

UK x JP
2017

*How do we
want to shape
our future?*

Conference Report

6-14th September 2017 @ Tokyo, Japan

*Unite Knowledge,
Join Passion.*



日英学生会議
UK-Japan Student Conference

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Mission of the UK-Japan Student Conference

We aim to create a space for cross cultural pollination and a forum for discussion on crucial issues facing future leaders amongst British and Japanese students. Our vision is to support students in establishing a long-lasting human network across borders that fosters an immeasurably valuable relationship between the United Kingdom and Japan through this student-based hub. The established bond, independent of any business interests, will be a life-long treasure for all the participants of this conference. The UK-Japan Student Conference will be a space for students to enter a multicultural environment unlike their own communities. We hope this conference will be a bridge providing precious encounters, having an influence on the lives of all participants.

We put emphasis on providing experiences that lead us to question our collective biases and preconceptions, and through this realise the alternate approaches towards the theme of the conference. Nurturing the ability to discuss matters in an international context, we hope for participants to bring such perspective back to their own communities. We strive to design the UK-Japan Student Conference after the process of discussion, realisation, and action.

The UK-Japan Student Conference will be a unique opportunity for highly motivated British and Japanese students with a global awareness to come together, bringing future leaders of two nations together, so that they can exchange their thoughts and create a shared vision towards a sustainable future. The vision that we share, the life-changing experiences we provide and the diverse perspectives amongst attendees are all of immeasurable value. We strive to channel this value back into our two countries by publishing our activities and feedback. We strongly believe and hope that the UK-Japan Student Conference would kindle passionate discussion and rich interaction between the two countries.



In UK x JP 2017, we focus on how immigration has been viewed in the light of internationalism and isolationism, and address the question: 'How do we want to shape our future?' Analysing historical and cultural backgrounds, domestic issues and circumstances, a discussion will be held on how these two nations would address the future of human migration.

2016 was a year in which immigration was at the core of the debate. Public opinion was reflected in Brexit, the US presidential election, and right-wing parties gaining support in many countries. Social classification, public votes and other Big Data were analysed to predict what decisions are likely to be made. However, there is an issue that these representation only captures the macroscopic trend of society as a whole, and undermines the value of our decision making as individuals, the context of such decision making, and interaction on an individual basis. We address this topic this year with the hope that this youth dialogue will be one of many dialogues to come, and that it would yield better comprehension of the multidimensionality and complexity of the problem we face today.

We believe in the importance of sharing vision for the future of the two countries, bearing in mind the historical and cultural backgrounds, various domestic problems and unique circumstances. Can the United Kingdom and Japan set good examples for us, and what are the expectations? The UK-Japan Student Conference is a place to address this question, and discuss freely as students, who are not under any social and political constraints. We aim to provide a programme that acknowledges and appreciates the diversity of values through having interaction with participants from different backgrounds. Furthermore, we hope to foster long-lasting interaction and friendship amongst participants as a whole.

The conference will be a perfect opportunity to apply and output your knowledge, both you're your university studies and from preliminary studies and lectures throughout the conference. We hope the week you are going to spend with us will be a memorable and fruitful one with many discoveries.

The conference is about broadening each other's perspectives through active exchange of thoughts, ideas and experiences, thus arriving at a shared vision towards the future. Open discussion has an essential role in this process. We designed the programme so that everyone is part of the discussions and presentations, and may apply what they have learnt in seminars, fieldwork and workshops.

Preliminary Learning

We implemented four preliminary learning sessions to prepare our participants with fundamental knowledge on immigration and pertaining issues and maximise their benefits from our conference. These sessions consisted of several readings such as essays, reports, news article, etc. and also a worksheet filled of key questions relating to the readings that the participants filled in beforehand.

Following the completion of said readings and worksheets, the participants held Skype sessions in small groups of 4 to 5 and discussed their answers, questions that arose during their study, and shared their views. Topics discussed where: "What is immigration", "Immigration and Multiculturalism", "Immigration and the Global Economy" and finally "Policies pertaining to immigration".

Furthermore, we asked the participants to prepare a concise presentation on a certain introductory topic which they presented on the first days of the official conference. This presentation was a wonderful learning experience for the groups concentrated on immigration through the lens of their own culture, whether it be British or Japanese, and thus helped to inform the participants based in the partner country to what exactly is occurring within both nations.

