

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

MARCH 13, 1PM

ZOOM LINK <http://bit.ly/SpotlightMarch>

A model UN in a new age of social distancing



Edward Escobar holds a Master's of Science in Education with a focus in TESOL from Temple University, and has been a teacher at Kyoto Gaidai Nishi High School (KGN) in Kyoto, Japan for 8 years. He is both an Apple Distinguished Educator and a level 2 Google Educator, and is a member of KGN's ICT committee. He has been a part of the Kansai High School Model United Nations' organizing committee since 2013. Edward's interests focus around effective and meaningful use of technology in education, as well as curriculum design through scaffolding in an integrated-learning environment.



Angus McGregor holds a Master's of Applied Arts and Sciences in International Relations from University of North Carolina at Greensboro and has been a teacher in the Course of International and Cultural Studies at Kyoto Gaidai Nishi High School in Kyoto, Japan for 28 years, currently serving as the Coordinator of the course. He has participated in all 30 Kansai High School Model United Nations conferences and has served as Director since 2000. Angus is active in the community with Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and UNESCO activities as the organizer of the ASPnet

"A Model United Nations event is a simulation of a challenging authentic environment that can provide meaningful learning contexts that go beyond the logistic and metaphysical constraints of the classroom" (Adamson, 2013). The Kansai High School Model United Nations (KHSMUN), an annual multi-day English conference focused on current issues before the United Nations, has provided such contexts for students studying English in and around the Kansai region for 30 years; however, due to the social distancing constraints placed on events of large gatherings for the purpose of preventing the spread of the new coronavirus, the 2020 KHSMUN transitioned to an online format. This presentation outlines the positives and negatives of the 2020 online format, and how the size of the cohort of participants in an online environment can affect the engagement of its participants.