

A videoconference was held between the students studying Japanese 5 at CLS and Aoyama Gakuin University in Tokyo, Japan on the 10TH November, 2009 (Singapore time 2:00pm-6:00pm) through video conferencing system to connect Japan and Singapore at the same time for the purpose of exchanging opinions of global social issues.



The participants were 34 NUS students taking Japanese 5 at NUS and 28 students from Aoyama Gakuin University in Japan. The students of two countries formed groups of 6-7 members each and discussed various global topics such as bias in broadcasting, immigration policies and discrimination of foreign workers, places to live after retirement, tourism industry and environment, climate change, Japanese soft power, and fashion industry.

Prior to the conferencing, each group researched on their topics, and furthermore, exchanged materials such as newspaper articles as well as questions related to their topics to their counterpart. Due to the good preparations, each student from both sides contributed to the discussion, comparing Singapore and Japan experiences. Although videoconferencing in Japanese was a challenging task for the level 5 Japanese students, the students' feedback revealed that it became an inspiring experience which informed them of the necessity of social and cultural knowledge they must acquire in accordance with the language skills.

