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Overview: Hosting the national model United Nations Japan 2022

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Overview: Hosting the National Model United Nations Japan 2022

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1. Introduction

This chapter aims to offer an overview of the planning and execution of NMUN Japan 2022 conference hosted by Kobe City University of Foreign Studies (KCUFS) and their partner National Model United Nations (NMUN). KCUFS agreed on a partnership once again with NMUN in 2017 to host the NMUN Japan 2020 conference after successfully hosting the 2016 conference, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 conference was postponed until November 20-26, 2022. There were many stakeholders world-wide that were part of the process from the preparation stages to the conference itself.

2. About NMUN

“NMUN is the first organization to simulate the United Nations” (National Model United Nations, 2023a, para. 1) to address global issues. It is also the largest Model United Nations (MUN) conference in the world. NMUN’s roots began in 1927 with a League of Nations simulation that transitioned to a MUN simulation in 1943. NMUN is a nonprofit organization, and their mission is to “advance understanding of the UN and contemporary global issues through quality education programs that emphasize collaboration and cooperative conflict resolution and prepare participants for active global citizenship” (National Model United Nations, 2023a, para. 1). They are associated with the UN Department of Public Information and have been a recognized member of United Nations Academic Impact since 2013. NMUN holds three conferences a year, two in the United States, and one international conference that universities outside of the United States can apply to host after a two-to-three-year preparatory phase.

3. About KCUFS and NMUN

KCUFS was founded in 1946 to help restore the port city of Kobe as it was heavily damaged during World War II. The university was “dedicated to the higher ideals of peace and culture...befitting an international port city” (Background, Kobe City University of Foreign Studies Website, n.d., para. 1). The university began with the study of three foreign languages and now offers international relations and foreign languages in five departments to over 2000 students including international undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral students. In 2015, KCUFS became a member of United Nations Academic Impact.

Since 2008, KCUFS students began attending NMUN conferences held in New York annually and international conferences from a 2013 conference held in Incheon, Korea. Professors initiated and built the KCUFS MUN program as part of the KCUFS curriculum, offering MUN classes in English since 2007. The only NMUN conference KCUFS did not attend since 2013 was an event in Ecuador in 2018. At KCUFS, undergraduate, graduate students, and foreign exchange Japanese Language Program (JLP) students and students from any department can participate in NMUN classes and attend conferences. For NMUN Japan conferences KCUFS partners with Hyogo Consortium to send a delegation allowing students from 38 local universities to have opportunities to participate. Classes in English have been team taught by KCUFS faculty and NMUN experienced student peers to prepare students to attend international conferences to be able to discuss, negotiate and co-create action plans on global issues at the UN. From 2014, students have been partially subsidized (conference fees and airfare) by the university to attend the New York and international NMUN conferences. After NMUN Korea 2013, KCUFS applied to host in 2016 and their bid was accepted. Immediately after the 2016 conference, KCUFS applied to host NMUN 2020, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic the conference was postponed until 2022.

4. NMUN Japan Conference Planning Post-2016

Preparations to host NMUN Japan 2022 began in 2017 after the success of the NMUN Japan 2016. Both KCUFS and NMUN stakeholders wanted to host the conference again and they were able to negotiate an agreement to hold the conference in 2020, an auspicious year with the 75th anniversary of both the founding of the United Nations and the atomic bombings in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, in addition to the Tokyo Olympics. After NMUN 2016 Japan, KCUFS had institutional memory, core faculty, students, and administrators that were committed to leading the 2020 conference. By 2020, KCUFS had experienced students and alumni that served as NMUN staff in New York as Directors and Assistant Directors, and they were mentoring and serving as role models for our MUN students. Students who had experience at previous NMUN conferences were also doing educational outreach to other Japanese, African, and Asian universities and high schools, and served as leaders of the Japan University English Model United Nations (JUEMUN) conference and were presenting in academic

conferences. To build more institutional understanding of NMUN between 2017-2020, we were able to take 10-KCUFS stakeholders to NMUN conferences including the KCUFS university president attending a conference in New York and the university vice-president attending an NMUN conference in Canada, along with supporting faculty and administrators to conferences in New York, China, and Germany. We were also able to include MUN as a designated new faculty appointment in the International Relations department in 2019 to ensure the program's sustainability when core faculty retire.

For the 2020 conference, KCUFS was able to reserve the same facilities as the 2016 conference, the Kobe Convention Center for conference rooms and closing ceremonies, the Kobe Portopia Hotel for accommodation, and KCUFS facilities for a forum, lunch reception, and opening ceremony. In 2020, we had students who were in their fifth year who had been doing MUN and NMUN since they were in first year in 2016, who agreed to serve as the Secretary-General (SG) and Assistant Secretary General (ASG). Also, for their committee staff, there were many experienced NMUN students. Miu Kabayama, our NMUN Japan 2022 SG for 2020, spoke at the closing ceremony at NMUN 2019 in Erfurt, Germany invited everyone to Japan for the conference, and when we were two weeks away from the NMUN New York 2020 Conference the COVID-19 pandemic struck, and the conference was abruptly cancelled. The NMUN NY 2020 conference cancellation was devastating, but more so for KCUFS, as when the pandemic continued KCUFS was forced to postpone the NMUN Japan conference in April 2020, as borders remained closed, and the end of the pandemic was not in sight.

None of the organizing stakeholders could envision the NMUN Japan conference being held online and it was never discussed by NMUN or KCUFS. Especially, there was no way to infuse an online event with the culture and topics that we wished to focus on for the NMUN Japan conference. There was a lot of discussion on which year to hold the postponed NMUN Japan conference. NMUN 2021 was going to be held in Olomouc, Czech Republic, and 2023 was designated for Erfurt, Germany. Choices were either 2022, 2025, or later. If KCUFS hosted the conference in 2025 conference, there would be a loss of institutional memory with experienced students graduating, and possible retirements and transfers by faculty and administrators. It was difficult to imagine agreeing to host a conference when the student leadership had not yet even enrolled in the university and new faculty members in charge had never experienced a NMUN New York conference in person or planned to host an NMUN conference from the early planning stages. Therefore, the NMUN Japan 2020 conference was postponed to 2022 when KCUFS still had institutional memory, knew the then current students that could be chosen to assume leadership positions, and had experienced administrators who would remain at the university.

Immediately after the NMUN Japan 2020 conference was postponed, KCUFS MUN faculty decided to choose our NMUN Japan 2022 leaders in June from the second-year students as the NMUN 2020 SG and ASG and other experienced students who would graduate by the spring of 2022 could support the leadership transition. KCUFS faculty understood there were just over two years to build capacity for the new leaders, and most experienced students would graduate before the conference. There were only four first-year students who had experienced a NMUN in person as delegates in November 2019 in Germany and others who had prepared to go to the cancelled New York conference in 2020. There was such a sense of loss of not being able to host the NMUN Japan 2020 conference, but as the student leaders of 2022 stated, they would never have had the leadership opportunities in 2020 if the conference had not been postponed. As an organizing blueprint was already in place for 2020, we thought that 2022 would be feasible even if the students did not have prior leadership experience.

