The 65th International Student Conference
(ISC65)
Business Plan

The International Student Association of Japan
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Message From the President

International Student Conference was founded in 1954 under the mission of the sponsoring organization, “contributing to world peace.” Every year, during two weeks of summer, students from more than 20 countries gather in Tokyo, and engage in academic discussions as well as cultural exchanges.

I was a participant in the 64th International Student Conference, and have truly felt that sharing opinions with students of various backgrounds and cherishing our differences, develop a global mindset. After participating in the conference, I believe I am capable of approaching various global issues from different angles, and have also found joy in engaging in international interactions through everyday dialogues and cultural exchanges.

The overall theme of the 65th International Student Conference reads, “Embrace Diversity as Youths of Today and Driving Forces of Tomorrow.” During the span of two weeks, participants discuss heated global issues, and on the final day, share their discussion outcomes through presentations, and submit their outcomes in the form of policy proposals to various governmental organizations. Accepting and respecting different values in the process of discussions and drafting up one policy proposal are not without difficulties. However, overcoming these seeming barriers and attempting to produce one final outcome towards a common mission are essential to truly embrace diversity. Furthermore, not only academic discussions, but also cultural exchanges happen between the participants, allowing students from all around the globe to unite, which will surely become a step forward to the realization of world peace.

I aspire to make this conference a platform where students who are driving forces of tomorrow ponder upon what they can do at the moment as well as in the future. There are no limits as to what students can think, discuss, and voice out, and they have the ability to pitch in innovative insights. I strive to make the 65th International Student Conference a valuable opportunity where all participants cherish the discussions made, difficulties encountered, friendship built, and all the experiences throughout the conference, and lead students to think about how they can contribute to the society as individuals who shape the future.

The organizing committee continues to work together to make the 65th International Conference an occasion where participants can take a step forward to the realization of world peace.

The 65th International Student Conference
President Remi Nakazeki
Overview of ISC

In 1934, the Japan-America Student Conference, which is the origin of the International Student Conference, was founded under the following vision: ‘World Peace is Peace at the Pacific Ocean. Peace at the Pacific Ocean lies between Japan and America, whereby the attainment of peace requires the honest exchange of opinions, and mutual understanding and trust between the young people of Japan and America.’ In 1954, the organization was renamed ‘International Student Conference,’ but a strong emphasis has continued to be placed on the mission statement ‘Contributing to World Peace,’ which lingered in the minds of the students.

The main activity and aim of this conference is to hold a conference on a yearly basis, which serves as a platform where students from both Japan and abroad come together during two weeks in August to September to experience international exchange as well as contribute to discussions on heated global issues. Each year, approximately 70 students from all over the world participate in this conference. Neither past experiences nor countries of origin affect participants’ eligibilities to join the conference, and it is opened to students of all nations and tongues. Every year, the conference sets an overall theme of that year’s particular conference based on global situations and prominent trends at that time as well as interests on that year’s participants. Although there is a renewed overall theme every year, the mission of the sponsoring organization, International Student Association of Japan, ‘Contributing to World Peace,’ remains to be the core value of every year’s conference. Furthermore, this conference aims to provide a platform where voices of students from diverse backgrounds, unconstrained from neither external forces nor limitations reach the society.

In order to organize this conference, every year, an organizing committee is formed. Although the conference itself takes place during the span of two weeks in summer, the organizing committee prepares for the conference throughout the year. All planning and organization of this conference are done by students, and through engaging in public relations, the organizing committee cooperates with outside organizations, and strive to prepare for a successful conference by holding meetings on a regular basis.

Every year, the International Student Conference has continued to prosper, and celebrates its 65th anniversary this year. Notably, in recent years, the number of participants has significantly increased and the countries of participants have greatly diversified. These recent trends have contributed to making both the content and the quality of the conference even more enriching. The conference envisions to contribute to the prosperity of the global society and to shape individuals capable of leading international efforts to world peace.
Statement of Purpose

This conference places importance on 4 core missions: pave the path to world peace, develop independence among students, embrace diversity, and contribute to the society.

The main aim of this conference is to contribute to the prosperity and stability of the global society, and ultimately pave the path to world peace. World peace has long been a desired goal of the global society, and incessant perseverance to achieve this goal as individuals of the society is demanded. However, it is difficult to fully define the notion, “peace,” for realizing a world without wars and other conflicts is not simply equivalent to it. That is why we have put focus on the notion of human security, and would like to define world peace as a world where no one is left behind. We strive to have a sense of responsibility as citizens of the world, and ponder upon what we can put into action in order to achieve world peace.

