



The 6th PDA High School Parliamentary Debate World Congress 2021 Report

General Incorporated Association
Parliamentary Debate Personnel Development Association (PDA)

Dates:

2021/1/23(Saturday), 1/24(Sunday)

Event Location:

Online (via Zoom)

Hosted by:	Parliamentary Debate Personnel Development Association (PDA)
Sponsored by:	The Nippon Foundation, KDDI Foundation
Supported by:	Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science 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.



Participating schools and debate teams: 21 Teams (Japan 5 teams, Overseas 16 teams)

Japan – Seiko Gakuin High School

Japan – Shonan Shirayuri Gakuen Senior High School

Japan – Kobe University Secondary School

Japan – Aomori Prefectural Aomori Senior High School

Japan – Akita Prefectural Kakunodate Senior High School

UAE – Fatimah Bint Mubarak for Secondary Education

Philippines – Timber City Academy

Mongolia – Hobby School of Ulaanbaatar

Thailand – Demonstration School (Secondary), Prince of Songkhla University

Nepal – (Absent)

Morocco – Moroccan National Debate Team

Viet Nam – Vinh Linh High School

Tajikistan – Economics Lyceum for Gifted Students, Presidential School

Uganda – National Debate Council Uganda

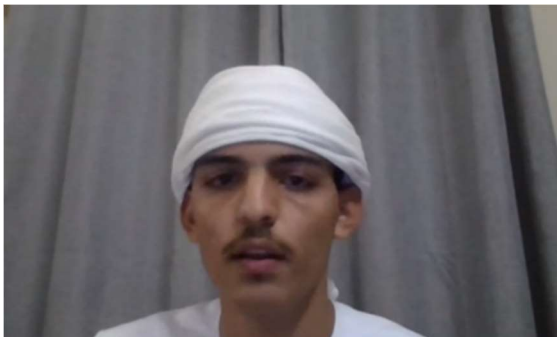
South Africa – (Absent)

Pakistan, Kenya – (Swing 1)

China, USA, Netherlands – (Swing 2)

South Korea – (Swing 3)

17 countries (including Japan)



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 British Parliamentary format debates. 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. Our main goal is to promote truly effective cultural exchanges using debate. Moreover, PDA High School Parliamentary Debate World Congress's 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: High school students should have part-time jobs.

Preliminary round 2: The death penalty should be abolished.

Preliminary round 3: Government should force people to take a COVID-19 vaccine.

Preliminary round 4: The permanent ban of Donald Trump's Twitter account should be removed.

Semi Final: Combat sports should be banned.

Grand Final: Development aid does more harm than good in developing countries.

Keynote speaker:

We Think Code_ Co-founder, BiB.africa Co-founder
2019 Forbes Woman Africa winner
(Technology and innovation Award)

Ms. Arlene Mulder



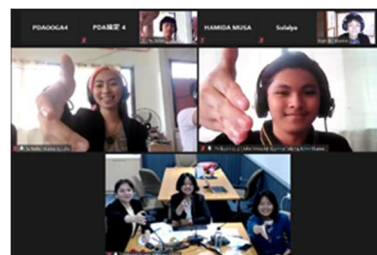
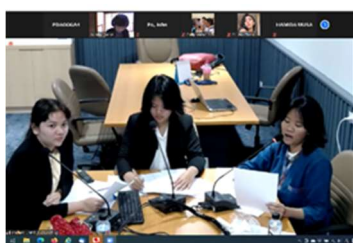
First day (Opening Ceremony, Preliminary Round 1~3, Cultural Interaction/Culture Night)

The 6th PDA High School Parliamentary Debate World Congress 2021 began with the welcome speech of Chihiro Nakagawa, Director of PDA. 16 teams from 16 Overseas countries and 5 Japanese high schools were introduced. Professor Isao Ayabe, PDAWC's chief judge confirmed some points of rules.



After the opening ceremony, the preliminary rounds of the PDA World Congress began. Each team began to argue and debate intensely with their opponents, with frequent calls of POI (Point of Information) being heard. After each round, students listened attentively to the judge's comments trying to use the advice for the next round.

