



THE OLIVE BRANCH

MODEL UNITED NATIONS NEWSLETTER



Inside this Edition: Page 5: Film Institute Update Page 6: Join Press! Page 9: Humans of THIMUN Qatar

Announcements

•OMUN Debates:

-(Feb 20)
Environment
Commission:
Measures to re-
duce food waste
in MEDCs

-(Feb 27)
Advisory Panel:
Question of re-
ducing domestic
(social, political)
tensions with-
in the ASEAN
countries

•Find out
5 reasons you
should join the
Press Staff!
(Page 6)

•Follow the
International
School of Lon-
don MUN on
Instagram @
"ISLQMUN"

TQ's Secretary General Looks Back



By Aadeba Ahmed

It's been nearly two weeks since the end of THIMUN Qatar 2016. Applications for next year's executive team have already started pouring in, and it seems that people have moved on, already gearing towards their next conference, preparing for bigger, and better things.

THIMUN Qatar 2016 was incredible - for the first time delegate, an experience that they will never forget, full of fast paced debate and eloquent resolutions that seem intimidating to even look at. And for returning participants, I've

been told by many that they've never seen a conference like this before, and hope to come back next year. And for many more, like me, this was their last conference. After several years of Model United Nations, our high school career comes to a close. It's been surreal: for all the years you spend figuring out the right words and working around the infuriating intricacies of parliamentary language, it's difficult to say just how this feels.

Looking back, there's nothing I would change. Not my blunders at my first conference, where I stumbled



over my words trying to promote a resolution that was honestly... really bad, to the international trips, where classmates and I would get lost at conferences so large we couldn't even find our way back to our committee rooms.

Each and every memory serves its purpose, and with every bad one, there are countless that are a thousand times better and

have made Model UN unforgettable. I'm thankful for every opportunity that I've been given, and though it's hard, it's time many seniors, myself included, close this chapter.

Though, who knows? Maybe one day we'll all get another taste of MUN - maybe as a delegate, maybe as a director.

My ICJ Experience

By Soomin Chung

For 2016 THIMUN, I decided to deviate from my usual pattern of participating as a regular delegate and instead applied as an advocate for Marshall Islands in the International Court of Justice. Serving as a witness in THIMUN 2015 for my dear friend, I was overwhelmed and also impressed with the intensity of the court and the passion with which the advocates applied themselves with. The case was about Marshall Islands suing India to halt nuclear arms development and to disarm their arsenal. As I was always interested in pursuing law as a career, I was very excited to take on the role of representing the minority (Marshall Islands), a tiny island afflicted with nuclear testing in the 1950s by the U.S. against the nuclear power India.

The preparation process was not the most ideal. As IB diploma

students stuck in the finals week, the team and I lamented the lack of time we had to file in three different legal documents. Despite inconveniences, we were able to compile a succinct but substantial evidence packet that later helped articulate our arguments. With the help from the experienced team of judges and heads of the court, we successfully drafted a stipulation, evidence packet and a memorial which we based our arguments upon.

Since day 1, the heated debate between the applicants and defendants manifested the determination and zeal for victory. What stuck out to me the most was definitely the intense cross examination that resulted in one crying witness and the other one shouting at me after admitting that India is violating the international customary law.

Despite our moral pleas and attempt to convince the court that

India is violating an international law that all member states are bound by, the court has come to the decision to allow India to maintain the nuclear arsenal whilst halting their nuclear arms development.

Although we went in with the determination to “crush” the opponent, over the course of three days of hearing their argument, we were able to come to terms with the negotiations made by the court. It was an enlightening experience of considering the opposition’s perspective in order to strengthen my own argument.

At the end of the day, what remains the most significant in my memory is not the unsatisfying verdict, but it is the dynamics of the intellectual debate that I was a part of and my teammates that stood up for each other thereby completing the whole scheme that makes this experience

precious.

I am so thankful to have been a part of this prestigious, dynamic forum of ICJ during my high school experience. It not only broadened by perspective on the international affairs but also revitalized my interest for speaking on behalf on the minority and legally seeking justice.

I would like to thank Ahmed El Bashir and Kimberly Stiegler, my wonderful teammates that worked in unison to stand our ground. I applaud the Defendants’ team from Haya International Academy for their resilience and passion. Lastly, I would like to thank all judges, register, vice president and Madame President for their undivided attention and engagement with our debate to pass a fair jurisdiction. This has been an unforgettable experience.



