TOKYO ENGLISH CHANNEL

High School Students International Conference
Event Overview & Requirements

Event Overview

TOKYO ENGLISH CHANNEL, High School Students International Conference is an online event connecting high school students (and junior high school students) in Tokyo with high school students around the world. The event will last approximately 2 hours and 45 minutes (tentative).
Participants must have internet connection required for the online conference system（Microsoft Teams）.

- Event Name : TOKYO ENGLISH CHANNEL, High School Students International Conference
- Date & Time : 15th of February 2026　12:30～15:15(JST)
- Participants & Capacity : Tokyo junior high school/high school students, junior high school/high school students living in Tokyo: 120 students　※On-site or online.
  Overseas students (Approaching): 120 students
- Keynote Speech : Mr. Patrick Harlan(Comedian) “Building the Future Through the Power of Communication”
- Breakout Sessions :
  Session A　Mr. Shingo Kunieda (Former professional wheelchair tennis player)
  Topic : “Challenges on the Global Stage”
  Session B　Dr. Soichi Noguchi (Astronaut)
  Topic : “Teamwork Beyond Borders”
  Session C　Ms. Hanabi Ryusuitei(Rakugo performer)
  Topic : “Preserving and Developing Traditional Culture Through Global Outreach”
- Ways to participate : Japanese students：In-person or online conference system(Microsoft Teams)
  Overseas students：Online conference system (Microsoft Teams)
- Organizer : Tokyo Metropolitan Board of Education
- HP : https://www.tec.metro.tokyo.lg.jp/

Event Overview: Lecture timetable on the event day

TIME	LAP	Agenda	Content	Note
12:30	30 min	**Assembly**	・Online participants：Teams Meeting and Reception ・Ice-breaker time	
13:00	5 min	**Opening**	Explanation of the purpose of the event and introduction of presenters	
13:05	15 min	**Keynote speech**	Topic：Building the Future Through the Power of Communication Mr. Patrick Harlan	
13:20	15 min	**Break time**		
13:35	30 min	**Breakout sessions (Discussion)**	A：Topic "Challenges on the Global Stage” Mr. Shingo Kunieda	Participants will be divided into breakout rooms and discussions will take place. ※Each room will have a facilitator
			B：Topic "Teamwork Beyond Borders” Dr. Soichi Noguchi	
			C：Topic "Preserving and Developing Traditional Culture Through Global Outreach” Ms. Hanabi Ryusuitei	
14:05	15 min	**Break time**		
14:20	50 min	**Presentation & Comments**	Up to 20 groups will share their suggestions (2 minutes per group). The main presenters will provide feedback to each breakout session group.	
15:10	5 min	**Summary**	The main presenters will give a final comment about the students’ presentations.	
15:15			Closing and Exit	

Event Flow

Pre-learning preparation in advance

1. Selecting a Breakout Session Topic

Select a breakout session (topic) that interests you.

Pre-learning Preparation

Watch the introductory videos of the main presenter and of the breakout session you will be participating in and confirm your discussion topic. Also use the worksheet to prepare in advance.

On the Day of the Event

1. Reception

Please open the event URL when the reception time comes.

2. Opening

Explanation of the purpose of the event and introduction of presenters.

3. General Assembly

Listen to the Keynote Speech by the main presenter.

4. Breakout Sessions (Sharing your opinions)

You will be divided into breakout session groups (by topic). Each group will have one facilitator. Share your opinions with your group members in English.

5. Discussion

Exchange opinions based on your own and your peers' thoughts. Together with the facilitator, participants will sort out their "Similarities" and "Differences" and put together a summary of suggestions on how to proceed going forward.

6. Presentations

All the participants will gather together.
One representative will share a summary of the suggestions the group made together.

7. Commentary

The main presenter will provide feedback on the suggestions to each breakout session group.

8. Ending

The main presenter will give final commentary on the event as a whole.

