



# THE OLIVE BRANCH

MODEL UNITED NATIONS NEWSLETTER



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## Announcements

• The **Qatar Leadership Conference** is taking place from 15-18 October 2015. Apply to be a QLC Presenter!

[bit.ly/qlc2015](http://bit.ly/qlc2015)

• Best Delegate is Winning London: the **MUN Institute London** takes place 27-31 August 2015.

[bit.ly/munlondon](http://bit.ly/munlondon)

• This month's Olive Branch has new columns! **Student Spotlight, Dear Dassa**, and more to come!

## OMUN Sri Lanka and the Eastern Province MUN Initiative



*By Lisa Martin*

The dust had barely settled on the THIMUN Qatar Conference of 2015 when a student from Qatar Academy's QA Action club sat down at my desk and asked me the following: "Can we

do for our school in Eravur what we did for the Afghan students? To get them prepared for MUN and bring them to Doha?" And with those simple words, the QA Action Club's focus made a dramatic shift, away from fundraising that had

marked five year's worth of effort and led to the building of a purpose-built facility, providing ICT and English classes to the student of Eravur.

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## How Model UN helped Rebecca get a Full Scholarship to Harvard University

*By Laurabeth Goldsmith*

Every year, seniors in high school –and their parents–eagerly await college acceptances letters. This year, Rebecca Hernandez, an MUN Institute Alumni, was thrilled to learn she was accepted to Harvard and

plans to join the Harvard Class of 2019.

"When I saw congratulations I screamed and teared up. It was a very happy moment for me," explained Rebecca.

Rebecca Hernandez, a

senior at IDEA Mission College Preparatory High School in Texas, never knew if she would have the opportunity to attend university outside of her community. Rebecca will be the first in her family to complete her Bachelors Degree.

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# Student Spotlight!



Ola Al Tai  
Grade 11  
Qatar International School  
4 years in MUN

**Favourite MUN Memory:**  
A toss up between winning best delegate in my last conference as a delegate (DCMUN 2014) and getting the position of DSG in the upcoming THIMUN Q conference.

**Favourite dream vacation:**  
Italy!

**Most aggravating thing about school:** This might not be about school per se but more about the way education is run. School limits



Ahmed Saif al Hajari  
Grade 10  
Qatar Academy Doha

**MUN Leadership Role:**  
Head of Junior MUN at Qatar Academy

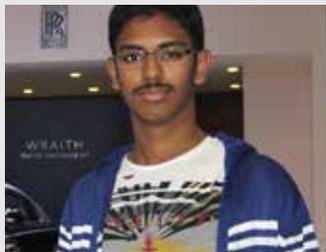
**Words that describe you as a delegate:** Trustworthy, unpredictable, serious

the thinking of great minds. That's aggravating because our generation has brilliant minds which are forced to read textbooks rather than create them.

Should Model UN be more like the real UN? I personally don't think so. The youth of our generation use MUN as a platform for discussion and understanding. One that allows them to be exposed to certain ways of thinking and ideologies they might not be aware of or even agree with. The UN however is said to be centered about creating a better tomorrow for all however, in reality, it is one nation seeking out what's best for its people. If this is implemented in MUN the essence of the whole system is taken away. The depths that our resolutions reach would not be possible if we had the restrictions of the United Nations in our way as delegates.

**Favorite thing to do when you don't have homework?**  
Browse the Internet learn new things.

**Dream Vacation?** Go on a 100 day cruise ship that travels around the world. **Personal MUN goal for the year?** My Personal MUN goal for the year is to grow confidence in the jrmun delegates so that they can be more active during THIMUN, and also to organize a bigger and better MSMUN and hopefully make it open for neighboring countries in the Gulf to send their delegations.



Ganeshkumar Ashokavardhanan (Zealous MUNer)  
Grade 11  
DPS Modern Indian School, Qatar

**Current MUN Leadership Positions:** O-MUN Qatar National Liaison Officer

**Three words that describe you as a delegate:** Aficionado, Diplomatic, Committed  
**Favorite thing to do when you don't have homework:**

Debating at O-MUN and building robots

**Dream vacation:** World Cruise with my family  
**Personal MUN Goal for the year:** Hone my leadership skills by chairing MUN debates.

One major improvement you'd like to see in Model UN: I believe that the Committee Chair should provide a comprehensive and confidential feedback about each delegate's performance at the end of conference. Having an objective evaluation of their strengths and weaknesses will help them improve their communication skills to become better delegates.



