Annual Report

2019-2020

日英学生会議
UK-Japan Student Conference

www.uk-jpstudentconference.com

UK-Japan Student Conference: Climate Change and Climate Action

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Our Mission

We create a space for cross-cultural pollination and a forum for discussion on crucial issues facing future leaders. The UK-Japan Student Conference is an opportunity for highly motivated British and Japanese students to come together and create a shared vision towards a sustainable, prosperous future. Our ambition is to support students by establishing a thriving network across borders. We value the idea expressed in an old Japanese proverb: 'Ichigo Ichie' (一期一会), speaks to the idea that we should treasure every meeting, for it will never recur. We never know where we might encounter someone who will influence our lives and values — the friendships established through this particular meeting could be such a turning point. We hope to foster long-lasting friendships amongst participants.

We emphasise experiences that challenge our collective biases and preconceptions, and reveal alternative approaches towards the conference theme. Having nurtured discussions in an international context, we hope participants will bring fresh perspectives back to their own communities.

We strive to incorporate a process of discussion, realisation and action into our design of the UK-JP Student Conference. Student-led debate is invaluable in proposing solutions to the most pressing contemporary issues.

The UK-Japan Student Conference is an opportunity to apply the knowledge attendees have gained during their academic careers. We provide a programme that acknowledges and celebrates a diversity of values through interactions with participants from different backgrounds. We hope the week they spend with us is a fruitful and memorable one with many discoveries.

Climate Change & Climate Action

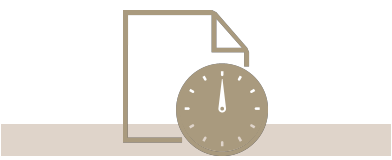
In the 2020 edition of the UK-JP Student Conference, we addressed climate change — the most urgent existential problem humanity faces today. During the conference, we fostered an intercultural understanding of the sources of climate change and local drivers in both countries.

Japan has been at the forefront of innovation and policy with the Kyoto protocol. Meanwhile, the adoption of climate-mitigating behaviours in the UK is rapidly accelerating, and the government recently declared a "climate emergency." Both countries have made commitments to reduce their carbon emissions and are part of the Paris Climate Agreement, yet many argue these policies are insufficient. The conference aimed to raise awareness about the roots of the problem, policies being currently implemented, viable alternatives to them, and more broadly, explored effective ways of addressing climate change at all levels: individual, group, state, and world.

On this occasion, we invited professors of social and earth sciences, artists, activists, and philosophers to structure and enrich our thinking about our changing climate. By analysing historical and cultural backgrounds, domestic issues and circumstances, a clearer understanding of how the two nations will address the future of environmental politics emerged.

Programme Structure

The conference is about broadening perspectives through an active exchange of thoughts, ideas, and experiences, arriving at a shared vision for the future. Open discussion has an essential role in this process. We have designed a programme allowing our participants to engage in discussions and presentations, as well as apply what they have learnt in the preliminary learning sessions to the seminars and workshops of the conference.



Preliminary Sessions

Two online preliminary sessions equip attendees with foundational knowledge of climate change. They involve several readings: academic articles, reports, news articles, etc. Participants are invited to construct their own responses through writing and group discussions. Discussions are conducted in small groups.

Seminars

Our speakers are our key resource, introducing core concepts that serve as building blocks for future discussions and presentations by participants. Each seminar is followed by a Q&A session, allowing attendees to direct the conversation in accordance with their interests. Afterwards, participants are able to debate ideas from the seminars with each other.

Cultural Exchange

We supplement the academic experience with fostering mutual understanding between participants that will help them build long-term relationships. Cultural exchange plays a key role in learning about each other's backgrounds. This year, this revolved around exploring cultural differences in portrayals of climate change and perceptions of activism.

Workshops

Workshops are interactive sessions where participants actively contribute towards research and data analysis in groups.

Policy-Making Exercise

As we explore the contemporary legislative ecosystem, we envisage better alternatives. The conference is a space of possibility where participants are invited to complete a policy-making exercise, targeting any area of the topic under investigation.

Group Presentations

Presentations are the heart of the learning experience in the conference. They challenge each participant to actively engage with the information learned to formulate solutions. The final group presentations showcase views and opinions formed during the fieldwork, seminars and workshops. Participants propose a viable solution to the issues raised in the conference that has been agreed upon as a group.

Community Projects

UK-JP 2020 is the first edition of our conference where participants can go beyond the policy-making exercise to enact real world change by implementing a meaningful community project, sponsored by the conference. Attendees were invited to submit a project proposal which helps mitigate climate change in their local communities, and successful proposals will receive support towards their completion. On top of providing funds, we offer guidance and a first point of contact to maximise the project's chances of success.

Conference Programme and Speakers

UK-JP 2020 was initially scheduled to take place in London, following our tradition of alternating between the two countries. As the threat of COVID-19 became apparent, we had to take into account the risks of encouraging mass gatherings and international travel. In early Spring, we decided to move the conference online, to Zoom.

Schedule

AUG 26	AUG 27	AUG 28	AUG 29	AUG 30	AUG 31
Dr. Dann Mitchell Climate Science	**Dr. Adeline Johns-Putra** Climate Fiction	**Dr. Toshi Arimura** Climate Policy	**Tokyo Vegan** **Ms. Zakiya McKenzie** Activism	**Mr. Patrick Lydon** Art and Urban Sustainability	**Mr. Roman Krznaric** How to Be a Good Ancestor
Break					
Dr. Saher Hasnain Food Security	**Dr. Merrill Singer** Activism	**UK-JP** Group Policy-making	**2040** Film Screening	**Route H** Student Outreach	**UK-JP** Group Presentations
Group Discussion					

One Day Events

London Event

On Friday, February 29th 2020 at 19:00-21:00 (BST), UK-JP hosted an event at the UCL Student Union. The debate "How should we talk about climate change?" marked the opening of applications for the 2020 conference. The following speakers participated in our debate:

Dr. Emma Lawrance - Mental Health Innovations Fellow at the Institute of Global Health Innovation, Imperial College London. She directs mental health strategy for the Institute and the climate change and mental health program, *Climate Cares*. She has also founded a youth mental health charity *It Gets Brighter*, for which she remains a Trustee.

Fraser Myers - Staff writer for the online magazine Spiked and producer of the Spiked podcast. He campaigns for democracy and free speech and was a co-ordinator of spiked's #FreeThePress campaign.

Dr. Shahrar Ali - Green Party Home Affairs spokesperson and its former Deputy Leader (2014-16) — the first BME deputy of a UK parliamentary party. He entered green politics after working as a researcher in the European Parliament. Shahrar has a PhD in philosophy, in which he tackled the morality of lying and deception and is author of two popular books on Green politics.

The speakers touched on the topics of climate grief, individual action, the psychology of climate anxiety, and the phenomenology of climate change. During the Q&A, attendees raised crucial points about the tension between science and politics, climate governance, and denialism. We would like to thank UCL's Young Greens Society, and especially Nessie Hall, for partnering with us and offering us the event space.