Furthermore, it is indispensable for us, students, to cultivate the ability proactively think about various issues, and put thoughts and ideas into actions. By acknowledging our possibilities, we are able to approach global issues with innovative and critical mindsets. Through this conference, we provide opportunities for participants to think for themselves, and strive to encourage the cultivation of leadership skills. We strongly believe that the confidence and experiences acquired when students will become a springboard for the participants’ future endeavors.

In addition, in the global society today, diversity is a notion which cannot be overlooked. It is essential to cherish diverse personalities and experiences of individuals through interactions between various groups of people, and thus, one of the emphasized missions of this conference is to contribute to the realization of a society where diversity is fully embraced. Through exchanging opinions and insights between students with different backgrounds and diverging values, we believe that this conference serves as a valuable opportunity for participants to widen their scopes and lead to even more fruitful opportunities.

It cannot be forgotten that although the status and influential power of students may not be very powerful, students compose an essential part of the society, and proactive approaches to contributing to the society must be taken. The proposals made by students may be considered idealistic and to an extent, premature. However, we cherish the innovative and flexible mindsets of students and continue to voice out our outcomes during the conference to the society. We further encourage participants to continue researching and ponder upon their areas of interests, and become driving forces of the society in the future.
History of ISC

1934: The 1st Japan-America Student Conference (The root organization of ISC)
   Held under the following mission: “World peace means peace of the pacific. Peace in the
   pacific is equal to the peace between Japan and the United States. This can only be
   achieved through dialogue and deep understanding between the 2 nations in order to
   develop a trusting relationship” (held at Aoyama Gakuin University)

1941: Complete stop of all Japan-America Student Conference activities with the onset of WW2

1947: The 8th Japan-America Student Conference
   Held in Japan, and held under the following belief: “Mutual understanding that the path
   toward peace can only be achieved through goodwill and respect”

1954: The 15th Japan-America Student Conference
   This year marks the suspension of Japan-America Student Conference and the
   independence of International Student Conference.

1954: The 1st International Student Conference
   Held in Tokyo, Kansai, and Hokkaido over a period of 28 days with 84 participants from
   12 different countries

1962: The 9th International Student Conference
   Establishment of the organization representatives conference

1968: Student Activist movements cause a split in the ISC committee board of
   the International Student Association of Japan.

1969: International Student Conference cancelled

1970: The 16th International Student Conference
   Resumption of ISC

1991: The 37th International Student Conference
   Organization of an international exchange program with the support from Obihiro City in
   Hokkaido

2014: The 60th International Student Conference
   60th year anniversary

2016: The 62nd International Student Conference
   Keynote speech by Mr. Anderson, Director, World Food Programme office in Japan,
   during the final forum
2017: The 63rd International Student Conference
Students from 19 countries participated, the most in history. Keynote speech by Mr. Kondo, Director, United Nations Development Programme office in Japan, during the final forum.

2018: The 64th International Student Conference
Participants from 23 countries, which marked the largest number of countries in the history of the conference. Keynote speech by Mr. Kondo, Director, United Nations Development Programme office in Japan, during the final forum.
Overview of ISC65

Overview of The Conference

Sponsor  International Student Association

Overall Theme  “Embrace Diversity as Youths of Today and Driving Forces of Tomorrow”

Table Topics
Table 1: The Global Refugee Crisis in the Japanese Context
Table 2: The Feminist Perspectives on Wars and Conflicts
Table 3: Freedom of Speech and its Restrictions in Today's World
Table 4: Economic Growth and Human Well-being
Table 5: Mental Health Care  -Creating a mentally healthy lifestyle for young people-
Table 6: Marine Plastic Pollution

Place・Date  Advanced Study Tour: August 21st-August 24th
(Held in 6 locations: Nagoya, Kyoto, Osaka, Kobe, Okayama, and Kyushu)

Main Conference: August 25th-September 2nd
(Held in National Olympics Memorial Youth Center, Yoyogi, Tokyo)

Participants  Japanese Participants  30 students
International Participants  35 students
(including organization committee)

Language  English

Contents  Discussion and research based on sectional groups
Presentation of the outcome in the final forum
Field Trips
Japanese cultural experience
International Interaction Sessions
Description of the Overall Theme
Today, because of terrorism, trade conflicts, refugees, civil wars and so on, we tend to disregard the importance of embracing diversity. Countries who tend to prioritize their own interests can be seen as examples. We believe that in order to find solutions to global issues, we must accept differences in religions, political beliefs, nationalities, languages, cultures, and many more areas. We hope that this conference will become a valuable opportunity for participants to discuss global issues, and serve as one of the first steps for them to acquire a global mindset, and become contributors to world peace in the future.

Details about the Program
- Discussions in Sectional Groups
  The conference is composed of 5 to 6 sectional groups of approximately 10 members. Each group is assigned a topic to be discussed, which reflects heated issues in the present world. Participants are selected during the spring, and prepare for the conference in the summer through individual research and frequent meetings with group members. During the conference, passionate discussions take place among students of various backgrounds, and on the final day, participants present their discussion outcomes in the form of presentations, and ultimately draft up a policy proposal to be submitted to outside organizations.