Main theme of the event

Main Theme：Creating the Future Together ---The Power of Connection

Connecting with others across national, cultural, and social boundaries fosters new perspectives, creates shared values, and leads to personal growth. Through keynote talks on Challenge, Collaboration, and Cultural Heritage delivered by world-class presenters, this event invites participants to explore the power of communication that emerges when people with diverse backgrounds learn from and support one another. By engaging with peers from around the world, students will look beyond differences in culture and values and begin envisioning the future from a truly global perspective.

Main Presenter: Patrick Harlan(Comedian, TV personality)
Topic：Building the Future Through the Power of Communication

Presenter:
Session A: Shingo Kunieda(Former professional wheelchair tennis player / University Specially Appointed Professor)
Topic “Challenges on the Global Stage”

Session B: Soichi Noguchi(Astronaut / University Specially Appointed Professor)
Topic “Teamwork Beyond Borders”

Session C: Hanabi Ryusuitei(Rakugo performer)
Topic “Preserving and Developing Traditional Culture Through Global Outreach”

Keynote Speech Topic ：Building the Future Through the Power of Communication

From a global perspective, the keynote will highlight the importance of communication as an essential element for personal and collective growth in an increasingly diverse world. Although Challenge, Collaboration, and Cultural Inheritance may seem unrelated, all share a common foundation—effective communication. It is through communication that we expand our world, build understanding, and open new paths toward the future.

Main Presenter : Patrick Harlan (Comedian, TV personality)

Patrick Harlan, originally from Colorado, USA, studied Comparative Religion at Harvard University and came to Japan in 1993. In 1997, he formed the comedy duo Pakkun Makkun, gaining popularity for their cross-cultural humor. Today, he works as a commentator, actor, and lecturer at Tokyo University of Science, where he teaches communication and international relations, promoting the importance of intercultural understanding and dialogue.

Session Topic : Challenges on the Global Stage

Drawing on years of experience competing at the highest global level, Mr. Kunieda will share his mindset and strategies for maintaining peak performance even in unfamiliar or unpredictable situations. His talk will inspire participants to reconsider how they face challenges and to discover the inner strength needed to overcome them.

Presenter : Shingo Kunieda (Former professional wheelchair tennis player / University Specially Appointed Professor)

After becoming a wheelchair user at age 9, he began playing wheelchair tennis at age 11. He won a total of 28 Grand Slam titles and achieved the “Career Golden Slam” by winning all four majors and the Paralympic Games. He retired in 2023 as the world’s No. 1 player and now works actively across multiple fields.

Session Topic : Teamwork Beyond Borders

Based on his experience leading multinational teams in numerous space missions, Dr. Noguchi will discuss the value of teamwork that transcends borders. He will offer insights on how to collaborate with people of diverse opinions, cultures, and backgrounds to overcome complex challenges together.

Presenter : Soichi Noguchi (Astronaut / Specially Appointed Professor, The University of Tokyo)

A graduate of the University of Tokyo's Faculty of Engineering, he first went to space aboard the Space Shuttle Discovery in 2005 for the ISS assembly mission, performing three spacewalks as leader. He completed three spaceflights, spending a total of 335 days in space—still a record for Japanese astronauts. He now teaches at the University of Tokyo, inspiring young generations about space and science.

Session Topic : Preserving and Developing Traditional Culture Through Global Outreach

Through her experience sharing the traditional art of Rakugo in English with audiences in Japan and abroad, Ms. Hanabi will explore the importance of understanding one's own culture and conveying its beauty to people of different backgrounds. Her session will provide an opportunity to learn how cultural traditions can be preserved and revitalized through global communication.

Presenter : Hanabi Ryusuitei (Rakugo performer)

A bilingual Rakugo storyteller performing in both English and Japanese, Ms. Hanabi has shared the art of traditional Japanese storytelling with audiences around the world. Based mainly in Asakusa, she performs at hotels and theaters for international visitors, spreading the appeal of Japanese humor and culture. She has participated in numerous events including the Tokyo Olympics' cultural programs, and works as a radio personality, MC, actress, and voice actor.