SESSION 1: Communities and Conflict

Globalisation has been the biggest buzzword of the past century and it has impacted different communities in various ways. However, globalisation's effects on communities may not be entirely desirable.

In this session, delegates will examine how globalisation has torn down the barriers and differences that made communities distinct from each other, with reference to specific case studies. Delegates will also note the effects on these communities, and question if these changes are inevitable or welcome.

Culture (The Philippines)

A community's culture is linked inextricably to local art, education and music, and is possibly the most important part of its identity. However, with globalisation, many communities face the problem of cultural erosion. Indeed, the growing influence of pop culture worldwide has threatened to dilute traditional cultures.

- How has pop culture come into conflict with indigenous traditions and cultures?
- To what extent will the rise of pop culture create a homogeneous global culture that crosses traditional boundaries?
- Is the influence of pop culture on traditional communities desirable?

Another important part of a community's culture is definitely its native language, for we cannot describe our culture and our land without language. The wave of globalisation might have brought with it the dominance of the English language, which threatens to erode the importance of mother tongues in various communities. Native languages are thus losing their relevance in a globalised world.

- To what extent should a native language be preserved?
- Is having a single unifying language desirable in a global community?

Habitats and the Environment (China)

Traditional physical barriers separating communities have been broken down by globalisation in two ways. Firstly, indigenous communities have been threatened by urbanisation and by the encroachment onto their traditional lands by governments and transnational corporations (TNCs) for the purposes of development.

- To what extent are indigenous communities affected by the pressures of development?

- To what extent are these changes to the habitats of indigenous communities positive?

Secondly, there is also the inevitable question of the effect globalisation has on the environment, with regard to pollution and waste management. A forest fire in one country may result in trans-boundary haze affecting several others, while an oil spill in a single location can have adverse effects on the tourism and aquaculture industries of surrounding nations.

- How does pollution from one country affect the rest of the world?
- In what other ways is the environment a resource and responsibility shared by all nations?
- To what extent is it true that a country may reap all the benefits of environmentally unsustainable development, while only bearing a fraction of the costs?

Immigration (India)

The most observable consequence of globalisation would be the physical movement of citizens who seek a better or different lifestyle in another community. The rise in new media has led to an increased awareness of opportunities available abroad, and the ease of mobility has catalysed this occurrence of immigration. However, the effects of globalisation have been mixed in countries experiencing waves of immigration.

- How does immigration affect the identity and society of local communities?
- How significant are tensions between immigrants and locals?

We will also analyse the issue of immigration from the perspective of countries of origin. Emigration has resulted in impacts like the brain drain effect and demographic changes.

- To what extent has emigration in substantial numbers affected countries of origin?

Individuals and Identity (Singapore)

It is hard to ignore the fact that globalisation has changed the way humans interact and communicate. With the Internet and new media, it is now possible to remain friends even across long distances.

- How have interpersonal skills and mediums of interaction changed due to globalisation?
- What is the effect of our broader network of relationships on the family unit?
- How important are our relationships within traditional communities in a globalised world?

Migration, holding multiple nationalities and interracial marriages are also common occurrences in this new era. These have many implications for the identity of individuals and their sense of rootedness to a country or community.

- How far might one's sense of belonging to a community be eroded by globalisation?
- To what extent is this erosion inevitable? Can it be reversed or mitigated?

SESSION 2: Response, Redefinition, Renegotiation

Globalisation has broken down the cultural, physical, and personal barriers that previously separated communities. Traditional communities confronting the effects of globalisation have experienced the common need to respond and redefine themselves. However, different communities have adapted and evolved in vastly different ways.

In some traditional communities, reactionary movements have gained strength, riding on a wave of popular backlash against change. Yet, other communities have chosen to embrace this same change and incorporate foreign ideas into their local identities. Why has each community chosen the approach it has taken? Is there a single best way communities can balance the need to preserve their own heritage against the inevitability of change? How should communities renegotiate their boundaries and identities in the face of globalisation?

