



The 9th PDA High School Parliamentary Debate World Congress 2024 Report

General Incorporated Association
Parliamentary Debate Personnel Development Association (PDA)

Dates:

2024/1/19(Friday), 1/20(Saturday)

Event Location:

Online (via Zoom)

Hosted by:	Parliamentary Debate Personnel Development Association (PDA)
Co-Hosted by:	Osaka Metropolitan University
Sponsored by:	The Nippon Foundation, KDDI Foundation and Mitsubishi Memorial Foundation for Educational Excellence
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:

13countries, 26 teams (6 teams from Japan, 20 teams from abroad)

Japan	Seiko Gakuin High School
Japan	Asano Senior High School
Japan	Senior High School at Komaba, University of Tsukuba
Japan	Fukui Prefectural Fujishima High School
Japan	Sagamihara Senior High School
Japan	Dokkyo Senior High School
Morocco	Morocco Debate Association ※
Nepal	Ripumardini Sainik Mahavidyalaya ※
Cameroon	Zemneh High School 2 teams ※
Uganda	Trinity College Nabbingo

Uganda	Code High School
Uganda	Debate Cranes
Colombia	American School 2 teams
Philippines	Caraga Regional Science High School
Philippines	Xavier School San Juan
Romania	CN Al Papiu Ilarian
Romania	National College Andrei Saguna ※
Poland	Schools of Communications in Cracow 2 teams
Thailand	Prince of Songkla University Demonstration School 2 teams
Mongolia	Hobby School of Ulaanbaatar
Trinidad and Tobago	The Oxbridge International School
Jamaica	Hampton 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: Living in rural areas is better than living in urban areas.

Preliminary round 2: Zoos should be banned.

Preliminary round 3: Disaster-affected marginal villages should move to other cities rather than rebuild.

*A marginal village is a village with over half the residents over the age of 65.

Preliminary round 4: African countries should prioritize environmental protection over economic development.

Semi Final: Politics is better done by AI than by humans.

Grand Final: STEM education is more important than language education for high school students.

Keynote speaker:

Dr. Somporn Chuai-Aree

Assistant Professor, Prince of Songkla University, Thailand



Photos of Participating Schools



Romania



Poland



Poland



Mongolia



Uganda



Uganda



Uganda



Colombia



Trinidad and Tobago



Thailand



Thailand



Morocco



Jamaica



Seiko, Japan



Komaba, Japan



Fujishima, Japan



Sagamihara, Japan



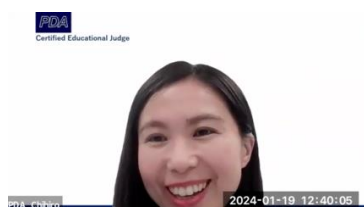
Dokkyo, Japan



Asano, Japan

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

The 9th PDAWC has commenced. During the opening ceremony, there were welcoming remarks from PDA Director Chihiro Nakagawa, as well as introductions of teams from various countries (26 teams from 13 countries, including 6 teams from Japan). After that, there was an explanation of the debate rules. On the first day of the competition, there were three rounds of preliminaries, international exchange activities, and a Culture Night (introducing the cultures of various countries). During the opening ceremony, participants watched introduction videos of the attending schools, confirming the diverse group of international peers they would be debating with. In the rule review, participants practiced Point of Information (POI) poses for questioning during debates and enhancing mutual understanding.



Welcoming remarks from PDA Director

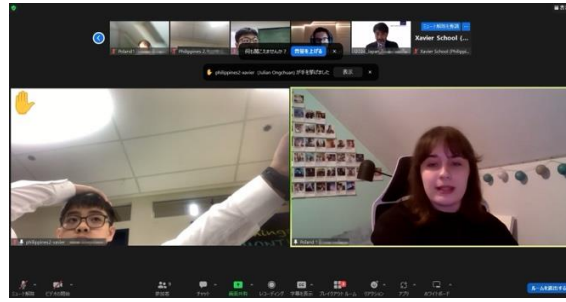


Practice of POI

In the first round of the preliminaries, amidst visible tension, teams engaged in discussions while exchanging Point of Information (POI). Addressing the question of whether one should live in the countryside or the city, the government team argued that "the countryside is safer," while the negative team contended that "the city has more comprehensive healthcare services," leading to intense debates at some tables. Discussions on the topic of rural and urban living unfolded from various perspectives, including environmental and educational aspects. After the debates concluded, participants found opportunities for deeper exchange, sparked by topics such as whether their own residences were in the countryside or the city. Following the debates, all teams received feedback and improvements for the upcoming rounds from the judge.



