



【English-Speaking Union: International Public Speaking Competition 2021】

(Speech in English will follow.)

IPSC 2021 Report

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*Reasons for choosing your topic

When initially given the topic “The world is bigger and smaller than it’s ever been” I brainstormed as many possible topics as I could come up with, ranging from the COVID-19 pandemic to globalization to advancement in technology. Out of the many that I came up with, I considered which I could expand on most and which I could relate to most.

まずスピーチの題材「The world is bigger and smaller than it’s ever been」を基にブレインストーミングをし、世界中でのコロナウィルス感染拡大やグローバル化、テクノロジーの進歩など考え得る限り案を出しました。その中でも、できるだけ自分と関わりがあり、深く広いスピーチが書けることを重視しました。

*Preparation

Through many revisions, I wrote my speech to try to include a balance of logic and personal anecdotes. I sincerely thank Mr. Numata, Mr. Suzuki, Mr. Akasaka, and Ms. Okada for all the advice they gave me to help me prepare for the international round. They helped me consider the wording, organization, and delivery of my speech, including what gestures to include or tone to use.

推敲を重ね、論理と個人の逸話をバランスよく盛り込めるようにスピーチ原稿を書き上げました。国内選考後、世界大会に向けて多くのサポートを下さった沼田さん、鈴木さん、赤坂さんそして岡田さんには感謝の気持ちでいっぱいです。1語1語の言葉の選択、構成、話し方、身振りなどの動き、声の使い方などスピーチ全般に渡り多くのアドバイスをいただきました。

*Your speech and Q&As (including what you felt through the feedbacks from the judges.)

My speech, titled “The choice is ours”, focused on the issues of modern technology. I saw that at the same time that technology advanced to open our worlds to give us more possibilities, it also took away the lives of many others. While we are aware of this when it comes to technology such as nuclear technology, we are often unaware that digital devices and IT that we use in our daily lives also hold this much power. This can be seen through social media, which connects us with billions of other users but can also be used for cyberbullying and depriving someone of any place to feel safe. I led my speech to the conclusion that we must be more aware of the power that IT has in order to be able to control how we want to use it without hurting ourselves or others. The questions I received were related to the powers of technology, such as nuclear power and how they



should be regulated.

私のスピーチのタイトルは「The choice is ours」で、現代テクノロジーに関する問題に焦点をあてました。テクノロジーは私たちの世界を広げ、より多くのことを可能にしてきた反面、その陰で犠牲になる人も存在してきました。核技術のようなテクノロジーではその功罪を理解していても、日常的に利用する電子機器や IT の持つ 2 面性については見逃しがちです。世界中の人と繋がることのできるソーシャルメディアでは、いじめも深刻な問題になっています。スピーチでは、自分そして他人を傷つけることなく有効に活用するためには、IT の持つ力をきちんと認識する必要性を伝えました。質疑応答では、原子力などのテクノロジーの持つ力や、それらを制御・管理する方法などについての質問を受けました。

*IPSC events and programs

Although it was unfortunate that the event had to take place online and that I could not meet the other participants in person, the events planned gave me an opportunity to talk to people from different countries and enjoy the event from home. On the first day, we had a ZOOM call with the people in our pool where everyone got to share about their own countries and cultures. On the second day, the tour guide from London took us through a walk of the city, showing us images of different sites throughout the city while explaining the history and culture of the place.

国際大会がオンライン開催になり、他国の代表者たちと実際に出会うことができなかったことは残念でしたが、自宅から彼らとオンラインで交流することができました。初日は同じ予選グループの人たちと各自の国や文化の紹介などを通しての交流があり、2 日目はオンラインロンドン観光として、ロンドンの街を巡りながら歴史や文化に触れました。

*Your impression of the preliminary round and other speakers (including comparisons with participants in public speaking/debating competitions in Japan)

The most memorable part of the event was being able to listen to speeches of other competitors. Although everyone was given the same topic, each person took a completely different approach to it, with some people talking about COVID vaccines and others talking about the necessity of education. The speeches were truly moving and their appeals to pathos were unlike what I had experienced before in debate competitions. Some were talking about the specific conversations they were having with their grandparents or their experiences teaching less privileged children. Their very personal speeches made me feel as though I was getting to know them better. Furthermore, the delivery of their speeches were also extremely creative with one person comparing a dialogue with their family to a game of chess and another starting off with a break-up line. Their speeches were not only immensely inspiring to watch, but they also widened my perspective of what a speech could look like and what a speech could be. They taught me that speeches do not have to stick to any format and are truly about expressing one's thoughts and feelings as best as they can.