تألق الشباب في لجنة اللغة العربية



حقق مؤتمر نموذج الامم المتحدة باللغة العربية تميزا ملحوظا خلال العامين السابق والحالي فلقد قام وفود الطلاب المشاركون في المؤتمر بمناقشة العديد من القضايا المتعلقة بشئون المنطقة العربية على وجه الخصوص ودول العالم على وجه العموم .

تم فتح باب النقاش على مدار ثلاثة ايام لعدد أربعة قضايا بمشاركة 28 وفد من دول مختلفه ، وقد أثارته قضية مكافحة جميع اشكال التعصب الديني حول العالم الأهتمام الأكبر من النقاش حتى يتم الوصول الى القرار المثالي بعد عمل التعديلات اللازمة لكل الحلول المقدمة من أعضاء الوفود .

ولقد حققت الكلمة التي قام بدلاؤها السيد ممثل السفارة الأمريكية بقطر نجاحا مميذا حيث قام بالتحدث عن قضية الإرهاب العالمي وقام اعضاء الوفد بالقاء العديد من الأسئلة مما أثار النقاش والحوار وقد كان ممتعا أن ترى وفودنا الشباب يتناقشون بعمق حول هذه القضية الخطيرة في مجتمعنا الحالي .

لقد تم التصويت لعدد ستة قرارات تم نجاح خمسة منهم حيث أن هذه القرارات كانت متكاملة من حيث طريقه مناقشة القضية والحلول المقترحة على سبيل المثال قام كل من ممثل دولة فلسطين ودوله تونس بالتناوب بالقاء الحوار والقاء الأسئلة مما كان صعبا على رؤساء اللجنة تسجيل كل النقاط لكثرةها ، كما قام مندوب جنوب السودان بالقاء أسئلة عديدة كانت صعبة للغاية وتمتع بالذكاء العالي وقد اضافت تعديلات ممثل دولة الإمارات الى كل القضايا تألقا ملحوظا وقد تأثر الحضور بالهجة الحادة لممثلين الولايات المتحدة الأمريكية وسوريا وقد تمتع وفد جزر القمر بالرفق الطاغية حيث قام بالقاء كلمة مميزة عن نبذ العنف حول العالم وإقرار السلام .

لقد قضى الوفود المشاركة وقتا ممتعا حيث تمتع جميع اعضاء الوفود بالروح المتألقة والرغبة الشديدة لنجاح هذه المؤتمر فما أثير من قضايا كانت تشغل تفكيرهم ويودون الوصول الى رؤيه حقيقه لما يدور حولهم بالإضافة الى قيامهم بعقد جلسات ترفيهية لمناقشة مواضيع خفيفة تساعد على تنشيط العقل واثاره روح المرح والفكاهه بينهم بالإضافة الى عقد جلسة خاصة للتعرف على طبيعة الدول التي يعيشون فيها وكيف نشأتهم مما وولد لديهم روح الود والألفة .

في نهايه المؤتمر قام بعض الوفود بإدلاء رأيه عن المؤتمر وهي كالتالي :

لقد كان مؤتمر اللغة العربية مؤتمر فعال للغاية ،حيث انه كان في كامل نشاطه الحيوي،وهذا السبب يعود الى رؤساء اللجنة الذين كانوا قادة شبابية بالإضافة الى كونهم كالأخوة فان العلاقة بينهم كانت قوية مما ساعدنا على التأقلم الجيد معهم وهذا من الجانب الشكلي

الجانب الاخر هو الجانب العملي وهو أنهم ادرن هذا المؤتمر بطريقة خيالية حيث شعر المندوب بانهم مندوب كبير

واوجه كامل شكري للرؤساء على كونهم رائعين وطيبين ما جعل هذا المؤتمر اجمل ما يكون .

