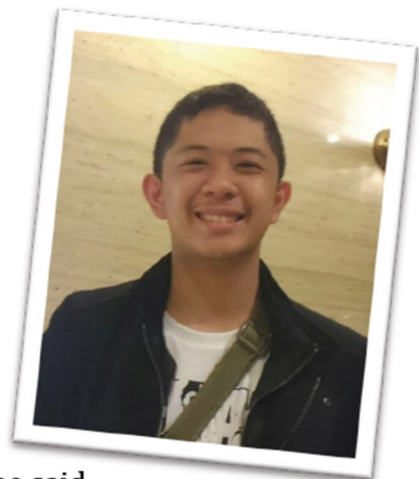


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Ready and Thrilled to Participate in NMUN

“All the delegates from the Philippines are a bit anxious because it is our first time to participate in a major MUN. But also we are excited because we have prepared for it for a long time,” says Alec Skeet Makabali. He will represent Nigeria (ECOSOC). As a head delegate, he has practiced speeches and writing for five months for NMUN. He also looked forward to coming to Japan. He is interested in Japanese food—especially *ramen* and *sukiyaki*. Moreover, he hopes the delegates and he can gain good experience through this conference. To bring about this good experience, it was important for all his delegates to tackle training in strict yet friendly ways, he believes. “It is nice to travel to another country, and an opportunity like this conference gives me a thrill because it is always nice to meet people from different countries,” he said.



Carry experience to next conference held in their countries

Xin Guan, a student from Northwestern Polytechnical University in China, hopes to carry this experience back to China as she prepares for the NMUN conference to be held in her home country in 2018. She is a linguistic supporter for her university’s science majors who are the delegates of the Republic of Austria (GA). Their university’s NMUN team offers students the chance to participate in the conference annually and supports them both financially and academically. In the process of their researching, however, they had difficulty with the “firewall,” China’s restriction of browsing foreign websites. In addition, Xin has struggled to learn methods of critical thinking and to compose logically structured essays. Since China is going to be a host

country of this conference, she expects to observe and learn as much about

NMUN as possible. After returning to her home country, Xin and the other delegates will help to prepare her university’s NMUN team, via academic courses and training, to host a successful conference, ten years after the previous conference hosted in China.



Unforgettable Hiroshima Visits

Javiera Villarroel Veliz from Universidad de Santiago de Chile, said that it was exciting to visit Hiroshima. She hadn’t had such experiences in Chile other than the tragedy of the serious infringement of human rights by a dictator in her own country, the late August Pinochet. While she was in Hiroshima, she was most impressed by the Children’s Peace Monument, because she learned the story of Sadako Sasaki, who died of leukemia 10 years after she was exposed to the atomic bomb. Sadako’s story was told by a student volunteer guide. Students made paper cranes on the bullet train on the way to Hiroshima, which will be donated to the Peace Park after the conference.

The participants who took part in the cultural visit to Hiroshima on Tuesday were fortunate because a wedding ceremony was being held at the Itsukushima Shrine. The couple wore traditional wedding attire—the bride in pure white Japanese kimono with *wataboshi* (a white hat worn by the bride during the wedding ceremony) and the bridegroom in a black *haori* (coat) and dark-colored *hakama* (Japanese trousers).

Villarroel and her teammates were so excited to see it. She said that the scenery was beautiful and this visit became a memory that would last for the rest of their lives.



RAMEN

By Takahiro Kamo

-Its Introduction and History-

Ramen, which is a kind of noodle, is one of Japan's most popular dishes. Wherever you go, you can find a ramen house, often with people standing in line to eat there. Nowadays, ramen houses have found a market in some world cities, so international people can also love it. The chief ingredients of ramen are noodle and soup. The type of noodle varies: thick or thin, straight or wrinkled, soft, medium, or firm. There are varieties of soup, too, and they are the key when you decide which Ramen you will have. The soup is typically based on pork bone, miso, soy, salt, and a new variation, tomato base. The ingredients, the hardness of noodles, and the taste of the soup vary from house to house.