本大会で最も心に残っているのは、他国の代表者たちのスピーチです。共通の題材に対して、それぞれ全く異なるアプローチをされており、コロナウィルス感染症のワクチンの話から教育の重要性といった多様な内容でスピーチが行われました。どのスピーチも本当に心に響くもので、人を説得し動かす力はこれまでに参加したディベート大会で経験したことの無いものでした。祖父母と交わした実際の会話や恵まれない子供たちに勉強を教えた経験などが語られ、スピーチを通して彼らのことを知ることができたと感じるような内容でした。スピーチの構成も創造的で、家族の会話をチェスに例えたり、絶縁の言葉で始まるスピーチもありました。彼らのスピーチから刺激を受け、スピーチとはどういうものかについて大きな影響を受けました。かたちに拘るのではなく、考えや思いが最も伝わる方法で表現するものだということを学びました。

***What you learned and experienced from IPSC and ESUJ (including what you would recommend to those who follow you)**

IPSC and ESUJ both helped me grow as a public speaker and are experiences that I will never forget. In their feedback, the judges mentioned aspects of the speeches that I had not thought as thoroughly about before, including the title of the speech, humor, and the zoom setting. I learned how making the audience think or grabbing their full attention is something that can be done through any part of the speech, even in the setting. As I continue to work on improving my public speaking skills, these are advices that I will always keep in mind.

I am extremely grateful to have been given this opportunity and would wholeheartedly recommend this to any other student who is passionate about public speaking.

IPSC と ESUJ の大会を通じて、人の前で話す方法について多くのことを学び、忘れることのできない経験となりました。審査員の方々のフィードバックから、スピーチの題名やズームの設定などこれまでに考えたことのなかった点についてもアドバイスをいただき、聞き手の心を掴むことについて学びました。今後の活動に活かしていきたいです。

この機会を与えていただけたことに心から感謝するとともに、皆さんに是非ともこの大会へ挑戦されることをお勧めします。



The Choice is Ours

Kanon Eguchi

October 4, 1957. Our first satellite, the famous Sputnik, launched into space. Less than two years later, Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin took the first steps on the moon. Rocket technology has allowed us to explore the universe, showing us a bigger world than we had ever known.

But this exact rocket engine took 422 innocent lives in an Iraqi attack on Tehran in 2012. With only minor changes, rockets can be transformed into ballistic missiles.

Any technology has two faces both positive and negative. Look at nuclear technology.

According to research by NASA's Goddard Institute, nuclear energy has saved approximately 1.84 million lives from pollution-related deaths.

But, this also gave birth to the deadliest weapon. The atomic bomb responsible for over a hundred thousand Japanese lives.

Our technology has advanced enough to destroy us.

Some leaders have the ultimate power to start nuclear warfare that will destroy the earth with just 100 nuclear weapons.

The whole world is literally in the hands of one man. That's how small it is.

But here's the problem we really need to be talking about.

While we worry about how much power our leaders have, we too often forget how much power we each possess.

The problem is that we are gaining too much power too fast that we could misuse it without noticing. That power is IT.

Anything, and everything, can be extremely harmful if misused. This applies to things we use in our daily lives, for example, kitchen knives. We know how deadly they can be.

But with IT, the merits and demerits are not so clear. Our phones or computers seem safe. They seem just to improve our lives. But the truth is that the devices such as Google which appear to be a vast sea of information right at our fingertips, may in fact trap us in a bubble. By choosing the sources to read and search filters, we trap ourselves in a tiny world without even noticing.

The same thing happens with social media.

Nowadays, you can connect with 3.8 billion users all over the globe. And for some people, this saves their lives. It gives people a place to find a community to belong to even if they feel isolated in their homes or schools.



But for some, social media deprives them of any place they can feel protected.

This happens very close to us every day. What's worse is that we often don't see it happening right before our eyes.

Now, picture a 17 year old girl. An average Japanese girl. She was active, friendly, filled with potential. But she started receiving horrid messages on SNS. "You look like a rat" "I hate you" As days went by, things worsened.

Eventually, she took her own life on February 1st 2019.

That girl was Yuki Ito.

The world we actually know and see is so so small compared to the world we feel like we are connected to.

We, humans, tend to care only about the people we actually know or the things we see. And now, we can't see the impacts of our actions on the other side of our screens. So without noticing their pain, we are allowing tragedies like Yuki's to be repeated.

We each gain more power in our hands as digital technology develops at an extremely rapid pace.

According to the Japanese government,

Since the first iPhone was released in 2007, smartphones have spread to the hands of nearly 68% of Japanese citizens in just 12 years.

Computer speeds double every 18 months or so.

We are lost in a current that's just too fast. As we scramble to use the newest power; we are choking ourselves, without even noticing.

We need to seize the reins again. We need to be CHOOSING how to use modern technology.

We need to be deciding OUR futures by OURSELVES.

Let's talk about us. Ordinary people.

Let's take a moment to reevaluate the power in each of our hands. What we are capable of doing.

Because if we use technology right, it opens up a whole new, and bigger world for us. But if we don't, we are just suffocating ourselves by making our world smaller.

The choice is ours.

So, the next time you use your digital device, stop. And take a

moment to think of the power in your hands. Really think about how you want to use it.

Take a moment to stop and think, so that technology will move forward for the benefit of us all.