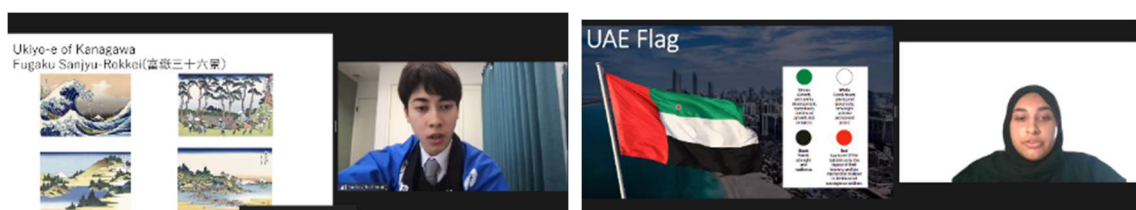
The motions were “High school students should have part-time jobs.”, “The death penalty should be abolished.”, and “Government should force people to take a COVID-19 vaccine.”. For many students, it was a whole new experience to debate against teams abroad using Zoom. Additionally, the students were surprised to see cultural differences in the argument, for some countries do not have to pay tuition fees in high school but others still do. The importance of working experience prior to employment was also a point that was brought up during debate.





After the first preliminary round, 10-minute group chats using the breakout room feature of Zoom was held. Students had conversation with different students every 10 minutes and exchanged opinions about the last round. Some teams were in their traditional attire for Culture Night, and students seemed highly interested.

After round 2, participants introduced their own countries in Culture Night. It was a great opportunity for them to know each other better through traditional dances, songs, attractive local foods, beautiful landscapes, and cultures. The chatroom was constantly full of praise for all the performances.