Seminar

We invited experts on immigration such as university professors and those working in migration related organizations to give a presentation on their research and work. These seminars acted as an extremely valuable input for our conference. We were able to obtain actual voices of those whose livelihoods and passions correlate directly to our topic. After the presentations we held small and large group discussions in which we hoped to achieve one of the objectives of our conference, which was to create an environment that is liberal and open to academic discussion. The three seminars were led by Mrs Kiyotani at the International Organization for Migration, and Professor Andall and Professor Hallman from the Center for Global Communication Strategies at the University of Tokyo.

Workshop

The workshops were an interactive event in which participants were able to propose their own ideas and suggestions to various individuals and companies as well as have the chance to analyse data and do research as a group in order to back their proposals. For this year's conference, we were extremely fortunate to be able to host four workshops that were varied and enriching. One such workshop was held by Flamingo Company, on the topic of "Multicultural and Inclusive Society". Other workshops consisted of a formal debate on immigration issues faced both by the UK and Japan, an idea contest that has been popular amongst our participants in the past, and finally a workshop that acted as a wrap-up session, concluding the conference.

Cultural Exchange

The cultural exchange event that we held enhanced and increased the interactions that occurred between our participants who attend university in either the UK or in Japan. It was a greatly popular event that helped strengthen individual bonds between participants and increased knowledge and respect that they had for the other's culture. This year the Japanese side prepared calligraphy, as well as Yukata and Japanese school girl uniforms, which were certainly a laugh. The participants also had a chance to play some traditional Japanese games such as Fukuwarai, Hyaku-ninshu, Origami, and Sudoku.

Presentation

The presentation is the heart of the learning experience in the conference. It challenges each participant to actively digest the information presented, drawing and taking solutions from them.

In the introductory presentations, delegates provide an overview of immigration in their own countries, focusing on the socio-political specificities and local mind-sets, to deepen knowledge that delegates from the other country might already possess. The final presentation summarises the current situation of immigration in the two countries – their causes, current solutions – and as a group, present an impactful solution towards bettering the situation.

After every group presentation, we have group discussion sessions in order to make sure that everyone is on the same page, and to give everyone a chance to share ideas and thoughts that were / weren't addressed in the presentations.

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Conference Details

Schedule

Dates: 6 – 14 September 2017

	Sep 6 (Wed)	Sep 7 (Thu)	Sep 8 (Fri)	Sep 9 (Sat)	Sep 10 (Sun)	Sep 11 (Mon)	Sep 12 (Tue)	Sep 13 (Wed)	Sep 14 (Thu)
		Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast
9:00 AM	Arrivals	Introduction Ice breaking	Seminar by Prof. Andall	Seminar by Prof. Hallman	Workshop	Seminar by Mrs Kiyotani	Workshop	Group Preparation	Wrap-up Workshop
10:00 AM		Presentation & Discussion							
11:00 AM									
12:00 PM		Lunch	Lunch	Lunch*	Lunch*	Lunch*			
1:00 PM			Workshop with Flami	Sightseeing / MTG for Route H			Idea Contest	Group Preparation	Presentation C
2:00 PM			Presentation & Discussion						Presentation D
3:00 PM				Reflection	Sightseeing		Reflection	Check in	Reflection
4:00 PM			Reflection			Route H Exchange with Japanese High School Students	Cultural Exchange Preparation	Cultural exchange	Closing
5:00 PM		Ice breaking	Free time	Free time			Free time	Group Preparation / Free time	Free time
6:00 PM									Farewell Dinner / Karaoke
7:00 PM	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner (KOMAD)	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner (MONJA)	Dinner (南国亭)		
8:00 PM									

Venue



独立行政法人 国立青少年教育振興機構 国立オリンピック記念青少年総合センター
National Olympic Memorial Youth Center

Yoyogi, Shibuya, Tokyo, Japan

<http://nyc.niye.go.jp/>

Speakers

IOM

The International Organization of Migration (IOM) is an intergovernmental organization that is significantly advanced and specialized in the arena of solving various immigration-related issues. They conduct activities such as providing direct support for immigrant individuals, fostering regional cooperation, conducting surveys of migration, and promoting human rights and dignity. This conference we were visited by Mrs Noriko Kiyotani of the Tokyo office. Mrs Kiyotani has worked in high conflict areas such as Somalia and Rwanda, and after having gained experience in program management and emergency relief projects, was appointed to her present post in 2013.

