

UNAI MEMBER ACTIVITY REPORT 2016/2017

Kobe City University of Foreign Studies

Japan

During the 2016/2017 reporting period, Kobe City University of Foreign Studies undertook a number of activities that underscore its commitment to UNAI and its principles. The following examples stand out as particularly noteworthy:

1. Sustainability / Global Citizenship

1) Model United Nations Kobe City University of Foreign Studies offered four Model

United Nations (MUN) courses where students participated in three Model United Nations Conferences led by Associate Professor Lori Zenuk-Nishide and Professor Donna Tatsuki. To empower other universities in Japan, one of the MUN courses preparing students to National Model United Nations (NMUN) Japan was open to students in the Hyogo Consortium (52 universities in Hyogo Prefecture) and Gaidai Rengo (7 Foreign Language Universities in Japan).



The first conference was the National Model United Nations (NMUN) March 27-31, 2016 in New York where the delegation represented Jamaica. As part of



the preparation the delegates met with the Jamaican Ambassador to Japan H. E. Mr. C.P. Ricardo Allicock and also a representative Jamaica Permanent Mission to the United Nations. The delegation also went on a tour of the United Nations and members met with Maher Nasser who is the Director of the Outreach Division in the United Nations Department of Public Information and Akiko Ito, Chief, Secretariat for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities - United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

The second conference was the 7th Annual Japan University English Model United Nations (JUEMUN) hosted by Kyoto University of Foreign Studies June 24-26 for 300 students to mark the 60th Anniversary of Japan's UN Membership. The conference theme was “A Quality of Life for All” focusing on SDGs 3, 4, and 11 with the protection and care of refugees. JUEMUN aims to follow the principles and practices of the UN4MUN organization juemun.org.



The third conference was NMUN Japan in Kobe from November 20-26 that Kobe City University of Foreign Studies in partnership with the National Collegiate Conference Association (NCCA) hosted in Japan for the first time with 377 students and faculty from 11 countries, supported by 300 volunteers <https://www.nmun.org/conference-archives/japan-2016.html>. The conference preparation stakeholders in addition to faculty and administrators included three years of capacity building leadership from students, Secretary-General Sachiko

Tani and Assistant Secretary General Hidekazu Tanaka. At the NMUN Japan conference a United Nations Forum was held with opening remarks from Kaoru Nemoto (Director, UN Information Centre in Tokyo) on the 60 Year Relationship between the United Nations and Japan. This was followed by a panel discussion with different stakeholders on “Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction: Japanese and Global Perspectives” moderated by Yuki Matsuoka (Head, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) Office in Japan). Panelists included Yoshiaki Kawata (Executive Director Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institution); Kimio Takeya (Distinguished Technical Advisor to the President Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)); and Sandra Wu Wen-Hsiu (Chairperson and CEO Kokusai Kogyo Co. Ltd. Co-Founder and Director, Japan Asia Group Limited). There was also a faculty lecture by Keisuke Nakashima (Kobe City University of Foreign Studies, Senior Associate Global Aging Institute) on “The Challenge of Global Aging”. At the opening ceremony a message was read from Madame Sadako Ogata (former United Nations High Commissioner on Refugees) who started Model United Nations in Japan. Two of her former students, H.E. Motohide Yoshikawa (Former Japanese Ambassador to the UN) and Prof.



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Toshiya Hoshino (Former Board Member/Vice-President, Osaka University) were keynote speakers. Conference participants led by Kobe City University of Foreign Studies student guides had the opportunity to visit World Heritage Sites in Kyoto, Hiroshima and Miyajima as well as Kobe, UNESCO City of Design. In Hiroshima participants were able to listen to an atomic bomb survivor and visit the Peace Memorial Museum and A-bomb dome. During the NMUN Japan conference, there were study sessions and guided tours for faculty and students, and civil society to learn about Model United Nations given by Kobe City University of Foreign Studies students.



2) United Nations Conference Participation Kobe City University Associate Professor, Lori Zenuk-Nishide and International Relations students Saeko Yoshimatsu and Nanako Ueda participated as academic stakeholders in the sixty-sixth UN DPI/NGO Conference “Education for Global Citizenship: Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals Together.” from 30 May to 1 June in Gyeongju, Republic of Korea where Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon highlighted the critical role that NGOs, academia and youth play in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Our faculty and students played an active role in the Gyeongju Action Plan that was adopted as the final outcome of the conference. This sixty-sixth UN DPI/NGO Conference was marked by the most active participation of youth in conference history.



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2. Intercultural Dialogue 1) On October 16, 2016, Prof. Dr. Helena Meyer-Knapp (Evergreen State College) lectured and interacted with students on "Values and Priorities in a Pluralistic World". She explored personal and public ethics in migration policies.

2) On November 18, 2016. Prof. Thomas Weiler (Bonn University & Vice-President of the UN Association of Germany) spoke on Germany at the United Nations: The European Response to the Refugee Crisis.

Link: <http://www.kobe-cufs.ac.jp/english/>