Team Seiko

Team UAE

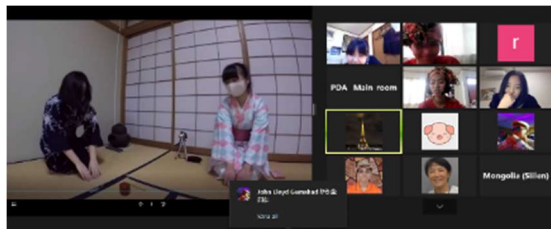


Team Kakunodate

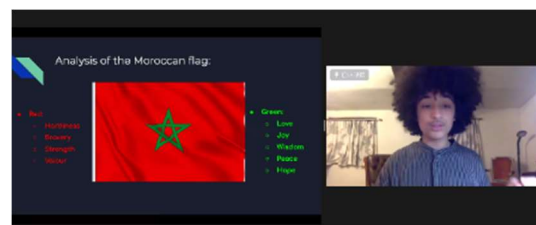
Team Mongolia



Team Philippines



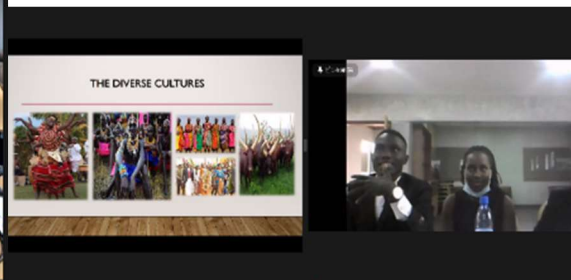
Team Shonan Shirayuri



Team Morocco



Team Thailand



Team Uganda

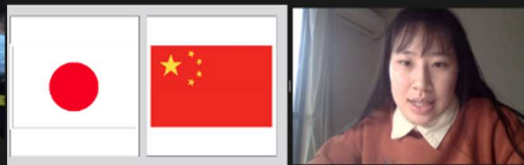


Team Aomori





Team Vietnam



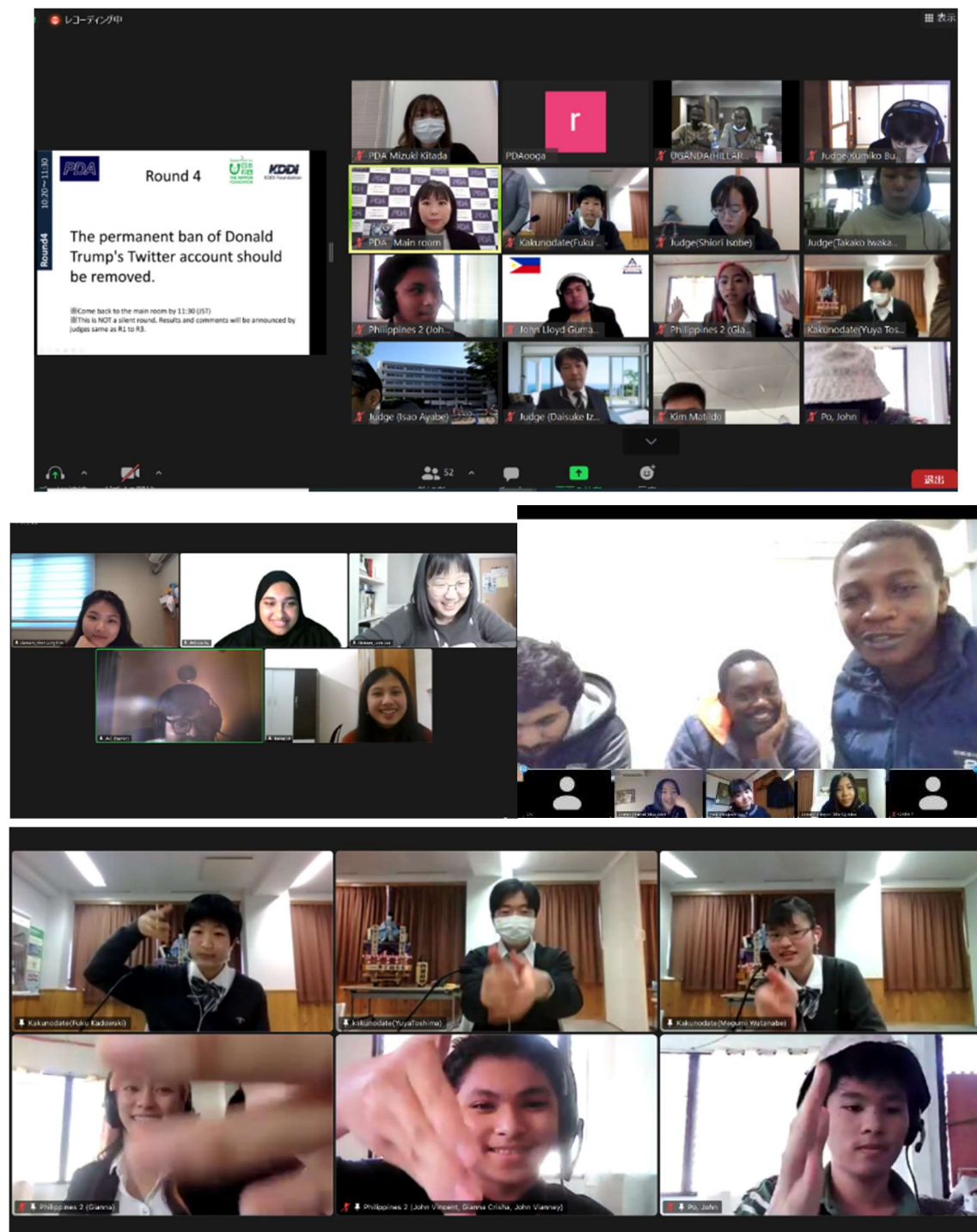
Team China

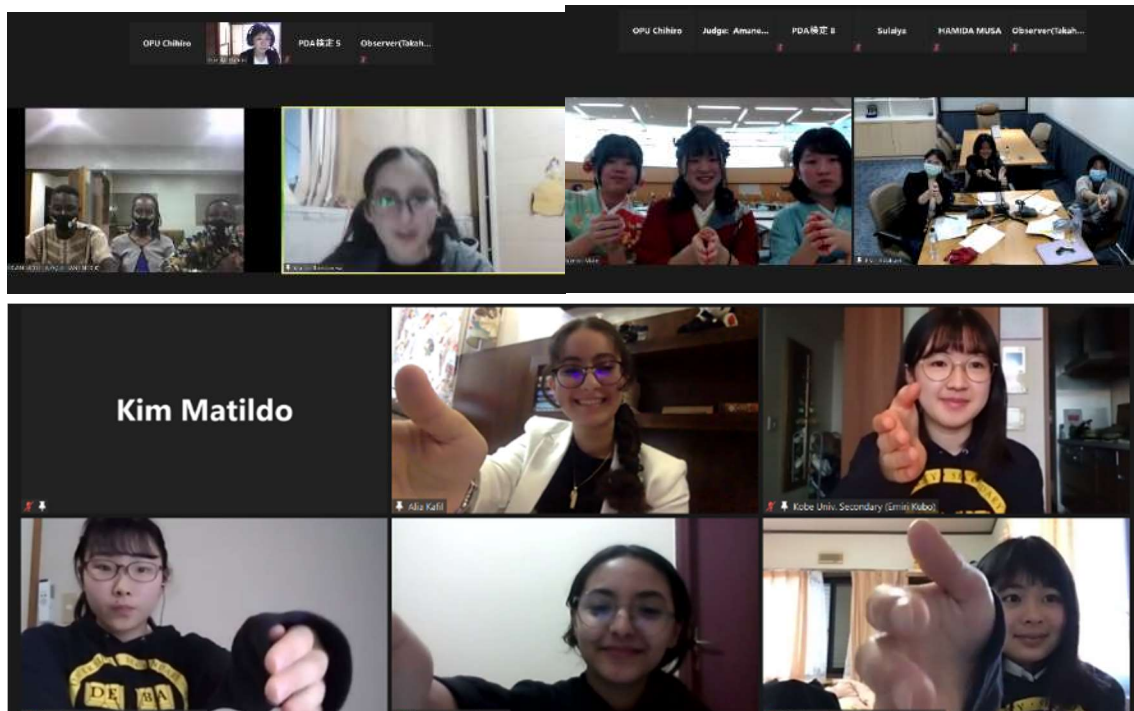


Team Netherlands

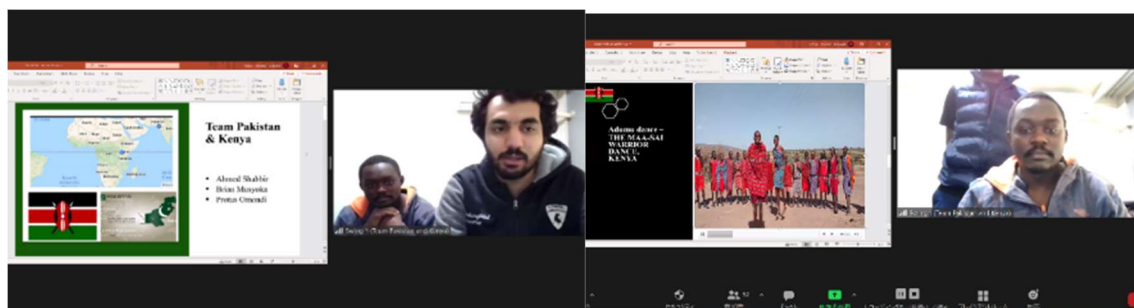
Second Day (Preliminary Round 4, Semifinals, Grand Final, Keynote Speech, Closing Ceremony)