- Presentation of the Outcome in the Final Forum
  On the last day of the conference, students present discussion outcomes to the public in the Final Forum. Each sectional group strives to voice opinions and insights to the society. Keynote speakers and guests who are experts in various global fields are welcomed, and opportunities for interactions with the students are greatly valued. The Final Forum is opened to the public, and it serves as a platform where further discussions take place on the topics of the sectional groups.

- Japanese Cultural Exchange
  During the conference, participants take part in Japanese cultural exchanges. The opportunity for participants to experience Japanese culture is one of the many charms of this conference. In the 64th International Student Conference, participants experienced dancing to traditional Japanese dances as well as learning how to play Japanese traditional instruments.
- Field Trips
  As for field trips, an advanced study tour and a Tokyo study tour are planned. The advanced study tour is held in 6 locations including, Nagoya, Kyoto, Osaka, Kobe, Okayama, and Kyushu, and serves as a valuable occasion for participants to further understand Japanese culture. For the international participants, new findings and questions arise, and through interacting with Japanese students, they are able to learn more about Japan. Furthermore, during the conference, one day is devoted to sightseeing in Tokyo, and participants visit famous locations such as Asakusa, Shibuya, and Yokohama.

- International Interaction Sessions
  Besides the academic programs, the conference aims to encourage the building of friendships through various interaction sessions, and plans activities for participants to make the most out of this valuable opportunity. During the 64th International Student Conference, occasions where participants share their cultures were provided, and other recreations such as traditional Japanese exercises and games also attracted the interests of many participants.
### Detailed Schedule

#### Advanced Study Tour

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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Opening Ceremony</td>
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<td>Recreation</td>
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<td>Japanese Cultural Exchange</td>
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<td>September 1st</td>
<td>Final Forum</td>
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<td>Farewell Party</td>
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<td>September 2nd</td>
<td>Closing Ceremony</td>
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Table 1

The Global Refugee Crisis in the Japanese Context

Table Chief: Waseda University, Damrongsoontornchai, Kanlongtham (Thailand)

According to the UNHCR, in 2017, at least 65.6 million people were forcibly displaced worldwide due to persecution, conflict, violence, or human rights violations. The persisting Global Refugee Crisis has become an issue of global attention. Japan, often dubbed as the most "homogenous society", has one of the world's toughest asylum policies. Despite having the third-largest economy, Japan has accepted only 20 refugees in 2017, less than most developed countries across the globe. Currently, Japan finds itself in the context of the aging society and the rapidly declining population. To heal those social issues, the academics have purported that its rapidly shrinking workforce could possibly be recuperated by migrant workers and refugees. In theory, the intake of refugees sounds like a panacea to the myriads of social issues, but how effective could this be? In the light of potential discrimination, stigmatization, and marginalization towards the foreign newcomers, how realistic could this idea be? What are the opportunities and challenges of taking more migrants in? How can this concern be interpreted in terms of political consent and social contract? Our table aspires to discuss the asylum policies which would effectuate the best advantage to society while also taking its long-term implication and the consensus of the public interest into consideration.

Table 2

The Feminist Perspectives on Wars and Conflicts

Table Chief: University College Roosevelt, Nguyen Pham Lam Phuong (Vietnam)

Most of us may have heard about and discussed wars in relation to international politics, diplomacy, geography, strategic planning, famous historical figures, social movements, economics – but what about in relation to gender? What about women in particular? During World War II, 360 000 to 410 000 women were forced into prostitution by the Imperial Japanese Army, working from morning to late night and everyday of the week in so-called “comfort stations”. Most of the women, coming from occupied countries such as Korea, China and the Philippines, were tricked into prostitution by promises of work in factories and in some cases, were even kidnapped. During the Vietnam war, women were often induced to prostitution due to either outside circumstances, such as lack of jobs, or forced by men to serve their needs – in many cases, the reasons can be both. Brothels thrive in areas surrounding military bases in South Vietnam – and this same situation occurred in South Korea. How do wars construct our understanding of what it takes to be a man and what it takes to be a woman? Do wars really stop after the declaration of peace? How do the legacies of wars keep reinforcing the images of how men and women should be? How do such beliefs and images creep their way into social institutions and everyday lives, which in turn have great impacts on our lives? All of these questions give validity to our inquiry on the relation between women and wars. As subtle and blurry this relation may be, the consequences are
profound. We are here to make these situations clear to the world, and together we can bring about change!