Samir  
12th Grade  
Saidall Nasary High School  
Kabul, Afghanistan

**Current MUN Leadership position:** One of the mentors at MUN in Afghanistan

**Favorite Thing to Do:** My favorite thing is to research about the developed countries because I would like to know the major key of their developments. Also I would like to study the world history which also one of my favorite subject at school.

**Comfort Food:** Chilli Rice

**Dream Vacation:** Visiting Burj Khalifa, but I would also like to see the Hamptons in New York  
**Three words that describe me:** Happy, patient and optimistic about everything!  
**Personal MUN goal for this year**

**MUN Goal:** My personal goal for this year is to attend in different MUN organizations and meet with the high authorities that I could talk with them about the MUN in Afghanistan and maybe they could help us and we could improve our MUN through these ways.

# Updates from the Qatar Leadership Conference



By Razan Kalhout, QLC 2015 Secretary-General

It's that time of year again! The fourth annual Qatar Leadership Conference is coming up soon, to be held October 15-18th, 2015.

My executive team, the THIMUN office and our partners at Northwestern are all working hard to bring you yet another successful leadership conference, with inspirational speakers and productive networking opportunities.

QLC is a THIMUN affiliated 3-day conference consisting of a myriad of workshops on a range of different topics. Workshops could be about MUN, Film, organizational and leadership skills, and much more.

In mid April, we began to take applications from presenters wanting to host a workshop at the QLC. If you're interested in applying, follow the link:

<http://qatar.thimun.org/index.php/conferences/schoolsreg>.

We accept students and adults locally and internationally! If you have an idea and you want to share it, apply and show us what you've got to offer!

QLC is a brilliant educational opportunity for all, and more than anything, we just want every single person who enters our brilliant venue - the Qatar National Convention Center - during the conference to leave with something they didn't know the day before.

As a student myself, I know that some of the workshops I've attended during QLC have allowed me to achieve a lot in both my academic and personal life. QLC is the kind of conference that helps you build yourself fundamentally by handing you the leadership hat and letting you pick what outfit to wear it with.

Don't miss out on the QLC and stay tuned for updates regarding participants, presenters, admins, and much more! We're excited to have you!

## Dear Dasa

*The Olive Branch is pleased to introduce its newest column, "Dear Dasa", the 'go to' place for reliable straight talk about Model United Nations. Dasa, a graduating delegate from Qatar International School, will be contributing to the Olive Branch while simultaneously attending university in Canada. Have a question for Dasa, you can email questions to [thimun-qblog@gmail.com](mailto:thimun-qblog@gmail.com) with the subject line "Dear Dasa". We'll run your question, and Dasa's answers, in upcoming editions of the OB!*



**Q: Dear Dasa, what's the most important thing for a delegate to focus on, substance or style?**

A: Dear Delegate, substance and content is definitely a key to win the support of fellow delegates. When you go up to the podium to speak, you want to make sure that you know what you're talking about, and not just plain waffle. Then again, styling yourselves and dressing impeccably is also a must. You wouldn't wanna look like 'that one delegate who totally forgot he had a conference today' (ew!). Dressing well can significantly boost your confidence on and off committee sessions, and trust me, you'll love the feeling when people tell you 'you look fabulous!'... I would know.

**Q: Dear Dasa, Help! I am confused. I was told by my MUN Director that a resolution is one long sentence. How can this be?**

A: Dear delegate, yes, a resolution is a document consisting of one long sentence due to the fact that only one full stop is used for every resolution. However, a resolution isn't any long sentence; it consists of pre-ambulatory clauses (clauses that informs the committee of the background of the issue), and operative clauses (clauses which states solutions on how to solve the problems created by the issue). You might find it useful google searching a sample resolution and how it is formatted. Good luck debating!

**Q: Dear Dasa, what's the best thing to purchase at the QNCC cafeteria?**

A: Dear delegate, my advice to you is that you should not buy anything from the café and instead stop by Mcdonalds or any grocery stores nearby to buy some snacks/ coffee before the conference starts. You'll save tons of money. 25 QR for a sandwich?! Like, really QNCC?!

# Middle School Model United Nations At Qatar: A Huge Success!



By Nour Ahmed

On the 25th of April, Qatar Academy hosted its first annual Middle School Model United Nations conference. The aim and goal of the newly founded conference is to educate the younger generation on MUN and the process of debating in hopes of establishing well rounded and educated future leaders.

