



THE OLIVE BRANCH

MODEL UNITED NATIONS NEWSLETTER



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Announcements

- The Qatar Leadership Conference will be held October 20-22, 2016.
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The Special Regional Committee in Arabic at THIMUN 2016



By: Deputy President of SRCMENA- A Dina Awartani

The Arabic committee in THIMUN 2016 had a lot of work prior to the conference. With almost 40 delegates the committee was a small one. As most delegates were first-time MUN delegates, we therefore planned a few ice-breakers ahead of time, small MUN simulations to keep in our back pockets for emergencies. Basically

we prepared for the worst. That's why it was an amazing sensation to see the delegates lobbying on the first day and working hard on their resolutions, debating which clauses brought a stronger case and made their resolution stand out most. Making friends and sharing our backgrounds from our Arabic cultures to our different stories with the Arabic language. The fluent Arabic speakers helped

the less fluent speakers. By the end of the first day it was very clear that we as a whole committee got very close very fast. I've learned so much from the members in our committee, about their different Arabic cultures and backgrounds, and The Palestinian delegates that explained what their struggles are and what they face in Palestine. The infamous variety of talents that I'm sure everyone has heard about, from

beatboxing to car noises and singing our committee was not short of fun. The shyest delegates made it through and spoke confidently by the end of the conference, adding amendments and speaking more than 5 times! I can honestly say that the THIMUN 2016 Arabic committee was the best committee I've personally been in yet.

MUN Teacher Spotlight



Name: Christine Fonseca

School: Qatar International School

Number of Years Being an MUN Director: 1

Conferences Attended: 5- excited for Doha College training conference!

Idea of a dream vacation: Japan during cherry blossom season (had a fantastic time there last year- missed the blossoms but fell in love with the country).

Biggest pet peeve: People who speak before thinking.

Animal Lover? YES! I love cats- will one day have my own instead of cat-napping the neighbours' kitties ;)

Biggest challenge juggling teaching and being an MUN Director:

Time – when your weekends and afternoons go for conferences and paperwork, there is little free time left!

Three things you wish parents or students understood about MUN:

1)That substance is more

important than style.
2)That it doesn't matter what country you have – anyone can shine during a conference, it depends on how much work you put in beforehand.
3)That speaking in front of a room full of peers is not easy and that for some students it will take time to build the confidence- every time you speak though, the next time becomes easier!

Most memorable MUN moment: Walking into the schoolyard of Uskudar American Academy in Turkey for TIMUN – the falling autumn leaves and cool weather were so refreshing especially coming from the heat of the Middle East!

Open Forum: It is important that we remember that the social skills that are learnt during a conference are just as important as the academic skills. The skills involved in understanding other viewpoints, respecting others, cooperating, and listening are, in my view, far more important than getting resolutions passed. Those skills will stay with you for life and you can thank MUN for that!

MSMUN-Q: DSG Update



By Soomin Chung, DSG for MSMUN-Q

The preparation for Middle School MUN Conference is full on! Currently, the executive team is reviewing the research reports submitted by chairs from different committees. These deliberately edited research reports will guide the directions of our middle school delegates and ultimately inspire efficient resolutions to be debated and finalized in the conference; research reports are good beginning points for new and experienced delegates alike so we strongly urge you to check them out!

One of the perks of middle school MUN that distinguishes it from the conventional, grand THIMUN is its flexibility. Whilst keeping in mind the discipline, the middle school MUN is a place for experimentation and exploration; most of the deputy chairs of the committees are consisted of fresh, novice chairs which gives the executive team an interesting chair training experience.

Another responsibility that the executive team has is to assist in establishing a sustainable Middle School MUN club in their respective schools. As a student at the American School of

Doha, I have been working with a middle school social studies teacher and three of the student officers at MSMUN-Q to set up the first ever MUN club in our middle school; with the sky-high participation level and a myriad of enthusiastic faces, I am thrilled to see these delegates thrive at the conference and represent the American School of Doha well, living up to the reputations that the high school MUNers have established over the years.

In preparation for our middle school delegates, the ASD MUN executive team is organizing a small-scale MUN conference consisting of beginner high school MUN delegates and middle school delegates. This is beneficial to both high school and middle school delegates as this will be a comfortable forum for novices to experience the conventions and the ambiance of an MUN conference.

With all hands on deck in preparation for the chairs and the delegates of the MSMUN-Q 2016, the executive team is counting down the days to the conference with enthusiasm and cannot wait for the delegates to contribute to the yielding, passionate world of the Model United Nations.

