



## Romania Teachers' Training 2024

Parliamentary Debate Personnel Development Association (PDA)

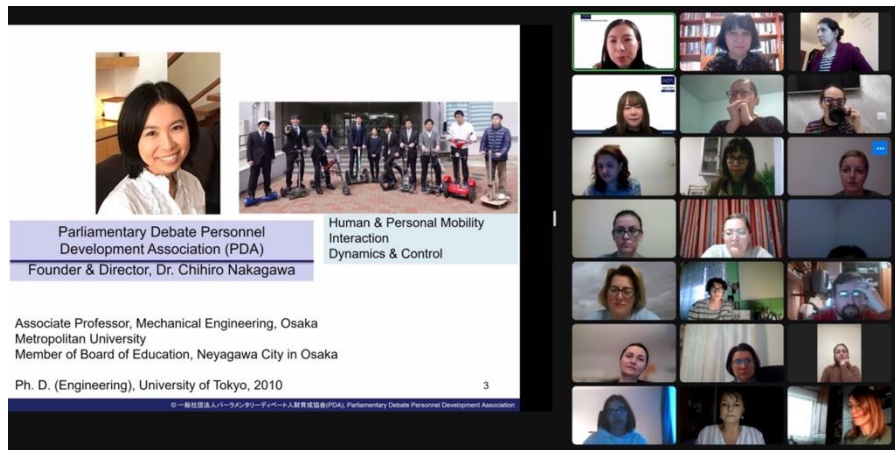
Date : January 27<sup>th</sup>, Saturday, 2024. 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. (EET). (3 p.m. to 9 p.m., JST)

Place : Online (Zoom)

Participants : 22 Teachers

Judge : Dr. Chihiro Nakagawa, PDA Staff, PDA Certified Educational Judge

First, PDA Founder and Director, Dr. Chihiro Nakagawa introduced herself, explained the significance of conducting English debates in class, and explained the rules of PDA style.



Lecture by Dr. Chihiro Nakagawa



POI Practice

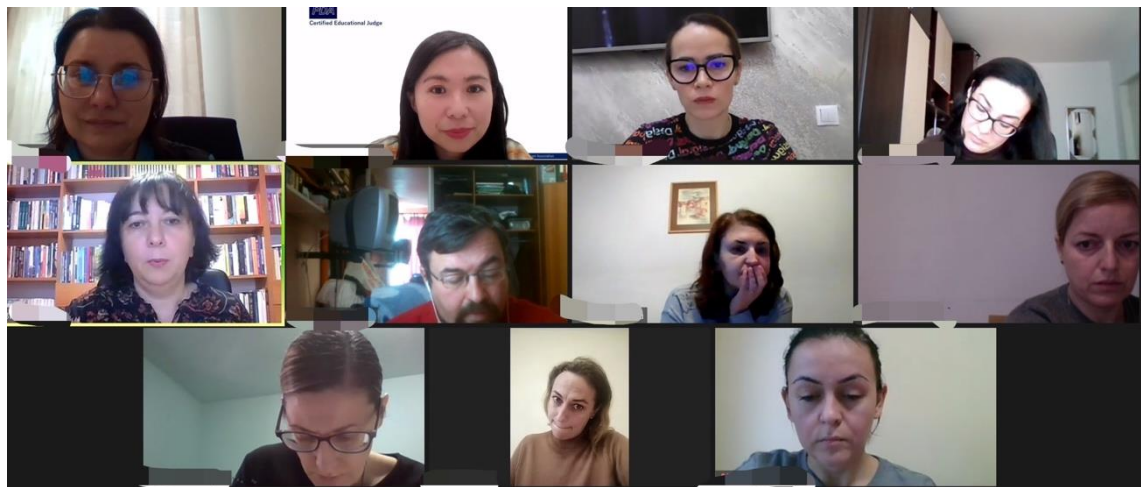
After the lecture, we had four debate practices. Teachers were divided into teams composed of 3~4 members, and the matchups were arranged so that each team would experience Government side, Opposition side, and judge practice at least one time for each role.

The motion for the first round was “*Homework should be abolished.*”

Through the first practice of PDA style English debate, the participants understood the flow of debate and the characteristics of each role. PDA staff were assigned as judges at all tables, and after the debate were over, they gave reasons for the decision of the verdict as well as their personal comments to each speaker.



Preparation Time



Debate Round

The motion for 2<sup>nd</sup> round was “*Death penalty should be abolished.*” Following the first round, in which the teams struggled with the use of the speech sheets, the teams showed their efforts to use their preparation time more efficiently by deciding on their roles in advance. The judges' team divided their roles into a chairperson and a timekeeper to facilitate the debates, and they made comments to the debaters.



Judge Team



Shaking hands after the round

The motion for 3<sup>rd</sup> round was *“Being single is better than married.”* While each of the participants held the opinion that it depends on personal preference, they logically explained their opinions in support of their assigned side.



POI!!





Shaking hands after the round

The motion for final round was *“Politics is better done by AI than by humans.”* Each team could compare AI and human characteristics in their analysis.



Debate Round

After four debate rounds, participants shared their impressions of the day and the difficulties they encountered.



Share impressions and comments

### **Participants' voices (excerpts from questionnaires)**

- I enjoyed it very much. We learned something new, useful and we could practice it as well. I appreciate the Japanese ladies, who took their time to teach us something new, they explained the 'game' very well.

- It put my mind to work. It has been empowering for me.

- I have learned many new and interesting things about how to run a debate and be part of one. It was an interesting, relaxing, and refreshing class!

- I learnt how to support your ideas, how to convince others of your opinion. I would like to have more PDA activities.

- It was very useful, educational and inspirational. I learnt once again that every opinion is a good one as long as you support and argument it correctly, and with the right examples.

- I have learnt a lot about debates and about how to judge them. I have also enjoyed working in a team and discussing different opinions. This class has confirmed for me (again) just how important debates are for the development of both language and critical thinking. I have also learnt that practice is very important!

- I feel that it has been well used time and I feel that I have learned so many things. The information has been made very clear and it has been very accessible. The practice has facilitated the understanding process. It has definitely been time well spent. Thank you very much.

- I found this class engaging and I loved the learning-by-doing approach, although it seemed confusing at the beginning. This was an interesting and useful endeavors which I intend to use in order to improve my teaching. I look forward to using it in class. I have the feeling that today was merely an introduction to a very complex teaching and practice speaking technique.

- I learned that we need to follow a structure in order to be persuasive and not messy. Great job!

- It was a good training session, offering a lot of new info. In addition to being very useful, it was an interesting opportunity to spend time in the company of colleagues I can learn from.

- It was highly educational and it cleared a lot of questions I had about the format. It was informative, methodical, well organized, inspiring.

- I enjoyed the challenge of debating against my beliefs! But it was enriching as there are always 2 sides of the same coin. Really challenging and entertaining, but enriching!!!

- I enjoyed it very much because I have learned a lot of useful things that I can hardly wait to share with my students. It was a useful and great experience. It was quite interesting and challenging especially as it was the first experience of this kind. It made you get out of your comfort zone and feel confident about speaking in public.