5. NMUN and KCUFS Partnering Roles

In 2020, an official partnering acceptance letter to host NMUN Japan 2022 was sent to the KCUFS university president, and the NMUN Japan 2020 landing page on NMUN's website was amended. Information about the conference was available two years in advance to allow universities worldwide to be able to prepare to bring a delegation with institutional support. NMUN and KCUFS partners had differing roles and responsibilities working in tandem to bring the conference to fruition (Table 1). As with all international NMUN conferences, delegations covered their own registration fees, cultural visits, accommodation, transportation, and meals. Registration fees (both a flat fee for each delegation and fees for individual participants) were managed by NMUN. NMUN supplied the placards, name tags and lanyards for participants (staff, delegates, faculty, and guests) and for conference volunteers. NMUN also designed and managed the website, and the online conference handbook. They also contacted the delegation faculty advisors with information and answered all inquiries about the conference. Other supplies were provided by KCUFS including welcome bags and goods, projectors and extra computers for the conference, printers, extension cords, snacks, water service for each meeting. Registration and fees for accommodation, cultural visits, faculty events, and lunch on the opening ceremony day were managed by KCUFS through a travel agency in Japan. As the hosting university, KCUFS covered the cost of conference facilities, supplies, banners, guest speakers, ceremony performances, a welcome and post-conference dinner for NMUN staff and faculty, Kobe Tours, and highly subsidized cultural visits and faculty events. KCUFS also covered NMUN staff accommodation, but NMUN covered staff cultural visit fees.

Table 1*NMUN Japan Roles and Responsibilities*

NMUN Roles	KCUFS Roles
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conference website <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-conference (2017-December 2022) • Post-conference NMUN Japan archive • Conference handbook • Hiring & management of 1 Deputy Director and 4 Directors • Approve the 4th committee • Facilitate choosing agendas with the Deputy Director and Secretary General • Manage NMUN staff training • Collect Staff Participation Pledges • Facilitate and approve conference agendas • Conference background guides • Cover logistics for airfare for NMUN staff • Delegation conference registration and participation acceptance (delegation and delegate fees) • Manage communication with delegations and all conference inquiries • Manage country selection process • Make the country matrix for each committee • Communicate with KCUFS on matters concerning deadlines, border control, visas, special needs, schedule, accommodation, fees, and other matters • Provide placards, nametags/lanyards for all participants • Decide the award criteria and selection process • Provide participation and award certificates • Have roles in conference ceremonies • Participate in conference events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicate online with NMUN Executive Director & Director of Programs • Select and manage 1 Secretary-General, 1 Assistant Secretary-General, 4 Assistant Directors, organizing committee members, volunteers • Choose the 4th committee • Propose committee agendas • Secure and fully subsidize fees for conference facilities <p>Organize:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accommodation for all Participants (NMUN/KCUFS staff fully subsidized) • Cultural visits (partially subsidized by KCUFS) • Kobe tours (fully subsidized by KCUFS) • Faculty events (partially subsidized by KCUFS) • Delegate dance (fully subsidized by KCUFS) • NMUN & KCUFS staff dinner (fully subsidized) • Collect registration and fees for accommodation, cultural visits, faculty events, one lunch reception • Guest speakers & fees (fully subsidized) • Conference supplies • Banners & signage • Dinners before and after the conference with NMUN staff (fully subsidized) • Event disaster protocol • Welcome gifts for all participants (fully subsidized) • Give NMUN information for the website and conference handbook including information on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kobe • University as a hosting institution • Accommodation & Conference facilities • Schedule details • Cultural tours • Faculty events • Transportation to the hotel • Hospital and Emergency Telephone Numbers • Photos and Bios Guest speakers & organizing committee • SG & other messages • Recognition of supporters and staff in Japan

For the hosting institution, the budget, conference facilities, and accommodation needs to be secured before an application can be accepted by NMUN to host the conference. The amount that participants can be expected to cover is about the same every year, regardless of who is hosting. Whatever is not covered by the participants or NMUN, the international hosting institution is responsible for.

5.1 NMUN Japan 2022 Accommodation

NMUN leaves decisions about conference accommodation to the hosting institution. At most NMUN conferences, delegations do not have to stay at recommended hotels. The hosting institution though always secures several rooms at recommended hotels at a discounted rate and sets a pre-conference deadline for reservations. For the 2022 conference, KCUFS was able to keep our accommodation booking at the Kobe Portopia Hotel from 2017 and 2020. Participants had to register online for accommodation at the conference hotel with the travel agent secured by KCUFS by October 1. Issues with this system occurred as some accommodation at the same recommended hotels was available at cheaper discounted rates through other travel agencies.

KCUFS had to be able to account for all participants security, especially during COVID, and could have potentially been responsible for visa applications for all participants. Another reason was that some conference sessions ended late and there would be no public transport available from the hotel where the conference was held. Originally there was to be only one hotel but then another was opened as there were not enough rooms available. We mistakenly assumed that more delegations would choose rooms to accommodate 4-people but that was not the case, as two-person rooms were requested the most. The main hotel, Kobe Portopia, was where the conference sessions were also held. When the second hotel nearby with lower rates came on the website, some delegations changed their online booking. All conference participants had to have three COVID vaccinations to participate in the conference and had to wear masks in the hotel. There was alcohol sanitizer for hands and a temperature monitor when guests entered the hotel. Everyone was given breakfast and had their own bed in shared rooms. There were hotel staff that could speak English, and this took a burden off the organizers.

5.2 NMUN Japan 2022 meeting facilities and logistics

All the conference meeting rooms were on the lower floors of the Kobe Portopia Hotel where most delegations were accommodated. The rooms were equipped with Wi-Fi, a screen, a projector, a computer, and microphones for the dais and speech making by delegates. It was a paperless conference like all NMUN conferences since 2015. All the participants brought their own computer as the meetings relied on a conference website Hub for communication and working papers were co-written and shared on Google Docs. There were no pages to pass notes in formal sessions, rather delegates used the conference Hub to contact the Dais or each other during formal sessions. With the ongoing COVID

pandemic, we tried to minimize the number of people in rooms. Theatre style was requested in all rooms except Security Council and there were tables and chairs for both formal and informal sessions. Except for Security Council, all of the meeting rooms had raised platforms for the Dais. During informal sessions, delegates could meet outside of the room in designated areas. The conference rooms allowed for free seating for all delegates in committees and each delegation carried their own placard.

In addition to the conference rooms, there was a designated room for the secretariat that had its own kitchen, fridge, and Wi-Fi. Like every NMUN, there was an additional faculty advisor room with drinks and snacks. Also, KCUFS administrators and volunteers shared a room for administrative purposes and storing conference goods. On the day before the start of the conference, this room was also used for staff training. Throughout the conference, there was a designated reception area in the hotel lobby and an information services desk near the meeting rooms on the lower floor with designated times.