Haleigh Kling

Tokyo Event

On Sunday, 19th April 2020 at 15:00-17:00 (JST), UK-Japan Student Conference participated in the online freshers event targeted at university students in Japan, who were interested in joining or finding more about student organisations/societies with an international focus. UK-JP decided to take part in this event for the third consecutive year to reach out to a student population in Japan, raise awareness of what we do, and expand the number of applicants for the 5th Conference in August 2020. The timing of the event was particularly ideal for us, since we opened applications for the 2020 conference from late April to mid-July, coinciding with students' search for new societies to join at the start of the Japanese academic year.

The event was centrally organised by UT-BASE, a student-media organisation based in the University of Tokyo. Originally planned as an in-person event, it was moved online due to the pandemic.

The event comprised two main sections: a 5-minute presentation slot (livestreamed and archived on the UT-BASE YouTube account), and subsequently three 20-minute Q&A sessions via Zoom, where students were able to ask committee members questions related to the conference.

UK-JP publicised the event via our Facebook and Twitter accounts in both Japanese and English to make the event accessible for university students in both countries. Although the presentation session was in Japanese, the drop-in Q&A sessions were available in both languages, in the interests of potential English-speaking applicants. In addition, the publicity on the Twitter account we created in January 2020 was enormously successful, since university students in Japan tend not to have Facebook accounts. UK-JP's publicity tweets were liked and retweeted by the organiser which has a huge follower base of University of Tokyo students. This meant that one of our tweets, for example, reached more than 1300 people, increasing our follower numbers.

The event ran smoothly and was attended by many, despite being held online for the first time. More than 100 students watched presentations about UK-JP via YouTube livestream. Our presentation included the mission of UK-JP, reflections on the 4th Conference in 2019 in Hiroshima, as well as the explanation of the 5th Conference theme, "Climate Change and Climate Action" and the application processes.

The drop-in Q&A session via zoom turned out to be a useful session for many students, because committee members were joined by two UK-JP participants from the Hiroshima Conference in 2019, giving insights from the participants' perspective. One of the past conference participants being a University of Tokyo student, the attendees could pose questions, for example, concerning the level of English required and how one can balance the academic workload at this university and the commitment to UK-JP. There was also one attendee from the UK, and we presented the English version of the presentation.

Overall, we believe this event contributed to a wider recognition of UK-JP as an international student organisation by Japanese students interested in global exchange opportunities. The number of applications was 50% higher compared to the previous year, and hopefully the event contributed to this and left a positive impression on students who may consider applying in the future.

Kanako Hara

Preliminary Study

Preliminary sessions hold academic importance: it's the first time participants grapple with the subject together, thinking through climate change by analysing assigned readings. We held the sessions over Zoom, using Google Jamboards as a conversational aid to encourage engagement from participants less willing to speak up. The meeting also holds social significance as the first occasion for attendees to meet each other and exchange ideas in small groups of 6 to 8. We rotate participants to give them a chance to familiarise themselves with fellow UK-JPers, a practice we maintain for conference group discussions.

Session 1

Our first session revolved around the theme of temporality: it is often said that climate change challenges our perception of time, requiring an understanding of people as geological agents. This historical *longue durée* is at odds with politicians' thinking in terms of electoral cycles, or policy-makers' tendency to account for just a few decades ahead. We sought to answer questions including:

- Have we entered the Anthropocene?
- What non-human actors are endowed with agency?
- How is climate science used by different groups?

Session 2

Our second structuring concept was that of energy, comparing pre-industrial energy regimes with those in the present. Tapping into fossil fuels has unleashed an era of prosperity and productivity, ending the upper energetic limit imposed by humanity's reliance on insolation. We analysed how the meaning of fossil fuels has changed through the century, and why currently, they hold destructive rather than productive potential. Our discussion considered the political choices surrounding an energy transition, including:

- Should we care about carbon emissions?
- Do natural resources belong to 'the state' or 'the people'?
- Would returning to renewables restrict growth?

Assigned Readings

Chakrabarty, D. (2009). The climate of history: Four theses. *Critical inquiry, 35*(2), 197-222.

Rich, N. (2018). Losing Earth: The decade we almost stopped climate change. *New York Times Magazine, 1*.

Seiger, A. (2020). Dispatch From 2030: What a Global Pandemic Taught Us About Tackling Climate Change. *Stanford Social Science Innovation Review.*

Clayton, J. (2020). Carbon emissions: Scale of UK fossil fuel support 'staggering'. *BBC.*

Harding, R. (2020). Japan vows to slash financing of coal power in developing world. *Financial Times*.

Rival, L. (2010). Ecuador's Yasuní-ITT Initiative: The old and new values of petroleum. *Ecological Economics*, *70*(2), 358-365.

Wrigley, E. A. (2013). Energy and the English Industrial Revolution. *Philosophical Transactions. Series A, Mathematical, Physical, and Engineering Sciences*, 371/1986, pp. 1-10.

Dann

Mitchell

Dr. Dann Mitchell is an associate professor in atmospheric science at the University of Bristol and NERC research fellow specialising in climate change impacts on atmospheric circulation, extreme events, and human health. He explained the effects of planetary warming, and delved into his research on how low emission scenarios consistent with the aims of the Paris Agreement may impact society through changes in health.

We kicked off the conference with a brief introduction into what climate change is and how it can affect our lives. One of most important takeaways from this lecture was that this field of study is interdisciplinary. Despite originating almost exclusively from within the natural sciences in the 80s, climate change grew into a much more complex subject of study. As we have started to see more research papers showing that the impacts of climate change are becoming more widespread, these consequences need to be attenuated as much as possible. As a result, environmental studies are now a matter of human health, law, and public policy.

In this lecture, explanations regarding the natural climate cycles of Earth were given, with an additional variable which started during the industrial revolution: the human use of fossil fuels at scale. Ever since a wide variety of studies started suggesting that the anthropogenic force in climate change was real, an urgency for a shift in our way of living emerged. Despite a wealth of relevant studies proving the effects and possible outcomes of a relentless attempt to destroy the environment, many politicians are still not convinced that this issue is serious enough for them to use public funds in order to invest in green energy, research programs, and low carbon emission technology.

Dr. Mitchell also mentioned the various ways that climate change can impact all living creatures on the planet. Among these were: sea level rise, ocean acidification, intensification of tropical storms and more intense heat waves. He also argues that these phenomena would be unlikely or far less extreme in the absence of human intervention. Two examples of heat waves were raised to illustrate this statement, one in Japan (2018) and the other in the UK (2003). However, skepticism surrounding this topic persists, even though these events indicate that action needs to be taken now.

Lastly, a crucial question asked by Dr. Mitchell was “Why do we care about climate change?” A simple answer is that environmental changes will impact our livelihoods in so many ways in the next few years that adaptation to the new circumstances will be required. That is the main reason why the study of climate change has expanded so much and the tendency is to proceed with this development in various academic fields. Science has shown us all the facts, now it is time for us to take action.

