



TOKYO  
METROPOLITAN  
UNIVERSITY

# TMUtimes

Newsletter

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**Global Cities in a Flux: Unity in Diversity/Connecting to Tomorrow**

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On November 7, 2019, Tokyo Metropolitan University (TMU) commenced a 3-day long “Five-Continent Student Symposium.” As the title represents, the Symposium was organized in celebration of Tokyo’s hosting the Olympics and Paralympic Games, or the Tokyo 2020 Games, scheduled to be held this summer. As Tokyo witnesses growing excitement and expectations toward the Games, Tokyo Metropolitan University—the only public university founded by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government—joins the momentum of the world’s greatest sporting event. In the spirit of Olympism in which sports, culture, and education converge, we bring together students from across Europe, North and South America, Africa, Asia, and Oceania to exchange and share ideas, experiences, and best practices.

– Excerpt from President Ueno’s Welcoming Remarks –

# Five-Continent Student Symposium

## Global Cities in a Flux: Unity in Diversity/Connecting to Tomorrow

The theme of this symposium, “Global Cities in a Flux: Unity in Diversity/Connecting to Tomorrow,” represents both the challenges and opportunities that Tokyo, as many global cities, faces today. Global cities represent countries’ greatest concentrations of population, and continuously must tackle socioeconomic and environmental problems including discrimination, poverty, energy consumption, and plastic waste. However, global cities also possess Earth’s greatest concentration of human energy, creativity, and innovation. How then can global cities accept and respect differences in race, gender, sexual orientation, language, religion, political ideologies, and national or social origin? What kind of changes or legacies should be passed down to future generations?

Students from various academic disciplines gathered at the Symposium to discuss and work together to solve, or at least better understand, these challenges.

### Day 1

On Day 1, Invited students and faculty participated in an orientation which included a walking tour of the Minami-Osawa Campus to learn about TMU. The following welcome reception was a good opportunity for students from diverse national and cultural backgrounds to enjoy friendly conversation and exchange views and opinions.

### Day 2

On Day 2, Invited participants visited the Japan Olympic Museum, the Athletes’ Village construction site, triathlon sites, and other Tokyo 2020 facilities.

### Day 3

On Day 3, President Ueno opened the Symposium by welcoming participants from different countries, as well as our faculty, staff, and students, with a congratulatory speech. He expressed his high expectations on the discussions in quest of solutions to issues and problems of global cities—such as discrimination, poverty, and energy consumption—that relate to the Symposium’s theme: “Global Cities in a Flux: Unity in Diversity/Connecting to Tomorrow.”

The President’s Welcoming Remarks were followed by Tokyo Governor Koike’s Keynote Speech. She spoke of the capital city’s visions and policies, looking ahead for Tokyo 2020, and the years to come. She actively exchanged views and opinions with students while at the podium about Tokyo’s climate change control efforts and economic policies. Following that, at the Student Panel discussion, each invited student presented his or her research and interests and discussed the four subthemes: “Diversify,” “Optimize,” “Connect,” and “Imagine.”

At the afternoon parallel discussion, students were divided into groups based on the subthemes that they had been assigned to in advance. Each group took up issues, sought solutions, presented them to all participants, and were evaluated at the end.

Day	Program	
7th	AM	Orientation
	PM	Campus Tour, Welcome Reception
8th	AM&PM	Visit to Olympic Facilities
9th	AM	Welcoming Remarks by Dr. Jun Ueno, TMU President
		Keynote Speech by Ms. Yuriko Koike, Governor of Tokyo
		Student Panel Discussion by representatives selected from the five continents
		Summary Remarks by Dr. Haruo Shimada, Chairperson, TMU Board of Trustees
PM	Parallel session, Plenary session	Closing Remarks by Dr. Masao Ayabe, TMU Vice President for International Affairs
		Farewell Reception



# Excerpts from Group Presentations

## Group Diversify A

We came up with the topic, “Lack of Representation Due to Social Isolation in Japan,” which refers to the lack of representation of other countries to Japanese society and Japanese people’s lack of understanding of people from other countries. We discussed matters of diversity through the perspectives of language, gender, emotion, interest, and technology—all of which led to the issue of lack of representation.



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### 3. Future Prospects

**Solutions**

- New English Curricula
- Dramas and TV in order to cultivate external culture understanding
- Using national streaming system for learning English
- Teaching practical English in Japanese public school / Interactive Activities and Opportunities to speak English



Collective Proposals

**PROPOSAL 1:** Use of an urban planning (Shengrong King) and activation of infrastructure assets to develop (Shengrong King) to solve with your housing conditions (Lina King)

**PROPOSAL 2:** Reduction of human trafficking across (Duy Bui) with the support of professional people, gender equality and creative destruction (Sheng King) as well as the creation of new sector possibility for the benefit of other local groups involved with including (Justin Vire Laurent)

**PROPOSAL 3:** Creation of a new, inclusive society for the benefit of sports (Sheng King) (Gabriel de Campos King) social (Sheng King) and social (Sheng King) presence in the career on, and by providing the substance necessary for a solution (Sheng King) to solve.

## Group Diversify B

We selected three proposals that extensively illustrate the principles that were motivated by Diversity as the discussion topic. The first proposal involved the urban environment. The second proposal was about how we can reduce the amount of human trafficking. Finally, the last proposal was about how we can create a more diverse world to promote more connection among people, directly corresponding to the motto of the Tokyo Olympics: “Unity in Diversity.”