Table 3
Freedom of Speech and its Restrictions in Today's World
Table Chief: University of Zagreb, Mikašinović-Komšo, Matej (Croatia)

Most countries today define themselves as liberal democracies, and as such they should place human rights and freedoms as important elements of a free and healthy society. And in a free society, one of the most important elements is the freedom of speech, because individuals and society become better only through a free exchange of opinions and ideas between opposed individuals and groups. Failure to provide this freedom limits society’s development, making it sink more and more into oppression, as liberties and rights erode. Observing the world today reveals that freedom of speech is not being quite upheld – one can find so many cases of suppression, limitation, and punishment of freedom of speech, not only in the form of legal persecution from governments, but also in the form of social punishment and ostracization from citizen groups. In light of these dangerous new conditions, it becomes more and more necessary to take a step back, take into account all problems which plague freedom of speech, and determine successful and efficient solutions to them, in order to assure the existence of a healthy foundation for a free and liberal society!

Table 4
Economic Growth and Human Well-being
Table Chief: Soka University, Theeritsara Laopaiboonpipat (Thailand)

An ultimate purpose of the economy is to satisfy human needs by producing goods and services. In other words, it can be said, economics was established to quantitatively measure human happiness. Due to this, Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is often considered to be a proxy for measuring happiness in an economy despite the fact that it could only produce a poor estimation. However, observing through the events in the past, can we truly say that you are happy and satisfied with your life quality? Economics must focus on quantitative aspects, but the importance of considering qualitative aspects, which include social and environmental aspects, cannot be neglected. Though many scholars have been exerting their efforts on proposing a new indicator in social and environmental aspect, this issue still remains to be challenging. Table 4 is addressing: How can economy truly serve human well-being, not just only for national wealth. The aim of the proposal is to propose a new economic index, related to society and environment, and create a guideline for the government. In doing so, we show the gap within GDP that can be misleading and guide the government in the direction toward people’s happiness and well-being.

Table 5
Mental Health Care  -Creating a mentally healthy lifestyle for young people-
It is easy for us all to recognize physical changes in our body, for that we mostly focus on what is happening visually. But like a drop of water onto the surface, our mental problems are less cared as they might seem like “no big deal”, but eventually, those little drops erode the ground like how our mentality matters have taken us. Depression, disorders or any mood-related problems come like a sudden wind. First we feel fine with being touched by them, but little do we know that they can get us cold, and as a result, we are sick just due to that lightly wind at first. Another serious issue that comes with these problems is how the sufferers tend to stay silent and try to get through things all by themselves. We are so used to sitting alone with our electronic devices, or Google-ing things by ourselves that we forget to reach out for the help of others when needing it. If this state continues, we have more social media platforms but less true communication between people. this worsens young people’s already existing mental related problems. Sustainable development of a society can only be achieved when its achievers stay firm and strong until the end until we reach our goals. And by firm and strong, it includes both physical and mental factors, because how can we go to the end if we run out of battery so fast? And how can we support others when we do not know how to support ourselves?

Table 6

Marine Plastic Pollution

Can you imagine the ocean containing more amount of plastic wastes than fish? According to the World Economic Forum (2016), the ocean has more than 150 million tons of plastic wastes today, and it is estimated that there will be more weight of plastics than fish in the ocean by 2050. Marine plastic pollution is the pollution by plastic wastes in the ocean. Most artificial plastics are derived from petrochemicals and are difficult to decompose except biodegradable plastics because the photodegradation is the only way to decompose plastics. Marine plastics including microplastics (5mm or undersize of plastics) stay submerged in water forever unless people remove them. On June 9, 2018, in G7 Charlevoix Summit 2018, the Ocean Plastics Charter was announced and signed by five countries: the UK, France, Germany, and Italy and the EU. Recently, marine plastic pollution has been well known as one of the most serious problems around the world since it causes the collapse of the ecosystem. It is caused by human activities such as improper disposal of plastic wastes and products with microbeads. We have to take actions to solve this environmental problem because we are responsible for it.
Organizing Committee

President: Remi Nakazeki (Keio University/3rd Year)

Vice President: Ken Furusawa (Tokyo University of Foreign Studies/3rd Year)

Finance: Shiki Aoyagi (Keio University/1st Year)

Public Relations: Chihiro Noji (Meiji Gakuin University/1st Year)

Media: Natsumi Saito (Soka University/3rd Year)

Media: Hiep Do Hoang (Shizuoka University/3rd Year)

Planning: Chihiro Yamamoto (Tokyo Metropolitan University/2nd Year)

Planning: Sakura Tomonari (Kobe City University of Foreign Studies/3rd Year)

Table Management: Yuki Kanayama (Keio University/2nd Year)

Table Management: Towa Kakuo (Soka University/2nd Year)

General Affairs: Rie Fukada (International Christian University/2nd Year)

General Affairs: Haruna Yamakawa (University of Niigata Prefecture/3rd Year)