The preliminary rounds of the PDA World Congress continued the second day. Motion of the 4th round was “The permanent ban of Donald Trump’s Twitter account should be removed.” There were many exciting rounds.

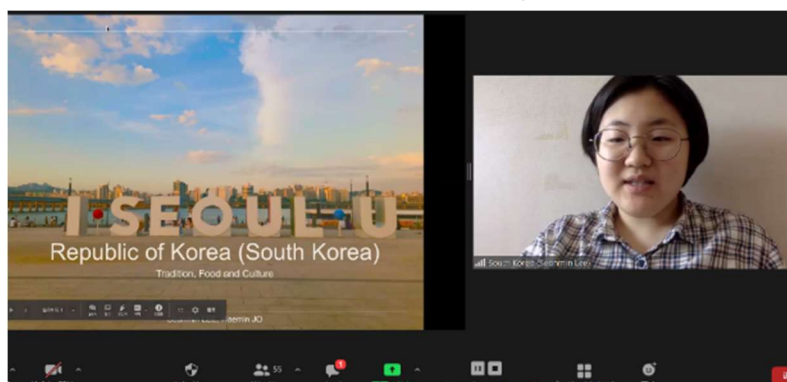




After preliminary rounds, recreation time was held. The rest of the culture presentations were made, and the students enjoyed lively conversation in the breakout room. Because students had a chance to know about each other yesterday, there was a very friendly atmosphere in each room.