The opening and closing ceremonies and forum were also held in the Kobe Portopia Hotel. The forum and opening ceremony were held in a hall and closing was held in a banquet room with a stage that was built. For the forum and ceremonies, there were reception rooms for those on the stage, which included speakers and performers. Initially the plan was to hold the forum and opening ceremony with a lunch reception at KCUFS to showcase the university, but due to COVID restrictions everyone could not be seated in the Main Hall, and we did not want participants to watch a broadcast from a classroom. For more information on the NMUN Japan 2022 forum and ceremonies (see Chapter 3). There were no rooms designated for debriefing for delegations, and many groups met in their hotel rooms and in the lobbies. For study tours and faculty outings, there was also a large gathering space on one of the floors for participants to alight on buses for travel. The conference attendees appreciated having the accommodation, events, and conference rooms in the same hotel.

5.3 Meals and snacks during the conference

NMUN leaves food services up to the hosting institution. Most international NMUN conferences have breakfast included with the accommodation. At many international NMUN conferences, there is a delegation banquet subsidized by the institution (NMUN conferences in Canada, China, Germany, Italy) but KCUFS did not include this as cultural visits to Hiroshima and Kyoto were highly subsidized. As mentioned, breakfast was provided at the hotels, but lunches other than the day of the opening ceremony were not provided (lunch reception fees were covered by delegations). The hotel had restaurants and a convenience store as facilities available for participants. Other than that, delegates were given 6 tickets to use the Port Liner train, which is a 10-minute ride to central Kobe, for lunch and dinner. There were few places to eat within walking distance from the hotel, unlike many international NMUN conference venues.

There were water servers set up in each meeting room with free snacks. In a hallway, there was also a water server, snacks, and drinks supplied by a sponsor. Before the 2022 conference, KCUFS never served snacks at conferences, but this was a welcomed addition at some other international conferences, so we adopted it, as it was also an opportunity to share culture through the many kinds of Japanese snacks. Everyone received a customized water bottle with an image of the Kobe skyline in their welcome bag that could be used, and disposable paper cups were available. We had hoped that everyone would use their provided water bottles. Snacks, due to COVID, also had to be individually wrapped for safety and this generated some waste. We tried to make the conference as eco-friendly as possible.

5.4 NMUN Japan 2022 KCUFS Conference Capacity Building

There were KCUFS faculty, student leaders, and administrators that supported NMUN Japan 2022. KCUFS had three tenured faculty directly supporting MUN programs including one that had organized it in 2016. Another emerita professor who was a founding member of KCUFS MUN programs served on the KCUFS executive board. In 2022, KCUFS opened a new position in the international relations department for a tenured faculty member who had experience working with the United Nations to work together with MUN programs.

For NMUN international conferences, the hosting institution takes responsibility for staffing the SG and ADs following NMUN expectations and protocols. The ASG position was created by KCUFS and approved by NMUN in 2014. The ASG position allowed for a better division of labor and more coverage during the conference. The SG managed the substantive issues related to the conference, expert speaker selection, and conference promotion, while the ASG was responsible for the organizing committees which provided conference services. The SG and ASG jointly proposed the conference theme to the KCUFS faculty. The SG was supported by NMUN administrators and staff, as well as KCUFS faculty and administrators. The ASG had support from KCUFS faculty and administrators. The SG and ASG also met online weekly with organizing faculty.

The NMUN Japan 2022 SG leadership position was decided in June 2020 by faculty and the KCUFS NMUN 2020 student leadership and the SG chose the ASG following a KCUFS MUN practice. As there was no international NMUN conference in 2020, to build student capacity, we planned an online conference IMUNO (International Model United Nations Organization) with universities from Germany using the online event platform Gatherly, that NMUN had proposed to use for the NMUN New York 2021 conference, to be held online. For IMUNO, we received permission to use a past NMUN Security Council Background Guide and we followed NMUN Rules of Procedure. The conference was organized by the NMUN Japan 2020 SG, ASG and ADs. For the NMUN New York 2021 online conference, classes were held online but for the conference our delegation met for the first time in person and stayed at the Maiko Villa Hotel to build community. This was the first conference

for the 2022 SG and ASG to take leadership. Student delegates for the online NMUN New York 2021 conference had individual rooms for the sessions but met together in-person for debriefing. NMUN Washington DC in 2021 was the first in person conference held by NMUN after the beginning of the COVID pandemic, but the borders outside of the United States were mostly closed and there were strict travel restrictions. This was followed by the NMUN New York 2022 conference, which was held in-person with everyone wearing masks and having proof of COVID-19 vaccinations. KCUFS classes for this conference were held in person even though hybrid was allowed at the university. Most of the students had only experienced previous MUN events online and a face-to-face conference requires different communicative competencies. Communicative competence can vary between face-to-face online interactions and in-person interactions due to differences in nonverbal communication cues, immediacy, and contextual awareness.

Before attending the NMUN New York 2022, the NMUN Japan 2022 conference theme and the fourth committee were decided by the KCUFS SG, ASG and faculty. NMUN international conferences usually have a General Assembly (GA), Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), and Security Council as well as a fourth committee chosen by the host university which always focuses on a UN committee that is meaningful to the country or region and reflects the conference theme. The fourth committee that was chosen for the NMUN Japan 2022 conference was the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference. It was the same committee that was proposed by the NMUN Japan 2020 leaders and at the UN the real review conference was also postponed due to the COVID pandemic. The fourth committee at international conferences at NMUN must have over 50 Member States as that is how many delegates need to be in the room for balance in committees. The conference theme decided on was *Promoting a Just Peace in the 21st Century*.

KCUFS was the only delegation that attended the NMUN New York 2022 conference from Japan. Other universities in Japan that usually participate in NMUN still had disallowed travel abroad, as well as attending in-person events. Masks were compulsory at the NMUN New York 2022 conference and although borders to Japan had not opened, most countries could enter the United States. There were vaccination requirements to enter the United States including negative COVID test results obtained at least 72 hours before departure. Upon returning to Japan, all KCUFS participants also had to arrange for COVID tests 72 hours before departure. At the NMUN New York Conference, over 2000 students followed the mask mandate during sessions and in the hotel. The United Nations still had not opened at the time to the public. Usually at NMUN New York conferences, the closing ceremonies and final plenary sessions were held at the General Assembly Hall at the United Nations Headquarters.

The NMUN NY 2022 conference in April was important for KCUFS to attend for many reasons. First, faculty, the SG and ASG were able to meet with NMUN administrators to discuss the probability of

being able to host the November 2022 conference with the ongoing travel restrictions in Japan due to the COVID pandemic. KCUFS faculty and the SG could also give a presentation to faculty advisors on the upcoming NMUN Japan 2022 conference. Much discussion took place regarding universities allowing students to travel abroad during the pandemic, if countries would allow their citizen to travel, and if Japan would allow people from all countries to enter. NMUN also surveyed universities on being able to attend a November 2022 conference.

Secondly, the conference was important as it was the first time for two of KCUFS's professors who will take over the MUN program in the future to attend an in-person NMUN New York conference. Furthermore, we were fortunate to have our four appointed KCUFS NMUN Japan 2022 ADs serve as NMUN New York 2022 staff. All of them had participated in NMUN online conferences but only two had participated in an in-person NMUN conference before. One served as an AD at the New York 2022 conference and the other three served as chairs in different committees. Two faculty and the SG were able to stay for both sessions of the NMUN New York 2022 conference to network by participating in faculty receptions and meetings and the SG could speak during closing ceremonies to invite everyone to Japan.