BISCMUN Recap

By Ibrahim Abouelfettouh, Secretary General of BISCMUN

This year, at BISCMUN, we wanted to try something different, something that wouldn't only benefit the delegates' experience, but our chairs and staff. Normally, at BISCMUN, we'd have a pressing world theme, as is normal with MUN, and we'd argue over what's right but eventually, the majority wins not by having the best points, but simply by being the majority. So in choosing the issue for our conference, we wanted to pick something that is split, and that doesn't depend solely on your country's stance. This is where we introduced 'Ethics in the Modern World'. This issue, not a clear material issue such as, 'water' or 'equality' for example, but important all the same. Ethics is something that is under-discussed in our world, in my personal opinion. This is because we all assume that we know what is right for one another and an organization such as the UN, one that decides the fate of so many, needs to know the best interpretation of 'right' possible. One country's ethical opinion is not the same as another's, obviously but it's a major roadblock in debate today, inside and outside of MUN or diplomacy as a whole. Whenever we argue with someone, we are challenging presupposed positions, which is good in itself, but the point here is that we wouldn't be able to get anywhere if the very criteria that our opposition is using to judge what is right, is not the same as ours. Basically, we need a moral baseline for the whole world, a set of principles that govern how we govern. Obviously, as times change, these would change as well, but what we tried to do at BISCMUN is stop arguing in the numbers, because diplomacy is not a popularity contest, it's an argumentative process in which everyone learns, but to learn the same material, and at the same pace, we need to be on the same page, read the same language; that page being diplomacy and that language being debate.

This theme was carried on

successfully and smoothly by the secretariat as well as by the speaker: Mrs. Neveen El-Tahri, as successful businesswoman who was voted among the top 50 most influential women in the Arab World, and Mr. David Clay, the political advisor to the British Ambassador, who gave eloquent and thought provoking speeches.

With all of this in mind, we had around 175 delegates, 4 GA committees: Human Rights, GA1 – Disarmament, GA3 – Financial and Economical and GA4 – Political, debating issues such as policies of capital punishment in retentionist countries or biological warfare, issues that are very easily controversial among countries old and new, developed and developing, east and west. At the end, we entertained the four best resolutions and had a crisis committee where Yemen's Houthis attacked Sana'a, found and used experimentally created long range biological weapons, bombing the Washington DC in the US and Israel at the same time. We had this being presented on the stage to our delegates through newflashes, to make the debate more dynamic. This issue is an amalgamation of a few of the GA's issues as well as true to history with reports calling on Yemen's perceived use of Bio-weapons as well as the Houthis' deep hatred of the US and Israel. In the Security Council, we debated issues on terrorism along with Syria's newest and most grave issues, which are multiple crises in themselves. Our crises issue in the SC was the ISIS bombing of London with student officers acting as characters in the bombing: Mr. Philip Hammond, the Secretary of state for British foreign and commonwealth affairs, and Mr. Andrew Parker, director-general of MI5. The crises gave the delegates an opportunity to think on their feet, something essential for the development of critical thinking, which is a keystone of debate in diplomacy. In the ICJ, we debated the UK vs. The Martial Islands, which is an issue involving nuclear weapons and their reduction. Our advocates, as well as our

attentive justices participated avidly in the debate, perhaps one of the most interesting I've seen. The verdict labeled the Martial Islands victors over the UK and justice was served.

In conclusion, thankfully, we achieved our goals. Thoughts were provoked, ideas challenged, issues tackled, and resolutions proposed. Personally, I ended off my MUN high school career on a high note, and I'm sure, as did everyone. The opportunity I was given to do this was immense, but

it wasn't of my doing, because I couldn't have done any of this alone. Therefore, I would like to thank everyone who contributed, the Secretariat, the admins, the student officers and of course, the directors. I would also like to personally thank Ms. Martin, who came all the way to Egypt with intents of improving our conference, which is vital to the success of anything. Without any of this tremendous help, this conference wouldn't have been such a success.



An Interview with UNICEF Jordan: Living in Za'atari Refugee Camp

By Kimberley Chu

There are 333,837 registered child refugees living in Jordan.

Nine school complexes serve 15,450 children in the Za'atari refugee camp.

And 12 babies are born in the Za'atari Camp per day.

Rows of dust stained caravans can be spotted. The brown soil is flat enough to walk on. In the distance, you can hear children chattering and playing and learning in the Makanis (learning centres). This is the Za'atari Camp, one of Jordan's refugee camps for Syrian refugees.