Culture (Malaysia)

Cultures have chosen different ways to adapt to the rise of the global pop movement that is sweeping the globe: governments have tried various means to restore flagging interest in traditional culture; some communities have tried to put their unique local spins on global pop as seen in the rise of K-Pop and J-Pop; others have discarded their local identities for economic gain, as the advent of tourism sees the commercialisation of indigenous cultures.

- Is it regrettable that communities have chosen to give up aspects of their traditional culture?
- How can communities make their cultures relevant in today's world?
- To what extent should traditional culture change with the times, if doing so compromises authenticity?

Habitats and the Environment (Oman)

Globalisation has seen transnational corporations encroaching upon indigenous lands. In some parts, these efforts have met with violent protests and the destruction of property by furious locals. Fortunately, other communities have found ways to coexist peacefully with these newcomers, willingly accepting fair compensation for land used and gaining employment in these corporations.

- How optimal are the responses taken by indigenous communities?

- Can communities truly coexist with globalisation's intrusion onto their native grounds?

Examining the environment on a global level, some nations have chosen to commit to protecting the environment, setting ambitious targets for themselves and implementing initiatives like the European Union's Emissions Trading Scheme. At the same time, other nations have decided to advance their own interests above those of the global community, resisting efforts like the Kyoto Protocol to impose strict national obligations to reduce carbon emissions.

- What are the differences between the nations that accept their responsibility to the environment, and those that reject it?
- Should nations continue to prioritise national development over the health of the planet?

Immigration (Australia)

Countries and societies have adopted vastly differing approaches to immigration. Immigrants have found themselves welcomed with open arms in countries like Singapore that actively seek to attract talented foreigners; their efforts in assimilating themselves are also easier in "gateway" cities with large immigrant communities like San Francisco and New York. Conversely, other societies have reacted strongly against a perceived excessive influx of immigrants. This influx is seen to threaten jobs and erode national identity, generating resentment that fuels the rise of right-wing nationalist parties like One Nation in Australia. Across the globe, governments are exploring ways to better assimilate immigrants into their new homes through programmes like compulsory courses in local culture and mandatory visits to local heritage sites.

- Why have countries reacted so differently to immigration?
- What are the effects of these varying responses to immigration?
- To what extent have efforts to integrate immigrants been successful?
- Can members of traditional communities ever fully accept immigrants as part of their community?

Individuals and Identity (Saudi Arabia)

In order to more firmly root citizens to their nations, many countries have sought to instil a sense of patriotism amongst their people. Governments attempt to construct unique national identities by educating youth about national values and celebrating national festivals.

- Why do governments seek to create a national identity?
- How best can a national identity be constructed, in the face of globalisation?
- Should nations even attempt to mould a distinct identity to root their people?

SESSION 3: Realising the Global Community

The Global Community is a concept open to vastly diverse interpretations; from the sinister world government in dystopian novels like *Brave New World*, to the Glass Bubble theory that envisions a world cooperating and engaging in sustainable development together. What defines the Global Community? Is it simply an intangible, abstract idea of greater harmony and connectivity between fellow humans; or does it entail concrete, real links and ties that bind our fates together?

Above all, can the Global Community be realised? Arguably, the world of today has shown signs of transnationalism, through international protocols and declarations. Do these foreshadow a world united by common standards and shared goals?

On a level closer to us all, how will changes to communities and environments brought about by globalisation affect us as individuals? What role can the individual play in shaping the global community?

Special Session: Natural Disasters and Nuclear Energy (Japan)

The Tohoku Earthquake of 2011 did not only result in great loss of life and destruction of property, but also caused a tragic nuclear accident in Fukushima, Japan. Today, Japan is gradually recovering from the socioeconomic aftershocks of the great earthquake, with the assistance of a forthcoming international community.

- As members of the global community, to what extent is it our responsibility to help citizens of other nations in times of crisis?

Culture (South Korea)

The term “cultural melting pot” is a metaphor for an ethnically heterogeneous society’s transformation into a more homogeneous society, in which people put aside racial and religious differences to develop a common cultural identity over time. Given that once-distinct traditions are gradually being assimilated into a common culture, how relevant are traditional cultural divides in today’s world?