A turning point came for the possibility of holding the conference in April 2022, when the Japanese Prime Minister announced that borders would open to tourists in the near future. Though exact dates were not given by the Japanese government, the NMUN board decided that the conference should not be cancelled and that we should wait and see if we could open registration. NMUN international conferences typically open registration on May 1, but NMUN decided to postpone registration until June and decide by mid-May to proceed with NMUN Japan 2022 or not. With a new academic year starting in Japan from April 2022, the KCUFS NMUN Japan Executive Board was updated (Table 2).

Table 2

KCUFS NMUN Japan 2022 Executive Board & Secretariat Members (April 2022)

President	Satoru Tanaka
Vice-President for Student Affairs	Mie Tamura
Director, Kobe Global Education Center	Prof. Haruhiko Yamaguchi
Professor Emerita	Donna Tatsuki
Professors	Lori Zenuk-Nishide, Miki Shinoda
Associate Professors	Michael Hollenback, Keisuke Nakashima, Masayuki Hiromi
Associate Professor	Yumi Matsuda
Director General of Secretariat	Atsuo Kadono
Vice-Director of Secretariat	Yumi Tsuduki
Manager, Research Institute &	Toshikiko Ono

Kobe Global Education Center	
Assistant Manager, Kobe Global Education Center	Motoko Tsujii
Assistant Manager, Planning and Public Relations Section	Yuta Mori
Other Administrative Staff	Kazuko Kiba, Mafu Yamazaki, Nahoko Matsunaga, Tomoki Matsuda, Yuna Tanaka

Twelve members of the KCUFS Executive Board had experienced NMUN either in person or online before NMUN Japan 2022. There had been many annual changes in the Executive Board since 2017, so building a schema of MUN for new members was always necessary. Eight members had observed international NMUN conferences and six had participated in NMUN Japan 2016. The NMUN leadership only had transitions in the president since 2016 (Table 3).

Table 3

NMUN Japan 2022 Leadership

NMUN Co-Presidents	Prof. Clarrisa Estep & Prof. Richard Murgio
Executive Director	Michael Eaton
Director of Programs	Paul VanCura
Program Associate	Jess Hopeman
Financial Manager	Jeri Lu Mattson

5.5 NMUN and KCUFS decision making process to host the November 2022 conference

There were many factors to consider in May 2022 about proceeding with the NMUN Japan 2022 conference or not. In mid-May 2022, KCUFS wanted to communicate our heartfelt desire to host the conference upcoming in November. While KCUFS understood the hesitancy due to the current pandemic conditions, we were confident that, once the borders would start to open in June, we would be able to host under somewhat normal conditions as we were able to in 2016. Once in Japan, things were more or less back to a pre-COVID lifestyle, and KCUFS believed participants at the conference would be able to enjoy a safe and comfortable experience. Like 2020, KCUFS had both the human and financial resources to hold the conference and we hoped that our preparations were adequate to assuage the fears of the NMUN Board and potential applications about participation at the conference. We trusted the NMUN Board's decision on the matter and on May 15 submitted a final proposal on the frame factors we faced to host the conference in November. At the time, this was the situation in Japan:

- Vaccination rates were high with 80% having two doses and over 50% with the booster.
- Despite the lack of mask mandates, mask wearing was basically obligatory throughout the country.
- Domestic travel was unlimited and there was no testing requirements .

- Japanese citizens and Permanent Residents were free to travel abroad and return after a pre-departure and arrival PCR test.
- There has been no quarantine required in Japan since March 2022 for vaccinated Japanese citizens and Permanent Residents returning from abroad if they test negative for COVID on arrival.
- Tourists were still not being allowed into Japan. Under normal conditions, Japan had Visa Exemption Agreements with 68 countries and regions. It was expected that the same visa waiver program that most participating delegates will fall under would become available by the late-November conference dates.
- Japan had shifted from a prevention policy to a management policy when dealing with COVID-19. The Japanese government had said borders would start to open in June for tourist and tourist entry would continue to increase. It was not expected that borders would reclose. Since March 2022, individuals with three vaccinations would not have to take a COVID test on arrival in Japan, following other G7 countries, but they still had to take a pre-boarding COVID test.
- If the borders continued to be closed for tourists, options for non-tourist entry under special circumstances could have been used for delegates and faculty to enter the country. KCUFS was in negotiations with a travel agent to provide information on alternative an entry visa (Short-Term Business Visa used for international conferences in Japan) and its associated application processes. This visa process would take four weeks and require participants to visit an embassy or consulate for an interview.
- In the event of the cancellation of the conference due to low attendance (lower than 150 participants) or the inability of participants to attend due to border closures, KCUFS could not offer full refunds. Unlike the US, Japan does not have a law that mandates reimbursement from businesses to customers who are affected by the pandemic. In the case that it looked unlikely (due to limited registration and payments) that the 150 threshold would be met, KCUFS would make a decision on September 16th whether to cancel the conference to allow partial refunds to be provided before the October 1st payment deadline. After contacting various agencies, KCUFS confirmed that event insurance was not available for our conference. As NMUN stated on the website, we also highly encouraged universities to take out travel insurance to cover costs incurred with airline tickets in the case of cancellation.

The decision in mid-May was that the NMUN board agreed with our proposal to proceed with the conference as scheduled and conference registration opened on June 1. There was close communication between faculty and NMUN's executive director and director of programs. In addition, there were regular updates on the NMUN Japan website as travel restrictions to enter Japan changed. Finally, on October 11, 2022, visa exemption for foreign nationals resumed and people entering Japan with 3

vaccinations would not have to submit a certificate of a negative result of a COVID-19 test conducted 72 hours prior to departure. Very few conference participants in the end needed visas to enter Japan. KCUFS had been prepared to support the visa applications for 340 international conference participants. There was never an issue that we would not make the 150-participant threshold to make the conference viable, rather the opposite was true, and we had many delegations on the waiting list, which was managed by NMUN.

5.6 NMUN Staffing and Planning for the Committee Meetings

NMUN was in charge of all the staff hiring outside of KCUFS staff according to their criteria and they advertised online. NMUN staff had to have at least three years of staff experience. KCUFS chose their own staff that worked with NMUN according to their own criteria and timeline. KCUFS ADs were appointed in January 2022 so that they could apply for NMUN NY 2022 Chair positions and could share their leadership and experience preparing the delegation for New York. This included chairing for two full-day mock conferences at KCUFS.

In addition to having NMUN experience as a delegate, KCUFS AD Criteria included (Nishide, 2017, p. 20):

- Had excellent written and oral communication skills in English and Japanese
- Was good at intercultural communication
- Had a good understanding of global issues
- Could collaborate
- Could learn and teach
- Was resilient
- Could meet deadlines
- Had good time management skills
- Willing to support MUN classes and chair at conferences before NMUN Japan
- Could be a good role model
- Could be seen as a deserving leader for the university
- Could commit themselves to the position

NMUN announced the DSG on June 1 whose role was to assist the SG in substantive issues related to the committee topics and related issues. Then the SG and the DSG proposed two committee agendas for each committee that were vetted by KCUFS faculty and NMUN staff. Directors were then recruited and chosen by NMUN on June 19 for the four committees and agendas (Table 4).