Gabriel Figueiredo

Saher

Hasnain

Dr. Saher Hasnain is the Research and Community of Practice Coordinator for the Foresight4Food Initiative based at the Food Systems Transformations Programme at the University of Oxford's Environmental Change Institute. She is focused on developing a mechanism to better understand and synthesise key trends and possible futures in global food systems and to support informed and strategic decision-making between food systems stakeholders.

Dr. Saher Hasnain commenced her talk by contextualising her work with Foresight4Food. The initiative aims to enhance and popularise foresight scenarios, or how food systems in different areas will be impacted by climate change, and how they should adapt to it. This global initiative places special emphasis on synthesising foresight studies and enhancing collaboration between food experts, including international organisations and researchers within knowledge institutions. To achieve this, Dr. Hasnain and her colleagues employ a food systems approach, which goes beyond production and consumption to integrate factors such as processing, distribution, storage, retailing, and the countless human actors involved. Such complexity reveals a greater opportunity for change.

Dr. Hasnain utilised the UN definition of food security, which "exists when all people, at all times, have physical, economic and social access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs." She explained that such stability is extremely difficult to reach, even in wealthy nations. This is partially due to a mismatch between the food we need to thrive and what we produce: although it's no secret that a healthy diet consists of plenty of fruit and vegetables, starches are the dietary category with the highest output. This leads to multiple overlapping forms of malnutrition — insufficient or excessive calories compounded by non-nutritious food.

Climate change is intimately tied to food security, as it is predicted to disrupt rainfall patterns, raise average temperatures, and lead to more extreme weather events. Materially deprived populations spend more of their income on food, meaning that price spikes and variations in affordability will exacerbate malnutrition. These also have cascading effects, bearing implications on income being redirected from healthcare and education, a consequence that is likely to disproportionately affect women. These risks to food security are further aggravated by increased conflict and fragility. Further, climate change may also affect food safety by increasing pathogenic bacteria during heat waves, as well as residues of pesticides, marine biotoxins, and mycotoxins.

So how can a food systems approach respond to these problems? It proposes an increase in systems' resilience, whereby they can absorb shocks and recover from them. This can be achieved by having more genetically varied crops, especially stress-tolerant varieties, as well as improving water management and insurance for producers. These are highly dependent on institutional arrangements and national trade policies. As Dr. Hasnain noted, "taking a big picture view might make you choose an intervention that seems very small but will then have a big cumulative effect down the line." The crucial take-away from her lecture is to not shy away from complexity: food choices are highly dependent on their cultural and geographical context. No generalisations should be made. Rather, we must accept a greater need for granularity in data, which will allow the implementation of targeted, specific, and effective public policies.

Madalina Benderschi

Adeline

Johns-Putra

Dr. Adeline Johns-Putra is a Professor of Literature at Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University in China and former President of the Association for the Study of Literature and Environment (UK and Ireland). She explained the rise of climate fiction, its major themes, and its possible role in helping us understand and deal with climate change. She also focused on climate fiction's concern with how climate change will impact future generations.

The second day started with a lecture by Dr. Adeline Johns-Putra on climate fiction. The lecture gave us a new perspective to tackle the environmental issue not only through scientific data, but also from an emotional and pondering approach. She taught us strategies for communicating on environmental topics through climate fiction, as well as the challenges of doing so.

Throughout the history of climate fiction since the 1960s, as the surroundings of human beings began to change, we can track the evolution of environmental titles and messages. These are exemplified by J.G. Ballard's "The Drowned World" and Kōbō Abe's "Inter Ice Age 4." Recent book titles such as "Memory of Water" by Emmi Itäranta or "When Time Runs Out" by Elina Hirvonen create a sense of a more urgent crisis compared with the positive titles of the past.

Dr. Johns-Putra mentioned the difficulties of writing climate fiction, from its complexity and characteristics to the delicate balancing act between stories and science. Stories tap into our emotions and science gives us reason, which are both important to think about the environment. Literature helps us understand our environmental predicament through reading (called the aesthetic effect) and to rethink the novel and the problems it poses, integrating it into our own experience (the efferent effect). Empathy and verisimilitude enable these effects.

Dr. Johns-Putra concluded her presentation with strategies of climate fiction and her message, "You are part of the future and the planet." The importance of linking the present to the future through intergenerational concerns and of regarding climate change as a planetary issue was the most striking aspect of the talk.

In the group discussion following her lecture, we mainly deliberated about what we want to know from climate fiction. The opinion that impressed me the most was that we want a happy ending rather than a serious one, to positively inspire us to take action. It relates to a stance on environmental education that exists in Japan because some Japanese people worry that it might make children feel desperate or hopeless for the future. Considering these arguments, our discussion expanded towards constructive ways to teach children climate change based on the current situation both in the UK and Japan. Climate fiction gave us a lot of hints to think about our policy-making in the educational domain.

Momoko Tajima

Merrill

Singer

Dr. Merrill Singer, PhD, is Emeritus Professor of Anthropology at the University of Connecticut. His work focuses on infectious disease and environmental health. He is the author of 34 books, and over 200 peer-reviewed articles. Social justice, the social determinants of health, climate change, and critical medical anthropology have been enduring themes in his research and applied work. His most recent book is titled *Climate Change and Social Inequality: The Health and Social Costs of Global Warming*.

This session kick-started with a discussion amongst the participants around Dr. Singer's presentation on "Youth and Climate Change Activism." Firstly, we focused on the questions that were often raised during the presentation; in what way do we change society? Participants were asked if we would like to see gradual or urgent changes. We compared pros and cons and assessed the possibility of pursuing both at the same time. We discussed another aspect of changes: the differences between radical, complete social transformation and gradual transition based on what we observe right now. Although social changes without a quality of life decline would be welcomed by people, there was an opinion that it might be less realistic due to a lack of resources.

Subsequently, we moved on to how activism looks like in the UK and Japan. The Japanese participants agreed that whilst more and more youth seem to be joining the movement, climate activism is not popular in their country. We raised a number of aspects of Japanese society that make it difficult for activism to prevail: respect for harmony; fear of being considered radical, extreme or violent; and even a homogeneous society which makes Japanese people isolate themselves from global social issues. As represented in the slang "*ishikitakaikei*" （意識高い系・いしきたかいけい), the term to tease people working for the greater good, there might be a fear of awkwardly standing out in the community. The UK participants pointed out the lack of inclusivity in climate activism. People who belong to the lower class have fewer opportunities to join the movement as they cannot afford expensive sustainable products. The conversation led me to realise another problem of the Japanese society — the extreme under-representation of minority groups such as indigenous people, Korean-Japanese, Chinese-Japanese and immigrants. Due to an ageing population and globalisation, Japanese society has become increasingly diverse recently. As a Japanese, this discussion made me think that Japan has a lot to catch up with and learn from Britain.

In the second half of the session we invited Dr Singer to the floor and we had the privilege to expand the conversation even further. In terms of the dilemma between social transition and transformation, he explained the difficulty of social transition as a means to resolve climate change. Pointing out that gradual transition is likely to be popular amongst the decision-makers, he showed concern towards greenwashing and the liability of green capitalism. He instead proposed eco-socialism, which focuses on global climate justice and a sustainable social system. To answer the question of how we can persuade policymakers to take further action towards addressing climate change, he advised us not to work alone but collectively, and create mass movements starting from our peers. I believe we can say the same for involving people who are yet to take actions. What he told us reminded all the participants of the importance of having grassroots conversations like what UK-JP offers.

