



The 8th PDA High School Parliamentary Debate World Congress 2023 Report

General Incorporated Association
Parliamentary Debate Personnel Development Association (PDA)

Dates:

2023/1/20(Friday), 1/21(Saturday)

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 Metropolitan University.

Participating schools and debate teams:

14 countries, 24 teams (6 teams from Japan, 18 teams from abroad)

Japan	Eiko Gakuen High School
Japan	Seiko Gakuin High School
Japan	Touhugakkan Senior High School
Japan	Yokohama-Suiran Senior High School
Japan	Fukuoka Prefectural Jonan High School
Japan	Yashiro High School
Romania	CN Al Papiu Ilarian
Romania	Colegiul National Andrei Saguna Brasov ※
Thailand	Prince of Songkla University Demonstration School 2teams
Philippines	Caraga Regional Science High School (CRSHS)
Philippines	Timber City Academy

Malaysia	Chung Ling High School ※
Morocco	Moroccan National Debate Team
Brazil	Colégio Harmonia ※
Mexico	Cumbres Internations School Mexico ※
Costa Rica	Colegio Cientifico de Alajuela ※
Vietnam	Newton Grammar School
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO	THE OXBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL 2 temas
Uganda	Trinity College Nabbingo
Uganda	Seeta High School ※
Colombia	American School
Jamaica	Ardenne High School

※= Teams that were absent on the day



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: Having pets should be banned.

Preliminary round 2: High school students should have part-time jobs.

Preliminary round 3: Economic sanctions against Russia do more harm than good.

Preliminary round 4: Degrowth should be supported rather than SDGs.

Semi Final: All universities should give students the option to graduate online only.

Grand Final: Universities involved in STEM should select students based on diversity rather than academics.

Keynote speaker:

Dr. Lesley Shannon

P.Eng

Professor, School of Engineering Science

Simon Fraser University, Canada



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

The 8th PDAWC began with an opening speech by Chihiro Nakagawa, Director of PDA. After 18 teams from abroad and 6 teams from Japan were introduced, rules of PDA style debate were explained.



Opening speech by Nakagawa, Director of PDA



POI Practice

The main events of the first day included three preliminary rounds, international exchange among students and judges, and Culture Night (introduction of cultures around the world). In the preliminary rounds, students listened carefully to each other's speech and actively exchanged POI (Point of Information) to deepen the discussion. When each debate round finished, students were giving compliments to each other, such as 'Your speech was beautifully structured!' and 'I thought your second argument was strong!' Moreover, after they received constructive comments from judges, some students discussed with their teammates to further improve their speech.



Eiko (Japan) VS Romania 1



Seiko (Japan) VS Vietnam



Philippines1 VS Jamaica



Colombia VS Yashiro (Japan)



Thailand1 VS Suiran (Japan)



Jonan (Japan) VS Thailand2



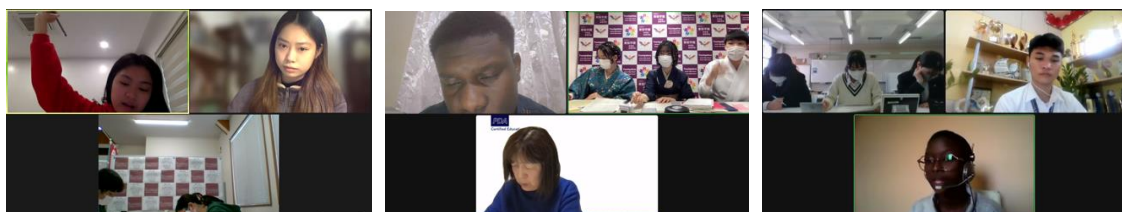
Tough (Japan) VS Philippines2

After the first preliminary round, students and judges enjoyed international exchange using Zoom's breakout rooms. Because they were participating from countries all over the world, the common topic they talked about was time difference and season. One student from Colombia said that it was worth staying up late at night to participate. She also said that "It was my first time talking with people from Japan and other Asian countries. This was a valuable experience."

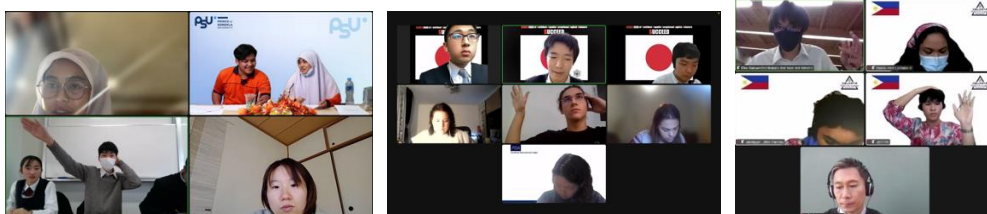




In Preliminary 2, participants debated on issues related to high school students, explaining their own experiences and other specific examples. After the debate, while waiting for the judges' comments, the students talked about each other's countries and schools, deepening exchanges.