Table 4

NMUN Japan 2022 Committee Agendas

UN Committee	Agenda Items
Security Council (SC)	*I. The Situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo II. Strengthening Women's Role in Peacebuilding
The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review	I. Practical Measures to Implement Article VI *II. Strengthening Measures for Nuclear Security
General Assembly Plenary (GA)	* I. Adapting Energy Systems for Energy Security and Climate Change Mitigation II. Promoting Mental Health and Improving Access to Care
Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)	*I. Addressing Food Security in a Globalized World II. Promoting Sustainable Economic Participation of Youth

*Indicates topic that was chosen at the conference by participating delegates

The choices on committee topics were done later than usual if the NMUN Japan conference would be cancelled as it was in 2020. All chosen NMUN staff were very senior and able to support our four inexperienced ADs (Table 5). There was a staffing change with the SG at NMUN Japan and the ASG took on the SG role. As this change occurred close to the opening of the conference to an alternative ASG was not appointed. From the beginning, the KCUFS model was set up for others to assume roles if there was transition in staff. The DSG also was not able to attend the conference in-person but fulfilled the position on-line with support from the very experienced Directors. The total leadership team consisted of 10 members with a Director and AD in each committee. The SG and DSG supervised the meeting of each committee, and the substantive work was facilitated by a Director and AD in each of the committees.

Table 5

NMUN Japan 2022 Committee Staff (Conference version)

Secretary General (SG)	Keisha Hikita	Japan (1)
Deputy Secretary General (DSG)	Marleen Schreier	Uganda (1)
Directors (D's)	Leah Madelaine (GA) Chase Miller (ECOSOC) Kati Conti (SC) Natalie J. Keller (NPT)	Canada (1), Germany (1), United States (2)
Assistant Directors (ADs)	Hiroko Ozeki (GA) Rio Shimamoto (ECOSOC) Hoki Matsuo (SC) Taeko Hagi (NPT)	Japan (4)

*Countries Staff was living in. This does not reflect their nationality or ethnic background.

There were also KCUFS NMUN alumni from Kyushu, Tokyo, and Kyoto that were on standby for the conference if something happened to a committee leader. They had arranged leave with their employers if necessary. Under the leadership of the DSG, the staff all met online periodically until they arrived

two days before the conference for training. The staff began writing their Background Guides (BGGs) for their own committee and they were released a month later than usual on September 1 due to the late opening of conference registration (Table 6).

Table 6

NMUN Japan Background Guides (NMUN Japan 2020 Archives)

Committee	Background Guide (BGG)
GA	https://www.nmun.org/assets/documents/conference-archives/japan-2022/nmunjapan-bgg-ga.pdf
ECOSOC	https://www.nmun.org/assets/documents/conference-archives/japan-2022/nmunjapan-bgg-ecosoc.pdf
SC	https://www.nmun.org/assets/documents/conference-archives/japan-2022/nmunjapan-bgg-sc.pdf
NPT	https://www.nmun.org/assets/documents/conference-archives/japan-2022/nmunjapan-bgg-npt.pdf

The BGGs were written using a NMUN preparation guide following strict deadlines for submission and revisions on feedback. This was the first time for three of the ADs to collaborate internationally on a writing project that they could use as an academic publication. Each BGG is under 30 pages and follows the same format. There is a committee overview about 4 pages, then each agenda is about 7-8 pages (National Model United Nations, 2023b). Each section has annotated bibliographies and a bibliography (Table 7). This NMUN BGG outline offers valuable information for institutions writing their own guides to host conferences. NMUN BGGs, though they are on the website, cannot be used without NMUNs permission.

Table 7

NMUN Background Guide (BGG) Outline

Committee Overview	Page
Introduction	2
Mandate, Functions, and Powers	2
Governance, Structure, and Membership	3
Annotated Bibliography	3
Bibliography	4
Agenda 1	6
Introduction	6
International and Regional Framework	7
Role of the International System	8
Agenda Issue 1.1	10
Agenda Issue 1.2	11
Conclusion	12
Further Research	12
Annotated Bibliography	12

Bibliography	13
Agenda 2	18
Introduction	18
International and Regional Framework	19
Annotated Bibliography	12
Bibliography	13
Role of the International System	20
Agenda Issue 2.1	22
Agenda Issue 2.2	23
Conclusion	24
Further Research	25
Annotated Bibliography	25
Bibliography	26

5.7 KCUFS Organizing Committee Planning

The NMUN Japan 2022 organizing committee included six student volunteer committees with 15 student leaders and faculty and administrative advisors (Table 8). The ASG, who was later appointed as SG, was head of the committees and chose leaders in early 2022 through an application and interview process. All the organizing committees met together in a hybrid setting to share progress and discuss issues under the leadership of the ASG (Figure 1). At times, faculty and administrators met with these group as well. The committees each managed their own staff of volunteers and there was lateral decision-making giving student leaders a great deal of autonomy. For the ASG and committee leaders it was difficult for them to have agency but still use institutional memory from the 2016 and 2020 conference planning. The starting point was always taking a look at what was done in the past and then making decisions on what to do. They did not want to feel guilty of not honoring the 2020 plans of their seniors that they highly respected. It was important to have buy-in from committee members by giving them agency.

Table 8

NMUN Japan 2022 Organizing Committees

Committee	Responsibilities
Ceremonies	Planning and organizing UN Forum / Ceremonies / Work with advisor to find speakers and organize forums and other events. On the day of the event: Ceremonies management, including forums, and speaker support.
Conference Services	Preparation: Create Kobe Information Guide, see: https://www.nmun.org/assets/documents/conference-archives/japan-2022/japan22-information-services-guide-nmun.pdf Create welcome gifts, at the venue (prepare props for directions such as arrows), create a list of equipment needed for the venue decorations, lost & found, providing information on the day of the event, administrative work during the meeting, reception of guests, meals, and directing volunteers, selecting, and organizing how to sell KCUFS goods after the forum and closing ceremony.

Cultural Visits	Preparation: Prepare travel plans based on quotations from the travel agent, create bookmarks, guide volunteers (from providing materials to detailed activities on the day of the tour) On the day of the tour: Supervise volunteers and respond to happenings. Cultural Tour Guide, see: https://www.nmun.org/assets/documents/conference-archives/japan-2022/japan22-cultural-tours-guide-nmun.pdf
Social Events	Delegate Dance (after the conference), Kobe Cruise and Nunobiki Falls Tour, Kobe Tours, planning and management of the event, guidance of volunteer guides Day-of: Supervision of volunteers, handling of happenings
Session Tours	Preparation: Planning and management of high school student tours + KCUFS student tours and ECOSOC tour guides On the day of the tour: Supervising volunteers, conducting tours, dealing with high school students
Media	Shooting PR photos and videos, editing videos, publicity activities Day-of: Shooting photos and videos, making ending movie

Figure 1*Organizing Committee Meeting to Prepare for Conference*

There were 190 KCUFS student volunteers that were managed by the various committee leaders. These volunteers were chosen through an online application process after attending in-person information sessions in April 2022. In total with the organizing and meeting committees, there were 221 KCUFS students that participated in the conference. All the organizing committee communication was done on the Slack platform, which allows for messaging and file sharing, and was managed by the SG and a designated faculty member. KCUFS Volunteers were given official absences from their classes for the NMUN Japan conference.

