



The 2nd PDA High School Parliamentary Debate World Congress 2017 Report

General Incorporated Association
Parliamentary Debate Personnel Development Association (PDA)

Dates:

2017/1/20(Friday), 1/21(Saturday) and 1/22(Sunday)

Venue:

Hotel Nikko Kansai Airport Kansai - Airport Conference Halls

1 Senshukukokita, Izumisano-shi, Osaka Prefecture 549-0001

Tel: (81) 72-455-1111

Hosted by:	Parliamentary Debate Personnel Development Association (PDA)
Sponsored by:	The Tokyo Club, Children's Dream Fund, HUMAN-BRAIN Inc.
Supported by:	Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Sciences and Technology (MEXT), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (MOFA), The Asahi Shimbun Company, Asahi Student Newspaper, English-Speaking Union of Japan (ESUJ) and Osaka Prefecture University.
Sponsor for Selecting National Teams:	The Nippon Foundation.



Participating schools and debate teams: 16 Teams (Japan 6 teams, Overseas 10)

Japan - Matsumoto Agatagaoka Senior High School

Japan - Saitama Municipal Urawa High School

Japan - Asano Senior High School

Japan - Kyoto Municipal Murasakino Senior High School

Japan - Hirano Senior High School Attached to Osaka Kyoiku University

Japan - Kumamoto Prefectural Seiseiko Senior High School

Finland - Finland Team

Indonesia - Sman 8 Yogyakarta

Italy - WeDebate Network (2 teams)

Morocco - Moroccan National Debate Team

New Zealand - Southland Boys' High School (2 teams)

South Korea - Busanjangsan High School (2 teams)

Thailand - Anglo Singapore International School

Japanese high schools that participated to the first day only:

Aichi Prefectural Asahigaoka High School

Eiko Gakuen High School

Tochigi Prefectural Sano Senior High School

Notre Dame Seishin Gakuen Seishin Girls' High School



Purpose of the Event:

Recently, as the process of globalization accelerates, fostering talents that can contribute to a global society and understand cultural diversity and different ways of thinking has become one of the most important goals. The PDA High School Parliamentary Debate World Congress (PDA World Congress) aims to help participants nurture and strengthen their English speaking skills, logical thinking, presentation skills, communication skills, general knowledge and other various skills through active participation in Parliamentary debate format. It is a wonderful opportunity for students from different countries to achieve personal growth while exchanging ideas and arguments on an equal footing. The primary purpose of this event is to motivate participants to grow into active talents of our global society. To better assist that process, we have included various educational opportunities such as keynote speeches and other contemporary lectures. PDA World Congress offers not only the opportunity to challenge one's debate skills on a world scale but also, to use debate as an effective tool for cultural exchanges. Moreover, the schedule has been designed to resemble international/academic conferences. It is a unique experience for high school students as it provides them with a chance to visualize themselves being on an international stage. Furthermore, PDA World Congress integrates the results of a research project supported by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Sciences and Technology (MEXT) and uses an impromptu English debate format that can be used in a regular high school class (50 minutes). It is a format that is both familiar to the students who have some experiences in debates through extra-curricular activities, and at the same time, friendly to the students who have no prior training in debates.

Motions:

(Motions were announced 15 minutes before the beginning of each round)

Preliminary round 1: Cosmetic surgery should be banned.

Preliminary round 2: We should build expensive disaster prevention facilities to prepare for a massive once-in-a-thousand-years disaster even if we end up destroying the environment in the process.

Preliminary round 3: President Trump brings more benefits than harm to the world.

Semi-final round: Euthanasia should be legalized.

Final Rounds (Non-native) : Countries around the world should actively promote immigration policies.

(Native) : Artificial intelligence is our enemy.

Keynote speeches' speakers:

- Mr. Norio Murakami, Former Vice-President of Google Inc., Former President and General Manager of Google Japan Inc. and Honorary Chairman of Google Japan Inc.



Mr. Norio Murakami

- Professor Sota Nakajo, Lecturer, Osaka City University, Graduate school of Engineering, Urban Design and Engineering

First day (Opening Ceremony, Mix Debates, Culture Night)

The 2nd PDA High School Parliamentary Debate World Congress 2017 finally began with the welcome speech of Professor Nakagawa, PDA's Representative Director. She greeted and introduced the 10 teams from 7 Overseas' countries and 6 Japanese high schools participating to the event. There were also Japanese students participating on the first day only thanks to Children's Dream Fund's sponsor.



The first day's main activity was mix-debate. Teams are formed randomly with students from each country. Each student need to communicate with his or her teammates only using English even if it is their first meeting and they share different backgrounds. The motions were "Homework should be banned." and "It is better to confess one's love to someone by sending a text message than by telling it in person." Away from their usual debate teammate, participants had to share their idea on the spot while preparing their speech. It was an exciting experience for them.

One of Morocco's student said his memorable event was "the mix debates because I got to know everyone and their backgrounds." It was also the most meaningful event for more than half of the students, according to their questionnaires.