"The refugees established mosque areas and a marketplace. Also, there's lots of shops. It's a small town, not a refugee camp." Mr. Pradhan describes the Za'atari atmosphere. At one point, there were 120,000 refugees living here.

I was interviewing Mr. Miraj Pradhan by Skype, the head of UNICEF Communications in Jordan about his experience with the Syrian child refugees residing in Za'atari.

"For a child living in the camp, it is not easy. Many Syrian child refugees come from places with vivid greenery when some of them resided in the countryside. When they come to Za'atari Camp, it is flat land. The landscape is a big change for them."

"I remembered a 15 year old boy who talked about his experience." Mr. Pradhan explains that his work requires him to record the journey of refugees coming into the Za'atari Camp. He narrates the most striking story he has heard of.

He tells me the story of Hassan and his father who fled Syria. "Hassan was on his way to school when he heard gunfire." Hassan's father told Mr. Pradhan that "When we

were running away, bombs started to explode everywhere and we were jumping over bodies".

"That's an experience no child should ever face." Mr. Pradhan commented sadly.

UNICEF Jordan provides education and psycho-social support for child refugees such as Hassan at Za'atari. There are about 21 Makanis ("My Space" in Arabic) learning centres teaching technical skills such as computer science and music for over 3,045 children. In addition, there are nine schools that provide formal education for 15,450 students.

"We don't have 100% enrollment" Mr. Pradhan explains that some families need their children to work or some children have never attended school or some families hope they can return to Syria soon.

"It's the waiting part that most children find difficult." He tells me another challenge the children face in the camp. "If you want to go out, you need a permit. You get the mental feeling that it is a closed environment."

"Yet, many of the families are so full of hope despite all the challenges." He met a Syrian shoemaker Mohammed along with his two daughters Sidra and Farah while discussing daily living conditions. "His two daughters are very open to strangers, normally, when we go, many of the kids don't open up to strangers." Mr. Pradhan remarked surprisingly.

I asked if Mr. Pradhan would like to leave a message for Best Delegate readers:

"Despite what you hear in the news, the children are full of hope. We cannot afford to let them down. If they haven't given up, we cannot give up. We do our service work to let them know that the world has not let them down."



2 Model UN Tactics for Short Delegates

By Kevin Felix Chan

I was a short Model UN delegate. In high school, I stood 5'3 (160cm) and I only grew a few inches taller by the time I got to college. I was shorter than most male delegates and some female delegates in natural height, and then I became shorter than most female delegates once they put their heels on.

1. Bring your placard up when making a speech.



Tall people are obviously easier to see during a speech, and this advantage becomes even more valuable in a large GA ballroom. For shorter delegates, one tactic they could use is to bring their placard up with them. For newer delegates, just holding the placard up in front of you is good enough because it serves as a visual anchor for the audience to look at and resets their frame of reference to your height. For more advanced delegates, the placard could be integrated into arm gestures in order to create visuals that give you a bigger physical presence on stage (see example in photo above).

As a short delegate, I knew I had to counter the advantage that taller delegates had in various aspects of Model UN, particularly in public speaking and social dynamics.

Here are two quick tactics that shorter and fun-sized delegates can use to help level the playing field in those two aspects:

2. Get the group to sit down during unmoderated caucus.



Tall people tower over the unmoderated caucus bloc — people have to look up when speaking to them — and this advantage becomes even more valuable when it's crowded in a large GA bloc. For shorter delegates, the key is to get the entire unmoderated caucus bloc to sit down on the floor (preferably in a circle which facilitates the most fair discussion). Sitting down neutralizes the height advantage of the taller delegates. If you're negotiating one-on-one with a taller delegate, then the variation is to have both of you sit in chairs instead of the floor which creates a similar effect.

New Additions!

The THIMUN Qatar family grew by three this past week! Two Advisory Board Directors welcomed new additions to their families. Gaspard Launet of Lycee Bonaparte (and the newest member of the THIMUN Qatar Advisory Board) became the proud father of twin girls, Esther and Daphne, born on February 29th. On Sunday

March 6, American School of Doha's MUN Director Kari Beck gave birth to Sebastian Detwiler Beck. The babies and their families are all doing great! On behalf of the THIMUN Qatar family, congratulations! We hope to see the three future delegates at THIMUN Qatar 2030!



TQ Northwestern Film Festival is right around the corner

By Maryam Al Khalifa, Festival President

As the TQ Northwestern Film Festival is approaching we've been in close contacts with our local participants and the international participants traveling thousands of miles to attend the conference. When the international students arrive safely to Qatar they will be having a welcoming dinner the day before the conference for them to spend a great time meeting the rest of the participants and introducing themselves.