فادي قعدان - مندوب تونس

جاء حلمي الحقيقي مع تجربتي في ثاين قطر وتجاوز أي ما يمكن ان اتوقعه. أتذكر أستاذنا عندما قال لي انني تم اختياري لكون جزءا من اللجنة العربية في ثاين. وافقت و كنت مستعدة لاكتشاف جانب جديد للمؤتمر، واعتقاد أنه سيكون تجربة مختلفة. كنت على حق. من كل ما كنت قد شاركت فيه في حياتي، ويمكنني أن أقول بسهولة أن ثاين العربية هي أكثر تجربة خاصة و لا تنسى. في سن المراهقة وباعتبار أن اللغة العربية لغتي الأم، وأنا في الحقيقة لم أفهم أهمية اللغة العربية ،

ولكن بعد سماع المندوبين يتحدثون بحماس وبشكل متعمد حول القضايا المطروحة، وبعد الاستماع إلى الطريقة في كل كلمة ينطق في لغتنا كانت مختلفة، وأنا أدرك أن اللغة العربية هي اللغة الأكثر رائعة وجميلة. لجننتنا قد لا تكون أكبر واحدة في كل شيء، ولكن هذا ما جعلها خاصة. التقارب الذي تم إنشاؤه بين المندوبين، ورؤساء، والمدبرين، والروابط التي كانت مشتركة، وخلق أجواء ودية رحيمة والتفاهم الذي جعلني شخصا أشعر أكثر راحة واسترخاء .

دانا عواد - مندوبة فرنسا



اود ان اشكر جميع اعضاء هذه اللجنة الرائعة التي جعلت تجربتي في ثاين تجربة لا مثيل لها. وبرأيي ورأي الجميع ان لجننتنا كانت افضل، امرح وانجح لجنة في ثاين .

محمد دهاش - مندوب جنوب السودان

شارك بالجنة العربية مندوبين من المدارس المستقلة بدوله قطر حيث قام المشاركون بالتفاعل مع القضايا المثارة وبذل الجهد لنجاح المؤتمر وقد ابداوا سعادته غامرة لمشاركتهم في هذه اللجنة

لقد كان فخرا لي أن أكون رئيسة لتلك اللجنة حيث أن جميع المشاركين بها كانوا متألقيين جدا فلقد قام كل ممثل بألقاء أكثر من كلمة وألقاء العديد من الأسئلة وتمتعوا بالذكاء الطاغى مما يبشر لهم بمستقبل باهر وأن يكونوا قادة متميزين في المستقبل وهذه تجربته مثيره جدا لي ولجميع المشاركين حيث خرجنا من هذه اللجنة برؤيه واضحه وخطا ثابتة لتحقيق مستقبل ناجح .

سلمى حسن - رئيسة الجنه الاقليمية على الشرق الاوسط و شمال افريقيا

The Arabic committee at THIMUN Qatar bred immense success. Delegates formed resolutions and debated them over three days. The committee welcomed Mr. Ryan Gilha as its sessional speaker in a session in which he answered many questions brought up by the committee room. The committee passed 5 complete resolutions; debates were very fierce and involved a great deal of humor especially from the delegates of Palestine and Tunisia. The Delegates were asked for their opinions after the conference, they all admitted to having the best time of their lives during these days and they learned new skills as well as made new friends for life, this was evident as every single delegate rose to the podium to speak more than once. I am incredibly proud to have been president of this lively and truly special committee and hope for its success in future years!



International School of London Model United Nations

*Dana Al-Rumaihi – Head of ISLQ MUN Press,
Darpana Vellanki – ISLQ MUN Chief Editor*

International School of London Qatar has run several internal conferences that concluded successfully in preparing delegates for future conferences. The conferences have ensured that delegates are well familiar with MUN procedures and appropriate language. The latest internal conference took place on the 21st and 22nd of January, with two committees: Human Rights Commission (HRC) & Security Council (SC). HRC debated about LGBT Rights and Internet Privacy in the technologically globalized 21st century, while, SC debated about the situation in Yemen and the China Sea. Both debates resulted in the production of correctly formatted and argumentative resolutions that led to fruitful debates in the committee sessions. ISLQ MUN Secretary General, Frederico Belohuby, reflected, “due to the great scholastic outcomes of MUN, ISLQ wishes and values to keep MUN at a diplomatic level and strives in its efforts to initiate ISLQ MUN’s annual conferences.”

the Secretary General, ISLQ is hosting its first local conference on the 24th and 25th of March in the school’s campus. The conference is going to host several schools from around the country and welcome delegates to explore the conference’s theme of “A Changing World: Technology & Globalization”. With over six different committees including the Human Rights Commission, Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), and several General Assemblies (GA), delegates will have the opportunity to enhance their diplomatic communication skills and construct arguments expressing their country’s views on contemporary global issues. Debates will revolve around the issues of legal barriers in the workforce, the promotion of regional trade, and issues associated with cyber security, among others.