Flamingo

Flamingo Co., Ltd. is an application that has been offering matching services between language tutors and students since 2015. What the app aims to do is to provide language lessons at a more convenient and flexible manner than traditional language schools. Since its establishment in 2015, the number of registered lecturers has grown and exceeded to 500+ people, while it has provided more than 10,000 lessons. They not only provide lessons teaching English to Japanese individuals but also provide the opportunity to learn and converse in 38 languages including French, German, Chinese and Russian.

Candler Hallman

Dr Chandler Hallman is a professor teaching Peace Studies and academic writing at the University of Tokyo's Center for Global Communication Strategies. Recent research he has conducted over the past two years are field surveys in Northern Ireland and the United States. The theme and objective of these were to examine the peace processes that occurred in Northern Ireland from the view of a cultural and linguistic anthropologist.

Jacqueline Andall

Dr Jacqueline Andall has been a researcher at the International and Development Research Graduate School in Geneva, Switzerland, a visiting researcher at Bath University in the UK and is currently an Associate Professor at the Center for Global Communication Strategies at the University of Tokyo. Her specialized field is centred on the research of contemporary immigration problems, and specifically in the context of Europe, labour and gender. She is also a holder of a Ph.D. from Nottingham Trent University.

Support

Hosted by:	UK-Japan Student Conference Executive Committee
Collaboration with:	Bizjapan Association
Endorsed by:	The British Chamber of Commerce in Japan, The Japan-British Society
Sponsored by:	Benesse Corporation



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Organisers and Participants

Karin Matsuzaki	King's College London
Shu Ishida	University of Oxford
Daichi Ishii	Keio University
Ayaka Naota	Royal Holloway, University of London
Fuzuki Nasuno	The University of Tokyo
Kounosuke Suzuki	Keio University
Nao Noguchi	University of Bradford
Nozomi Kondo	The University of Tokyo
Satomi Oya	University of Southampton
Takahiko Shibata	Waseda University
Wakaha Minami	Keio University
Beth Barker	University of Cambridge
Eugene Lin	University of Oxford
Jiawen Pek	Durham University
Theo Keeping	University of Oxford

Prior to the conference, we organised four preliminary learning sessions, each with set readings and assignments to complete. Since the topic of immigration is so vast, and as our participants have such varied backgrounds and are at various stages in their undergraduate and graduate careers, this was beneficial in that all the participants were able to join the conference on the same page from day 1. We split the larger participant pool into several 4 to 5 person groups, carefully considering their academic, linguistic, and cultural backgrounds. We wanted to cultivate well balanced groups and also a friendly environment in which individuals can freely express their opinions. The specific contents of our preliminary learnings were the following:

1st Session: What is Immigration

We started with the very introductory but crucial topic: What is Immigration? The goals of this preliminary session were to understand the multiplicity and complexity of immigration related issues as well as feel that it is only through a multi and cross disciplinary approach can we ever start to combat these problems.

In this specific session, we discussed content such as our personal definitions of immigrants and immigration, as well as the definitions given by governmental organizations, NGOS and NPOS, and other large players dealing with said issues. We noticed that not only were our personal definitions extremely varied, there was no set definition used by these bodies as well. For example, in a UN document published in 1997, the official definition that they determined was somebody who moved to a country that they did not live in originally and stayed there for a time period of at least 12 months. However we can clearly see that this is a narrow definition and we had the following inquiries such as how broad or narrow should a definition be, and for what purpose? From these sorts of discussions we realized that something we took for granted as being straightforward and easy such as what is an immigrant is actually much more complex than we had imagined.

2nd Session: Multiculturalism

The second topic was Multiculturalism, a topic so central to immigration issues that avoiding discussing it would be practically impossible. In this preliminary learning session, we debated Multiculturalism as well as neighbouring topics, integration, and the identity issues that immigrants face. We also discussed the propagation of poverty through generations due to a culture of oppression and lack of opportunity. Additionally, we discussed the importance of preservation of tradition and culture and possible conflict of doing so in the face of multiculturalism. The key question of the second preliminary learning “to what extent should we accept multiculturalism?” was one that

was certainly polarising and multifaceted. Another question raised was whether the “host country”, the nations that accepts immigrants, have some responsibility to learn the immigrant’s culture and language. We also discussed the role of media in accepting and supporting multiculturalism and ethnic minorities. The conversations that occurred in relation to this topic were certainly eye-opening.