Day one of the event will take place in the Northwestern University of Qatar, bringing in all local and international participants together to enjoy productive beneficial workshops presented by Northwestern alumnus. The workshops taught will give the filmmakers an insight of the film stages, pre-production, production and post-production. Before leaving to Sealine participants will have lunch at the HBKU Student Centre with Northwestern students. The filmmakers will have a chance to drive to one of the beautiful desert landscapes of Qatar in Sealine and produce a 3 minute film in groups of 4 - 5 using only GoPro cameras focusing on a certain theme in the wonderful desert with the help of the Film Festival executive team who will guide them throughout the activity.

On the morning of the second day, filmmakers will spend their time editing and completing their film in the Northwestern University Qatar Studios with their groups until the afternoon. After having lunch

filmmakers will head to the documentary screening followed by discussion with the director. Next, filmmakers will present their desert filmmaking challenge completed films, the winning group will be chosen by an esteemed panel of executives and directors and rewarded with a grand prize! Participants will rest at their hotel/home before going to a student cultural evening at Souq Waqif introducing another well-known landmark of Qatar, and dinner will be provided.

During the final day of the TQ Northwestern Film Festival a community viewing will take place at the Four Seasons hotel from 10:00AM - 2:00PM featuring all nominated films screened with Q&A panel by student directors. Afterwards participants will head back to their home/hotel and get ready for the Film Festival Gala Dinner Night. The audience will arrive at 6:00PM with their tickets to enter, and there will also be a reception for 30 minutes. At 6:30PM the gates will open for the Gala Dinner and the audience will be seated, and the night begins! During the night the audience will view the 8 Best Picture nominated films and have a chance to vote for the People's Choice Award by choosing from the Best Picture nominations. Also an award remains for the film with most publicity so share your films with family, friends and in social networks to earn more views and most importantly the award. I can't wait for the conference I believe it will be a huge success once again!



THIMUN OMUN Team Reflects on #tq2016

This article is brought to us by Press Member and OMUN member, Dema Abbas .

When I used to talk about adventure, I always included jungles and road trips on my own. When I used to talk about fun, I always included the quietness of being alone on a Saturday night as I typed down some thoughts while listening to music. When I used to talk about ambitions, I always included finding a place I could always call home.

Turned out that this place I wanted to find wasn't located on any sort of map. Instead, it was between the airy laughs and sarcastic jokes exchanged between all the delegates my eyes could catch sight of and my ears could hear as they chatted while they walked in their suits, looking all professional and determined to prove their opponents wrongs, all the way to their committees' rooms.

And about that fun I always desired? What else other than THIMUN could ever bring me something like it? Honestly, nothing could. And here goes why:

THIMUN is an experience that provided me and everyone I knew with other meanings to what life and family is. In only three days, I got to meet a whole lot of people, and they all had one thing in common which was the diversity in who they are. Everywhere I looked, I saw new faces that came from a certain place in the world. Teenagers from literally everywhere filled the building, giving a piece of their minds and cultures to everyone else surrounding them. The joy could be felt in the ambience, especially when it was time for the, rather I say it, marvelously enchanting ceremonies – where it didn't matter who

you sat next to because simply: you'd always have fun with anyone, no matter what country or religion or any symbolic title they held dear to their hearts. In THIMUN, we are all humans who want nothing but to have fun and make friends.

Now, no matter how hard I try, I can never seem to be able to put my words together to explain how utterly mesmerizing the conference was. So I asked some of my friends to help me put our feelings into words, and here's what they had to say about it:

“For me, the trip included so many precious and golden memories. Being a part of a group is always hard when you barely know anybody. But in a way or another, those people found their ways to my heart along with our instructors, so I loved it as it crafted itself in my memories to be forever there. So even though I was an outcast that nobody knew before the trip to Qatar, I really enjoyed every single minute and found everyone seeming to accept me and filled the whole experiment with joy.”

-Waseem Abadi, and of course I had to mentally slap him for saying he felt like an outcast, for he was the life of the party.

“THIMUN was a life changing experience. Being a diplomat outside your country, and getting to know people from all over the globe are things you can't go through like they're some usual ever-day routine, and gladly, I've been enormously lucky to experience all of that with the greatest mates ever.”

–Eman Ghanaïem, who was so much fun to hang around with and laugh along with when she glared playful daggers at our hearts whenever we were being (annoyingly) a group of



complete morons.