An Yokota

Toshi

Arimura

Dr. Arimura is a Professor of Environmental Economics at Waseda University in Tokyo. His research interests include climate change, energy policies, air pollution regulations and voluntary environmental actions. He holds a PhD. in Economics from the University of Minnesota, an MSc in Environmental Sciences from the University of Tsukuba and a BA in History of Science from the University of Tokyo. He has served on numerous Japanese government committees on environmental issues.

On the 28th August, the day started with a presentation by Dr. Toshi Arimura about international policy, titled "Climate Policy in Japan: The Role of Carbon Pricing." Since this was the first lecture that focused on Japan, it gave us a new perspective. His lecture was regarding environmental economics including Carbon Pricing and Emissions Trading Schemes (ETS). Although about half of our conference members were Japanese, this information was novel to most of us. In addition, we learned about the possibilities of preventing climate change by using the economy, which typically seems to be a primary driver of fossil-fuel emissions promoting climate change. This surprised us, but at the same time, we hope many governments understand that, too.

Dr. Arimura also mentioned the Japanese GHG Emission and Target which is the plan to decrease GHG emission by 26% by 2030. The plan faced challenges after 3/11 (the Fukushima nuclear accident) in 2011 because Japanese citizens no longer want to use nuclear power, and this has led to the increased use of coal.

The things that had big impacts on us were the Carbon Pricing and Emission Trading Schemes. Carbon Pricing (CP) is the idea of putting a price on Carbon Dioxide (CO2) Emissions, and it is a way to internalise the externality of CO2 into the market. Carbon Pricing has 4 roles, (1) Fuel Switching (2) Promotion of Energy Efficiency (3) Modal Swift (4) Promotion of Renewable Energy. Through this scheme, we can expect that many people will stop using coal and switch to using public transportation. In this way, we can reduce CO2 Emission with the market system.

Secondly, Emissions Trading Schemes were of great interest. Tokyo and Saitama's Emissions Trading Schemes policies have been successful in Japan. Although the Emissions Trading Schemes seem effective, we cannot introduce this system across all of Japan. There are some reasons that prevent us from using this system such as Hz difference between western Japan and eastern Japan, some straits that cannot send electricity, the divergences between rural and urban areas, the types of industries located in each area, and so on. As for straits, people might think we could build a way to send electricity across, but we learnt that it costs too much and seems improbable as a policy option. In this presentation, we learned the pros and cons of Japanese climate policy. It is important to think what can we do as a young generation.

Mizuho Ina

Tokyo

Vegan

Yukari Iwamoto is a service designer with a background in vegan activism and sustainability projects in the UK, US, India and Japan. Nadia McKechnie is a Tokyo based narrator and author of English language learning books and materials. She is a member of the "Veggy Council," a bi-partisan committee of lawmakers and related groups formed in 2019 to address the lack of awareness of the needs of vegan/vegetarian tourists and consumers in Japan. Together with their team, they aim to help the vegan community grow within Japan and connect with the worldwide community.

We heard an unforgettable and inspiring lecture by Vegan Tokyo, which taught us how little Japanese people know about vegans and how difficult it is for them to live in Japan. Currently, the biggest problem in Japan is that few people know about veganism and the reasons that motivate this dietary choice. Therefore, it is not widely known that veganism can be driven by concern over sustainability, not only by personal preference. This situation is affected by the low awareness and activism of environmental issues in the country, a common theme that emerged in every aspect of the conference. Actually, I'm ashamed to say I was one of the people who did not know much about vegans.

There were two episodes where I was disappointed to find how difficult it is to live in Japan as a vegan, and Japan's lack of diversity in this regard. One is what one of our participants from England had experienced while she was studying in Japan. She told us that she had nothing to eat except cucumbers or tomatoes whenever she joined her Japanese friends for dinner at the restaurant. It is because Japanese restaurants have not prepared any choices for vegans.

This difficulty also applies to tourists in Japan. Tokyo Vegan mentioned that the current situation is gradually changing because Japanese politicians are now trying to promote veganism for the coming Tokyo Olympics to welcome more foreigners. I hope that it will be a good step for Japanese people to recognise veganism and to make Japanese society more tolerant of diversity.

Another episode is the school food in Japan. In Japanese culture, students are supposed to eat the same food (called "Kyushoku") for their health without any exception. I had taken our school food system for granted and had never doubted its efficacy, without knowing the difficulties it entails for vegans. It was exactly the moment that I realised that we cannot question or reconsider the current situation or system without first learning from others.

Lastly, as Vegan Tokyo is currently promoting veganism in Japan, I decided to start learning more information about veganism first and later take action pursuing what I can do for a better situation in Japan, by raising awareness with others. We should know the reason behind the choice to become vegans. It was absolutely an inspiring and eye-opening lecture for most of the participants, especially for Japanese ones.

Momoko Tajima

Zakiya

McKenzie

Ms. McKenzie is a Bristol-based writer and researcher. She was the 2019 writer-in-residence for Forestry England and the 2017 Bristol Black and Green Ambassador. She is currently pursuing a PhD at the University of Exeter, researching Black British journalism in the post-war period. Zakiya is also a volunteer at Ujima 98FM community radio station in Bristol and regularly leads nature-based art and writing workshops, including one on Caribbean storytelling for children.

In this lecture, the participants of the conference tackled climate change related issues from different perspectives. As was previously discussed, environmental studies is a complex field of study due to its interdisciplinary approach. Thus, a myriad of expertises is needed in order to analyse the issue in depth. Zakiya McKenzie added yet another layer to the discussion, bringing the role of minority groups in this field to the forefront of our discussion. We reflected not only on inclusive participation in activism, but also on how the human aspect of the discussion was crucial to understand the seriousness of the climate crisis.

As Ms. McKenzie talked about her project, the Black & Green Ambassadors for Bristol Programme, the importance of such organisations became very clear. One of the activities mentioned during the talk was the need for participants to get in touch with nature and become familiar with their surroundings. As a result, they develop a better understanding of why there is a need to preserve our biodiversity. Thus, by exposing young people to these kind of experiences, they will be more likely to take environmental concerns into consideration at any level of education and spark debates when they grow up. Even though a lack of representation in the political system is discouraging, they will have more reasons to be willing to change this situation through an experiential connection.

Nevertheless, the programme is not only about representativeness, but also about deconstructing the concept of "environmentalist." The term seems removed from the reality of many, since the majority of people in the UK live in urban areas. Thus, their contact with nature is a fundamental first step towards activism. Ms. McKenzie was inspired by her family in Jamaica who lives in a region where people value natural resources and understand their worth, but they do not consider themselves environmentalists. The reason being that it is necessary for them to preserve their surroundings due to their proximity with nature which dwellers of big cities usually do not possess.