We did have other universities and high schools that wanted their students to volunteer. These offers while they were appreciated were rejected as the hosting university wanted to offer the limited number of volunteer positions to their own students. KCUFS also wanted to limit the coordination for training of volunteers.

5.8 Schedule for NMUN Japan

The date of the NMUN Japan 2022 conference, like almost all international NMUN conferences, was set around Thanksgiving in the United States. Table 9 outlines the NMUN Japan 2022 conference schedule. Like the schedule for NMUN Japan 2016, on the first day was the Kobe Marathon with the start and finishing sites at the NMUN Japan conference hotel. The marathon was smaller though in 2022 and there were no food vendors allowed due to COVID restrictions, so it did not significantly impact the first day. The first day was registration, substantive staff training and Kobe tours for international delegations. The second and third day were cultural visits for international delegations. On the fourth day there was a forum and opening ceremony followed by the committee meetings that continued until the seventh day when there was a closing ceremony in the afternoon followed by a dance in the evening.

Table 9

NMUN Japan 2022 Schedule Sunday November 20-Saturday November 26, 2022

Day	Content	Venue
Sun., Nov. 20	NMUN Japan Staff Training Kobe City Tours (International Delegations) Registration (International Delegations)	Kobe Portopia Hotel Earthquake Museum & Others
Mon., Nov. 21	Cultural Visit Hiroshima (International Delegations)	Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park & Museum
Tues., Nov. 22	Cultural Visit Kyoto (International Delegations)	Kiyomizu Temple Fushimi Inari Shrine
Wed., Nov. 23	Registration for Japanese Delegations Peace Forum Lunch Reception Students & Faculty Opening Ceremony Committee Session 1	Kobe Portopia Hotel
Thurs., Nov. 24	Committee Sessions 2-4 Faculty Tour: Kobe Nunobiki Herb Gardens	Kobe Portopia Hotel
Fri., Nov. 25	Committee Sessions 5-6 Faculty Event: Kobe Harbor Dinner Cruise	Kobe Portopia Hotel
Sat., Nov. 26	Committee Session 7 Closing Ceremony Delegate Dance	Kobe Portopia Hotel Kobe City Council Chambers (ECOSOC)

5.8.1 Kobe Tours

Tours fully subsidized by KCUFS of Kobe were offered to highlight and familiarize international participants to the hosting city (Figure 2). On the arrival day, Sunday November 20, there were three tours for all international participants including students, faculty and guests which were arranged by the conference student organizing committee working with the KCUFS administration that left from the conference hotel. Delegations signed up for the tours on a first come first serve basis when they registered for the conference. Tours that used a bus had limited numbers which were decided on a first come first serve basis. Delegations made their decision based on their time of arrival in Japan and interest from the tour from the information provided on the website. The NMUN staff that day trained on rules and procedures for most of the day and participated in the first Kobe Tour.

Figure 2

Kobe City Tour



5.8.2 Cultural Visits

There were two days of cultural visits visiting world heritage sites. The first day was to Hiroshima (see Chapter 2) and the second day to Kyoto, one of the ancient capitals of Japan that has been largely preserved to the present day (Figure 3). For the Kyoto Cultural Visit, everyone travelled in buses and visited Kiyomizu Temple, a UNESCO World Heritage site, and Fushimi Inari Shrine. Student volunteer guides in Kyoto led the groups around the sites. Time was allotted for sightseeing at these areas as well as eating lunch and visiting many traditional shops. At NMUNs request, the Cultural Visits went to the same cities as NMUN Japan 2016, but there were differences in the schedule and protocol by the organizing committee. Participants used a guidebook prepared by the committee (Table 8).

Figure 3

Cultural Visit to Kyoto



5.8.3 Conference Sessions

From Wednesday November 23 to 26th, there were four days of seven sessions in the four UN committees (Figure 4). The agendas that were adopted were: Adapting Energy Systems for Energy Security and Climate Change Mitigation (GA), Addressing Food Security in a Globalized World (ECOSOC), The Situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (SC), and Strengthening Measures for Nuclear Security (NPT) (Figure 5). On the final day, 16 resolutions were passed in each committee and are available in the NMUN Japan 2022 archive (<https://www.nmun.org/about-nmun/conference-archives/japan-2022.html>). The final session for ECOSOC on November 26 was held at the Kobe City Chamber, like in 2016. In 2022 though, delegates were able to hold informal sessions before they went into the voting process. City Council members also observed the ECOSOC session until the end, listening to summaries via simultaneous translations which were provided by experienced KCUFS students on the organizing committee. The committee started the morning with an address by Toshihiko Yasui, Chair of the Kobe City Assembly who stated “Peace – this is exactly what the United Nations exists for. The overall theme of the National Model United Nations is ‘Promoting a Just Peace in the 21st Century. ‘With this, I hope that everyone wishes for peace and appreciates the value of peace, while discussing the protection of our planet and the environment at the same time. We, the Kobe City Assembly, is also determined to lead the world by promoting the development of hydrogen energy” checking welcoming ECOSOC committee members to (Figure 6).

Figure 4

Delegates in Formal Session



Figure 5

Delegates in Informal Session



Figure 6

Speech at Kobe City Assembly for NMUN Participants



5.8.4 Delegate Dance

Dances are not required events to host at NMUN international conferences, but most conferences have them. The NMUN Japan 2022 delegate dance was fully subsidized by KCUFS and held at Keynotes in the Kobe Portopia Hotel, minimizing the necessity to travel. As with many NMUN conferences, it gives students a chance to socialize with each other after staying in character of their country in meetings in a safe space reserved only for them. The dance was held from 21:00 to 2:00 to celebrate the conference the hotel made original conference cocktails named, “Love and Peace” and “Our Planet.” Conference name badges were needed to enter, and everyone had to show a digital copy of their ID for verification of their age, as anyone under 20 cannot drink alcohol by Japanese law. Drinks with or without alcohol had to be paid for in cash. Everyone was requested to wear a mask, and smoking in the venue was not allowed.

5.8.5 Faculty Events

Like other NMUN conferences, KCUFS planned three events for faculty advisors to get to network and build long-lasting relationships. Students participate in MUN events and then graduate but faculty advisors build sustainability for their programs over many years. After the Peace Forum at the Opening Ceremony, KCUFS held a faculty Japanese box lunch meeting with the presenters and university administrators as we could not have a buffet as we had hoped. Before the conference, we gathered information on food restrictions for cultural or medical reasons. On the fourth day in the afternoon, KCUFS student volunteers took faculty advisors by bus and gondola to the southern slope of the Rokko mountain chain by the Nunobiki waterfall and the Nunobiki Herb Gardens that was having a German Christmas market, which was paid for by an additional fee for faculty and subsidized by KCUFS. The waterfall for centuries has been among the most celebrated in Japan. Everyone was given a copy of waka (short poems) featuring Nunobiki Falls co-translated by KCUFS Professor Emeritus David Farrah, which is a translation of the waka that took its place in literary history with the original Japanese together with photos of the Nunobiki monuments scattered along the hiking trails. A poem by Ozawa Roan (1723-1801), translated by Farrah and Nakano (2003, p. 83) is as follows:

Who said that the cloth of Nunobiki Falls
belongs to no one?