During the “Culture Night”, the participants shared dinner wearing each country’s traditional outfits. As it was culture night, cultural performances were held such as Aikido’s moves from Japan and Haka from New Zealand’s teams.



Second Day (Preliminary rounds, 1st Keynote speech, Recreation and Banquet)

On the 2nd Day, the preliminary rounds of the PDA World Congress finally began. In a quite different atmosphere than during the Mix-debates on the previous day, each team began to argue and debate intensely with their opponents. The preliminary rounds were not separated into Native English speaker's category from Non-native category.



Before the third and last motion was announced, there was Professor Nakajo's keynote speech. The content of his speech help student better understand the complexity of disaster prevention, the theme for the second preliminary round. A student from Italy told us:” [Keynotes speeches] were very interesting, especially the first one about the expensive buildings in order to prevent massive



disaster.”

After the preliminary rounds ended, it was time for Recreation. First, each country presented their culture to the assembly by sharing famous tourist spots, teaching greetings and short-phrases in their mother tongues, introducing their schools or even by giving gifts and sweets to all the participants. With their presentation skills, each team brought laugh, admiration and interest for a different culture.



The next program for the Recreation was an introduction to social dance. It seemed some students were shy at first but as time passed, everyone got used to dancing in pair. It was a quite different way to exchange than debating in English and it seemed to have been a joyful and interesting experience.



After the Recreation, the results of the preliminary rounds (break-announcement) were revealed. The teams participating to the semi-finals were announced (Results below).

At the end of this long day, students could enjoy the Banquet where the afternoon's presentations were continued. Moroccan music, Japanese Karate performance among others on the menu. Also, participants enjoyed free time to talk with each other.



Results of the Preliminary rounds:

Native English speakers' Category:

- 1st Thailand
- 2nd Italy 2
- 3rd New Zealand 1
- 4th Korea 2

Non-Native English speakers' Category:

- 1st Indonesia
- 2nd Morocco
- 3rd Italy 1
- 4th Saitama Municipal Urawa High School



Third Day (Semi-finals rounds, final rounds, 2nd keynote speech, closing ceremony)

Native English speakers and Non-Native English speakers' semi-final rounds were held simultaneously.



After a short break, the Non-Native English speakers' Grand Final round (Indonesia vs. Italy 1) was held. Participants got on the stage, where tables were set. Each speaker spoke in front of the audience with vigor and confidence.



Before the Native English speakers' Grand Final, the long-awaited 2nd keynote speaker, Mr. Murakami (Former Vice-President of Google Inc., Former President and General Manager of Google Japan Inc. and Honorary Chairman of Google Japan Inc.) took the podium and shared his knowledge to the attentive audience with the presentation “Is Artificial Intelligence an enemy or a friend?” Tying to the subject of artificial intelligence, Mr. Murakami ended his speech with the famous catchphrase of the film The Terminator “I’ll be back”, receiving applause from the audience.



Finally, Native English speakers' Grand Final round (Thailand vs. New Zealand 1) began. Adjudicators for the Grand final round consisted of each country's representative faculty members and as guest adjudicators, Keynote speaker Mr. Murakami and the spouse of the ambassador of Finland.

In a serious atmosphere, participants listened earnestly the speeches of the teams who won thought the final after three days of debate.

And the winner were Thailand's team (Native) and Indonesia's team (Non-native).



After the speech of Professor Nakagawa during the closing and award ceremony, each team's representative were given the opportunity to express their gratitude and impressions. In particular, one high school student from Japan told us he was delighted to be able to compete with teams with different countries and he particularly enjoyed Mr. Murakami's keynote speech. Then, quoting Mr. Murakami's ending words "I'll be back", he announced he will come next year. A large applause followed as the students shared the same goal.



We would like to show our gratitude to the Hotel Nikko Kansai Airport for providing us with a delightful place for the World Congress and to Kansai Airports for gifting souvenirs (stationaries) to the participants. PDA 2017 World Congress successfully ended as participants leaved the venue with satisfaction and new challenges ahead of them.



Thank you
the Adjudicators!

We would like to express our gratitude to the participants, high school students from all around the World, faculty members, to the keynote speakers, to the PDA World Congress sponsors and supporters and to everyone would help us making this event a success.

Results of the 2nd PDA High School Parliamentary Debate World Congress 2017

Team Prize (Native English Speakers)

1st Place: Thailand

2nd Place: New Zealand 1

Semi Finalists: Korea 2 and Italy 2.