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### Solution Proposal/ Future Prospects

- Branding the countries
- Fuel cell cars, multi-passenger bikes
- Watch Paralympics games

## Group Diversify C

We considered that we must find solutions to curb the environmental impact that will be caused by the Olympics, because statistics reveal that CO2 emission increases by around 35% during the Olympics—mostly deriving from the extensive transportation that occurs.



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### Conclusion

Optimizing sustainable outcomes through cooperation in the implementation of solutions which include both hard and soft approaches.

## Group Optimize A

Cooperation between local governments and the community will optimize natural areas in cities across the world. Cooperation is needed to create an optimal solution to challenges created by multi-culturalism.



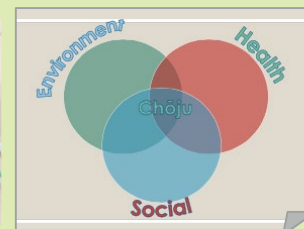
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### Conclusion

- Support for technology by government and business sector
- Financial support
- Institution support
- Encourage participation of young researchers
- Publicize data (open-data)
- Raising awareness

## Group Optimize B

We discussed the issues of big cities: natural disasters, earthquakes, flooding, waste management, water pollution, and infrastructure deterioration. We concluded that promoting further improvement of technology was needed to solve these issues, and that government funding should be provided to the private and business sector to do so.



## Group Connect

We were able to come up with a common theme: “choju,” or longevity. Looking at the health, environmental, and social aspects of issues, we can improve our present and consequently our future by really connecting these ideas and disciplines. All of this ties around the theme of “choju.”

## Group Imagine

Our vision of the future is creative, sustainable, and ethical. We would like to channel the spirit of the Olympics in that there are no boundaries and no power struggles; however, we would also keep in mind that the Olympics is not perfect, because there are still minority interests that are ignored, and we have to fight against that problem.



Five-Continent Student Symposium

### Creative + Sustainable + Ethical

In spirit (but not always in practice).  
Imagine, what the 2050 Olympics could be like...

# Voices of Participants

Voice  
**1**

**Mrs. Iuliia Gasheva**

Head of International Division, Tomsk State University (Russia)

*It was a great pleasure to take part in the Five-Continent Student Symposium on November 7-9, 2019 in celebration of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games. All attendees had an excellent opportunity to communicate with representatives of diverse academic fields from all over the world and discuss common issues. It should be noted that the composition of a joint-panel presentation at panel sessions was a novel form of group activity. It provoked reflection on the topics even after the event. Beyond that, the cultural part of the Symposium program provided a unique experience of the Olympic spirit. Therefore, the Five-Continent Student Symposium became one of the prominent events of 2020.*



Voice  
**2**

**Lamyaa Elmahy**

Egypt-Japan University of Science and Technology (Egypt)

*I enjoyed the exposure to the various perspectives we had during both the plenary sessions and the parallel session discussions. They cultivated my understanding of the different human attitudes I daily encounter. I also gained enormous energy and felt so good when I was up at the stage, opened up my mind, and spoke to the people about some of my ideas to take advantage of the inevitably inherited diversity among us, for a better and more peaceful future. In fact, this experience helped me discover new areas and abilities deep within myself, especially that it was my first time overseas. I had thought the large audience and the stage would make me nervous. However, surprisingly, it was so inspirational and enjoyable that it charged me with the potential to work and do my best to have such a memorable experience again. Thank you so much, TMU family.*



Voice  
**3**

**Ellis Tsekouras**

University of Technology Sydney (Australia)

*I'd like to thank the Tokyo Metropolitan University for kindly hosting the Five-Continent Student Symposium! I was very pleased to present my research abstract alongside inspiring students from all around the world. It was exciting to hear a keynote speech from the Governor of Tokyo, Ms. Yuriko Koike, as her city prepares for the 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games!*



Voice  
**4**

**Sujon Kumar Mitro**

University of Rajshahi (Bangladesh)

*Our time in Japan was very short: a small story but a memory of a lifetime! Since the beginning of my university life, I had the dream to visit Japan to experience their well-known hospitality, cleanliness, and friendship with nature.*

*I am lucky as I got the opportunity to see all of these with my own eyes and to represent my country at this international event! Most importantly, it was a great platform to form friendships with people from all over the world and share our thoughts. Truly, I am honored to have been part of this Symposium. Thank you Japan and thank you TMU!*



## A Look at Numerical Facts (Data)

- Ranked 7th among Japanese universities (Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2019)
- Over 9,000 students (about 7,000 undergraduate and about 2,300 graduate)
- About 700 faculty staff and 500 administrative staff
- Over 600 international students from about 40 countries
- Over 200 Student Associations

## Academic Composition (7 faculties and 7 graduate schools)

- Faculty**
- Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
  - Faculty of Science
  - Faculty of Law
  - Faculty of Urban Environmental Sciences
  - Faculty of Economics and Business Administration
  - Faculty of Systems Design
  - Faculty of Health Sciences

- Graduate School**
- Graduate School of Humanities
  - Graduate School of Urban Environmental Sciences
  - Graduate School of Law and Politics
  - Graduate School of Management
  - Graduate School of Science
  - Graduate School of Systems Design
  - Graduate School of Human Health sciences