- Do traditional cultures remain relevant in a globalised world?
- Are cultures necessarily mutually exclusive?
- Is it possible for a “culture made of cultures” to exist?

On a global scale, the United Nations Economic, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)’s efforts to conserve sites of universal cultural significance include the

delineation of World Heritage Sites, as well as the “New Seven Wonders of the World” project.

- How significant are these international efforts in promoting the cohesiveness that characterises a Global Community?
- Can artefacts significant to mankind as a whole transcend traditional ethnic and cultural divides?

Habitats and the Environment (United Kingdom)

Protecting the environment is a global responsibility. The 1997 Kyoto Conference on Climate Change and the 2009 Copenhagen Summit are prime examples of the world’s nations coming together to find solutions for environmental problems. Such international meetings emphasise the principle of collective responsibility in keeping our world clean and green for future generations.

- To what extent can we enforce the principle of collective responsibility?
- Is it realistic for nations of the world to come together and accept their duties to our shared environment?
- What is the extent of each nation’s duty to the environment we share?

As individuals living on the Earth, responsibility for the environment naturally falls upon our shoulders as well. First held in 2007, the annual lights-off campaign, Earth Hour, is an example of concerted efforts by individuals to raise awareness for action against climate change.

- What other roles can the individual perform in championing the cause for environmental protection?
- How significant will these roles be?

Immigration (United States)

Citizenship is an important question to every community. In our globalised era, it is relatively easy to change our nation of residence, should better job or living opportunities surface themselves elsewhere.

- What makes a citizen unique from a resident? Does it have to do with the person’s place of birth, or the passport held?

In the previous session, we have looked at the responses of local communities to foreign immigrants, as well as analysed the measures taken by governments to

address these responses.

- In the face of social tensions and job competition, to what extent is it fair for a government to advantage its citizens over these immigrants?
- Should governments continue to put their citizens first, or does this undermine the idea of a global community?
- At the end of the day, is the notion of Global Citizenship merely a utopian ideal?

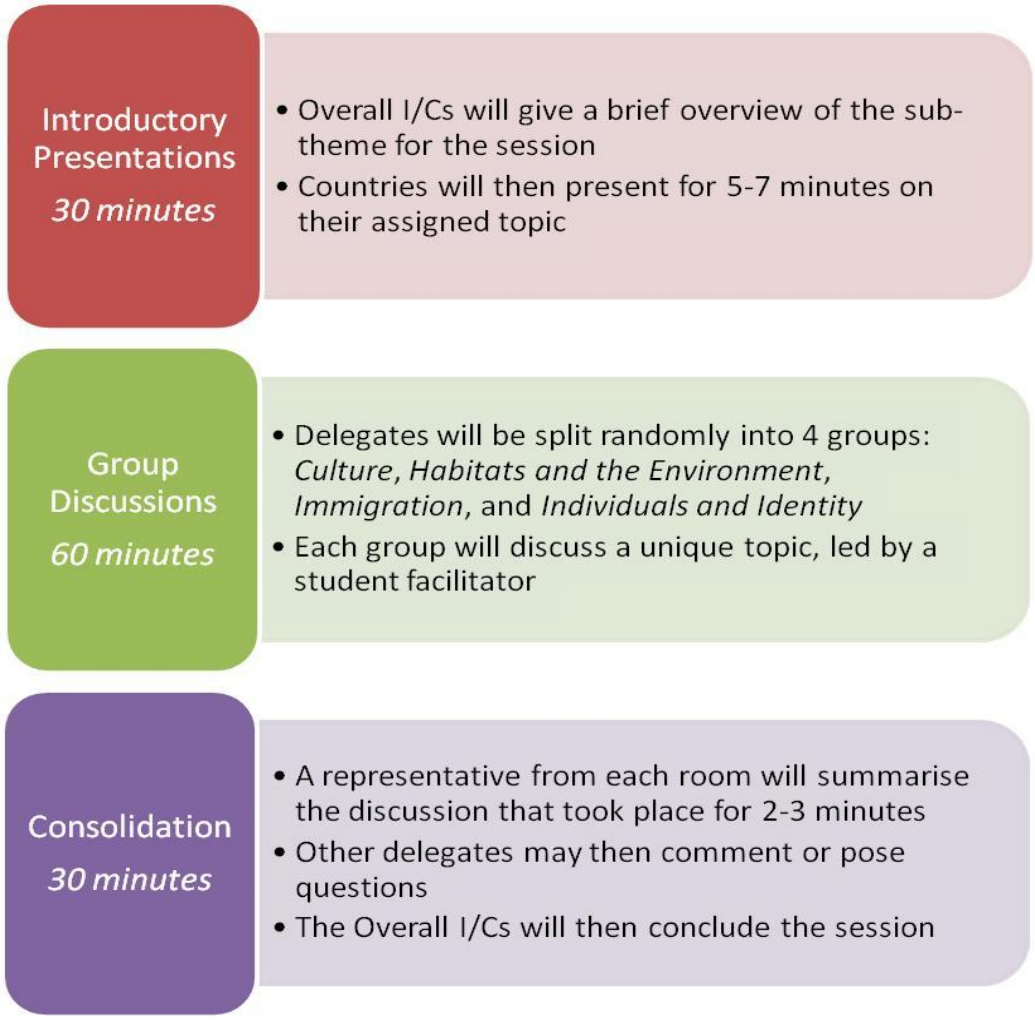
Joint Session: Individuals and Identity – Reflections on APYLS