One of the most important critiques raised during the lecture was the predominance of numbers when talking about climate change. Ms. McKenzie stated that policy makers are not prone to listen to the human side of the discussion and how solutions need to incorporate this perspective as well. In order to stop the climate crisis, there needs to be cooperation in the long term, and raising awareness among the population is the crucial first step.

Gabriel Figueiredo

Film Screening

Award-winning director Damon Gameau embarks on a journey to explore what the future could look like by the year 2040 if we simply embraced the best solutions already available to us to improve our planet and shifted them rapidly into the mainstream. Structured as a visual letter to his 4-year-old daughter, Mr. Gameau blends traditional documentary with dramatised sequences and high-end visual effects to create a vision board of how these solutions could regenerate the world for future generations.

On 29th August, we had a film screening and watched “2040.” This film was made by award-winning director Damon Gameau in 2019 and this film was structured like a letter to his 4-year-old daughter to show her how the world will change by 2040. Mainly, this film is optimistic towards environmental problems that future technology will help to make a better world and prevent climate change.

Since we mostly heard presentations from speakers during the conference, watching a film related to climate action gave us a different perspective and we experienced how art including film can motivate us. In addition, even though we heard there are many problems and difficulties for climate change action in other presentations, this film was positive, and showcases some possibilities for an environmentally friendly future society.

In this film, Mr. Gameau traveled around the world to show the future to his daughter. We could study some examples of future technology that were compared with today’s technology or system through his adventure. For example, a city full of greenery implemented green walls and roofs, farmers adopted alternative agricultural systems based on the regenerative principles of agroforestry. As for me, I found the idea of having soil boxes in parks instead of trash cans attractive because it is easy to introduce but has a great impact on the environment as well as to society. By watching this film, we could learn that climate change problems are not only scientific and political problems but also ones that affect our society and community, too. Therefore, it is important to make these kinds of films to show the general public what is happening and what we can do.

After the “2040” film screening, we discussed that even if we have great technologies, we need good leaders in our government to decide to use them to make an environmentally friendly future. We also recognised that although in the film every country has high level technology, it would be difficult to achieve in real life because of political and economic issues. However, we are grateful to see there are some possibilities to create a better world for future generations. I hope we can have the future that was shown in the film. It would be beneficial for us to know both negative and positive views about climate action and the future, to think about what we can do and what we should do. Therefore, this 2040 screening was a great opportunity to imagine our role in shaping the world around us.

Mizuho Ina

Patrick

Lydon

An ecological artist and writer, Lydon's work imagines how cultivating relationships with the environment can make sustainable cities possible. After decades in Silicon Valley, he spent several nomadic years learning from farmers, philosophers, and monks in East Asia and Scotland. He co-directed the film "Final Straw: Food, Earth, Happiness" while studying at The University of Edinburgh, and now lives in Osaka with his wife Suhee, producing works locally and internationally through their City as Nature Project.

Despite the lecture being titled “Urban Architecture,” the topics covered in this section of the conference went much further than that. A wide variety of themes were covered: art as a form of engaging in activism, food systems, transportation, and how small changes can reduce carbon emissions. Additionally, Patrick Lydon talked about his own experience living in a small town in Japan and how the lifestyle of the neighbourhood — locals’ resourcefulness and their tendency to walk — made him think about the possible changes that can be translated elsewhere.

Among the projects mentioned by Mr. Lydon during the talk were "The Slowest Restaurant in the World” and “City as Nature." The first was a social experiment to see how the customers would react when, after placing their order, they learned that there were no ingredients in the kitchen. Guests were invited to plant the vegetables themselves in the restaurant's backyard, and come back for their meal a few months later. Naturally, many clients were surprised and wanted to leave, but the ones that stayed were involved in a workshop on how to plant and cultivate vegetables, which gave them a deeper understanding on how food reaches supermarkets and other shops. The latter was an art exhibition showing how a blend of big cities and nature would look like. Both initiatives had the same objective: draw people closer to nature.

Regarding the solutions part of the lecture, there were two main focuses: food and transportation. Mr. Lydon observed the public displays a great reliance on revolutionary technologies, hoping that they will “solve" climate change. He suggested that a simple approach is needed instead. For instance, by changing the agricultural system based on the principles of agroecology (traditional knowledge developed by indigenous people), the soil could absorb a great part of the carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Additionally, by shifting to a plant-based diet as a society would be another factor leading to lowering pollutant gases emission. As for transportation, the solution raised was that people should walk and bike more in order to reduce the usage of automobiles.

Gabriel Figueiredoo

Roman

Krznaric

Roman Krznaric is a public philosopher, cultural thinker, founding member of The School of Life, and author who writes about the power of ideas to change society. His books, including *Empathy*, *The Wonderbox* and *Carpe Diem Regained*, have been published in more than 20 languages. He discussed his new book, *How To Be a Good Ancestor,* with UK-JP participants, addressing our limited collective capacity for long-term thinking.

"On our twins' birthday, my wife and I decided to give our votes as birthday presents." Mr. Krznaric started his talk with this unique story which meant more than an initial impression reveals. They presented and explained each candidate's goals and policies, allowing the twins to pick the politician who seems most likely to do the best job for the future, when they will have grown. Mr. Krznaric and his wife then voted for the candidates who won their children's ballots. UK-JP attendees had discussed the evils of short-termism since the preliminary sessions. Yet the various ways to "be a good ancestor" he presented, including these birthday votes, fascinated all participants.

What was striking in the talk is Krznaric's "six ways to think long-term." Firstly, he introduced Deep-Time Humanity, which is the idea that our generation is an eyeblink in cosmic time. He presented the fact that whereas the living population is 7.7 billion, the predicted unborn generations total approximately 6.75 trillion. From this statistic, the participants felt the responsibilities we owe to those populations who are yet to see the world. A Legacy Mindset is to act in ways that are conducive to being remembered well by posterity. This led us to question "can we leave them to suffer from deteriorating climate conditions?" To prevent these struggles, we have another approach which is Intergenerational Justice. He gave the Native American-inspired policymaking project, Future Design, in the Japanese prefectures of Kochi, as an example. Attendees make the policy proposals to improve their communities, assuming that they are the residents of 2060. According to the project team, this motivates people to adopt more progressive policies.

The fourth strategy is Cathedral Thinking - a way to plan projects beyond a human lifetime. As an example, Mr. Krznaric mentioned the Onagawa nuclear plants which did not cause any serious incidents during the great earthquake and tsunami in 2011. That was because the designer built the plants at height, as he remembered that the shrine in his neighbourhood had been destroyed by a tsunami before. He also presented Holistic Forecasting which suggests foreseeing the various way for civilisation, stating that the average length of civilisation is 336 years. Finally, we have a Transcendent Goal that leads us to strive for one-planet thriving. Here, he advocated for the Doughnut Economics model, which aims to contain economic activities within the environmental boundary.

With these strategies to long-termism, Mr Krznaric also called for a sense of emergency. He stated that the current COVID-19 pandemic is increasingly changing people's perception of life and extending the horizon of possibility. If we start having a conversation with people with different views NOW, we can involve them in thinking forward and acting with urgency. The fact that we are in the best moment to transform our society into a long-term thinking one encouraged participants even more to do what is better for our future planet, and to be a good ancestor.