POI ! (Thailand2 VS Colombia2)



POI ! (Poland1 VS Philippines2)



Exchange(Thailand 1 VS Seiko)



Comments from the judge (Dokkyo VS Poland 2)

The topic for the second round of preliminaries was whether zoos should be banned. During the subsequent exchange, participants discovered diverse backgrounds, such as some having no zoos, others having zoos but never visiting, and some having nature parks with animals instead of traditional zoos. This led to moments where perspectives were broadened through discussions like, 'I believe cultural backgrounds are also involved in this,' emphasizing the role of cultural diversity and the expansion of viewpoints through the debate and its topics.



Poland 2 VS Jamaica



POI!
(Fujishima VS Trinidad and Tobago)



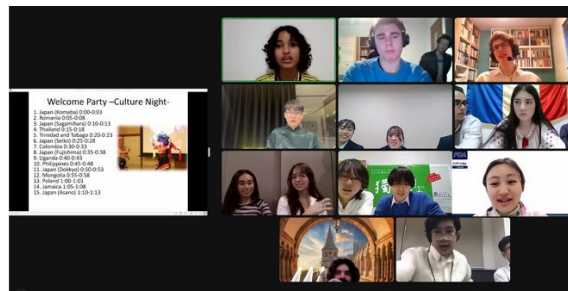
Colombia VS Romania 1



Seiko VS Philippines 1



Shake hands (Poland 1 VS Sagami-hara)

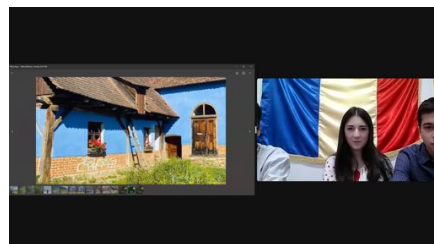


Exchange of ide

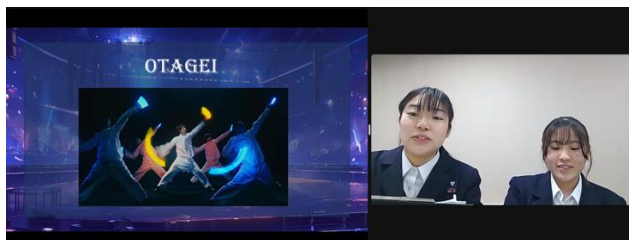
After the second round of preliminaries, each team participated in a 'Culture Night,' where they introduced their own country's culture to have cross-cultural understanding. Presentations covered aspects such as food culture, subcultures, and nature from each country. Participants listening to the cultural presentations expressed excitement, captivated by the performances and visuals.