The conference was a great success with the participation of students from Doha

College, Mesaieed International School, DPS- Modern School, Awsaj Academy, Qatar Academy, American Community School, Qatar Academy Sidra, Sherborne, Newton International School and Qatar Academy Al Khor, a total of 11 schools.

Although the conference was quite short, time was not an issue. The day started off at 8:30 AM with lobbying between students before the opening ceremony,

which was followed by two rounds of debates and concluded with the closing ceremony.

The Secretary General of MSMUN-Q (as well as the upcoming THIMUN 2016 conference), Adeeda Ahmad believes, "MSMUN-Q brought out the best in the future generation and encouraged them to become global citizens."

Razan Kahlout, the Deputy Secretary General (and this

year's Secretary General of the Qatar Leadership Conference) also stated, "I was more proud when a middle school student approached me at school just to tell me that her MUN experience was amazing – that's when you know you've actually inspired youth. I hope our success is reflected in the growth of Middle School MUN programs all around Qatar next year."

## High School Counselor Reflects on MUN

By Robert Fronk, M.Ed

When I started this blog to describe my observations of the MSMUN conference—I wanted to know what my word count was because I knew the number of superlatives I would use to describe the conference would be vast. To say that I was impressed would be a huge understatement. From my perspective, everything about the event was outstanding. From the student delegates, to student administration, to the student delegate chairs, I felt like I was watching and listening, in many cases to future Presidents, Educators, Doctors, Teachers, CEO's,

Professors, Prime Ministers, Lawyers, Barristers, Judges, and other future leaders of tomorrow.

Clearly, the magnitude, size and scope of such an event does not happen overnight. The organization and efficiency in which the conference was run was first rate. The requirements asked of the delegates in terms of demonstrating respect, sessions starting promptly and on time, professional attire, speaking with time limits and staying on point, could well be used as a model for many professional organizations, and to think this was run by middle and high school students is amazing.



I realize this is all part of the MUN model in terms of training, and how it is run, but to see such young people so knowledgeable, engaged, articulate and respectful of a process was just wonderful to witness.

The issues debated and discussed are real and so it was inspiring to see the participants address these issues in such a mature and informed manner.

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## Dubai International Academy Model UN (DIAMUN) 2015



*By Suhail Mayor, DIAMUN 2015 Deputy Secretary General*

As the tension makes our hearts beat faster, our hands clench into fists and the anxiety rises. We take a step into the conference with high hopes, with fortified dreams of achieving feats that can only be accomplished in these halls.

The seventh annual session Dubai International Academy Model UN (DIAMUN) begins.

With great preliminary success, this year's conference has seen a variety of critically acclaimed committees and positions.

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## Introducing the THIMUN Qatar PR Team



Hello everyone! We are Dhikshitha Gokul and Soyen Ju and we will be the 2015-2016 Public Affairs Coordinators at the THIMUN Qatar Office.

We are delighted to be able to manage the THIMUN Q Blog and other THIMUN Q social media outlets. We are currently working on many exciting projects and material for the THIMUN Q blog and the Olive Branch, and are very excited for everything to fall into place over the next year!

It's lovely to see that so many people love to write for our blog and share their MUN experience. We are sure to be covering all aspects of THIMUN Q, QLC and other THIMUN affiliated conferences!

If you have a story idea, have a conference to promote, or just want more information about how to write for THIMUN Qatar, contact us at [thimunqblog@gmail.com](mailto:thimunqblog@gmail.com).

## Afghan Delegates Off to TASMUN

*By Murtaza Hamra*

My name is Murtaza Hamra and I am from a middle class family in Kabul. I was always looking for an opportunity to go overseas and meet different people from different cultures and different societies. So it was a shocking moment when Mr. Peter Dalglish told me that I am going to have a trip to Taipei, to Taiwan for the TASMUN (Taipei American School of Model United

Nations) conference.

At first I thought this conference will be easy but when I researched about MUN conferences, it was completely different than I expected. At first it was difficult for me to get ready for the TASMUN, because I didn't know what are opening speech, policy statement and resolution.

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# Above and Beyond 2015: Taipei American School Model UN (TASMUN)



By Justin Rhee, TASMUN Co-Secretary General

Situated in a city famous for being both the “hipster” capital of Asia and a food-lover’s ultimate paradise, Taipei American School Model United Nations (TASMUN) is a conference that offers an expansive menu of experiences to suit every palate.

