



# THE OLIVE BRANCH

MODEL UNITED NATIONS NEWSLETTER



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## Announcements

•THIMUN Qatar Registration Closes:  
-September 17

-Student officer, Press, ICJ and foreign language committee applications will be due at this time.  
-Contact the THIMUN Office for more information.

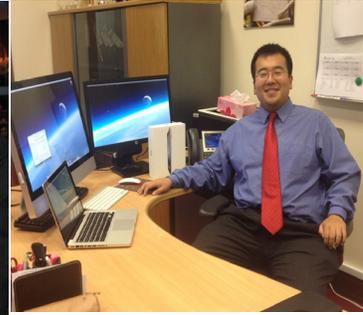
•This is the Olive Branch's Last Edition! Enjoy!

•Tribute to Miss Rennicks on Page 3 and 4!

•QLC Updates can be found on Page 2!

•Farewell and Thanks from THIMUN Qatar on Page 4!

## Farewell to Jesse Atkins



If you have ever eaten a meal at a TQ conference, ridden a bus to QNCC, had an airline ticket sent to you for QLC, or received a visa for one of THIMUN Qatar's events, you have been the beneficiary of Jesse Atkins's hard work and dedication! THIMUN Qatar's conference manager, who has been in his current position for the past 28 months, has helped guide THIMUN Qatar through a period of immense growth, an almost doubling in size since he first took on the Conference Manager role. Jesse has been an integral part of the THIMUN Qatar's development since before the program was even born, having been the First Secretary General for Qatar Academy's MUN program in 2005. From Secretary General of one of Qatar's first MUN conferences, to the conference manager of one of the largest of such events in the world, Jesse's contributions to Model UN in the region are both unique and enormous.

THIMUN Qatar, like many organizations in the region, experienced a staffing shortage in 2015-16, while the program continued to grow and mature. Under a less dedicated Manager, that would have spelt disaster, but TQ is wrapping up its fifth year,

and what a year it has been! The Qatar Leadership Conference has seen a rise in both international prestige and a doubling in size since its initial inception in 2012. THIMUN Qatar's January conference hit the 2000 participant mark in 2016. The Film Festival saw the most diverse group of films ever submitted to the event. And Middle School MUN (MSMUN-Q) had its soft launch at QNCC in May. The credit for juggling these multiple programs, and for bringing the high quality organization to bear on THIMUN's core programs, is a testament to Jesse's hard work.

To say that Jesse will be missed is an understatement, but with new challenges on the horizon, and other organizations to help and assist, THIMUN Qatar's loss will undoubtedly be another program's gain. We are hoping he will be staying in the region! Keep your eyes peeled for him at the QLC or TQ! Once a member of the THIMUN Qatar family, always a member of the THIMUN Qatar family!

Best of luck Jesse! You will be missed!

## The Olive Branch- The End of an Era

The Olive Branch was a collaborative initiative which began in 2013. Initially a co-branded publication put out by THIMUN Qatar, Best Delegate, and Online Model United Nations, the publication has grown in size and scope, but has always sought to retain its place as the region's only MUN publication for high school students. And come September, the Olive Branch will undergo its own transformation, to a fully digital publication produced by the THIMUN Qatar office. While the focus of the publication will remain the same, its format will not. We'll unveil a new product by mid-September, and we look forward to your comments and suggestions.

THIMUN Qatar would like to thank Best Delegate for their leadership in development of this initiative. Check your inbox for the next edition of the Olive Branch!

# JoMUN 2016



The American International School of Johannesburg (AISJ) is proud to host the 14th annual Johannesburg Model United Nations (JoMUN) conference this coming October 6-9, 2016.

JoMUN is proud to be a THIMUN-affiliated and primarily student-led conference that gives participants a tremendous opportunity to develop their public speaking, collaboration, and leadership skills. Delegates also greatly expand their awareness and knowledge of global issues, along with developing realistic ways to approach resolving them. The theme of this year's conference is "Transforming Africa," and was inspired by the newly adopted United Nations Millennium Development Goals.

The newly appointed Secretary General for JoMUN XIV, grade 11 student Herschel Jain, noted that JoMUN "is a smaller conference which allows every delegate the opportunity to participate and get involved. Debate is often very passionate and heated, and full of hilarious analogies as well."

Grade 11 students Keitumetse Malati and Aditya Ranjan Mahendran have been appointed as the Deputy Secretary Generals for JoMUN XIV.

Deputy Secretary General Keitumetse Malatsi said, "JoMUN is unique because

it allows delegates to focus in on African issues. Visiting delegations also have the incredible opportunity to experience the vibrant culture, history, and natural beauty of South Africa."

The organizing committee has made every effort to make JoMUN as accessible and affordable as possible to all schools that might wish to participate. Conference fees are kept low by holding the conference on AISJ's beautiful state-of-the-art campus. In addition, the school offers a 'home stay' option for students from outside of Johannesburg on a first come, first serve basis.