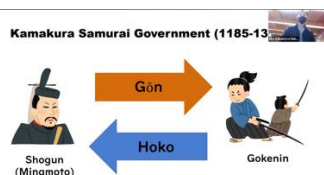


Yashiro (Japan) VS Vietnam Jamaica VS Touh (Japan) Suiran (Japan) VS Uganda1

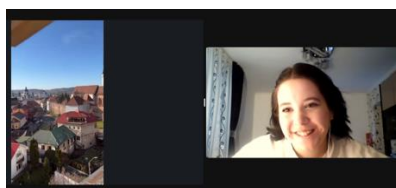


Thailand1 VS Jonan (Japan) Seiko (Japan) VS Romania1 Philippines2 VS Eiko (Japan)

After the second preliminary round, each team gave a presentation on their countries in the 'Culture Night' event for the purpose of promoting cross-cultural understanding. Some teams introduced traditional dishes, rituals, sightseeing spots, and local people's lifestyles in creative ways, such as making a video and wearing traditional clothes and accessories. Other teams introduced music and dance by giving an online performance.



Eiko (Japan)



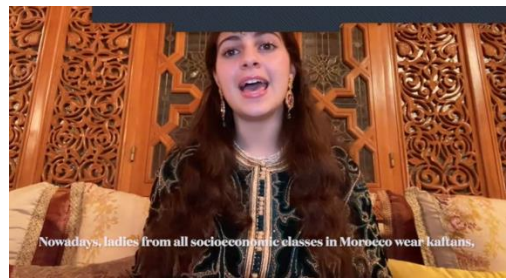
Romania1



Seiko (Japan)



Thailand



Morocco



Jonan (Japan)



Colombia



Philippines2



Uganda1



Philippines1



Yashiro (Japan)



Vietnam



Touhou (Japan)



Jamaica



Suiran (Japan)

After Culture Night, Preliminary 3 took place. Although debate on economic sanctions on Russia could be challenging for students, they used their knowledge gained through news articles and schools as much as possible to strengthen their arguments.



Touoh (Japan) VS Thailand 1

Jonan (Japan) VS Philippines 1



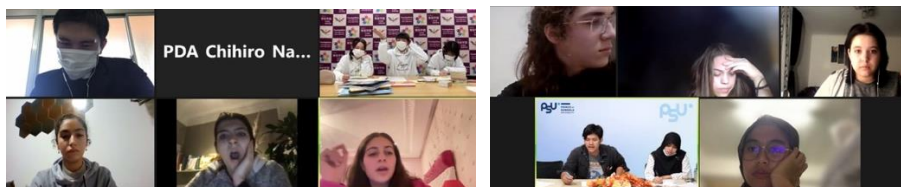
Romania 1 VS Suiran (Japan)



Group photo on the day1

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

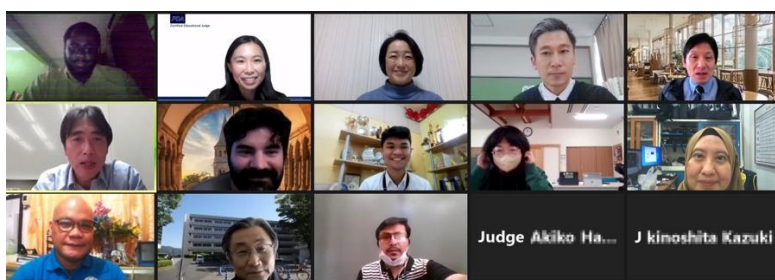
Continuing from Day 1, Day 2 started with Preliminary Round 4. The topic of discussion was "Degrowth should be supported rather than SDGs." Students were able to express solid reasons and concrete examples for their opinions on the SDGs and degrowth, two issues that are of global concern.



Morocco VS Touch (Japan)

Romania 1 VS Thailand 1

After the preliminary round on the second day, a recreational activity was held as well as a break. This time, in addition to the students, an exchange meeting for teachers was also held. Teachers from various subjects such as social studies as well as English participated, giving a sense of the broadening reach of debating.