An Yokota

Student Outreach with Route H and GLC

On Sunday 30 August, UK-JP Student Conference members held an online outreach session with Japanese high school students who are planning to apply to UK universities. This event was convened in cooperation with Route H and the Global Learning Centre (GLC), both long-term sponsors of our conference. This year, more than 40 students joined the event.

We were offered the chance to discuss UK-JP's aims and past conferences, and familiarise the audience with our work. After we introduced ourselves, participants from the University of Oxford, University of Cambridge, University College London, King's College London, Royal Holloway University of London, and Imperial College London held presentations for attendees. The presentations covered a wide range of topics, such as university life, curriculum selection, society activities, university applications, international foundation year, and university responses to COVID-19.
In the Q&A session, high school students asked questions that touched on the application process, university life, and tips for doing well in university.

We would like to thank our sponsors and especially Mr. Akihiro Ozawa from Route H and Mr Shinosuke Tsujimura from GLC for their commitment to UK-JP and for collaborating on this insightful event for high school students.

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Final Project: Policy Briefs

Group 2
Mizuho Ina, Sakura Doi, Taichi Asami, Brannavan Mohan, Lisa Evans

For our policy, our primary objective is to improve education about climate change within Japanese society. We have decided to implement policy strategies that are focused on climate education, based on our own research about the climate crisis. We have found that around 75% of the Japanese population is aware of the climate crisis, but throughout the discussions held between our committee members, we have observed a lack of understanding for how the climate is being affected by an increase in CO2 emissions. Because of this, we want to introduce policies that will ensure that climate science is taught in Japanese schools, in order to improve knowledge surrounding the issue.

Problems: *The Apathy Issue.* The Japanese population is certainly conscious of the impacts and dangers of climate change: this is demonstrated by a 2016 "Poll on Environmental Awareness" carried out by the National Institute for Environmental Studies. The study found that 90.9% of participants were "worried" or "slightly worried" about the effects of climate change. However, the poll shows that only 22.6% participants had people around them who think we need to take action; and only 17.2% had people around them already taking action.

Another concern underpinning this apathy on the part of the Japanese population is an apparent unwillingness to bear the burden of taking countermeasures against climate change. Data from a consultation carried out by World Wide Views showed that while only 26.75% of the world population regarded measures to fight climate change as a threat to our quality of life; 60% of the Japanese participants were of this view. This reluctance to accept the burden of climate change mitigation can become synchronised with feelings of indifference, or even scepticism. It is vital, therefore that we use education to build on existing awareness about climate change, and encourage people to find the value in accepting this burden.

Recommendations: The policy aims to reconnect the Japanese population with climate change on a more personal level, in order to encourage them to engage in pursuing sustainable lifestyles. The target

audience for the policy will be school students. We want to educate the younger generation, in order to normalise ideas surrounding climate change in order to remove political controversy.

We recommend that a sister city system is implemented. Currently, every Japanese city has a sister city located in another country, and these relationships frequently involve carrying out joint projects. This may take the form of junior high schools having the opportunity to communicate with students from their sister cities, and carry out cultural exchanges. We propose that the existing system is taken further to incorporate learning about global issues such as climate change, as it will be very valuable for Japanese students to understand the different climate issues in different countries.

Learning about environmental sustainability could also be implemented through increased food education. Food education (Shokuiku) is an existing policy in place in Japanese schools - the “Basic Law on Shokuiku” (食育基本法) was enacted in 2005; and has the aim of teaching students about food and nutrition and the ability to make appropriate food choices. We propose that this Law is updated to include veganism and vegetarianism, due to the well accepted understanding of the health and environmental benefits derived from dietary habits. For example, Oxfam suggests that replacing red meat and dairy with vegetables for just one day a week can cut an individual's annual emissions by the equivalent of a 1,160-mile car trip. Incorporating understanding about these environmental issues into Shokuiku will allow students to understand how meat- or animal product-free dietary habits can mitigate the negative environmental effects of the food cycle.

Strengths: We seek to reinforce ideas of the impending threat of climate change by establishing public interest. We are also trying to create a global response to the climate issue, by showing populations how their individual actions are contributing collectively to the climate crisis. The activities that we have written in our policy are intended to show children the global implications of the greenhouse effect: thereby reframing the climate crisis as a global issue rather than a national issue. We hope this could lead to more cooperative action against climate change between states, caused by political pressure from the younger generation. Our policy will also ensure that people begin to associate environmental preservation within cultural norms.

Limitations: Our policies could potentially be considered too political for students, and may present a neutrality problem. Keeping political neutrality is incredibly important in Japanese society, in which political activism is generally frowned upon. There is also an additional struggle with obtaining political support for our policies in Japan. We realise that the influence of green politics is rather weak in Japan, with the Japanese green

party losing its 10 seats in the Diet's upper house in 2016.

Group 3: Green Seeds

An Yokota, Carine Valarché, Gabriel Figueiredo, Momoko Tajima, Sari Nomura

Group 3 presented a proposal with the main goal to increase access to climate-fiction books in the education system in the UK and Japan, especially in primary education. The project entitled "Green Seeds" was designed to add topics related to climate change in the national curriculum to increase the interest of children in the subject at an early stage of their lives. Additionally, some workshops would be provided to students, where they will think more about the environment as they are having fun with the activities proposed (such as drawing, painting and acting).

As education professionals are already overwhelmed with their workload, this plan envisages to invite guest speakers (from book authors to activists) which will be participating in regular classes and, thus, avoiding more work for the teachers.

Green Seeds: because once we plant the green seeds, we will see the leaders of tomorrow grow.

Group 4

Eliana Harrigan, Ryota Imamura, Nuala Burnett, Kanako Yamagami, Mizuki Watanabe

Climate change and environmental degradation provide some of the greatest threats to societal and ecosystem functioning. In the wake of the Coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19), a window of opportunity has appeared which offers governments, non-governmental organisations and corporations a chance to redefine the ways in which they conduct policy, governance and business. This policy brief provides an individualised response to climate change and sustainability for Unicharm, a Japanese-centred hygiene company. Whilst the initial focus is narrow, taking a tailored response will eventually provide greater scope for parallel action amongst similar corporations, contributing to a more thoughtful consumerist culture.

Problems: Poorly managed products and waste contribute to climate change, whether through disposal, leachate creation or simply the increasing demand for single-use goods.

While clearly committed to sustainability, there are still numerous gaps in Unicharm's 2030 Eco Plan. This particularly includes the waste produced as a result of single-use sanitary products such as diapers. By understanding the nuanced drivers underlying these complex threats, a number of recommendations are suggested in order to lower Unicharm's environmental impact and improve the sustainability of the company's waste policies.

Recommendations: The recommendations are divided intro short-term and long-term

strategies. Short-term recommendations include launching a marketing campaign to raise awareness of environmental issues amongst Unicharm customers and to encourage them to buy the company's sustainable products, particularly recyclable and sustainable diapers. Long-term recommendations involve investing the money raised from the short-term recommendations' profits to:

- Redesign packaging in order to further increase environmental awareness;
- Update the Unicharm 2030 and 2050 Eco Plan to incorporate principles of a circular economy;
- Establish a fund to invest in increased Research and Development (with the goal of developing reusable alternatives).