Now to make this next quote clearer and easier to understand, the next friend of mine here is always down for knafa, which is an Arab dessert that is simply described as the moral of life for how beautiful it is. So here goes Rima Bdir – my friend – when she described THIMUN:

“It was something close to knafa. It was a lifetime experience. I wouldn't think of missing it if I got another chance especially if it means going back with the same flawless group. I still prefer if you add the knafa reference though – it expresses much more.”

Bashar Zhalka had something on his mind to mention (other than knafa):

“It's pretty difficult to sum up eight of the best days of my life (which is how much time it took us to get to Qatar, participate in the conference and head back home) in a couple of sentences. However, I can say that the new meaning this trip gave to missing certain moments and people exceeded its known limits.”

Haseeb Malik stole the words right out of my mouth as he typed a message to me on what THIMUN means to him, and may I add that he was watching a match while doing so and I don't even know how it turned out to be this perfect:

“THIMUN Qatar has more to offer than just debating. It is a blend of cultures, traditions

and perspectives. THIMUN lays the foundation for youth to express themselves and put their personality to test as well as adopt a diplomatic style of communication. Having attended three consecutive THIMUN, I regard the event to be of great importance in my life and a certain achievement I shall always cherish and be proud of. I met new people; we became a group and a family at the end. Finally that it has come to an end for me, all the memories shall be locked away with great sentiment. To conclude with, THIMUN stands out as the most exceptional medium for youth to test, present and prove themselves.”

And now for my best friend's turn (it took her literally ages to write this):

“THIMUN Qatar will always stay as my top favorite trip of all times! As the years go by it only gets better. It was an honor for me to attend THIMUN Qatar again this year, and to be given the amazing privilege to be with the group I came with and to make new friends there. THIMUN Qatar will always be remembered as the star that shined my way to unforgettable things.” Noor Freg

So really, to anyone out there who is considering attending THIMUN:

Go for it! It's worth the chance and shot. You'd always find your way when you go there. It's a bit nerve wrecking at first, but once you get in the scene, trust me when I tell you that you'd never want to leave.

Recap of Nominations

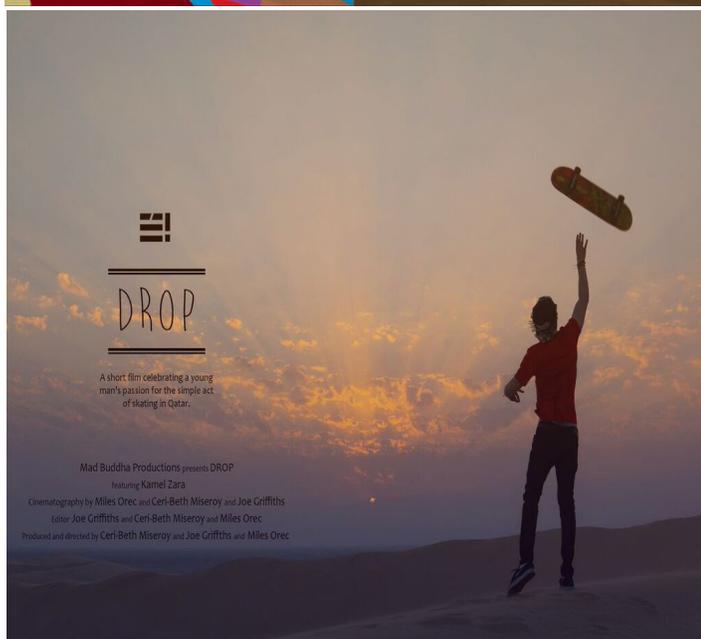
Filmmakers have successfully met the deadline of film submissions at February 10th 2016. All nominated films were judged by a panel of directors and executives from the Northwestern University in Qatar and were split into different categories. The categories are as the following, Best Picture (grand prize winner), Best Cinematography (6 nominations), Best Sound (6 nominations), Best Story (7 nominations), Best Editing (5 nominations), Best National Film (6 nominations), Best Junior Film (3 nominations), Best Poster (5 nominations) and People's Choice Award.

With Best Picture we have 8 nominated wonderful films from local and international filmmakers, the

People's Choice Award will be determined by the votes of the audience after watching the Best Picture nominated films during the Gala Dinner.

All nominated films will be awarded with a prize during the end of the evening even if the filmmaker didn't win the best in category. We look forward to the TQ Northwestern Film Festival Gala Night and witness the great filmmakers winning their deserved awards! All nominated films can be viewed on the film Festival YouTube website at:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLTiLmYOS-wR599aoLw50bFBifBokj98XXm>





QLC 2016
QATAR LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

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