3rd Session: Immigration and the Global Economy

The third preliminary learning was on Immigration and the Global Economy. In this session we focused not only on the implications of immigration for the UK and Japan’s economy, respectively, but also on the world. We broadly discussed the free movement of labour and impact of globalization on the job market. In respect to Japan and other aging economies, we proposed that immigration could be a way to combat the decline in supply of workers. However, there were also the opinion that allowing a large amount of immigrants will cheapen the “Made in Japan” brand and perhaps have an impact on Japan’s famous low crime rate.

4th Session: Policy Making

The fourth and final topic of the preliminary learnings was on Policy Making. We considered policy making at two different levels: governmental and community based. In specific, we focused on what should be the primary focus of new and alternate policies implemented, and discussed this question in great detail. Many of our participants felt that one of the vital areas was to increase social interaction and to have a strong bond between immigrants and their host communities. By structuring policies in a way that enhances such a relationship, our participants believed that there will be a significant decrease in feelings of uneasiness or discrimination.

There was also the notable opinion that before one starts to make policies on immigration, there is a need to cultivate a culture of acceptance within societies, particularly in Japan when such an attitude is lacking. This was to ensure that further conflict does not arise from the individuals lack of knowledge and unawareness of their responsibility to accept immigration. In order to create such an atmosphere, one of the participants proposed that we must first make the presence of high skilled workers such as doctors or lawyers regularized and the norm, and then continue on to the integration of various societal and economic groups. However this sort of structured and step-based approach often contradicts and becomes obsolete in terms of situations that suddenly arise, such as a military coup or natural disaster. Due to this, one must also think up of more short term immediate solutions. Overall, the preliminary learnings acted as a wonderful starting point for our participants, and certainly acted as an academic primer.

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Conference Agenda

Introductory Presentation

7th Sep 9.45am - 4pm

Participants prepared presentations on a variety of topics, such as General information on Migration, Economics and National Security, and Assimilation. The presentations were around 15 to 20 minutes long and showcased the extensive research the presenters have done, utilizing information from reputable news sources, case studies, and notable scholars. After each presentation, we gathered in small groups to discuss the contents of the presentation, to debate the key points and questions raised within the presentation, and to even touch upon various topics that were related to the presentation. One key takeaway for example of one memorable presentation was that the main issues plaguing Japan were overreaction in regard to immigration issues and immigrants as a whole, as well as their ignorance of foreign language and cultures. After expressing our support of this opinion, within our discussion we came up with additional factors to those that were listed, for example we also thought that



the media's portrayal and certain political interests could play a large impact on the unfavourable situation of immigrants in Japan. Since within each small discussion group were people of numerous nationalities and backgrounds, and it was certainly eye opening to see how their views were influenced by such factors. The discussions were so riveting that when time ran out, we still had so much content left that we would like to discuss.

Seminar by Dr Andall

8th Sep 9am - 12pm

The day started with a fascinating seminar led by Dr Andall, a respected lecturer at the University of Tokyo. During our morning session with her, she gave a presentation on International Immigration and focused on the labour market, which is a fundamental player when discussing this topic. We were able to shine some light on common misconceptions people have on immigration and became

knowledgeable about the various factors that cause international immigration. For example, we learned that although some theories state that wage discrepancy between nations act as the core cause of immigration, research shows that this is not necessarily the case. Furthermore, she analysed the specific situations in both Japan and the United Kingdom, and certainly provided much insight into both nations.

Following that, we analysed a case study on Prêt à Manger and the impact of Brexit on their hiring process. We learned that only one in 50 applicants to the chain are British, and the implications of Brexit will be



tremendously severe for Prêt à Manger and the foodservice industry. In this way we discussed the volatile future of the UK, a nation that seemingly requires an unskilled and foreign workforce, yet with a significant host population that were not willing to accept such individuals.

Workshop with Flamingo

8th Sep 1pm – 3pm

We conducted an hour-long workshop with Flamingo, an app that acts as a platform connecting foreigners in Japan with students wishing to learn foreign languages.

Firstly, we started as an icebreaking activity that also provided Flamingo with some insight into the international students of our group and their personal experiences. We were asked questions such as whether those who lived in Japan were happy. This led to a multifaceted and complex discussion on what exactly is happiness, what are the factors contributing to happiness, and if those factors of happiness are universal or varied according to culture. We also discussed some key questions such as whether foreigners have a high quality of life here in Japan and in their respective home nation, how Japan could attract more international students, and gave feedback on the idea of Flamingo as a culturally diverse group ourselves.