Additionally, in order to advocate for strong localised recycling systems, Unicharm should offer subsidies towards the development of infrastructure.

Strengths: These short- and long-term goals emphasise Unicharm's motivation to mitigate climate change, and thus elevate its position as a model of corporate social responsibility (CSR) within Japanese society. Launching a nation-wide marketing campaign would also raise awareness about environmental issues, tangibly benefitting society at large through outreach to target audiences.

Limitations: The main limitation of these recommendations is that they are Japan-centric, and as such there may be a time lag between the start of the policies and worldwide impact (in particular, the expansion of specific products to other locales). However, as Unicharm is a multinational company it could begin to introduce the recommendations in other countries through a targeted, phased process. A further limitation stems from the effectiveness of awareness raising, both in effectively changing consumer attitudes and in tangibly contributing to corporate change. In order to avoid risks of greenwashing, Unicharm's re-evaluation of its internal sustainability strategy is paramount to the success of these policy recommendations, as without stringent internal goals and a high degree of transparency, such environmental action might be limited by corporate greed.

Evaluation: Ultimately these policy recommendations aim to change not only the behaviour of Unicharm, but of wider corporate society, as well as the general public.

Group 5

Brahma Mohanty, Riho Kobayashi, Angel Rose, Keigo Matsura, Jin Tanaka

Our policy addresses local government in urban communities and asks them to proactively invest in and develop systems for the sustainable creation of green spaces, community gardens and allotments. In line with this we suggest that an evaluation of these spaces is carried out so as to inform the creation of a plan on how best to utilise green community spaces for the benefit of the community. To do this we recommend the development of a framework which could be applied to

all current and future local community gardens. This framework will cover how these spaces will benefit the community in a number of areas, such as through gardening and social engagement to its educational potential.

Benefits of a Community Garden:

- Environmental Benefits

To begin with, community gardens can reduce the Heat Island effect and also alleviate the high temperatures, which in turn cuts the amount of electricity used for running air conditioners. Scientists at the University of Manchester calculated that a 10% increase in the amount of green space in cities can help reduce surface temperatures in urban environments by up to 4°C. This cooling effect also means a 9% reduction of the average energy demand. Moreover, plants in the community garden can improve air quality in urban environments, as its leaf surfaces have been proved to filter the air by capturing particulate matter and air contaminants. Finally, community gardens can help reduce CO2 emission by growing food locally and minimising "food miles" that are usually required to transport nutritious food.

- Health Benefits

Gardens can provide individuals a supply of healthy produce, increasing access to improved nutrition and physical activity. The benefits also entail mental health and wellbeing benefits with numerous social and emotional benefits of community gardening being documented including social interactions, strengthened family relationships, community building and engagement and "greater life satisfaction." There also appears to be a reduction in the notion of "food insecurity" among populations of community gardeners, as well as increased levels of "food self-sufficiency." Community gardens can also have social wellbeing impacts as focal points for community interventions be they family gatherings, community meetings, and improving physical and mental well-being.

- Community Benefits

Those who live in the area can make close relationships with each other. That is because they can not only talk with each other but also do some activities (like gardening, playing sports, eating lunch and so on) with each other. What is more, the close relationships bring about the reduction of crime rates because of inter-observation. Furthermore, community gardens bring about places to use elderly people's skills.

- Economic Benefits

Gardens can improve economic opportunities by training volunteers and selling food at farmers' markets. They can also provide tax revenue, above contributing to greater food provision and security. There are also economic benefits to consider via the implementation of "zero energy buildings" (i.e. those which utilise features such as roof insulations, wall insulations, automation systems, bio-climate architecture, LED lighting, double-glazed windows, heat pumps, energy efficient appliances, inverters, and photovoltaic/solar-thermal systems.

Evaluation: One difficulty may be the widespread adoption of the suggested

framework as shown in a few case studies the presence of multiple schemes has limited their overall effectiveness. Following on from this, the presence of multiple local initiatives can also impact on the availability of funding. We believe our policy would be successful as it offers a wide range of measurable benefits with the aim to engage the community in their local green spaces. The policy presents the use of a framework through which to evaluate the best way to utilise these spaces to fit the community and their needs. As mentioned previously this project shown requires minimal funding to establish although to be effective long-term continued investment would be necessary, however as current government policy shows there is a movement to imbed such practice within the nation's planning systems.

Group 6: The Microplastics and Nanoplastics Regulatory Act

Ceara Webster, Tomo Taniguchi, Ada Schmidtkunz, Naoki Ishii, Kotaro Akiyama

Microplastics are debris from bigger plastics (plastic fabrics, bottles, other objects and chemicals). Primary nanoplastics are included in products and directly released into the environment in the form of small particles. Secondary microplastics are microplastics originating from the degradation of larger plastic items into smaller plastic fragments once exposed to the marine environment.

The Microplastics and Nanoplastics Regulatory Act aims to implement an import tax on plastic products into the UK and Japan. This excludes products which are comprised of 100% recycled plastic. In the UK, there is a plastic packaging tax of £200 per tonne tax rate for packaging with less than 30% recycled plastic. We would propose to extend this tax rate in the UK to £200 per tonne tax rate for all plastic products (domestically produced and imported) with less than 95% recycled plastic . In Japan there does not appear to be a tax. Given that Japanese and UK economies are similar in size, and that the Japanese economy is larger than the UK economy, we propose a tax of the equivalent of £250 per tonne tax rate for plastic products (domestically produced and imported) with less than 80% recycled plastic for Japan .

Arguments:

In the United Kingdom

- Economics

The United Kingdom is an island nation and, subsequently, is reliant on its marine ecosystems as a source of food and trade. The fishing industry is a substantial one and it is one that is growing year on year. The lowering the quality of the fish caught, which will increase over time, through secondary micro and nano-plastic contamination such as plastic polymer fibres, can compromise this multi-million pound industry.

- Biodiversity

There are significant biodiversity impacts of microplastics and nanoplastic on marine ecosystems but also on terrestrial ones. This is why it is imperative for this policy

to regulate all domestically produced and imported plastic products that can be a source of secondary micro- and nano-plastic in the United Kingdom. It is not enough to regulate plastic packaging. This will reduce microplastic consumption by fish and other marine life, but considering 75% of the particles located were fibres, which usually come from textiles, this provides evidence of the importance of regulating all products (cosmetics, clothing, packaging) that do not, at least, contain plastic of a minimum of 95% recycled sources.

- Human health and strain on healthcare infrastructure

The issue for human health is not the plastic polymer itself. In fact, "plastic polymers are generally considered to be inert and of low concern to human health." However, health risks relating to their use are attributed to the presence of the wide range of plastic additives they may contain, together with residual monomers that may be retained within the polymer structure. Microplastics have large surface areas which means that "environmental pollutants may sorb to the surface of the particles, with the potential to be transferred into body tissues once ingested."

