



## Meito and Feng-Hsin Students Share Opinions on World Issues

By Natsuki Mitsuda and Miharu Kondo

May 28, 2024 – Nagoya City Meito Senior High School students welcomed Taiwanese students from National Feng-Hsin Senior High School inside the Kokkyo Center with applause and smiles on a warm afternoon. This special meeting gave students an opportunity to connect and discuss global issues and how they relate to Japan and Taiwan.

### 【How does youth activism in Taiwan compare to that in Japan?】

Students shared their own opinions in small groups. Here are some examples.

“Taiwanese people want to say our opinions,” said Bruce, a student from Feng-Hsin.

Konatsu from Meito said, “Japanese people feel scared to say something.”

Afterwards, student facilitators took the microphone and shared with the room what was discussed in their small groups.

“Taiwanese speak directly. For example, they go to street and say their opinions loudly,” Meito 1L student Izuho shared. “When Japanese want to say something, we often use the internet because we can use it anonymously.”

Most 1L students thought, “Taiwanese have their strong opinions.” During the discussion, the Taiwanese students had a lot more to share. Why can they talk so well? Because they know a lot about politics. In Taiwan schools, they can learn about politics. This fact was interesting.



### 【More opinions】

Other students shared their opinions. Here are some observations heard from the discussions between Meito and Feng-Hsin students.

[Some 1L students thought:]

“Taiwanese students are much more informed about politics.”

“They have so much energy and courage.”

“Feng-Hsin students want to voice their opinions. They want to be heard.”

[Some Feng-Hsin students observed:]

“The Japanese students are shy and don’t want to make problems.”

“Actually, Taiwanese and Japanese are very similar—we are both not very comfortable at speaking in front of many people.”

“Taiwan is fair about gender and jobs. But Japan is unfair.”

“Japanese are afraid of having their opinions opposed.”

## 【Writer’s opinion】

I listened to many students’ opinions. I was able to find out what the Taiwanese students were thinking. Also, I was able to know what my classmates were thinking. It was really interesting.

According to their opinions, I thought Japanese and Taiwanese have same side. But Taiwanese have strong heart. I hope Japanese get the heart and act.

I reported with photographer Miharu Kondo, so I asked her opinion. Here’s what she had to say:

I think that it is important to discuss world issues with our peers from other countries. This time, we had discussions with Taiwanese students. I noticed they have personal opinions formed from their own experiences. I have my opinions and experiences, too. But maybe my opinions are social opinions rather than my personal opinions, so I wonder if I should be developing my own opinions.

## 【Gallery】