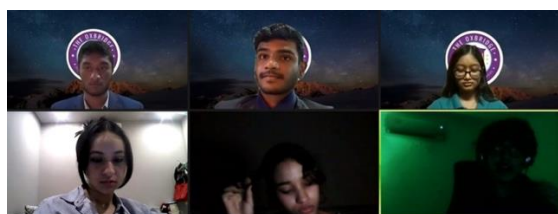


After a short break, a tense break announcement was made (see below for the results of the preliminary round), and the semifinals began. The topic of the semifinals was "All universities should give students the option to graduate online only". At the same time as the semi-finals, the two teams from Trinidad and Tobago that were unable to participate on Day 1 also participated, and an exchange debate was held with the fifth and sixth place teams, respectively.



Eiko (Japan) VS Seiko (Japan)

Philippines 1 VS Vietnam



TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO VS Colombia

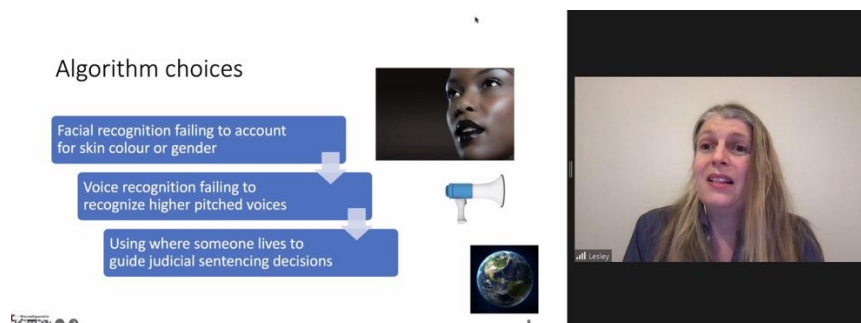


Philippines 2 VS TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Results of the Preliminary rounds:

Place	Team Name	Win	Sum	Institution
1st	Philippines 1	4	155	Caraga Regional Science High School (CRSHS)
2nd	Seiko (Japan)	3	175	Seiko Gakuin High School
3rd	Eiko (Japan)	3	158	Eiko Gakuen High School
4th	Vietnam	3	151	Newton Grammar School
5th	COLOMBIA	3	140	American School
6th	Philippines 2	2	154	Timber City Academy
7th	Jamaica	2	150	Ardenne High School
8th	Romania 1	2	149	CN Al Papiu Ilarian
9th	Touoh (Japan)	2	148	Touohgakkan Senior High School
10th	Jonan (Japan)	2	147	Fukuoka Prefectural Jonan High School
11th	Uganda 1	2	140	Trinity College Nabbingo
12th	Morocco	1	156	Moroccan National Debate Team
13th	Thailand 1	1	140	Prince of Songkla University Demonstration School (Secondary) Team 1
14th	Suiran (Japan)	1	130	Yokohama-Suiran Senior High School
15th	Yashiro (Japan)	1	129	Yashiro High School
16th	Thailand 2	0	122	Prince of Songkla University Demonstration School (Secondary) Team 2
★	TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO 1	–		THE OXBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
★	TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO 2	–		THE OXBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
–	Costa Rica	–		Colegio Cientifico de Alajuela
–	Mexico	–		Cumbres Internations School Mexico
–	Brazil	–		Colégio Harmonia
–	Malaysia	–		Chung Ling High School
–	Romania 2	–		Colegiul National Andrei Saguna Brasov
–	Uganda 2	–		Seeta High School

The heated semi-finals were completed, and as a result, Philippines 1 (1st place in the preliminary round) and Seikou (2nd place in the preliminary round) advanced to the finals. The students listened attentively to the keynote speech by Professor Lesley Shannon, who spoke about the need for STEM education and the lack of women in the sciences, while sharing her expertise.



In the final, a wonderful debate went on. The result was that 9 out of the 12 judges, including the PDA certified education judges, voted for Seiko as the winner.



At the closing ceremony, awards were presented, and many compliments were given to the representative teams and students via Zoom chat. There was also a moment when one student from abroad, who has participated in the competition for three consecutive years, left comments on his last competition as a high school student, showing the penetration of PDAWC in each country. In addition, Mr. Ayabe, who served as chief judge, gave his comments that will lead to the development of students' debating skills. Finally, the director of PDA, Nakagawa gave a summary of the event, thanking the participants for their participation in this tournament and offering encouragement for the future.