Since Flamingo itself is a company run by youthful individuals, some of which are still studying in university, we felt a strong connection with those running the workshop. It was certainly a beneficial opportunity to see what sort of individuals are not only conducting research on immigration and related topics but are involved in bettering a situation in a more practical manner.

Seminar by Dr Hallman

9th Sep 9am - 12pm

On the 9th, we were very fortunately able to invite Dr Hallman from the Center for Global Communication Strategies at the University of Tokyo for a three-hour seminar. The topic was on Integration and Ethnic Conflict.

Dr Hallman discussed the unstable political situation in North Ireland since the 1920s, and went very much in depth into the history of North Ireland and how this background contributed to such conflict. Some of these factors were the clash of Protestants and Catholics, and then further tension added into the mix due to the increase of foreign immigrants. He specifically gave the example of the Congolese community in Ireland and we were able to get a much closer look into how various ethnicities, cultures, and religions interacted with one another due to existing education policies and societal structures. Overall, his lecture was one in which you received a truly specific and in-depth example of the struggles on integration.



Outreach Event for High School Students with Route H

10th Sep 4pm – 7pm

We were very pleased to host an interactive meeting with high school students from Route H, our main sponsor and a preparatory academy for high performing Japanese students who want to study at elite universities abroad. 14 participants of our conference and 12 high school Japanese students attended this meeting that took place in a spacious and ornate reception hall. The meeting started off with

presentations our team prepared on college life in the U.K. and the application process and introduced their respective universities, such as Royal Holloway, Oxford, King's College, and Bradford University. Following this was a panel discussion in which key questions the students had prepared were answered by our UK participants and then followed by group discussions in a more casual and personal format. We believe that the students were able to gain much useful knowledge from the first-hand experience and information that our U.K participants were able to provide. While our U.K participants explained this ins and outs of what it is like to study in the U.K, the Japan-based university students prepared for an upcoming cultural exchange.



Seminar by Mrs Kiyotani, IOM Tokyo Office

11th Sep 9am - 12pm

We were delighted to invite Mrs Kiyotani from the International Organization of Migration (IOM) Tokyo office. She conducted a wonderful lecture on the topic of Current Global Immigration Issues. She focused on the movement of people and stressed the importance of this topic in modern age as well as gave detailed statistics and demography on those who are migrating. The participants were very surprised that out of the roughly 7 billion on the planet, around 1 billion have immigrated previously or are immigrants. We also discussed the connection between IOM and the United Nations, and the similarities and differences between them.



Furthermore, we discussed how as the costs of transporting individuals across borders have decreased over the years, leading to increasing incidents of sex labour and child trafficking. To resolve such issues, Mrs Kiyotani stressed the importance of the cooperation of the international community and increased awareness in general on this issue. We also discussed the topic of slavery and forced labour that are heavily intertwined with human trafficking.

Finally, we discussed climate change and immigration due to environmental reasons. She stated that with rising sea levels and increased frequency of serious climatic events, we can predict that the number of immigrants will rise in the following years. Mrs Kiyotani's lecture was unforgettable, and she left us a message that immigration is not a problem to be solved, but rather a reality to be managed.

Idea Contest

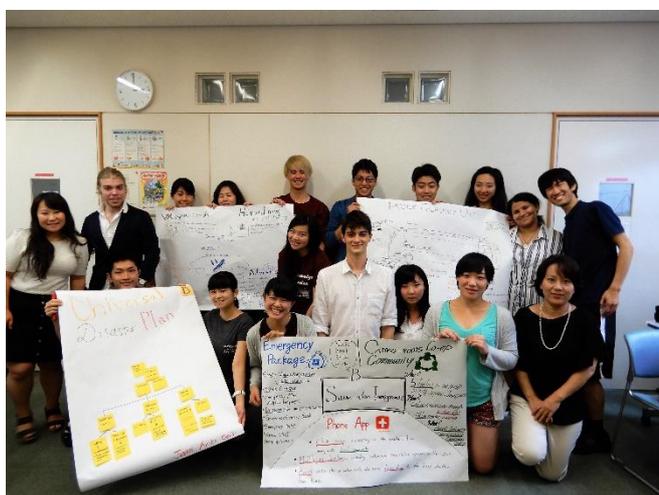
11th Sep 1pm – 3pm

We conducted an Idea Contest, inviting Mrs Kiyotani as the judge. The aim of the contest was to create an effective, realistic and creative plan for emergencies such as a natural disaster or terror attacks, since immigrants tend to be particularly vulnerable. Example of plans are providing welfare such as shelter, food, healthcare and language support. The participants were divided up into four groups and competed for a prize.