The Asia-Pacific Youth Leaders' Summit (APYLS) is one of many international conferences around the world, organised to give youths of diverse nationalities a platform to interact and obtain global perspectives.

- How far have these objectives been achieved for you as a participant?
- Has your outlook broadened through this period of interaction with your peers hailing from different countries?
- Is there a greater significance to the views you have shared, and the friendships you have forged?
- Ultimately, how does the individual like you and me contribute to the building of the global community?

Dialogue Concept

Discussion Format



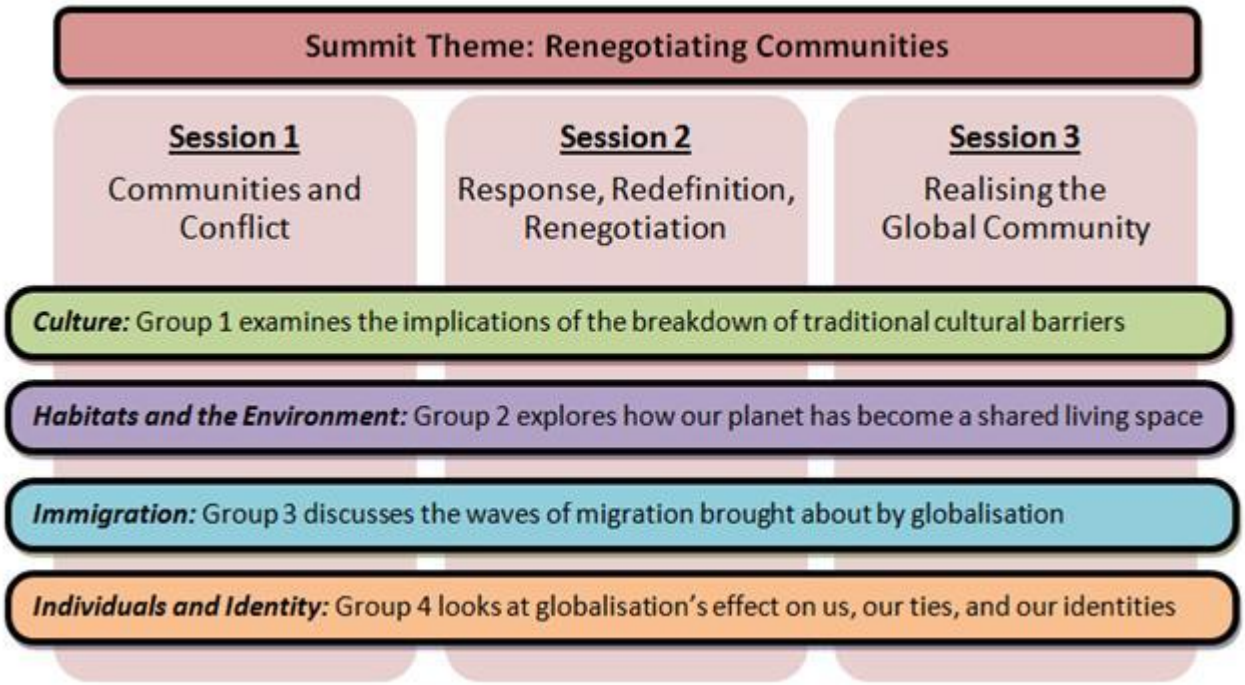
**During the third student dialogue session, the first segment (Introductory Presentations) and the last segment (Consolidation) will be expanded to accommodate two special topics.*