Komaba



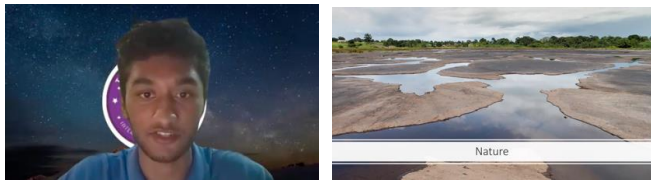
Romania



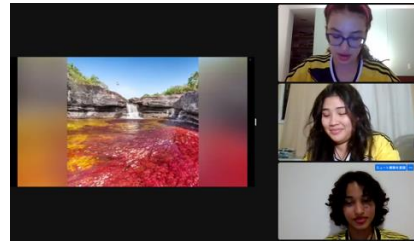
Sagami-hara



Thai land



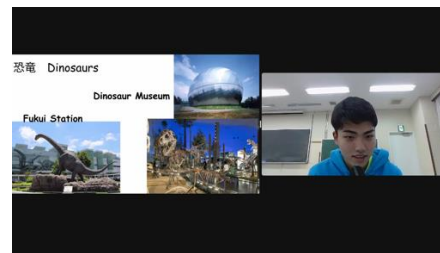
Trinidad and Tobago



Colombia



Seiko



Fujishima



Uganda



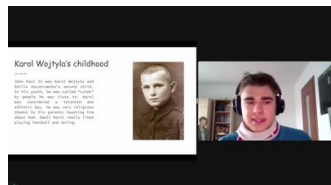
Philippines



Mongolia



Dokkyo



Poland



After Culture Night, the third round of preliminaries took place, focusing on the ongoing debate surrounding the recovery and relocation of depopulated villages, a topic brought to light again by the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake. Specific discussions were held on issues such as post-disaster reconstruction funds and the risk of facing another disaster. International teams also had the opportunity to learn more about each other's countries, with comments like 'We are familiar with the Noto earthquake through TV and social media' and 'While earthquakes are rare where we live, other disasters are a concern.' The discussion delved into the specific challenges of the recovery and relocation process.



Colombia 2 VS Mongolia



Exchange (Sagamihara VS Asano)



POI! (Dokkyo VS Philippines 1)

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

The second day began with the fourth round of preliminaries, focusing on the topic 'African countries should prioritize environmental protection over economic development.' Given the participation of teams from Africa in the global exchange tournament, every team seemed to feel a personal connection to the challenge, leading to lively debates. Teams from the concerned African countries shared insights into their situations, and teams from other nations utilized their knowledge to engage in full-fledged debates. Even after the debates concluded, participants continued to deepen their discussions on the topic, providing an opportunity to enhance the interest of high school students worldwide in international issues.



Mongolia VS Fujishima



Philippines 2 VS Poland 2



Trinidad and Tobago VS Thailand 2



Asano VS Komaba, Judge: Romania



Thailand 1 VS Colombia 2



Shake hands (Jamaica VS Colombia 1)



Philippines 1 VS Sagamihara



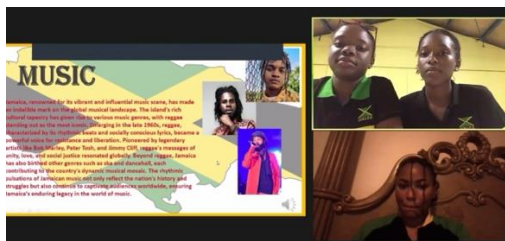
Shake hands (Romania 1 VS Dokkyo)

During the preparation time, we had a networking event for teachers. In addition to English teachers, there were some teachers who teach other subjects, such as math. We learned about the education system in each country and received tips that could improve our education.

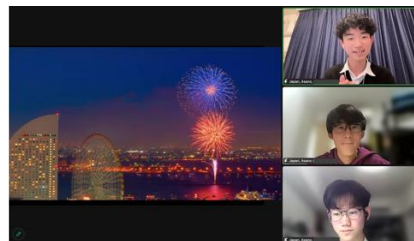


Faculty Group Photo

During the lunch break on the second day, we hosted a culture night, similar to the one held at Day1. Presentations were given by Jamaica and Asano High School. The Jamaican high school performed a famous song, creating an exciting atmosphere. Asano High School introduced Yokohama, the location of their high school, providing an opportunity to learn about the famous places and culture of each region. Afterwards, there was time for free interaction, and students from each country could be seen enjoying cross-cultural exchange by asking each other questions.



Jamaica

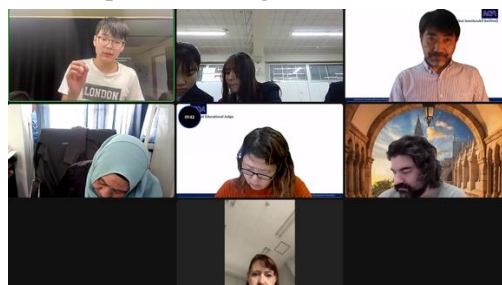


Asano

After a break, following the announcement (revealing the preliminary results), the semifinals commenced. The topic for the semifinals was, 'Politics is better done by AI than by humans.' Simultaneously with the semifinals, teams ranking fifth to eighth engaged in an Exchange Round, debating the same topic, fostering heated debates.