ISLQ MUN conferences aim to develop critical thinking by sparking debates on issues in our current day. We are looking forward to welcoming the delegates in March and hope to see an amalgam of old and new faces in the conference. In the meantime, find us on Facebook: ISLQ MUN; and Instagram: @ISLQ-MUN.



Film Institute a Great Success

By Maryam Al Khalifa, Film Institute President

The THIMUN Qatar 2016 Film Institute marked a great success in the conference. Participants have worked cooperatively in producing high quality films. They had a chance to meet new people and even work with them for their productions. Film making teams were made up of three students, each from a different school, who had to work collaboratively to produce their film submission.

Student officers assisted the group members as they planned, filmed and edited their work. Many ideas were shared on ways to creatively approach their films and include their topics to link back to Peacekeeping & Peace Building, the theme of this year's conference. The majority of the participants took advantage of this opportunity to enhance their filmmaking skills

and broaden their knowledge of cinematic arts. One selected film was viewed at the closing ceremony. All films will be posted soon on our Youtube channel.

As the THIMUN Qatar Northwestern Film Festival submission deadline approached, many of the Institute participants were anxious about what they should produce and how. However, at the end of the conference they were not only confident but enthusiastic and dedicated to make a film festival submission. I believe this year's institute was truly a success due to the effort put in and a wonderful outcome in the making. The Institute not only exhibited a glimpse of what is expected for a Film Festival submission but also taught them about the filmmaking experience, issues faced and the obstacles to overcome. Next year will definitely be even better with a greater amount of participants joining each year.



A director's view from Taiwan

By Jessica De la O, MUN Director International Bilingual School Hsinchu

JrOnline United Nations has been an incredible opportunity for my middle school students, grades 6-8, to participate in Model United Nations' debates with students from around the world. The International Bilingual School Hsinchu—Science Park has been sending young delegates to jrO-MUN debates for the past two years and as a result I've seen interest and participation in our middle school MUN club

increase dramatically.

Few opportunities in Taiwan exist for middle school students to participate in face-to-face MUN conferences and coming from a public school, most of my students don't have the means to travel to international conferences off the island. While searching for online debate opportunities for my students, I found jrO-MUN by chance one day. Upon further exploration of the jrO-MUN website, I was delighted to learn that the program is absolutely FREE for

students and schools!

The high school student organizers of the jrO-MUN program do a great job of guiding students through the multi-step process of preparing for debates via the educational network, Edmodo.com. Prior to the actual debate, student organizers post reminders, tips and advise for middle school delegates via the jrO-MUN Edmodo group. The Edmodo group has given my students a unique opportunity to interact and work collaboratively with other

deletes from schools in the U.S, India, and Afghanistan just to name a few. The group's organizers are friendly and run a well-structured program, which helps relieve much of the burden from MUN directors, as they do the majority of the work. Based on my positive experience with jrO-MUN, I would highly encourage any curious MUN directors to get their students involved and discover benefits of jrO-MUN on your Middle School MUN program.

How to relate to your chair



By: Emma Owusu Darkwa,
THIMUN Qatar Press Reporter

Is she human?

He doesn't even smile. Like that was funny and he didn't even crack a little!

They must be like debate jedis. They're all-knowing. They see everything. Is he looking at me? OMG, I must be doing something wrong.

Being new to a conference and trying to relate to your chair can be difficult. They can look cold, steely, and unapproachable, despite their young age. We get it, and we've been there too, so we've put together a guide to help you out.

1. Be an active listener.

Chairs hate it when they feel like they don't have your full attention, especially when they're talking to a large group of people. Remember, they're supposedly in charge, so it hurts their egos when you don't help maintain that illusion. Instead of worrying about what you're going to say next, during your opening speech or debate, pay attention and listen to what he/she says. Good listening skills help you understand and anticipate your chair's needs, which in turn will make them appreciate you more. Have a notepad handy when your chair gives you directions. Doing so will enable you to retain more of what they say.

2. It's Always the Chair's Fault (Under-communication)

Wanna know why your chair is having a break down? They're suffering from under-communication. Some chairs believe that the delegates already know more than they do, or they believe that there is certain information that the delegates don't need to, or don't want to,

know. This is what the chair believes, but as a delegate it is your duty to ask them these little questions. Psychologists call this tendency assumption, but for our purposes, we're just going to call it read-my-mind syndrome. You just can't read minds, and that's not your fault. It's theirs.