The first group proposed a large vehicle which they titled “Mobile Emergency Unit”. This unit was to contain shelter, water and food, emergency medical supplies, and even a translation device to aid immigrants who are bound to be particularly vulnerable in case of emergency situations. The second group proposed a 3-pronged plan which included the distribution of an emergency kit, a Grass-roots Co-op community which was achieved by the division of members of society into small groups with

mixed immigrant and native families, and finally a mobile app and alert system. The third group proposed a VR simulation experience so that immigrants will be more aware of what to do in cases of emergency and the fourth and final group proposed more of a legislative approach in which there were clear and coherent plans set up by NGO’s, medical and educational facilities. All proposals were excellent, but the second group was chosen as the winner.



Debate

12th Sep 9am – 11am

The morning started with a workshop in which the participants were divided into two and prompted to debate the following statement: For societies with an aging population (and decreasing birth rate), receiving large amounts of immigrants would revitalize the economy and enable it to remain

internationally competitive. One team represented those finding such a statement to be true, while the opposing team considered it to be false. The teams contested their opinions diligently and passionately, at times clashing drastically and at other moments finding resolve. Some points brought up by those agreeing to the statement were that immigrants could have profound and positive impacts on economies, for their diverse backgrounds could induce inventions, foster entrepreneurship, and increase demand for services/products, thus boosting gross domestic product. In the long run, immigrants could have children and combat the dwindling birth rate, and increase consumption in that manner as well. On the other hand, the opposing group argued that immigration would be a large toll on already suffering healthcare, welfare, and security budgets, and could strongly reduce the cultural strength and appeal of Japan, critical in attracting tourism.



Cultural Exchange

13th Sep 3.30pm – 4.30pm



On the 12th, we conducted a cultural exchange workshop in order to ease the stress of our participants preparing for their final presentations. This year we prepared a variety of activities, some traditional and some modern, which we felt that the participants truly enjoyed. This was important for our conference for our conference aims for both the academic development of our participants as well as the development of friendships and cultural

understanding between them. Some of the more serious activities were calligraphy and wearing yukata, while we also had more casual activities such as trying on Japanese schoolgirl uniforms and solving Sudoku puzzles.

Final Presentation

16th Sep 10am – 3.30pm

For the conference's closing day, we had an event in which our participants had the opportunity to share their polished final presentations on immigration issues in the UK and in Japan and their proposals on how to better the current situation. Overall, the quality and thought the participants put into their presentations were clearly displayed and far surpassed expectation. It was incredible how within one and a half weeks, the participants were able to construct such a complex and profound analysis and propose astute and imaginative recommendations for both the UK and Japan.

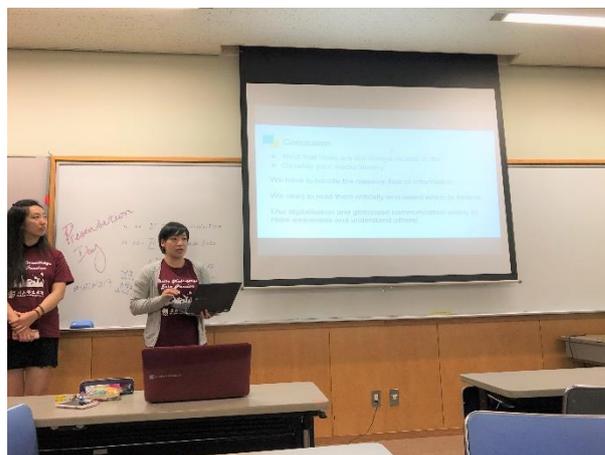
The first group gave a presentation titled Low Skilled Labour Flows. They explained the current situation of Japan, that being an aging society, limited amounts of low skilled labour, and a government with a reluctant stance in regard to accepting immigrants. They also mentioned that the small amount of low skilled workers was obtained via internships, a side door process. On the other hand, the current policy of the UK consists of bad management of migrant flow and insufficient thought given to the possible consequences. They brought up some core issues such as negative public perception on immigrants, limited social provision, and prevailing integration issues. The group analysed various issues the UK faced, particular in regard to the education, healthcare, and integration sectors and presented potential applications and lessons that Japan could take from the UK's oversight. Ultimately, they concluded that to solve the problem of Japan's aging populace, one must tread carefully and learn from past example.