Asano VS Komaba



Mongolia VS Sagamihara

Results of the Preliminary rounds:

Place	Team Name	Win	Sum	Institution
1st	Asano	4	164	Asano Senior High School
2nd	Sagamihara	3	168	Sagamihara Senior High School
3rd	Mongolia	3	156	Hobby School of Ulaanbaatar
4th	Komaba	3	154	Senior High School at Komaba, University of Tsukuba
5th	Uganda 1	3	153	Trinity College Nabbingo
6th	Romania 1	3	143	CN Al Papiu Ilarian
7th	Uganda 3	3	130	Debate Cranes
8th	Seiko	2	168	Seiko Gakuin High School
9th	Fujishima	2	163	Fukui Prefectural Fujishima High School
10th	Philippines 1	2	162	Caraga Regional Science High School
11th	Dokkyo	2	154	Dokkyo Senior High School
12th	Colombia 2	2	152	American School
13th	Colombia 1	2	151	American School
14th	Trinidad and Tobago	2	149	Trinidad and Tobago
15th	Philippines 2	1	149	Xavier School San Juan
16th	Thailand 1	1	148	Prince of Songkla University Demonstration School (Secondary)
17th	Thailand 2	1	147	Prince of Songkla University Demonstration School (Secondary)
18th	Poland 1	1	138	Zespół Szkół Łączności w Krakowie (Schools of Communications in Cracow)
19th	Jamaica	1	109	Hampton School
20th	Uganda 2	1	101	Code High School
21st	Poland 2	0	139	Zespół Szkół Łączności w Krakowie (Schools of Communications in Cracow)
-	Romania 2	-		National College Andrei Saguna
-	Cameroon 1	-		Zemneh High School
-	Cameroon 2	-		Zemneh High School B
-	Nepal	-		Ripumardini Sainik Mahavidyalaya
-	Morocco	-		Morocco Debate Association

The intense semifinals concluded, and as a result, Asano (1st in the preliminaries) and Sagamihara (2nd in the preliminaries) advanced to the grand final. The topic for the championship debate was 'STEM education is more important than language education for high school students.' In connection with this, a keynote speech by Dr. Somporn Chuai-Aree was delivered, emphasizing the role of software that facilitates programming in promoting STEM education. The students were observed attentively listening to the speech. In the final debate, discussions unfolded from various perspectives, including opportunities and necessities for learning after high school graduation. Judged by PDA certified educational judges and international educators, Asano High School emerged as the champion.



キーノートの様子



決勝戦の様子

At the closing ceremony, awards were presented, and numerous praises were conveyed to the representative teams and students through the Zoom chat. Finally, the director of PDA provided a summary, expressing gratitude for the participation in this event and offering best wishes for the future.

Despite being held online for another year, the PDAWC concluded with great success. We extend heartfelt thanks to all the high school students from around the world, accompanying teachers, a keynote speaker, and everyone who supported, sponsored, and cheered for this PDAWC.

Results of the 9th PDA High School Parliamentary Debate World Congress 2024

Team Prize

1st Place: Asano Senior High School (Japan)

2nd Place: Sagamihara Senior High School (Japan)