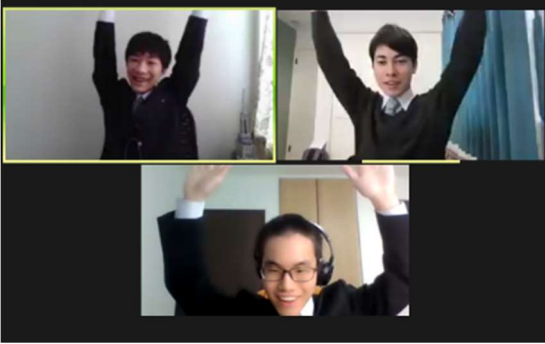


Team Pakistan & Kenya

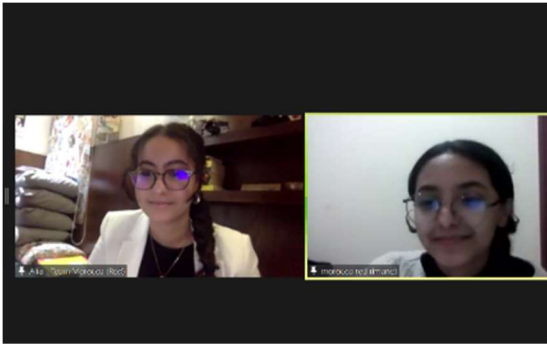


Team South Korea

After the Recreation, the results of the preliminary rounds (break-announcement) were revealed. The teams advancing to the semifinals were announced (Results below). As a larger audience than the preliminary rounds watched, the semifinalists took the stage. Teams who didn't make it to the semifinals also participated taking notes and sharing their opinions after the match.



Seiko



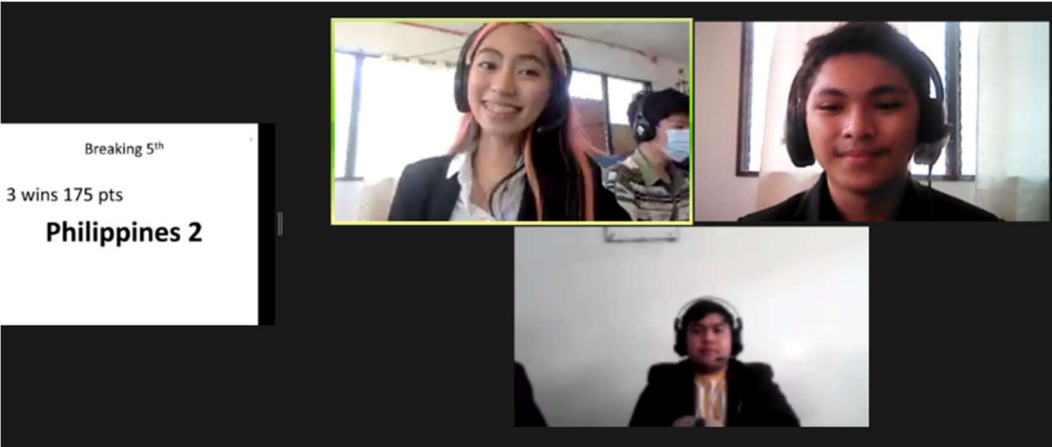
Morocco Red



Morocco Green



Vietnam & Korea Swing



Semi-Final (Table 1)