The theme for this year’s conference is Transforming

Our World Beyond 2015. Inspired by the expiration of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, TASMUN delegates will debate the most pressing topics the global community faces in the near future.

TASMUN, a THIMUN-recognized junior conference (Grades 7-10), comprises 14 committees (including an Advisory Panel, International Court of Justice, and an International Security Sum-

mit), and yet this conference also allows participants to extend themselves beyond the typical conference experience by providing novel opportunities on a yearly basis.

The TASMUN Secretariat for 2015 has made the unique decision to implement UN-4MUN procedure in two of its committees. This is a new framework for Model UN debate that seeks to more closely emulate the real United Nations General Assembly.

Committees following this procedure will strive to adopt all resolutions by consensus, which means that delegates will be required to negotiate and refine a draft resolution through both formal and informal sessions until no disagreements remain. While the committee’s success will rely upon the experience and maturity of all those participating, the goal is that this new procedure will foster an environment of cooperation

and inclusive decision-making.

TASMUN will also take bolder steps this year to go beyond conference debate to make a positive difference in the local and global community – indeed, to change lives.

*(Continued on page 10)*



## DPS Modern Indian School to launch OMUN Qatar

By Ganeshkumar Ashokavardhanan

Ms. Lisa Martin, the head of THIMUN Qatar and founder of the Online Model United Nations (OMUN) visited DPS Modern Indian School on 28th of April ‘15 to have an interactive session with the passionate MUN delegates of the school. She shared her views on how one must participate in MUN and how students can make the best out of it.

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# QA Sidra makes MUN Debut!



*Qatar Academy Sidra made their Model United Nation's debut at the MS-MUN-Q conference on April 25th. We asked these first time delegates what they thought of the experience, what they learned, and what they feel their accomplishments were.*

## **What were the most enjoyable parts of the conference?**

The most enjoyable part was meeting the group members and working together on the resolution. (Leena)

The most enjoyable parts of the MUN conference were probably the times when your resolution passed or you convinced someone to vote for your resolution. (Jewel)

The pizza and break times. (Sarah)

## **What were the most challenging parts of the whole experience?**

To talk in front of everyone on microphone and making allies with other countries. Also not using personal pronouns is hard (Sarah)

The most challenging part would probably be when you had to speak in front of so many people and convince them. (Jewel)

The most challenging parts were if you made an amendment that didn't seem popular you sort of had to fight for it to get passed or in my case it didn't. (Sundus)

## **Would you do MUN again and why?**

I would go to MUN again and invite somebody else to MUN because it teaches you how to debate which could become in handy also it teaches you about global problems which can be very helpful and educational to learn how to solve them. (Sarah)

I would do MUN and encourage others to do it because it really increased my confidence after I gave my opening speech. Now know how MUN works, and I can participate more in next year's conference. (Sapheya)

I think a lot of people should join MUN because it's a great learning experi-

ence and there are so many committees. You could choose whatever sparks your interest. (Jewel) Did you learn anything about yourself that surprised you?

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## **Middle School MUN: A Director's Reflection**

*By Fatima El-Madhi, the MUN Director at Mesaieed International School in Qatar*

MISMUN's and THIMUN's student leadership teams are awesome. All great achievements start with a simple idea, and this year's inaugural Middle School Model United Nations- Qatar was no exception.

Lisa Martin, the Head of THIMUN Qatar, had a conversation with Adeeba Ahmed, a 16 year old

girl from Qatar Academy, and mentioned that some schools are starting Middle School programs, and, hey-wouldn't it be great if there could be a conference?

Six months later, Adeeba had recruited Mesaieed's very own MISMUN Student Officer Johan Bambino in year 10 to be president of the Environment Commission and various other presidents and deputies to run the other 5 committee rooms.

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*(Continued from page 1, "O-MUN Sri Lanka and The Eastern Province Model UN Initiative")*

This new phase of community involvement in this city in eastern Sri Lanka was part of the focus of this year's trip to Eravur, the QA Action team's annual week long service trip.

They left behind the foundation for a strong collaborative program. In some respects it will model the THIMUN Qatar-Afghanistan Initiative, prepping students online via Google Docs, Skype and ultimately Blackboard Collaborate for full online debating.