Semifinalists: Mongolia, Senior High School at Komaba, University of Tsukuba

Individual Prizes

Best Debater

- 4 times

_____ (Asano)

- 3times

_____ (Komaba)

_____ (Colombia 1)

_____ (Uganda 3)

- 2times

_____ (Dokkyo)

_____ (Dokkyo)

_____ (Fujishima)

_____ (Mongolia)

_____ (Poland 1)

_____ (Colombia 2)

_____ (Uganda 1)



Best Debater Prize

Best POI

• 4 times

_____ (Romania 1)
_____ (Mongolia)
_____ (Colombia 2)

• 3 times

_____ (Seiko)
_____ (Jamaica)
_____ (Thailand 1)
_____ (Colombia 1)
_____ (Uganda 1)

• 2 times

_____ (Trinidad and Tobago)
_____ (Sagamihara)
_____ (Dokkyo)
_____ (Poland 1)
_____ (Uganda 2)



Best POI Prize

Culture Prize

Jamaica

Philippines 2

Dokkyo Senior High School

Thailand

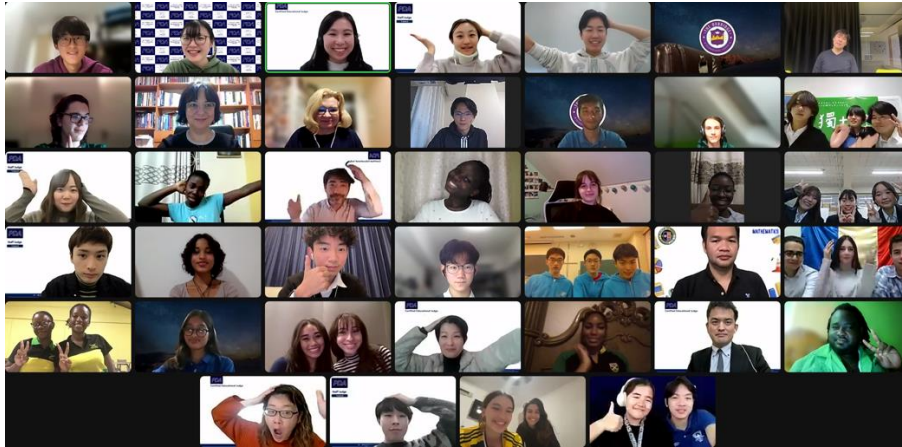
Impressions on PDA World Congress 2024

(Students)

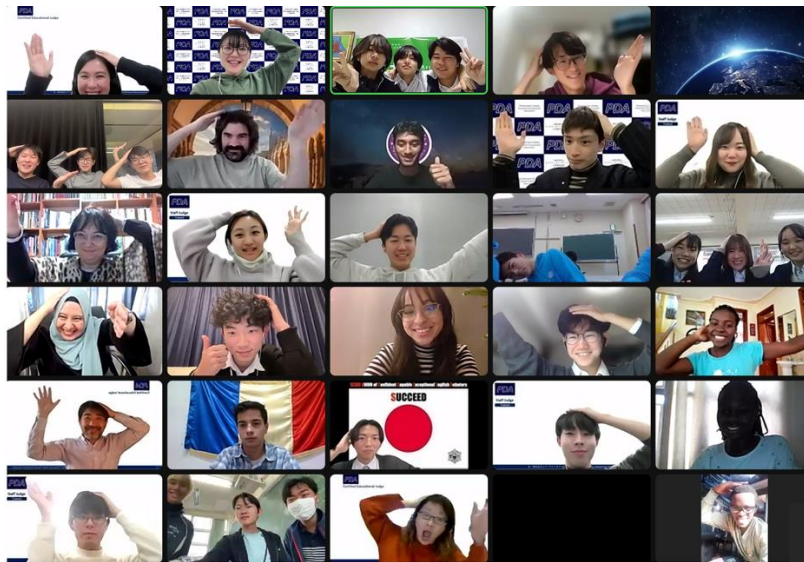
- I really liked the time we had to talk with participants with other countries. It's always nice to get to know another culture. (Poland)
- It was really enjoyable the debates, very well organized. (Colombia)
- Definitely the interaction with other members, it was very educative and fun! (Colombia)
- It was such a wonderful opportunity to be able to debate with people from foreign countries. (Asano, Japan)
- I enjoyed debating in this format, becoming my favorite format. Also, the opportunity to play with students all around the globe is priceless. (Romania)
- 3 words. Very amazing experience. (Mongolia)
- Debate round with foreigners was so uniquely interesting. (Seiko, Japan)
- Great opportunity to meet people from all over the world and engage in enlightening debates. Staff members were very friendly. (Trinidad and Tobago)
- I appreciate the competitive but friendly spirit you have managed to create, the great efficiency and kindness of PDA. (Romania)
- Before joining this interaction competition, we didn't think we can win because opponents will be people who speaks English in daily life. However, we can win two. And we could interact with other countries. Moreover, we could watch such wonderful a debate matches semifinals and final game. (Sagamihara, Japan)
- Because we enjoyed communicating with international students and sharing cultures. (Fujishima, Japan)
- Everyone was so friendly and kind. It was fun meeting new people and learning about their countries. I really enjoyed it. (Uganda)
- This competition open my world to meet with new foreigners students. (Thailand)

(Teachers)

- I always appreciate the kindness and preparedness of the staff. Especially, the enthusiasm of you all is what I admire most. That is actually what drives me to improve myself in everyday life. You guys are my ideal model!!
- It's good opportunity to enjoy debating with team all over the world.
- I love it, my students were excited despite the 14 hour difference.



Memorial photo 1



Memorial photo 2