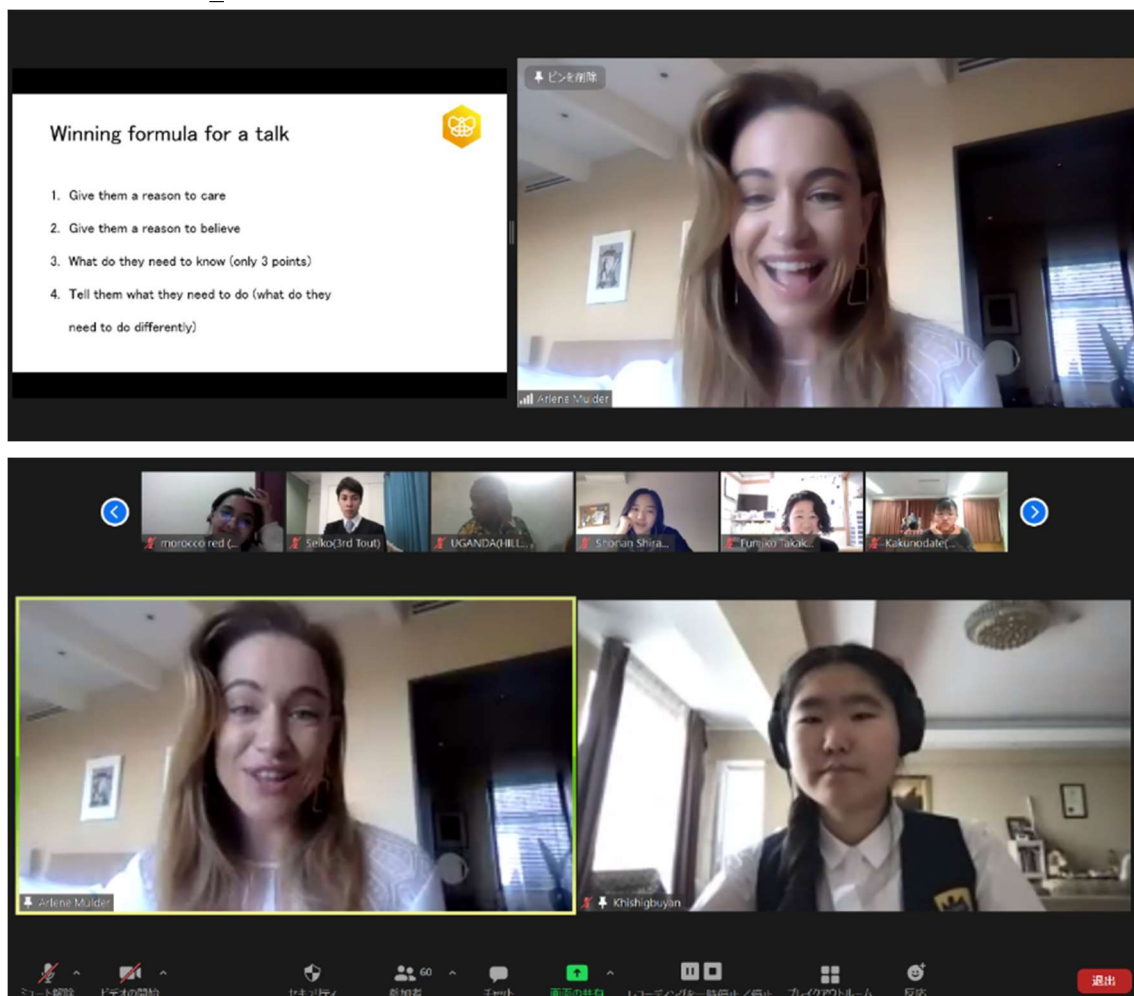


Semi-Final (Table 2)

Results of the Preliminary rounds:

- 1st Seiko
- 2nd Morocco Red
- 3rd Morocco Green
- 4th Viet Nam (not eligible to break)
- 5th Philippines 2
- 6th Swing 2 (China, USA, Netherlands)
- 7th Uganda
- 8th Shonan Shirayuri