Is it not the people who weave
their way to the Falls?

The final faculty event was an evening Kobe Harbor dinner cruise, which was also paid for by an additional fee for faculty and subsidized by KCUFS. Planning for this conference, we asked faculty

what they would like to do; therefore, the cruise and hiking taking in the fall foliage and night were their choice. In lieu of a faculty presentation, the Nunobiki Herb Gardens was requested by NMUN administrators, and the Kobe Harbor cruise by a NMUN faculty advisor and former board member. As Chaldeans Mensah NMUN Past President (Ex-Officio) always states that it is important to not always be hovering over our delegates and let them have agency. Also, he and the NMUN Board members firmly believe in the importance of faculty building community.

6. NMUN Japan 2022 Participants

Participants at NMUN included university delegations (students delegates, faculty advisors and guests) and observers from many universities and countries around the world.

6.1 University Delegation Participants

The total number of participants (students, faculty, and guests) was set by KCUFS at 400 and there was a waiting list well after registration was closed. Many universities that were on the waiting list had to leave as they had internal funding application deadlines. There were 307 students from 11 countries and 42 universities and consortiums who participated in NMUN Japan 2022 (Table 10). This does not reflect the diversity of participants' nationalities. There was quota set for the total number of participants for each university and the total number of Japanese participants to allow the conference to be international. KCUFS provided visa support through a Japanese travel agency, and everyone who was required to apply for a visa was able to receive one.

Table 10

Student Participants in NMUN Japan 2022

Regions (5)	Participants (307)	Countries (11)	Countries & Number of Participants
Europe	64	2	England (9), Germany (39), Italy (13), Ukraine (3)
North America	131	2	Canada (5), United States (126)
South America	6	1	Chile (6)
Oceania	13	1	Australia (13)
Asia	86	3	Japan (66), Philippines (20), Thailand (7)

In addition, there were 68 faculty advisors from eight countries with 54 from universities outside of Japan, and 14 from Japan (Table 11). There were also more faculty from Japan that attended as observers in the meetings. Additionally, there were some delegations that did not have a faculty advisor that participated. Most delegations were part of MUN classes that received credit from their universities, but some were clubs that organized independently.

Table 11

Faculty Participants in NMUN Japan 2022

Regions (3)	Number (68)	Countries (8)
Europe	9	Italy (3), Germany (5), Ukraine (1)
North America	39	United States (38), Canada (1)
Asia	20	Japan (14), Philippines (3), Thailand (3)

Reflecting on the hosting institution risk threshold, it is always difficult to decide how many participants over the quota to accept, especially if it means getting students from a different country or region. In the end, KCUFS could have allowed a university from Africa on the waiting list to participate as they had funding, but KCUFS had to make that decision in July for their university to begin their internal process. In the end, many universities on waiting lists will apply to other MUN conferences as their classes or clubs need conferences to attend. There are always universities that face difficulties in the end for a number of reasons and cannot attend.

6.2 NMUN Japan 2022 observers

There were 263 observers that were invited or applied to NMUN Japan 2022 through an online selection process (Table 12). Five session tours of NMUN Japan, which were targeted towards high school students were offered through an online application process. The tour groups were given a briefing by trained KCUFS student leaders and volunteers, and then provided guided tours and observed committee session meetings. There were 145 students and teachers from 31 high schools and 22 university students who participated in session tours. Additionally, KCUFS students, NMUN Japan student leader's parents and NMUN alumni also participated as observers. Kobe City assembly members also attended the last ECOSOC session at the Kobe City Assembly on November 26. KCUFS was thankful that NMUN allowed observers as students can usually only attend NMUN conferences as delegates or staff. Faculty and others can come as official guests with delegations. Due to COVID restrictions and facility capacity, KCUFS limited observer participation. All observers had to register and wear official name tags. Additionally, they also had to be in business attire and follow conference observation protocol.

Table 12

NMUN Japan Observers

Observers & Total Participants	-KCUFS Faculty/ Administrators -Supporters	NMUN Alumni/ ADs/Organizing Committee Family	High School Students & Teachers	KCUFS Students
Peace Forum (21)	21	0	0	0
Opening Ceremony (29)	21	8	0	0
Session Tours (186)	8 (ECOSOC Kobe City Chambers)	11	145	22
Closing Ceremony (27)	4	23	0	0
Total	54	44	145	22

7. Media Coverage and Support for NMUN Japan 2022

There was a lot of media coverage and support for NMUN Japan 2022 which was like NMUN Japan 2016. NMUN Japan is one of the most extensively media covered NMUN conferences, and this highlights and endorses both NMUN and KCUFS.

7.1 Media Coverage

For the NMUN Japan 2022, KCUFS's Planning and Public Relations Section was responsible for conference media coverage. There was a variety of coverage and stories which were published and broadcasted, totaling 47 times, including: television (6), newspapers (17), and web news (24). There were also six press releases and one press conference at Kobe City Hall with the KCUFS president, the SG, ADs, and KCUFS head delegates. On social networking services KCUFS posted promotional videos on YouTube which were viewed over 100,000 times. On Instagram various promotions posts were viewed over 500,000 times. KCUFS also had posts on Facebook and Twitter accounts.

7.2 Support for NMUN Japan 2022

NMUN Japan 2022 hosted by NMUN and KCUFS was successful thanks to the effort of many stakeholders. It was endorsed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Japan (MOFA), Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), Government of Japan, City of Kobe, Kobe City Council, Kobe Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Asia-Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO, and United Nations Information Centre (UNIC). The conference also received cooperation from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and support from Kobe Convention Bureau Portopia '81 Memorial Fund, the Tsutomu Nakauchi Foundation, Hyogo Women's Hall UNESCO Foundation, and UNIQLO. In addition, there were 53 supporters for our crowdfunding project to help finance the conference where 1,635,000 yen was received.

UNIQLO UT provided conference t-shirts to all the NMUN Japan 2022 attendees. The logo, which was a peace crane, was inspired by peace phrases submitted by conference participants (Appendix A). NMUN emailed all the delegations to send their messages to KCUFS conference organizers who collated them and sent them to UNIQLO. UNIQLO staff also visited KCUFS Hyogo Consortium Delegation class to better understand NMUN and the conference and how they could collaborate. Believing that the world needs peace now, UNIQLO has established a PEACE FOR ALL project where 100% of the profits are donated to UN agencies such as UNHCR, and other humanitarian organizations including Save the Children.