Content

- Each session's will revolve around a different sub-theme, based on the Summit Theme of “Renegotiating Communities”
    - ***Session 1 (Communities and Conflict)*** seeks to understand the effects of

globalisation on traditional communities, and the conflicts faced by people grappling with the advent of globalisation.
    - ***Session 2 (Response, Redefinition, Renegotiation)*** seeks to examine the responses of communities to globalisation and how they have adapted and redefined themselves in a modern world.
    - ***Session 3 (Realising the Global Community)*** seeks to take a closer look at the notion of the Global Community: what it entails, and how it can best be realised in the world of today.
- Each of the sub-themes will be further explored by examining it in four areas that will also be the topics for discussion. These four areas concern different aspects in which globalisation has broken down barriers that once divided communities:
    - ***Culture*** - exploring the breakdown of traditional cultural barriers that once separated ethnic and racial groups.
    - ***Habitats and the Environment*** - exploring the breakdown of physical barriers and the transformation of our environment into a shared living space.
    - ***Immigration*** - exploring the breakdown of barriers that impeded the movement of people from one place to another, and the waves of migration brought about by globalisation.
    - ***Individuals and Identity*** - exploring the impact of globalisation on the individual, how he perceives and locates himself, and his personal identity.
- There will also be two additional topics discussed by all delegates:
    - The Special Session will be on ***Natural Disasters and Nuclear Energy***. This session will revolve around the implications of the 2011 Tohuku Earthquake on our concept of a global community.
    - The Joint Session will replace the group discussion on “Individuals and Identity” during the last student dialogue session, and will be entitled ***Reflections on APYLS***. Delegates will share their takeaways from APYLS and examine how student conferences like APYLS contribute to the realisation of a global community.

The following diagram illustrates the overall concept framework:



Awards

At the end of the final Student Dialogue, there will be a brief awards ceremony to acknowledge active participants and outstanding presentations throughout the three sessions. 3 Outstanding Floor Speaker Awards and 3 Outstanding Presentation Awards will be given out.

The **Outstanding Floor Speaker** award will consist of a certificate and a token, and will be given to delegates that have:

- Communicated effectively with the group
- Participated actively in discussions
- Demonstrated depth of insight
- Made points relevant to the discussion

The **Outstanding Presentation** award will take the form of a certificate, to be awarded to all group members. It will be awarded to delegations that have:

- Demonstrated effective presentation and communications skills (including judicious use of multimedia and graphics)
- Adhered to the topic allocated
- Constructed salient and coherent arguments

- Demonstrated depth of insight

The awards will be given based on merit based on the aforementioned criteria, whilst also taking into consideration instances of exceptional effort put in by delegates.

Personnel

- A single student chairperson will be facilitating the sessions in each of the 4 rooms
- Two facilitators per room, eight in total, are to assist in getting the delegates in the room to speak up and promote equal participation.

Culture	Habitats and the Environment	Immigration	Individuals and Identity
Nicholas Chuan* Hu Yongda Audrie Foo	Esther Wong* Ting Chang Hui Leong Kah Mun	Daryn Koh* Ryo Yap Rachael Wang	Samantha Lau* Teoh Zhi Hao Glenda Kee

*Student Chairperson