Team Prize (Non-Native English Speakers)

1st Place: Indonesia

2nd Place: Italy 1

Semi Finalists: Saitama Municipal Urawa High School and Morocco

Individual Prizes

Best Debater

1st Place Linya Thng (Thailand - Anglo Singapore International School)

2nd Place Yona Schuh (Japan - Matsumoto Agatagaoka Senior High School)

2nd Place Will Scully (New Zealand 1 - Southland Boys' High School)

4th Place Ali Nadifi (Morocco - Moroccan National Debate Team)

5th Place Giulia Andreoli (Italy 2 - WeDebate Red)

5th Place Alice Mazzanti (Italy 1 - WeDebate Blue)

Best POI

Will Scully (New Zealand 1 - Southland Boys' High School)

Ali Nadifi (Morocco - Moroccan National Debate Team)

Auni Siukosaari (Finland - Team Finland)

Tomoki Higuchi (Japan - Saitama Municipal Urawa High School)

Salam Hamid Okamoto (Japan - Hirano Senior High School Attached to Osaka Kyoiku University)

Culture Prize

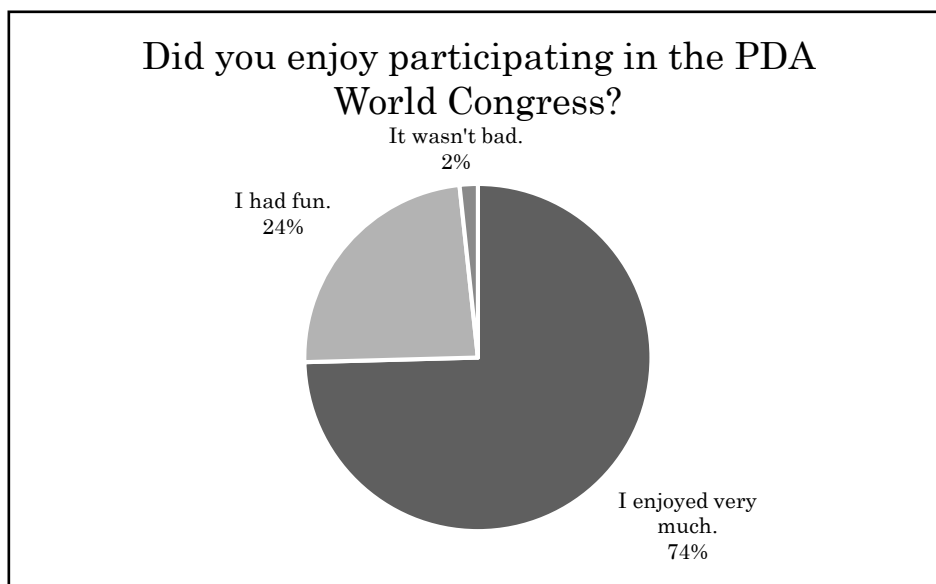
Team Finland

Team Morocco

Team Matsumoto Agatagaoka Senior High School (who did Japan's culture presentation)

Team New Zealand (1&2)

Questionnaire Results and Impressions on PDA 2017 World Congress



Participants' Impressions on PDA 2017 World Congress

This is a selection of impressions written by the participants (students, faculty members and observers).

General Impressions

- “Thanks to this event, I got high motivation to English. My skill is very low, but I want to study English harder than before.”(Japan).
- “I think that is a very good opportunity and I won’t forget about it. I hope that the sponsors keep promoting it because it was a great experience that taught me a lot.” (Italy).
- “It was really great because, compared to last year, the event was centered on the debates with an at-home atmosphere.”(Japan)
- “Mixed debate was a nice chance to get to know each other, and the hotel we stayed &debated in was really nice, all the staff & faculty members were nice to us, and it left me with a very good impression.”(South Korea)
- “I’m glad to coming here and communicating with many my new friends. And I could make my new goal so I will do my best to improve my English ability. Thank you for everything.”(Japan).
- “Everyone including judges were very nice and easy to approach. I also enjoyed the feedback given after the debates.” (New Zealand)

- “Everything was excellent from, of course, the high level of the debates, the staff organization, the schedule for 3 days and so forth. While being a general and educational occasion, it is also a wonderful competition where it is possible for participants to have cultural exchanges and to understand cultural diversity.” (Japan)
- “I liked meeting all the other students, making new friends and gaining skills. The hotel was a great venue and food was always available. Activities (dance) were so fun!” (Finland)
- It was a precious experience. I just began to participate in debates last year’s winter but as I am a high school junior (2nd grade), I can’t participate to next year’s events. In the future, when I will be asked “What did you work hard at in high school?” I will answer “Impromptu debate!” for sure.”(Japan)
- “I hope this event could last longer than only 3 days.” (Indonesia)

On the most meaningful part of the World Congress for the participants:

- “To be honest, it was the International aspect of it. Each person has a different perspective on the motion and this makes it stronger.” (Morocco)
- “Sharing ideas and various point of views was the best part. I also enjoyed learning dance and etiquette.” (South Korea).
- “I learned a lot about debating in this new format, knowing the topic only 15 minutes before the debate. I also greatly improved my English level and capacity to communicate with non-native English speakers from other countries.”(Italy).
- “Especially Mr. Murakami’s speech was nice because I can’t usually listen to such amazing person’s speech.” (Japan)
- “The AI keynote is very interesting and captivating.” (Thailand)



Group photography after the closing ceremony