The second presentation focused on the topic, "What can we learn from each country's status of immigration?". Each member focused on certain aspects of immigration that they had interest in, such as Mixed Migration Flow or Human Trafficking. Mixed Migration Flow refers to the varied types of migrants such as asylum seekers, economic migrants, environmental migrants, and more. The group noted that current Japanese immigration policy does not accurately reflect immigrant's needs or opinions, for they do not have a way to voice their desires and cannot vote. The group identified that the structure of Japanese society that escalates discrimination against non-Japanese nationals must be stopped. They proceeded to analyse the fundamental problems such as misleading media and came with suggestions such as the passing of a bill that prohibits discrimination and the creation of an organization that enforces laws against human rights violations. They also proposed countermeasures against human trafficking such as raising awareness of the existence of human trafficking itself, which will help decrease both supply and demand of this malicious business.

The third group focused on the topic "How media frames migrants" for they believed that mass media plays a critical role alongside citizens and elites in shaping public attitudes and influence on foreign policy. They decided to analyse two forms of media, TV and Twitter, which represented social media

and mass media, respectively. They exposed several problems in media for example the lack of neutrality and impartiality in TV and how SNS can be easily used to spread misinformation and hatred. They also mentioned that the self-regulation scheme for TV in Japan, or the free speech right on social media could have a significant impact on the content found on both platforms. Conclusively, the group recommended that individuals should beware of media manipulation and specific agendas, and become more mindful of the reliability and source of info by increasing their media literacy. They also proposed users of social media to consider themselves as a publisher of content rather than a consumer of a service.

The fourth and final group presented on Immigration Policy. They explored issues they considered the most critical, including the exploitation of workers under the blanket term “internship” or “training” in Japan and the inability of the UK government to stabilize the incoming migrant population. They analysed both issues through the context of the Cumulative Causation



Theory, which states that causation is cumulative as each act of migration alters social context within which subsequent migration decisions are made and in a way that makes further movement. What this means, in a simple sense, is that migration is not a single event and rather that it works in a series of cumulative actions. Thus, they argued that the current policies of both the UK and Japan are outdated and must be renewed for a new migration event(s) has occurred.

Wrap-up Workshop

14th Sep 9am - 12pm

The final workshop was held on the 14th, and consisted of the viewing and then academic discussion on an award winning documentary titled “Babel’s School”. The documentary, which debuted in 2015 and was directed by Julie Bertuccelli focused on the lives of immigrant children struggling to receive their education all while dealing with various environmental issues in France. The documentary depicted the several children’s personal as well as academic growth and was a fascinating look into the lives of those often forgotten.

In the discussion that occurred post-viewing, our participants discussed the importance of not forgetting the individual unit when discussing immigration issues and placing emphasis on everybody’s unique story. By doing so, we will likely be more empathetic and sensitive. This workshop was one that showed real life footage and struck many of us in a certain place of our hearts.

Voices of Participants

“The multi-cultured participants helped me think deeply on immigration issues held by both the UK and Japan from multiple angles. Despite being students from either the UK and Japan, I felt that there were no labels put on us, and we were able to interact and discuss academic topics one to one as individuals. I was delighted to have been able to participate in this conference and develop valuable friendships here!”

“I was able to participant as a nursing student, and learned much about immigration issues through preliminary learnings, lectures, and discussions. I hope to use the knowledge I gained to better medical treatment of foreigners in Japan, and better the health of immigrants. Thank you very much.”

“This conference was the ideal hub for students from different culture and background, where the ideas and the opinions were shared and united. I found it very interesting to delve into problems through rigorous discussions, and to learn the significance of introducing various disciplines to solve global issues collectively.”



Acknowledgement

We are truly thankful to those who aided the conference and brought it to fruition. We will like to give a notable mention to our guest speakers Dr Andall, Dr Hallman, Mrs Kiyotani, the Benesse Corporation, who acted as an extremely generous sponsor, as well as, The Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation, Sojitz Foundation, Mitsubishi UFJ Foundation for subsidy, The British Chamber of Commerce in Japan and The Japan-British Society for endorsement, National Olympic Memorial Youth Center for both the venue and accommodation, along with all of our supporters who has helped us realise the conference.

— UK-Japan Student Conference Committee