Unique to this initiative is Qatar Academy's long-standing commitment to EEDI, the Eravur Education Development Institute, and the connections it already holds within the community. It was also decided to invite Eastern International College to participate in this project, thereby uniting students from three cities, Doha, Eravur and Batticaloa, Sri Lanka, in the quest to prepare for the THIMUN Qatar conference.

Taking advantage of their time in Eravur, QA students ran two workshops, one at EEDI and the other at EIC, using Best Delegate's popular Fruits and Vegetable's activity. This helped stu-

dents gauge confidence and English levels, as well as provide a brief introduction into the Model UN process. EIC students were briefly introduced to the OMUN platform after a school wide assembly inaugurating the OMUN Sri Lanka program.

At the leadership level, EEDI and EIC affirmed their desire and commitment to this collaborative program. Both schools are equipped with excellent computer facilities, which will allow participants to connect online and receive training and coaching from their mentors based in Doha.

As Qatar Academy moves its investment away from

buildings and into student collaborative projects, this diverse and pioneering group of students from the Eastern Province will engage and connect with their peers from around the world. While the students have a lot to learn in their journey to become new delegates, even more exciting will be the glimpse into the lives of Sri Lankan students that the rest of the world will have. Twenty first century collaborative engagement is a two way street, and the road to THIMUN Qatar will be one filled with many wonderful surprises. The magic of THIMUN Qatar is sure to continue at the 2016 conference!



*(Continued from page 4, "High School Counselor Reflects on MUN")*

From my vantage point, MUN allows students to grow personally, educationally, academically and perhaps stretch outside of their comfort zone. As a senior school counselor working with college bound students, I have encountered numerous students who have indicated that as a result of participating in MUN, it helped improve their self-esteem, public speaking, confidence, leadership capability, as well as overcoming their shyness. After observing this conference, I can see why.

This was my first MUN conference, and while it was just a day long conference, I walked away thoroughly and totally impressed. I most definitely applaud, admire and congratulate all those who participated. It was obvious that weeks and months went into the planning and preparation.

*Robert Fronk is a college and academic counselor at Qatar Academy Doha. He recently attended the MSMUN-Q conference and witnessed a student run MUN event first hand. He shares his thoughts, from a counselor's perspective, on the importance and power of MUN for the students he works with.*

*(Continued from page 5, "Afghan Delegates Off to TASMUN")*

But my friend Samir Khairzada also my partner for the TASMUN, who got an opportunity to attend THIMUN in Qatar in Feb 2015, He really helped me to get ready for the TASMUN And if he wasn't then I was nothing so I am grateful from my friend Samir Khairzada. It's really a life changing opportunity for me and my family, now I can see my future so clearly. I am super excited about Taiwan, it's my first trip to the abroad, and yes this trip will be completely changing my life.

Thanks from the Model United Nations for providing such conferences to the international students to prove to the world that we can also bring some changes. And share our thoughts to improve the world, I am very excited because I had always seen presidents and other high authorities in conferences but never experienced it in real, because I didn't attend any other conference, but now this conference is going to teach me lots of things. I am a little bit nervous also because it's my first trip and first conference and at the same time I am very excited also coz I am going to give my best at the conference and rock the stage.



*(Continued from page 1, "How Model UN Helped Rebecca Get a Full Scholarship to Harvard")*

Rebecca was born in Veracruz, Mexico. She spent her childhood growing up in the Rio Grande Valley region of Texas. For many years Rebecca did not have the opportunity to travel outside of Texas. This changed for Rebecca in High School.

**"Model UN opened a door for me to explore new places"**

Rebecca joined the Model UN Team her sophomore year of High School and began training with the team. During her junior year Rebecca traveled to Georgetown's NAIMUN Conference with her Model UN Team. After her junior year Rebecca attended the Model United Nations Institute by Best Delegate at Georgetown University.

**"At first I was timid, but the Model UN Institute taught me to engage the audience"**

At the MUN Institute, Rebecca participated in public speaking, negotiation, and

international relations lessons. She also learned to represent different countries during interactive simulations on topics ranging from the use of Child Soldiers in war to the use of Drones.

While at the program, Rebecca's skills in Model UN improved as well as her confidence. During the first speaking exercise Rebecca was shy and quiet, but by the end of the week she spoke with confidence about complex international issues.

**"Model UN has helped me to be a better leader in my school"**

Rebecca currently serves as the Vice President of her Model UN Team. Rebecca utilizes the skills she learned at the MUN Institute and focuses on training new delegates and "teaching them the skills necessary to succeed in Model UN." Rebecca explained how this year one of the highlights for her was watching delegates she helped to train compete at Georgetown's NAIMUN conference.