The tournament was held online due to the COVID-19, but it was a great success. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to all the high school students from around the world who participated in the congress, the teachers who led the students, the keynote speakers, and all those who subsidized, sponsored, and supported the conference.

Results of the 8th PDA High School Parliamentary Debate World Congress 2023

Team Prize

1st Place: Seiko (Japan)

2nd Place: Philippines1

Semifinalists: Eiko (Japan), Vietnam

Individual Prizes

Best Speaker

- 3 times

_____ (Romania 1)

_____ (Thailand 1)

_____ (Seiko)

_____ (Jonan)

- 2 times

_____ (Philippines 1)

_____ (Philippines 2)

_____ (Uganda 1)

_____ (Jamaica)

_____ (Eiko)

_____ (Eiko)

_____ (Touoh)



Best POI

- 4 times

_____ (Philippines 1)

_____ (COLOMBIA)

- 2 times

_____ (Romania 1)

_____ (Thailand 1)

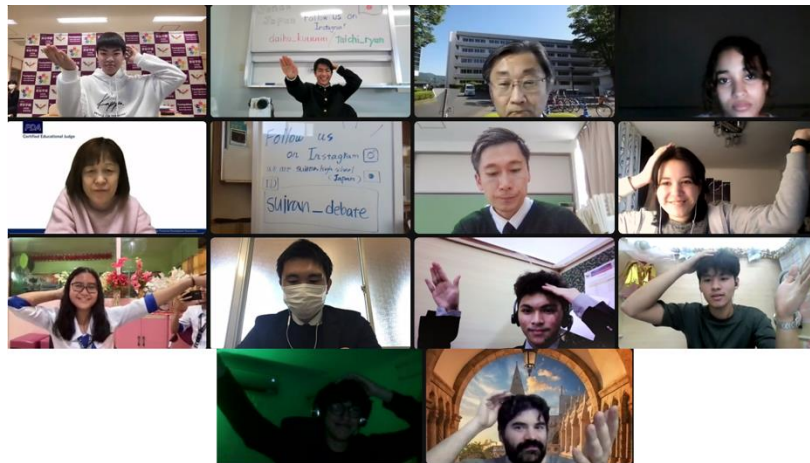
_____ (Philippines 2)

_____ (Philippines 2)

_____ (Vietnam)

_____ (Touoh)

_____ (Jonan)



Culture Prize

Philippines 1

Philippines 2

Thailand

Touoh (Japan)

Impressions on PDA World Congress 2023

Students

- The rounds and the judges are too nice. (Uganda)
- PDAWC is a great event for everyone, Too bad I can no longer join next year since I am gonna be in college. :((Philippines 2)
- I knew PDAWC would be very fun and educational! It was more than I've been expecting and it was really fun interacting with other countries. (Japan)
- The overall experience was an energetic and enjoyable atmosphere, and i think the organization + the exchange between people from different countries was very nice. (Romania 1)
- The motion was fun to debate. (Japan)
- I enjoyed the competition so much, that I'd be more than willing to do it again. (Colombia)
- the breakout rooms was nice since i get to talk with other students from other parts of the worlds. (Philippines 1)
- It is a wonderful experience that i got to do 2 times, hopefully 3 in the future, and the cultural concept combined with debating is amazing. (Romania 1)
- It gives a lot of inspiration to improve my English skill. (Thailand)
- I actually enjoyed debates each rounds, another thing is to talk with others after the debate is really fun, they're all friendly and nice. (Thailand)

Teachers

- It 's a good chance for students to sharpen their critical thinking while improving their English and interacting with peers from various backgrounds. As a teacher, it's useful to learn from judges' comments and from the debaters as well. This is a brilliant online event. Very well-organised. Superb indeed. (Thailand)
- Everything perfect, well organized. (Thailand)
- Thank you so much for having us! It is an amazing opportunity for students to adjust to different cultures and perspectives. (Romania 1)
- It was a great exposure for my debaters. First time for me and my students but not for our school but it was amazing! (Philippines 1)

Keynote Speech

- There were many example so it is easy to imagine. (Japan)
- I liked how the keynote speech discussed the issue of diversity in STEM, which is something that I'm also very interested in as a student in STEM. (Philippines 1)
- It was very informative. (Philippines 1)

- It was honestly one of my favourite parts of the tournament, it was very interesting. (Morocco)
- It was a grateful honor to have Dr. Lesley Shannon's Keynote speech. Many students (including me) must be astonished to know how engineering is progressing in the world. (Japan)
- Yes, of course it was a really good speech. A really useful information. (Thailand)