Other new developments this year include the introduction of three brand new committees: a Disarmament Commission, and Environmental Commission, and an International Criminal Court.

Apart from that, there is also the beauty and richness of the country of South Africa to take in, with its unique history, culture, wildlife, and landscape. JoMUN XIV has got it all.

We welcome the participation of schools from all over the world in this year's conference. Registration forms and detailed information for visiting schools are available on the JoMUN website at <http://www.aisj-jhb.com/page.cfm?p=4025>. Please note that a number key chair positions are still available!

Please feel free to contact Herschel ([hjain@aisj-jhb.com](mailto:hjain@aisj-jhb.com)), Keitu ([kmalatsi@aisj-jhb.com](mailto:kmalatsi@aisj-jhb.com)), Aditya ([amahendran@aisj-jhb.com](mailto:amahendran@aisj-jhb.com)), or Dr. Katherine Maloney (MUN Director - [kmaloney@aisj-jhb.com](mailto:kmaloney@aisj-jhb.com)) with any questions.

We look forward to seeing many of you there!

*-JoMUN XIV Executive*

# QLC Planning in Full Swing



Qatar Leadership Conference planning is in full swing, with dozens of presenters from the region and around the world taking part in the fifth annual event. With over 130 sessions spread over the 2 ½ day event, there is something for everyone and the estimated 700 participants will be spoiled for choice. Seventeen international presenters will be brought in to share their expertise in the areas of MUN, film and media. Dozens of local and student presenters will round out the event. The October 20-22 event will again see Level I and 2 Director's Training Institutes, offering MUN professional development to participating teachers.

Some of this year's featured presenters include Matthew French from UN Habitat in Afghanistan; Cairo Arafat, Education Director of Bidaya Media an Abu Dhabi-based organization that develops media based educa-

tional and learning programs for children will be speaking about the changing landscape of media in the Middle East, particularly as it relates to programming for children. Aryn Thomas, a former MUN delegate, will be talking about her current work as a UN legal advisor, and Catherin Ashcroft will share her experiences in working with Syrian refugees in Jordan. Innovative educational leaders like Dr Dalia Fadila, founder of Q Schools, and Ola Abagun, a girl's rights activist from Nigeria, round out the featured presenter offerings. One last special guest, Cameron Janzen, founder of the THIMUN Qatar program, will also be at this year's fifth anniversary QLC.

With an expanded press team set for the 2016 QLC, we'll be sharing lots of great stories. Stay tuned for updates!

# Thank You for Dublin- Our MUN Experience Over the Years

*Miss Rennicks, the MUN Director at Park House English School, is remembered and thanked by her student officer team! She will be missed!*

Miss Rennicks has been working at Park House for four years now, two of which she's spent as director of PHESMUN. Having been in the executive team for both of those years, I can say with the utmost certainty that without her, the Model United Nations club in our school would not be what it is today. She pushed us to work our hardest to make the club the best it could be, improving organisation and quality of sessions immensely and enabling us to host seven schools at our first ever external MUN conference. Miss Rennicks has been immensely supportive of all of us whenever we've needed help, MUN related or otherwise. In fact, I can thank her for being so forgiving and helping me keep my sanity while juggling A levels and MUN responsibilities. This year, Miss Rennicks will be moving back to Ireland to continue her teaching career, and everyone at Park House will miss her immensely.

Below are messages from some of the former and current PHESMUN Executive Committee members bidding her farewell:

*I remember going to conferences and thinking I wanna give a speech in a PHES conference one day. For me it was just a dream that I didn't think was possible to be honest. But you made it possible for me, you've always pushed us to our limits and made us unleash our full potential. I can't be more grateful you've been the best director anyone could ask for.*

**-Mousa Alwaraki, Deputy Secretary General 2015-2016**

*It has been an honour to work with Miss Rennicks this year. Her dedication and hard work has been noticed by everyone at Park House, and I speak on*

*behalf of everyone when I say that she loyal. She smart. She grateful. And I appreciate that.*

**-Hamza Wasim, Head of Training 2015-2016**

*Thank you Miss Rennicks for always helping me out with all my MUN work and inspiring me to do better. It was a privilege to have you as my director for MUN and a true pleasure working with you! I will miss you loads.*

**-Vidisha Hemani, Head of Communications 2015-2016**

*Ms Rennicks has always pushed harder than anyone else, simply because she knew how much we were capable of accomplishing. During her time as director, she brought out the best qualities in every member of Park House MUN. The heights that PHESMUN has reached under tutelage often seem beyond description. She will be sorely missed and we hope that Park House will be able to maintain the incredibly high standards that were set during her time.*