When she is not busy with

the Model United Nations Team, Rebecca is competing in Varsity Soccer, participating in the National Junior Honor Society, and serving as Class President.

**Running for Class President: "I had to give a speech in front of all of the 12th grade"**

When Rebecca returned from the MUN Institute she ran for senior class president. Rebecca said that speaking in front of everyone, "made me nervous, but I learned a lot from the summer program, because I knew exactly where to stand, how to use my hands, and how to look at the audience." Rebecca was elected as class president and credits her ability to speak in front of other students to her time in Model UN and at the MUN Institute.

**"I knew how to convey my ideas during interviews"**

Like many college seniors Rebecca had interviews as part of the college admissions process including with Georgetown and Harvard.

Rebecca said that, "I learned a lot from the MUN Institute! I know how to present myself in front of other people and how to engage the audience even in an interview." Rebecca also explained how the MUN Institute exposed her to a variety of perspectives and a diverse group of students. Rebecca feels that this helped her to relate to her interviewers in a more meaningful way.

**"I want to start a program for immigrants"**

Rebecca plans to study Mathematics at Harvard. She then hopes to go to graduate school and study education. One day Rebecca hopes to start a program for immigrants to help provide them with opportunities to succeed.

Rebecca is one of the many incredibly successful MUN Institute alumni.

MUN institute alumni this year were accepted to Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Georgetown, Columbia, Brown, West Point and more!



*(Continued from page 6, "DPS Modern Indian School to launch OMUN Qatar")*

She narrated her journey of creating OMUN and the various challenges that she faced in this process. She also advised the students not to think of MUN as a competition but as an enlightening journey filled with collaboration, learning and inclusiveness. OMUN and THIMUN are at the forefronts of carrying these ideals forward but she also emphasized the importance

for every member of the audience to follow and propagate these ideals.

OMUN has been connecting people all over the world and countless people have benefitted from. The mission of OMUN is to empower students all over the world to act as leaders and bridge builders, to learn and connect with individuals different from themselves and to network on a global scale. She advised them to collaborate with others while quenching one's zeal

for finding solutions to the world's problems.

She acknowledged the immense contribution of Ms. Marie Luthra, the DPS MUN Director for encouraging the students to participate actively in MUN. She explained how the MUN aficionados of DPS MIS can work together to develop a DPS MIS OMUN program to benefit all students of the school. She also affirmed that this program would eventually lead to the creation of a large OMUN

Qatar Program. The benefits of this program are multifarious, each of which will hone various aspects of the students' skills.

Finally, she gave the students valuable advice to become better leaders by assuming the role of connectors. By connecting people to develop ideas, one becomes a leader worth following. The audience felt enthusiastic, energized and inspired to be a part and parcel of the OMUN Qatar program.

*(Continued from page 7, "QA Sidra makes MUN Debut!")*

I discovered that after I spoke on the podium the first time and got over it, I was actually very calm and composed in public speaking, while I initially thought that I would make a big mess of myself on stage. (Sundus)

I'm usually talkative; believe it or not but when it came to speaking in front of people I was terrified. (Leena)

I have the capability of talking in front of everyone on the microphone (Sarah)

**Do you feel you have grown or changed as a result?**

Yes I definitely felt like I grew and became more knowledgeable. It made me a lot more confident in myself. (Jewel.)

I feel I have become a little (only a LITTLE) more confident in speaking in public. (Sapheya)

**What do you need to work on for the future?**

I think I need to work on listening skills, and I want to increase my knowledge on world organizations because they will inevitably come up in the debates. (Sapheya)

I probably need to try to learn how to have confidence (like I've said a million times) because it's a huge skill that everyone will need in the future. (Leena)

Thinking about the other person's position before responding (Sundus)

*Congratulations to the QA Sidra team for doing such an outstanding job at their first Middle School conference. We look forward to having more Sidra student's involved in the future.*



*(Continued from page 6, "Above and Beyond 2015: Taipei American School Model UN")*

TASMUN will be hosting a special delegation of three students from Afghanistan through a coordinated effort between the NGO Skateistan, UN-Habitat in Kabul, and members of the Taipei American School community. These special guests will provide the keynote address this year, and fundraising initiatives will complement this unique opportunity for reciprocal enrichment and intercultural understanding.

properly implementing the next-generation Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), this year's conference will encourage participants to address issues across all six core-categories of the SDGs – including justice, partnership, dignity, people, the planet, and prosperity.