3. Stop wasting unnecessary time.

Let's get this straight—your chair has more responsibilities than you. That's life, and you know what that means? That means their time is valuable. Pay attention to their schedule and don't try to communicate when they are under a deadline, or are dealing with something urgent. You know how annoying it can be when you get stressed and someone wants something from you? This is the chair's life. All the time. If what you have to say is critical to the GA, be succinct and to the point. If you want to discuss your resolution objectives, something that's on your mind, or need help, ask them to talk to you privately when they aren't so busy. The last thing you want to do is hover while they feel like the weight of the world is on their shoulders. Just ask and then go away, and become one less thing they have to worry about.

Here's what it comes down to: your chair has a tremendous amount of influence over the entire assembly. They can make the committee exciting and something to look forward to, or they can make it something you dread being apart of. In order to thrive and not just survive in your committee, keep these in mind the next time you find yourself wondering if your chair is actually human.

5 Reasons to go Press!



By Kylie Barnstead, Nivarthana Epalawatta and Shubhangi Kumari, THIMUN Qatar 2016 Press Staff

The Press Team is the small, indefatigable team that churns conference issues while you amble about in your free lobbying time. Being a part of the press team is equivalent to camping: there's versatility in your actions, hard work in your endeavors and scrumptious food on your table. Read on to know the adventure (and feel a little sad to know what you're missing out on):

1. We have the power!

Press is POWERFUL – thanks to the press, there is a written record of the many happy moments of THIMUN! Press papers also record your “burning” and “owning” statements and the impact you make. Our paparazzi team captures the committee in action and, gets its own perks from delegates who yearn for Facebook Profile pictures. Sometimes we also have a fun time guffawing over the embarrassing shots!

2. We don't tie you to a chair in a room lockdown

In the press, you can go from committee to committee, room to room, and explore the diverse issues presented in THIMUN! You can go behind the scenes and interview Guest Speakers or specific delegates. You are not restricted to only one case, one issue, one room. Press is the chance to broaden your horizon.

3. Flexibility..

Reporters observe, research and write until 12 o'clock. After their work is done they help out another team and plan the next issue. Photographers are assigned a report and they run around doing what they love. The layout starts its main work after 12 o'clock when all the articles and photos are handed in. Online broadcasters spend the day filming and editing. The atmosphere is of brainstorming and idea-churning, filled with “Eureka!” moments.

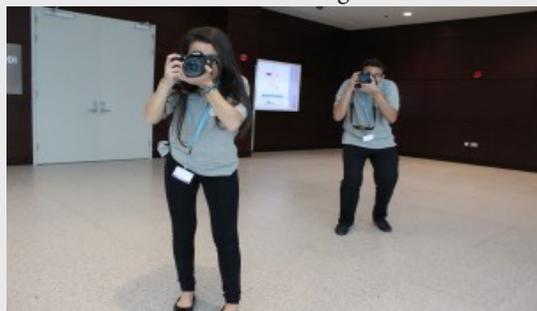
Lastly, The scope for versatility is immense, you're not just a photographer, you're also a bit of a layout designer; not just a reporter but also a bit of a debater. Press brings out and hones your hidden skills, hop in for some self-discovery!

4. Professional Experience

Deadlines, organization, laptops and meetings give you the ultimate experience. If your goal is to be in advertising, public relations, graphic design, creative design, broadcasting, photography and journalism this is your niche! Not just that, the satisfaction of seeing your work materialize the next day feels just like the bonus check from the boss!

5. Propaganda and still more

What we write is what people read and believe. The power of the printed cannot be undermined. Join the press team and control the readers' minds! *Evil laugh* Moreover, our printed issues also stand out on college resumes!



Travel Log: Journey to THIMUN Qatar

By: Christina Jisto, a 10th grader who recently joined MUN at Collegiate American School in Dubai.

Day 1 (Tuesday)– MUN is totally a new experience for me. I've never been interested to join because I was never confident enough to do it. Public speaking is not my forte. Starting grade 10, I decided that I had to do something about my shyness/quietness. I was definitely nervous. The day we arrived was a free day. We arrived late afternoon and had the rest of the day all to ourselves. You won't believe how tensed I was about the next day / first day of the conference. Tuesday ended and the next day began in a blink of an eye.