**-Sreeparna Bose, Head of Press 2015-2016**

*Before year 10 I didn't see the importance of MUN, it was always something I would mock my friends about when they told me that they had after-school, but because of how well Miss. Rennicks directed the club it inspired me to become a part of this club and one day achieve a role of responsibility, thank you Miss for your amazing support and I wish you the best for the future!*

**-Michael Morgan, Head of Administration 2016-2017**

*You never really appreciate the people that are around you until they are gone. Seeing Ms. Rennicks leave after all this time is something that is hard to digest, as she's an individual that has become my mentor, teacher and director over the past few years. But I look forward to continuing the outstanding work she has done here at Park House with*

*(Continued on Page 4)*



(Continuation from Page 3)

House with the rest of the team and hoping that we'll be able to complete even half of the work she's committed herself to at PHESMUN.

**-Sandeve Ferdinando, Secretary General 2016-2017**

I have never seen anyone so committed to bringing the most out of the MUN community and especially our executive team, I think the whole school appreciates everything she's done.

**-Firas El Chaer, Head of Admin 2015-2016, Deputy Secretary General 2016-2017**

Miss Rennicks has always been pushing us to the furthest of our abilities and creativities. When she told us she was going to leave we were all so shocked, as no one will be able to direct PHESMUN like she has. It's our job to keep her legacy alive, and to continue making her proud.

**-Hend Al Sulaiti, Deputy Secretary General 2016-2017**

Miss Rennicks has always been supportive in my entire MUN journey – without her guidance and commitment, PHESMUN would not have been able to thrive the way it has over the past years. I would like to thank her for

all that she has done to bring out the best in us and good luck for the future!

**-Rahema Velmi, Head of Training 2016-2017**

Thank you miss Rennicks for continuously being there to support us whenever we needed you and always made sure that we were nothing but prepared and ready to tackle anything that came our way. I would like to thank you for all the endless opportunities you have given us to help us grow through our MUN journey and end up as a part of the PHESMUN executive team.

**-Elissa Mefleh, Head of Press 2016-2017**

You've honestly been such a great support, you kept us strong and positive all the time so I'd just like to thank you for everything you've done for us and for me personally, i wish you the best of luck!

**-Mais Sannoufi, Deputy Head of Press 2016-2017**

We can't thank you enough for the motivation and support you've given us as MUN director, and these messages are a testament to that. From this year's and next year's executive team, we wish you all the best!

**-Christopher Nasrawi, Secretary General 2015-2016**

# Farewell and Thanks! -THIMUN Qatar

In the world of international schools, June is often the time of year to say goodbye to individuals who have been part of the Model UN scene here in the region. All of them have made lasting contributions to their school's programs .

There are several big departures from the THIMUN Qatar Advisory Board. Naomi Rennicks from Park House English School in Doha (see article) will be relocating back to Ireland and hopefully taking the MUN spirit with her. Having built one of the strongest MUN programs in the country, Naomi has been a steadfast supporter of the THIMUN Qatar program. Fatima El Mahdi from Mesaieed International School will be moving to the THIMUN Qatar Office, replacing departing Conference Manager Jesse Atkins (see article). Christine Fonseka will be turning over the MUN program to a new team at Qatar International School.

Also in the region: **Adam Pierce** is leaving AIS Kuwait and moving to Graded-The American School of SaoPaulo. **Heather Lang**, Middle School MUN Director at Qatar Academy Doha is bound for ABA Oman ( American British Academy) Muscat. **Yusuf Iqbal** is leaving MUN from Al Khor International School . **Thomas Galvez**, ACS Abu Dhabi, will be heading to Saigon South International school . Thomas has been the MUN Director at ASD for the least four years. **Pam Coyzins** from Newton International School is headed back to South Africa. The THIMUN Qatar program is only as strong as the MUN directors who spend countless hours developing MUN programs for their students. They are often unsung heroes, running programs off the corner of their desk while juggling multiple tasks and full time teaching loads. A huge thank you to all directors for making lasting contributions to the delegates in their care. And to those of you moving on, you will be missed!

# THIMUN Policy Roundtable: A discussion towards better practices

By Natalia Daza

*\*This article was written by Kymberly Chu and Chea-Mun Tan, Media Associates at Best Delegate*

We compiled a list of interviews from students all over the world on their best and worst THIMUN committee scenarios based on their experiences, to examine how we can improve THIMUN procedure and MUN leadership.