Thus, TASMUN 2015 will serve up a combination of new consensus-oriented committees and special guests who will bring a compelling perspective to the issues, and in this way the leadership team intends to continue to educate, inform, and encourage the leaders of tomorrow.

With particular emphasis on

*(Continued from page 7, "Middle School MUN: A Director's Reflection")*

MISMUN club had signed up 14 delegates, all trained by MISMUN's Head of KS3 Emma Owusu in year 12, and we were heading to Qatar Academy at 7am on a Saturday morning very bemused at all the excitement-clutching resolutions, policy statements, opening speeches and ready to rumble.

Year 7s, 8s and 9s all turned up excited, some came with a big bundle of nerves that took a while to unload and some walked in with a trademark the-devil-may-care-but-I-surely-don't attitude that I have come to expect in accomplished MUNers, but not from fresh young Middle School students!

Their audacity was infectious! They were here to persuade people that they had excellent ideas and they

*(Continued from page 5, "Dubai International Academic MUN")*

These ranged from panelists in the Nuclear Security Council (NSS) to the introduction of two new committees: Special Conference on International Migration (SPIM) and a local based committee centered around UAE, known as the Federal National Council (FNC).

With a record 1000 participant body, DIAMUN has seen attendances from 53 schools from 4 different continents. For a lot of avid MUN fanatics, DIAMUN is an escape from the daily average lives that they all have become so used to. The grueling, yet educational three days with intense debate on a variety of international

were about to make changes in international law that, if effected, would shock the world.

We watched Middle School delegates from across Qatar debate vital issues; some argued that nuclear weapons should be dismantled instantly and that the enriched nuclear material be reused as clean sources of energy.

This is typically leftist UN thinking, and that delegate will go far in a diplomatic career. Some offered everyone nuclear weapons effectively creating a worldwide stalemate, however they inserted a proviso that hospital care should also be strengthened worldwide 'just in case'.

On deglamourising violent media- one delegate argued that the media is simply too big to control in today's world, and that we should

issues demand immediate attention and create long lasting friendships.

The beauty about this conference is the number of skills, both gained and offered. Delegates, Student Officers and the Executive Team members alike are all able to gain life skills on a learning curve that they can take on with them in the future. Here at DIAMUN, the aspects of internationalism, leadership, social and global networking and opportunities to hone public speaking and debate skills are showcased.

Whether it was the question of protecting and securing a life for international migrants or evaluating the UAE's 2030 Carbon Emission Reduction Plan,

just give in to the chaos and trust that the natural short attention span of children won't allow them to dwell for a long time over scenes of graphic violence and nudity, whilst others argued, passionately, for all parents to remove all PCs, games consoles and TVs from homes and for children to be 'Off-Grid' until they show that they are responsible enough to be exposed to media. Kim Jong Il would be proud of this delegate. All the debates in all 6 committee rooms were interesting, well-argued and

left me swollen with hope for the future and with pride at how well delegates had performed. In every room, delegates were leading, arguing, delegating, creating alliances and delivering impassioned oratory, and I am incredibly proud of each and every one of them. I hope you enjoy the pictures of all of them dressed to the 9s and rest assured that we should all keep an eye on these superstars of the future.

Watch this space!



the conference attendees and their delegations were steadfast and strong in their approach. Making sure to counteract ever-possible root cause of the problem and come up with comprehensive and cohesive solutions that were sustainable in the long term, many excelled throughout the set form of debate.

A highlight though, was the merged committee crisis between the NSS and Security Council (SC) to form a committee known as the NSC (Nuclear Security Council) which took upon itself to overlook the impending threat from a hypothetical problem of Iran having attained nuclear and uranium stockpiles threatening to bomb US cities.

Looking back at what DIAMUN started as in 2009, we have come a long way since. The growth and level of quality each year has heightened with numbers peaking over each the last.

This DIAMUN was an absolute success, a monument to Innoventures celebrating their 10-year anniversary. We only hope to continue and provide for this unique experience to each and every of our delegates in the coming years as well as see improvement in terms of the conference. It was an absolute pleasure to be a part of this wonderful experience and with hopes high, look forward to the continuity of this progress next year.



### JoMUN XIII CONFERENCE 17 - 20 Sept 2015



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