Day 2 (Wednesday)- First day of the conference. We all had to wake up at 5:00, eat breakfast at 5:45, and after that, we had to meet with our MUN directors at 6:30 in the hotel lobby. I'm proud of myself for waking up this early. *pat on the back*. We arrived at QNCC at 7:00 A.M sharp. As soon as we got there, my friend and I started to look for some people who were going to attend the same committee (GA2) as me, sadly I found no one. Anxiety kicks in. What if I'll be alone during the 3-day conference? So many stupid questions went through my mind at that time. Eventually, I met some wonderful people in my committee! I wasn't so lonely after all. After arriving the committee room, we were divided into groups during the lobbying session. I didn't contribute as much as I hoped I would, but that was okay. Our resolution was submitted and soon it was going to be voted against or with. Our chair later dismissed us to go attend the opening ceremony and it was amazing! The ASDoha choir and band killed it! There was a live performance from Emmanuel Jal and it was so inspirational.

Day 3 (Thursday)– The second day began. The whole day was a blur. Thursday was the day the official conference began. No more lobbying, no more fun, just seriousness. We turned in our resolution and waited to hear everyone's thoughts on it. Sadly, our resolution was postponed to the next day due to time constraints. As I was reading through the other groups' resolutions, I was thinking, 'Is ours even good enough?'. Taking aside those thoughts, my favorite part of the day was when I had the chance to vote. I felt like I was important and that people needed my vote to see if their resolution would be passed or not. However, I didn't speak up or debate, but like I said,

this was my first. I recognized many familiar faces from the QLC last year. I was so excited for the next day and I hoped it would be a good one.

Day 4 (Friday)- Last day of the conference. I had so much fun on the last day. I was never expecting this much laughter and joy to have come out of this day. Back to the conference hall, I had to go. Our resolution was being presented and I have to say, my team did a great job. Even though our resolution wasn't three pages long, it was still passed by the vast number of votes voting with us. 30 minutes before we were dismissed to the closing ceremony, our Chair decided to read some notes that fellow delegates sent off to their friends. Many flirty notes were sent and it was hilarious hearing them out loud. Some were inappropriate at that situation, but whatever! Another delegate decided to thank the wonderful admin for their constant running all throughout the committee room, helping delegates pass their notes. It was equally hilarious to the previous act. As we got let out, I headed straight towards the auditorium where the closing ceremony was about to commence. Felt pretty emotional and proud to have attended THIMUN for the first time. We left QNCC and headed back to our hotel to get ready for the Cultural Night that took place in Qatar Academy. This was at night and let me tell you, I wasn't prepared for the cold weather. I had thought that Doha would have the same weather as Dubai but, I guess I was wrong. I tried layering myself with a bunch of clothes yet, I was still freezing. Besides the constant complaining about the cold weather, my friends and I danced along to some Arabic music, ate some good food, and had a GREAT time attending Cultural Night. The time, the days, it all went by so fast.

Day 5 (Saturday)- The day we had to go back to Dubai. It was depressing. We felt lifeless. We had to drag our bodies to the airport and sit there and wait for the plane to arrive. We got on the plane, and as we left, we had to say goodbye to Qatar. "Bye bye", I whispered. "Hope to see you soon!"

Even now, my mind keeps shouting out words like, second, point of personal privilege, present and voting, objection etc..



American School of Doha Composer debuts 'Aurora' at THIMUN Qatar

By THIMUN Qatar

Since THIMUN Qatar's inception, The American School of Doha has been an important part of the conference's opening ceremonies. This year the ASD Percussion Ensemble performed at the closing ceremony. Led by student composer Ben Lemoing, the group debuted 'Aurora' at #tq2016.

We interviewed Ben before the conference and got his thoughts on performing at THIMUN Qatar 2016.

Tell us a bit about yourself.

I'm 15 years old, Canadian, and have been living in Doha for about 5 years. I've been interested in composing since I was 10 years old; back then I would make songs on Garageband using Apple loops. When I was around 13, I purchased a more professional program and started to make instrumental music with a MIDI keyboard, playing everything by hand. Since then, I've released two albums on iTunes, and am preparing for the release of a third which features Aurora, along with others including a song that features guest vocals, which is a first for me.

Why the title "aurora"? What does the title convey about the song?