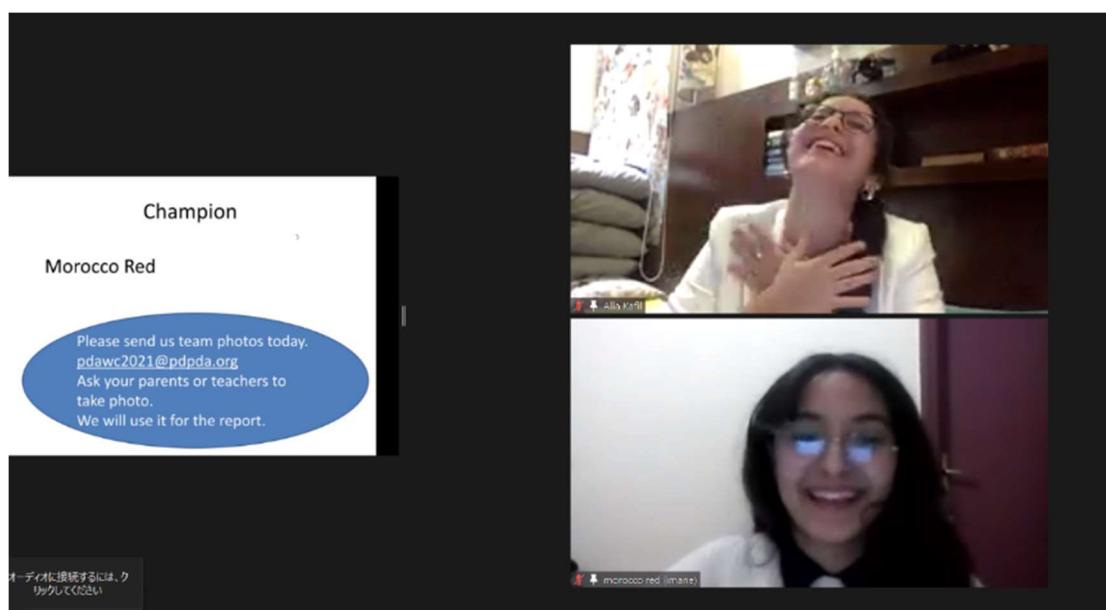
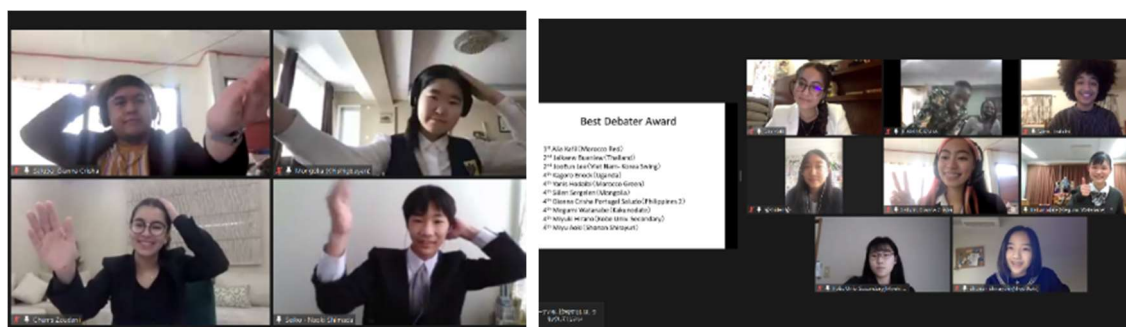
Before the grand final, the long-awaited keynote speaker, Ms. Arlene Mulder (We Think Code_ Co-founder, BiB.africa Co-founder, 2019 Forbes Woman Africa winner (Technology and innovation Award)) took the podium and shared her intel of education in developing countries from her experience is We Think Code_.

