



PRESS RELEASE(2017/08/25)

**Kyushu University to Host a Top-Class International Debate Tournament in Asia
Kyushu Debate Open 2017, Organized Mainly by Students**

Kyushu University students have been practicing debate for many years and achieved a moderate success. To improve the level of local debaters, some of them decided to host an international tournament to provide an opportunity where domestic participants can get an easier access to international competition. The tournament started in 2014, under the name of “Kyushu Cup”, and has grown continuously. The tournament’s main aim is to create a platform where “global citizens” of the 21st century interact through English debate, and to get better understanding of each other.

The tournament, now called “Kyushu Debate Open” has the largest number of domestic/international participants and the best worlds-class adjudicators in Japan. In addition, the tournament has acquired the largest number of supports from local governments and central government ministries among debate tournaments in Japan.

The debate format is based on British Parliament, where two two-member teams are assigned to the coalition “Government” and two teams to the “Opposition” coalition in preliminary rounds. Each member of the teams gives a 7-minute speech in turn, support the motion whilst opposing a possible point from the opposing bench. When all eight speeches are finished, “adjudicators” (experienced third party) rank the teams in terms of the overall persuasiveness, based on contents (what is said) and delivery (how it is said). The teams examine ideas and policies of contemporary and classic controversies including politics, education, law, religion and gender. It is the best way for the world’s bright and motivated students to compete against and learn from each other to improve their argumentation skills.

Watching debate rounds is free of charge and does not require any pre-registration.
Please feel free to come to the Ito Campus if you are interested in English debate.

Kyushu Debate Open 2017

Date: August 19th (Saturday) & 20th (Sunday), 2017

(See the website for details:

<https://kyushudebateopen.jimdo.com/home/tournament/time-schedule/>)

Place: Ito Campus, Kyushu University (Center Zone, 2nd Building, Room 2403)

Host: Kyushu Debate Open 2017 Committee (16 students/alumni from Kyushu University, Kyoto University, Osaka University, etc.)

Co-Hosts: Kyushu University Faculty of Languages and Cultures, International Society for Teaching Debate

Supporters: Kyushu University, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Fukuoka Prefecture, Fukuoka City, and SHARE-Q (Strategic Hub Area for top-global Research and Education - Kyushu University)

Adjudication Team:

Co-Chief Adjudicators: Joshua Park (Assistant Professor and Director of Debate and Negotiation Program at the SolBridge International School of Business, Korea) and Akira Kato (Management Consultant, Chairperson of the University of Tokyo Debating Society Alumni Association and an Officer of International Society for Teaching Debate)

About 20 adjudicators including a Worlds Champion and Grand Finalists

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