*“Planning is vital and job division among the group members is crucial to maintain the level of organization. The size of the leadership team is also important. If it’s too small, everyone is loaded with work. If it’s too large, everyone loses focus.”*

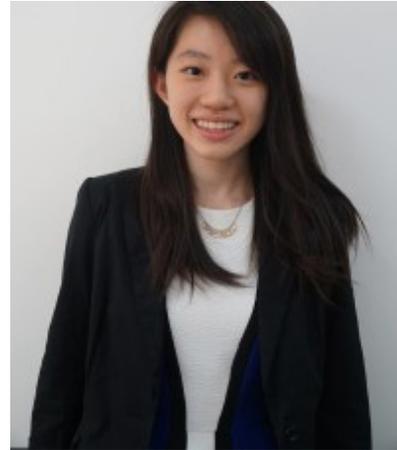
**-Efe Aydog, Uskudar American Academy**



*“It provides a standard template for all conferences and we can therefore ensure that the highest standards are met. It is also easier for students worldwide to participate in conferences without having to learn procedures from the beginning. Also, they should strive to achieve the highest standards in their training of student officers.*

*They should ensure that correct manuals are available for delegates. Consultation on matters that are not clear should be made with thimun rather than left to chance or by taking unilateral decisions. Finally a well trained approval panel and organising committee will ensure the correct etiquette of resolutions and the smooth running of a conference.”*

**-John Panselinas, Costeas Geitonas**



*“To stay calm at all situations and to be considerate. I think maintain your composure since seriousness is important”*

**- Alice Hu, Pacific American School**



*“THIMUN procedure helped my students to think in a creative way and make solutions for their own communities, countries, and even the world’s problems! They are now able to do debate and to raise their voice against violence!”*

**-Rahmatullah Hamdard, HELA Afghanistan founder**

*(Continued and completed on Page 6)*



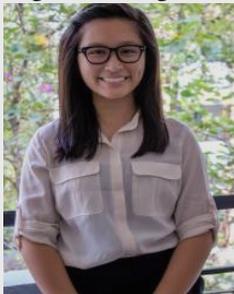
*“An ideal committee “would be one where delegates aren’t intimidated by other delegates or the chairs. MUN isn’t about competing with other people, it’s about having an open channel of communication and discussion about important global issues.” Therefore, an “ideal committee starts with a welcoming environment, where delegates don’t belittle other delegates or are overly aggressive.” The worst THIMUN committee scenario is one in which “the chairs have failed to develop the personal environment that allows delegates to learn and develop.”*

**– Arthur Shin, University College of London**



*“In an ideal THIMUN committee, “there needs to be controversial issues” as opposed to “issues that are cliched and practically non-solvable.” As for leadership, the worst THIMUN committee consist of “a chair [who] is nervous, ill-prepared or is found to plagiarize a research report, so much so that a late or substandard one is released.” The worst committees are ones that “delegates walk out of with feelings like they wasted their weekend.” An ideal committee would ensure that the “outcome produces a large group of delegates who feel empowered” and become “new global citizens who see issues beyond the narrow-mindedness of race, culture, socio-economic background, and religion.”*

**-Peak Sen Chua, George Washington University**



*“My worst committee experience is specifically in larger committees, especially plenary sessions where delegates are disruptive. In smaller THIMUN-affiliated conferences, like the Malaysian Model United Nations (MYMUN) conference, there is more of an established connection with one another.” This gives newer delegates “opportunities to give speeches” and voice their opinion. Defensor believes that an intimate committee setting allows conferences to “sprout good leaders because they are given the opportunity to shine in a smaller environment.”*

**- Marla Mae Defensor, Mont’ Kiara International School**



*“The best experience, and simultaneously the worst experience about a THIMUN committee is that there is always that one person who is very well versed in the debate, and who everybody else in the committee can stand behind. This is very impressive, as it shows how MUN can help a person like that flourish, however, at the same time, this is bad, as other delegates who are less versed in debate, may not be able to convince themselves on their own stances on issues, and will be sucked in by the political words of other flourished delegates.”*

**-Akhil Gupta, Mont’ Kiara International School**



**A Few Words from Kym, the author:**

*“The THIMUN experience is optimal for every delegate. Its sense of international collaboration evokes intellectual curiosity. We can infer about almost each country’s foreign policy and apply our ideas as realistic solutions in our resolutions. We bury ourselves in the multitude of economic and social issues to address what’s wrong. Also, what matters the most: empowerment. By acknowledging delegates who talk and write and research, we salute their diplomacy. By letting the actual MUNers lead through chairing or running the club, MUN serves as the catalyst for ambition and social change.”*



**A Few Words from Chea-Mun Tan, the author:**

*“Throughout my experience, I believe that the ideal THIMUN committees are ones in which all delegates feel like they have an equal opportunity to freely speak about what they believe. Diplomacy, passion, and collaboration are three of the most important aspects in ensuring a memorable THIMUN experience in any committee. The worst committee experience would probably be when there is a lack of interest or preparation on behalf of members involved. The purpose of an MUN conference has been achieved when delegates walk out on the last day with a greater understanding of world issues and what it means to be an active global citizen.”*

QLC 2016   
 QATAR LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

20-22 October, 2016  
 Deadline for registration 30 June, 2016

5<sup>th</sup> Annual QLC



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