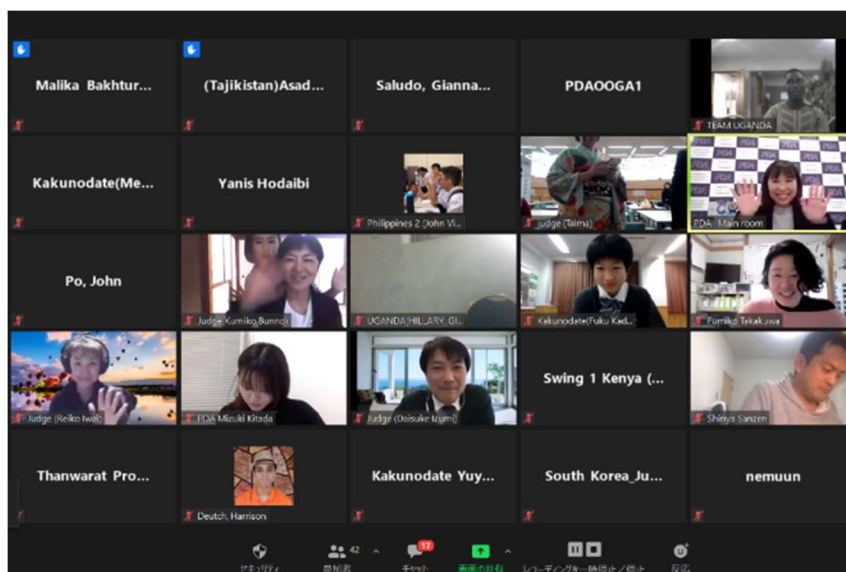


Finally, the Grand Final round (Morocco Red vs. Philippines 2) began. In a tense and heated atmosphere, all participants listened attentively to the speeches of the teams who stood victorious after two days of debate. And the winner wasMorocco Red.



In the closing ceremony, awards were presented. Prof. Ayabe made a comment about debating. PDA's founder and director Dr. Nakagawa presented concluding remarks; she was hopeful to see everyone again next year.





Despite the influence of COVID-19 making this an online venue, the PDA 2021 World Congress successfully ended as participants left with satisfaction and new challenges ahead of them. We would like to express our gratitude to the participants all around the world, faculty members, keynote speakers, sponsors, supporters, and everyone who helped this event to be successful.

Results of the 6th PDA High School Parliamentary Debate World Congress 2021

Team Prize

1st Place: Morocco Red

2nd Place: Philippines 2

Semifinalists: Seiko, Morocco Green

Individual Prizes

Best Debater

1st -- (Morocco Red)

2nd -- (Thailand)

2nd -- (Viet Nam/ Korea Swing)

4th -- (Uganda)

4th -- (Morocco Green)

4th -- (Mongolia)

4th -- (Philippines 2)

4th -- (Kakunodate)

4th -- (Kobe Univ. Secondary)

4th -- (Shonan Shirayuri)

Best POI

1st -- (Mongolia)

1st -- (Philippines 1)

3rd -- (Morocco Green)

3rd -- (Thailand)

5th -- (Seiko)

Culture Prize

Philippines

Kakunodate

Aomori

Thailand

Impressions on PDA World Congress 2021

Students

- The first thing that is meaningful to me is taking part in such debate, because I have learnt a lot. Also I am really happy that I met people from different nationalities, made new friends. I hope there will be another such debate in the future and I will definitely participate with the best efforts. (Tajikistan)
- Interacting with other schools was a very nice experience and the event as a whole was very fun. (Mongolia)
- So many great opportunities and people and kindness of the host. (Philippines)
- (Keynote speech) I thought her speech was incredibly inspirational. Her story and her project moved me. (Morocco)
- I really enjoyed having debates with other international teams. Having interactions online with international students of different nationalities was incredibly enjoyable! I made many new friends! (Mongolia)
- PDAWC is my first-ever debating competition. On top of that, it's held virtually. Coming so far is such an honor, a surprise, and a delight for my team and I. It made us believe that we can be capable of many more things, and yet it humbled us that there are many nationalities who are exemplar in debating. This reinforced my team's passion for debating. (Philippines)
- (Keynote speech) It was great. She was able to give a remarkable statement and meaningful words especially to the current status of our society. (Philippines)
- I really liked it, and opened for me a new Horizons, and thank you for giving us the opportunity to have a such great experience. Thank you ♥ (UAE)
- Am exceedingly delighted having been part of this historical engagement. I can't wait for many more. Amazing congress (Uganda)
- Extremely good tournament that fulfills my desires to interact with people all over the world and share our tradition and thoughts. Also the chocolate was delicious. (Japan)

Teachers

- Not only the debate rounds but also interaction with International schools was wonderful. (Japan)
- I've been joining the event for 3 years time already. It is always significant! So Nice. (Philippines)
- (Points of improvement) None. All went well (Morocco)
- It has been an amazing and perfect experience for me. Am really honoured and grateful to be part. (Thailand)
- I am feeling very glad to take part in this debate. (Tajikistan)
- The whole project of the PDA World Debate was fascinating. There was a true meaning of connecting to the members around the world. (Japan)