8. Conclusion

The preparation and execution of NMUN Japan 2022 demonstrated the willingness and collaboration of NMUN and KCUFS stakeholders to collaborate across borders during the COVID-19 pandemic. Due to the pandemic, there were many issues that could not be controlled and accounted for. This required constant communication, creativity, and innovation in planning for all organizers. Organizers were working 24 hours a day asynchronously and synchronously and with the time difference between the United States and Japan thanks to online communication and platforms. NMUN and KCUFS student leaders believed it was a miracle that the conference happened considering the travel restrictions which were only fully lifted in Japan a mere month before the conference was to open. At the back of their mind was always the thought that the conference could be suddenly postponed as it was in 2020.

Benefits of the NMUN Japan 2020 Kobe conference were that it provided a platform for university students world-wide to engage in enhancing their understanding of global issues and fostering critical thinking, research, public speaking skills, leadership, and diplomacy. The conference promoted cultural exchange, allowing participants to learn about different perspectives, traditions, and approaches to problem-solving. It also facilitates networking and the formation of lasting friendships, fostering a global community of young leaders and faculty. Experts spoke in the conference forum and ceremonies and gave messages in the NMUN Japan 2020 Program. Experts addressing young people on global issues have a profound and meaningful impact, empowering the next generation to understand, engage with, and shape the future of our interconnected world. With the conference theme “Promoting a Just Peace in the 21st Century”, the KCUFS student organizing committee really wanted to have Japanese Prime Minister Kishida participate in the conference as the international delegates would visit his hometown Hiroshima, the first city to be leveled by an atomic bomb in 1945, and he was the first Japanese leader to address the review conference of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty held at the UN in August 2022. Prime Minister Kishida stated that he “wants to see a world without nuclear weapons” and sees himself as a bridge between the nuclear and non-nuclear powers... saying “We have to do everything possible... We must reverse the current momentum (Asahi Newspaper, August 1, 2022). In August he announced a special fund to “bring people to the two cities so that they can learn more about the horror of nuclear warfare and its aftermath”. We were so honored when Prime Minister Kishida sent a message for the NMUN Japan 2022 Handbook (Figure 7) (Hikita & Schreier, 2023, p. 5):

Figure 7*Japanese Prime Minister Kishida's Message to NMUN Japan***Message from Prime Minister Kishida to NMUN • Japan**

I would like to congratulate the hosting of the Model United Nations, which is held in-person in Kobe City, for the first time since the outbreak of COVID-19.

Seventy-seven years have passed since the establishment of the United Nations, yet we are still witnessing the war in Ukraine and crises around the world. Now is the time to return to the fundamental vision and principles of the UN Charter, and mobilize our wisdom to maintain peace and security as well as to realize an international community where all people can enjoy the economic and social development. In this regard, I have high expectations for all of you, the future leaders of the world, to have insightful and lively discussions on current global issues at this NMUN conference.

At the General Debate of the 77th Session of the United Nations General Assembly held in NY this September, I declared Japan's determination to realize the vision of the UN, focusing on the following three pillars; the reform of the UN and the strengthening of its functions, the rule of law, and the concept of human security in the new era. From next January, Japan will serve as a non-permanent member of the Security Council for two years. By listening not only to the loud voices but also being attentive to the weak voices, Japan will take actions to contribute to maintaining peace and security of the international community.

I also welcome your visit to my hometown Hiroshima as part of the NMUN programs, under the theme of "Promoting a Just Peace in the 21st century". I sincerely hope that all of you will move forward together with Japan towards a world without nuclear weapons, by learning firsthand the realities of nuclear weapons use.

I sincerely hope that each one of you will build on the experience and lessons learnt from the NMUN to succeed in your future endeavors, and that your youth network strengthened through this NMUN program will continue to grow into the bright future of yours.



KISHIDA Fumio
Prime Minister of Japan

Hosting an NMUN Japan enhanced Japan, Kobe's and KCUFS's reputation as an advocate for youth empowerment and international cooperation. Ultimately, hosting such an event contributes to nurturing the next generation of global citizens and future leaders who seek to "promote a just peace in the 21st century."

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Abstract

This chapter describes Kobe City University of Foreign Studies (KCUFS) preparation and hosting of National Model United Nations (NMUN) Japan 2022 conference with their partner NMUN and other stakeholders after they could not host in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Due to the pandemic, there was critical decision making required between NMUN and KCUFS which affect most every aspect of conference planning. This was the first NMUN international conference since Germany 2019. For the NMUN Japan 2022 conference, KCUFS students were given opportunities to participate as NMUN staff, delegates representing a country in meetings, and organizing committee leaders and volunteers. KCUFS welcomed NMUN administrators and directors, as well as students and faculty from 11 countries to the NMUN Japan 2022 conference in Kobe held November 20-26, 2022. The conference theme was "Promoting a Just Peace in the 21st Century" and included cultural events, an expert forum, and ceremonies, and four different MUN committee simulations that passed 16 resolutions.

Keywords: Model United Nations, National Model United Nations, National Model United Nations Japan 2022, Kobe City University of Foreign Studies, event planning and hosting

Appendix A

NMUN Email October 7, 2022, Call for Peace Messages

PEACE FOR ALL



Calling for PEACE FOR ALL Messages for NMUN • Japan – Kobe 2022

UNIQLO would like your help to design a PEACE FOR ALL T-shirt emblazoned with personal messages of what peace means to you to mark the National Model United Nations set to take place in Kobe, Japan in November 2022. **Everyone who attends the conference will be given a complementary T-shirt.** We are contacting each registered participant to ask you to describe your idea of peace in one to ten words in English. We will then collate your messages from all over the world into an original PEACE FOR ALL T-shirt to mark the NMUN • Japan – Kobe 2022 conference. (The messages should not mention any one country, group, or political view)

UNIQLO, Asia's largest clothing retailer, launched its Social Contribution Office in 2001 because we believe social stability is the key to enriching our customers' lives, sustaining economic development, and bringing peace to the world. UNIQLO is a company that provides clothing, the foundation of life. Clothing has the power to protect and brighten people's lives, and help stabilize society. UNIQLO is inspired by this strong sense of mission in all that we do.

Our PEACE FOR ALL campaign, launched in June 2022, seeks to share the universal message of promoting peace worldwide. Charity T-shirts designed with the messages of celebrities who support the project's "Seek Peace" core purpose were released and all profits from the T-shirt sales are donated to organizations around the world working to reduce poverty, discrimination, violence, conflict, and war. Our ultimate aim is to form a connected circle around the world of people praying for world peace and a future where people can live in safety. The T-shirt designed for NMUN • Japan will be given free to participants. More about the general campaign at:

<https://www.uniqlo.com/us/en/contents/feature/peace-for-all/>

We are looking forward to receiving your messages and the prospect of designing a powerful and meaningful peace T-shirt together. Thank you!

Sincerely,

36 Lori ZENUK-NISHIDE
Michael HOLLENBACK
Yumi MATSUDA

UNIQLO PEACE FOR ALL Team

Sheet for PEACE FOR ALL message

Please send your message for PEACE in English (1 to 10 words) to the following e-mail address.

Email address: **nmunjapan.tshirtproject@gmail.com**

* Messages containing discriminatory terms or other inappropriate expressions will not be accepted.

Font type: Century

Font size: 11

Deadline: October 14, 2022