

Japan School Trip and International Global Warming Youth Conference 2008

This year's trip to Japan was the biggest we have ever undertaken, with a total of 16 students and 2 teachers participating. As well as the usual home-stay experience at Wakaho Junior High School and Komaki Primary School and a two-day trip to Tokyo, we also held the culminating event of our Four-Country Weather Project.

Over the past year some of our most talented Year 10 scientists, along with students from four participating countries (UK, USA, China and Japan), have been collecting daily weather data; researching the issue of Global Warming; and posting their findings on our Project web pages. As the final event in the year-long project the students from the UK, China and Japan, all participated in a day-long conference.

The day began with a lecture on Global Warming by Professor Norton of the University of Shinshu (Nagano, Japan), and then the participants took part in a full afternoon session to share information and work collaboratively to devise strategies to support a global response to the problem of Global Warming.

The afternoon started with each group presenting information about the situation in their local area, and then the students were separated into three multi-national groups with each group led by students from one of the three countries involved. Their task was to produce three suggestions in each group to help implement a coordinated global response to the problem of Global Warming. Their findings were then presented to the group in all three languages.

The students worked remarkably well together and overcame significant language barriers to produce some excellent proposals to tackle the problem, such as the institution of an international energy saving day, where everyone in the world took every opportunity to reduce the amount of energy used, and the establishment of an International Energy University to produce the necessary science to devise new energy saving technology. Other ideas included the transfer of technology from more developed to less developed nations, and a series of energy creating devices.

On the evening of the Conference we were featured on the local NHK news, and this footage may be viewed on the school website. We were very lucky to have had the support of the Nagano International Friendship Club and the British Council to help us put on such an ambitious event in a foreign country, however the success of the day was fully down to the wonderful efforts of all the students involved, particularly the leadership of the South Wolds group.