In Japan

- Economics

Japan is surrounded by microplastics, so first it leads to some impacts on the economy. There are a lot of marine animals and fishes around Japan. However, microplastics can accumulate in the bodies of the animals and fishes, and and will have progressively worse effects on them because these creatures cannot digest the material.

- Biodiversity

Plastics cause damage to the marine industry. The Ministry of Environment (環境省) showed that secondary micro plastics caused by the East Japan earthquake in 2011 and typhoons occurred frequently. Afterwards those microplastics were caught in nets used to catch fishes, while the amount of fishes caught decreased.

- Human health

Microplastics are harmful to human health. If fish contain microplastics, the damage would also impact us. Japanese cuisine includes eating raw fish like sashimi and sushi. Humans cannot digest plastics either. Thus, consuming microplastics can lead to illnesses such as breast cancers in women and men and the deterioration of the reproductive function in males.

Evaluation: Our policy therefore addresses the risks associated with micro plastics in Japan and the UK by:

1. making the corporations take accountability for abusing plastics (e.g.: in textiles, unnecessary wrapping of foods and goods, coating of metals, chemicals, medications);
2. imposing import and export taxes in two steps;
3. avoiding plastic pollution on land and in the oceans;

4. avoid economic decline due to poor human health engendering a poor economy;
5. explicitly addresses the UK, so this policy is binding even after Brexit.

The two step import-export tax is implemented the following way: the first step is an import tax, that will be imposed by 2025; the second step is an import-export tax that will be imposed by 2030 if the first measure has not curbed the import export of products containing microplastics. Taxes usually increase the price of an item on imports for consumers, which may make plastic products (e.g. clothing, cosmetics) more expensive. Our policy has sought to avoid this by placing the tax on the corporation. However, due to the mutual dependence that exists between states and corporations this may have significant implications for companies wishing to trade with the UK market. This would be beneficial for plastic reduction but may negatively impact investment.

Conference Details

Organisers

Madalina Benderschi	University College London	BSc Anthropology
Ayaka Naota	University College London	MA Legal and Political Theory
Haleigh Kling	City University London	MA Cultural Policy and Management
Aidan Gilbert	University of Edinburgh	BA Japanese Studies
Nicole Doyle	University of Oxford	BA History and Politics
Kanako Hara	University of Cambridge	BA Land Economy
Alex Sato	University College London	BA Law, LLB
Daiki Ito	Tokai University	BA Law

Participants

Ada Schmidtkunz	King‘s College London	Disasters, Adaptation and Development
Aki Yamamoto	Keio University	Business and Commerce
An Yokota	King‘s College London	Foundation Course
Angel Rose	University of Kent	Medieval and Early Modern Studies
Brahma Mohanty	University of Oxford	History
Brannavan Mohan	University of Warwick	Politics, Philosophy and Law
Carine Valarché	University of Cambridge	Human, Social and Political Science
Ceara Webster	University of Warwick	Liberal Arts
Eliana Harrigan	Imperial College London	MSc Environmental Technology
Emily Taylor	University of Exeter	Politics, Philosophy and Economics
Gabriel Figueiredo	Tokyo University of Foreign Studies	International Law
Jin Tanaka	Kyushu University	Environmental Engineering
Kanako Yamagami	Keio University	International Relations
Keigo Matsura	Hosei University	Law & International Politics
Kohei Takasaki	Waseda University	Political Science
Kotaro Akiyama	Hitotsubashi University	Business and Management
Linden Murakami	Royal School of Armagh	

Lisa Evans	University of Cambridge	Law
Lucía Salazar Gómez	London School of Economics	MSc Environmental Policy and Regulation
Mizuho Ina	Nanzan University	British and American Studies
Mizuki Watanabe	Keio University	Econometrics
Momoko Tajima	Kyushu University	Law
Naoki Ishii	Hosei University	Business Administration
Nuala Burnett	London School of Economics	MSc Environmental Policy and Regulation
Riho Kobayashi	Waseda University	Political Economy of International Development
Ryota Imamura	Tokyo University of Foreign Studies	International Society
Sakura Doi	Keio University	Human Science
Sari Nomura	Kyushu University	Interdisciplinary Science and Innovation
Sharman Pandian	King's College London	MSc Climate Change: Environment, Science and Policy
Taichi Asami	Doshisha University	Economics
Tomo Taniguchi	University of Tokyo	Pharmaceutical Science
Yume Araki	Sophia University	International Legal Studies

Financial Statement

Participants

	Nr. of people	Exchange Rate (Aug 12)
Japanese Participants	18	£1 = ¥139
English Participants	15	
Committee Members	8	
Total	41	

Income

	Yen/Pound/Pers	Nr. of people	Total
Participants	£50	33	£1650
Route H	£720	-	£720
Global Learning Centre	£360	-	£360
		Total	£2730 / ¥380000

Expenses

	Yen/Pound/Pers	Nr. of people	Total
Event Expenses	£280	-	£280
Film Screening	£200	1	£200
Honorariums	£50	5	£250
Report Contributions	£25	4	£100
Zoom Subscription	£75	1	£75
Student Scholarships	£50	6	£300
Promotion	£100	-	£100
Website and Domain	£60	-	£60
Accommodation Deposit	£2000	-	£2000
		Total	£3365 / ¥468000

Closing Statement

On the 31st of August, we were able to successfully complete the Fifth UK-Japan Student Conference, in a context and a format that set it apart from every previous edition. Although the word "unprecedented" has left calluses on everyone's minds in recent months, it accurately describes our adaptation to a reality shaped by the covid pandemic. At many points, we questioned whether the conference could become a reality. I want to thank everyone on the committee for the monumental effort they made during a time of intense uncertainty, after hastily arranged flights home, under the routinising and wearing effects of the quarantine. I thank each and every one of our participants for dedicating a slice of their summer to an intense online academic programme. We hope it has been an intellectually stimulating, enriching week.

We would like to express our gratitude to our fantastic speakers: Dr. Dann Mitchell, Dr. Saher Hasnain, Dr. Adeline Johns-Putra, Dr. Merrill Singer, Dr. Toshi Arimura, Ms. Yukari Iwamoto and Ms. Nadia McKechnie from Vegan Tokyo, Ms. Zakiya McKenzie, Mr. Patrick Lydon, and Mr. Roman Krznaric. You have been incredibly generous with us, and offered us so much to ponder on. We hope to translate your wisdom into action.

The conference would not have been possible without our partners and sponsors: Benesse Corporation, Route H, Global Learning Centre, and the Japan-UK Season of Culture. Thank you for gifting us your trust and support in a financially challenging year.

Lastly, we would like to give special thanks to Ms. Madalina Benderschi, Mr. Gabriel Figueiredo, Ms. Kanako Hara, Ms. Eliana Harrigan, Ms. Mizuho Ina, Ms. Haleigh Kling, Ms. Ayaka Naota, Ms. Momoko Tajima, and Ms. An Yokota for contributing to our annual report.

We hope to see familiar faces in UK-JP 2021, where we will delve into the topic of Ethics and Technology.

日英学生会議
UK-Japan Student Conference

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