Ramen is known around the world as a Japanese food, but it actually was derived from China. It was introduced into Japan as a kind of Chinese food at the end of 19th century. At first, ramen was cooked and eaten in Chinatown in Japan, and then it spread into some regions in Japan in the 1910s. At that time Ramen was still called Chinese noodle, and it was so cheap, tasty and plentiful that it was eaten by the working class. Then, it spread throughout Japan, for the rice crop was poor right after World War II, and at the same time, the huge amount of the wheat flour which was made into ramen was imported from the U.S.

And then Cup Noodle arrived on the market and made ramen popular around the world. Momofuku Ando, founder of Nissin, the famous food company, invented the Cup Noodle in 1971. You just pour hot water and wait three minutes. Nissin has sold 40 billion cups in total.

In Kobe, there are a lot of tasty ramen spots. I will introduce some with their characteristics of soup, and if you are interested, please stop by there. Ippudo (790yen~), near Motomachi station, pork based soup. Tensonkourin (650yen~), near Sannomiya station, soy soup or salt based. Ichiran (790yen~), along the Ikuta Road, pork based soup (very popular, so you may have to wait in line), and Ramen Taro (650yen~), along the Tor Road, where you can choose from every kind of soup.

Cool Japan!

By Ryo Ueno

Do you like Japanese animation, such as ONE PIECE, NARUTO, or Dragon Ball? Today, Japanese animation is very popular around the world. Many foreign people start to learn Japanese because they like Japanese animation, called *anime* for short. Anime gives foreigners an opportunity to learn Japanese. Not only in Japan but also around the world, animation events are held and many people dress up as their favorite character from comics or anime. Here are some special anime events held in Japan.



AnimeJapan 2016

Here is Everything about Anime.

logo by courtesy of AnimeJapan

【AnimeJapan 2016】

This event was last held at Tokyo Big Sight on March 25-27, 2016, with the largest number of visitors yet, about 140,000 people. There are many sections in AnimeJapan: the main area, the creation area, stage, food and goods and business area. The main area is divided into five sections: Food Park, Food Park Theater, cosplayers' world, premium collaboration and WALL OF ANIMATION 2016. There are exhibitions of many anime, merchandise sales, PR about many kinds of content and services, many stages and so on.

AnimeJapan 2017 will be held March 24-26.

【 KYOTO INTERNATIONAL MANGA ANIME FAIR 2016 】

This was held September 17-18, 2016 in Kyoto. The event started in 2012. The name is often shortened to "KYO-MAF." In 2016, the number of visitors hit the record, about 45,000 people. KYO-MAF has three venues, Miyakomesse, KYOTO INTERNATIONAL MANGA MUSEUM and ROHM Theatre Kyoto. In Miyakomesse (the main venue), visitors could buy collaboration goods, see voice actors' talk shows, cosplay and so on. In MANGA MUSEUM, there were exhibitions featuring DAGASHIKASHI, Gag manga, and figures made by KAIYODO. In ROHM Theatre, the Detective Conan 20th anniversary concert was held.



京都国際マンガ・アニメフェア
KYOTO INTERNATIONAL MANGA ANIME FAIR

2016.9.17 (土) 18 (日)

logo by courtesy of KYO-MAF



logo by courtesy of animate

Have you ever seen this logo? If you want anime goods, you should go to animate, a shop that specializes in anime. You can buy comics, character goods, DVDs, CDs and games in these shops throughout Japan. There's a Sannomiya shop just a 5-minute walk from the Sannomiya station. Also in Sannomiya, there is an animate cafe.

Do you know Makoto Shinkai? He is an animation creator and movie director. He is famous for "5 Centimeters Per Second" and "The Garden of Words." His latest work, "Your Name," is popular and many Japanese people have seen it repeatedly. "Your Name" has caused a social phenomenon in Japan. It will have a world-wide release, too.

Shinkai's movies' backgrounds are very beautiful and they are one of the reasons why he is so famous. When I saw "Your Name," I was deeply impressed by the images of scenery.

References: Anime Japan (www.anime-japan.jp)
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