

Model United Nations

Event Report

The 3rd United Nations Ocean Conference

Model UN – Believing we can change the world

Living on an island nation, we feel a close connection to the ocean. The oceans are connected across the world and have a significant impact on our daily lives. It was with a desire to learn more about the oceans that we launched the "United Nations Ocean Conference" in the winter of 2024. As we researched the current state of the oceans and the challenges they face, we discovered that the problems were far more numerous and complex than we had imagined. With the generous support of many people, the conference day saw lively discussions among junior and senior high school students on various ocean-related issues. We would like to report on the discussions and the outcomes of this conference.

MUN Guide Map

Our guide map will navigate you through the world of Model UN.



Date: December 26&27, 2024
Venue: Otsuma Women's University
Participants: 400 people, 39 schools
Agenda: Global Action Plan for Ocean
Conservation and Sustainable Use



Three Missions Toward Achieving "The Ocean We Want"

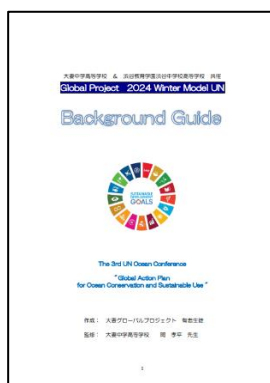
At this conference, we set three missions and five goals to achieve them. The vast oceans face a wide range of complex and intertwined challenges. The delegates took a comprehensive approach to these issues, engaging in essential discussions that went beyond temporary "support" measures and addressed the root causes of the problems. They worked toward drafting and adopting resolutions through these deeper discussions.

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| Mission 1 | Protect a clean and rich marine environment and pass on "the ocean we want" to the next generation |
| Mission 2 | Ensure that all countries and people fairly share ocean resources and technologies and enjoy their benefits |
| Mission 3 | Promote and realize the goals of the "Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development" |



Creation of Background Guide

In Model United Nations, the Background Guide (BG) is shared among all participants to help deepen their understanding of the agenda. For this conference, a team of project members, composed of both junior and senior students, collaborated to create an original BG. Covering a wide range of topics related to ocean preservation, this BG has received high praise from experts in specialized fields.



The BG is accessible via the QR code below (for digital data, you can view it by clicking on the QR code)



Our Challenge: Anticipating the real UNOC

When selecting the agenda, we asked: "What topic would enable Japanese junior and senior high school students to engage meaningfully with real-world issues?" As an island nation, Japan has developed alongside the oceans, yet ocean issues often remain "familiar but not fully understood." This made us realize the need to raise awareness about ocean preservation. Knowing that the United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC) would be held six months later, we aimed to "experience" the event in advance and spark greater interest in international discussions.

We organized our work around three Missions and five Goals, dividing tasks and meeting weekly to share progress. Following the flow of UNOC, we created a Background Guide to help participants grasp both specific issues and the broader context. While maintaining coherence, each member added insights from their research, producing a guide that reflected everyone's efforts.

This BG was designed to be accessible to students and foster deeper learning. We hope it will inspire many to learn more about and reflect on the ocean.

Special Thanks

At the Opening Session, we welcomed speakers from the Cabinet Office, the Sasakawa Peace Foundation, and the University of Tokyo, and at the Closing Session, a message from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Hearing directly from leading experts was an invaluable experience for all participants. We sincerely appreciate the generous support.



会議レポート 会議監督の視点より

At this conference, delegates were initially divided into three major groups: developed countries, developing countries, and emerging economies. To facilitate smoother discussions, developing countries further organized into smaller groups, such as African nations and island states, based on their shared priorities.



There were five designated Goals for the discussions, and it was required that any draft resolution submitted on the second day cover all five. This made smooth and efficient progress essential within the limited time available.

By the end of the first day, some Goals remained insufficiently discussed, and clear points of contention emerged—particularly regarding the extent of support developing countries sought and how far developed countries could commit. In Goal 3, regulating deep-sea mining, major divisions surfaced between countries benefiting from seabed resources and those prioritizing environmental protection. Across the chambers, two to four working papers were submitted.

On the second day, the preliminary vote clarified each country's position on the various papers. Based on these results, negotiations progressed, with active diplomacy bridging groups while each delegation defended its national or bloc interests. In Chamber A, where I served as supervisor, intense negotiations continued up to the submission deadline, resulting in two draft resolutions. However, as some countries could not agree, neither was adopted.

While the conference succeeded in clarifying national stances and fault lines on ocean issues, it was regrettable that the participants were unable to present an adopted resolution to the international community.



~ Adopted draft resolutions ~

This key conference required full consensus to adopt any resolution. Despite conflicting interests, countries worked together toward a shared goal, resulting in a meaningful outcome.



General Conference

Japanese Conference

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Message – Revisiting Model United Nations

Rin Sumida, Secretary-General

Model United Nations provides a wide range of experiences, but most importantly, it teaches us to view international issues from multiple perspectives and turn these insights into motivation for action.

At this conference on "Sustainable Oceans," I witnessed firsthand the tensions between developing and developed countries, the difficulty of setting fair and objective standards, and the importance of thinking not simply about whether to regulate plastic use, but how to design realistic and effective solutions. I learned how crucial it is to approach global challenges from multiple angles.

I also became more aware of how often minorities and vulnerable communities are left behind, and how urgently we need both immediate and meaningful action.

MUN discussions often feature remarks like, "Change won't come without action," and "Awareness is the first step." These conversations remind us that while global challenges are pressing, achieving consensus among nations is far from easy. That is why it's so important to accept the complexity of these problems, seriously consider what each country—and each of us—can do, and take even small steps forward. This conference gave me the energy to do just that.

In preparation for the United Nations Ocean Conference, our project team created background guides and organized the sessions to help participants better understand the root causes and overlooked aspects of ocean issues. Adopting a consensus approach, the delegates engaged in constructive, determined discussions, taking their first steps toward a more sustainable ocean.

I hope that the learning and energy from this conference will continue to spread, inspiring more people to think critically, share knowledge, and work together. I truly believe that even small actions can lead to meaningful change in addressing global issues.

By adopting a consensus-based approach, the delegates engaged in constructive and persistent discussions, taking meaningful first steps toward achieving ocean sustainability.

I sincerely hope that the learning and insights gained through this conference will continue to spread, encouraging more people to view international issues from diverse perspectives and to learn together.

I firmly believe that such efforts, even small ones, can gradually contribute to solving global challenges



Video Report

We have compiled a video report showcasing the actual proceedings of the conference. This includes footage of the intense negotiations and discussions that occurred.