With my song titles, I generally like to tie them to a visual image that I have in my mind when I listen to it. Aurora has a very ethereal, otherworldly feel to it and the sounds that you hear are warm and pretty-sounding. Since there aren't any lyrics I like to choose titles that can be interpreted differently by everyone.

What challenges or joys did you face when you composed this piece?

Production-wise, the song came together pretty easily and I was happy with it, when it was first composed in July. There weren't many roadblocks in the writing process, as it was originally an all electronic song, so it just had to be arranged for real instruments. It was slightly more challenging to arrange parts for percussion however, as this was my first time ever notating my own music, or any music for that matter. It was also difficult to find the fine balance between the percussion instruments and the electronics that you hear in the background. It was a rewarding experience when I was able to hear it all together though.

Are you interested in composing and will you be composing future pieces?

Definitely. As I mentioned earlier, I'll be releasing a new album with 14 new pieces including Aurora in March, but I hope in the future I'll be able to arrange more of these pieces for the percussion group, or perhaps composing something from scratch outside of the electronic dance music genre.

Tell us about the piece: what should the listener get out of listening to it.

There are many emotions that I associate with differ



ent parts of the song that I hope people will be able to experience when they listen to it. For example, I hope people will appreciate the beauty of the verses, the various build-ups and swells that you hear throughout the piece, the catchiness of the opening melody. I also hope that listeners will be able to appreciate the complexity and the power that computers possess musically. Electronic computer music often gets a bad name for being "fake" and "not creative" (which I will admit is true for some), but the precision and intricacy that is made possible by the computer is something that I find amazing.

What does it mean to you to perform this at a huge venue like QNCC and for an audience of 2000 individuals?

Honestly, I find it terrifying but also extremely exciting. I have the chance to show my music to a huge amount of people to the first time, but there's always that voice in the back of my mind telling me 'what if you don't impress them?' 'What if it doesn't turn out the way you expected?' I have lots of experience performing on stage, but I don't think I've ever performed to such a large audience before. I think it's a great opportunity to show my music to people. It'll be a thrilling experience.



Humans of THIMUN Qatar

By Diya Gokul

THIMUN O-MUN Delegation

What attracted you to participate in MUN?

Some of my friends participated last year, and when they came back to Palestine they wouldn't stop talking about it. Their experience with making friends, connections, and debating their resolutions really interested me.

Why THIMUN Qatar 2016?

It's Qatar. It's an opportunity, and a unique experience. As Palestinians, we can't always go to Qatar because of the (lack of) political alliances between Qatar and Israel.

Why is MUN important to you?

MUN has the power to connect people. It shows that different cultures and different people can come together, and that's important. I am a person who loves when students assemble to talk about issues, rather than gossip. Also, I love that MUN develops your personality—you can go from shy to outspoken in a matter of hours.

How do you see MUN's impacting the lives of those around you?

I can see that my friends are really happy to do MUNs. They entered the world of MUN in ninth grade, and now as seniors, they're leaders. They talk about it all the time—resolutions, policy statements, opening speeches. I don't understand all the terms, but I enjoy it.

When we talk about MUN in Palestine, we're talking about Jewish people and Arab people—when these people come together, it's a sensitive atmosphere. Both sides don't know how to relate to each other and speak to each other. We come together to discuss world issues, but our problems with each other get in the way.

What will you take away from this experience?

I am not a very organized person, and I don't work on schedules, but now, as a member of the press team, I have to go to bed really early and wake up at 4 am every morning. So, this experience has taught me better organization, and has helped me be on time for everything. It's given me friends, confidence, and even relaxation in Qatar.

HELA/Afghanistan Delegation

Mursal SaiDal, an Afghan student living in Kabul, came to THIMUN as a delegate of Ireland. She mentioned in an interview that women in Afghanistan face multiple challenges: women in Afghanistan are often subject to violence, oppression, and are silenced when trying to bring these issues to light.

Afghanistan, before the rise of the Taliban, was an impressively free country. Women wore short skirts, short trousers; they were free to work, to study and to dress as they pleased. According to the SalDai, former President of Afghanistan Mohammad Najibullah is to be credited with bringing the country to its summit of freedom. However, when the Taliban came to power in 1996, the rule became oppressive. The Taliban would force women to wear the cholari or burqa – garments that ensured their entire body remained covered. The police force would be beat them if they did not comply.

Mursal estimates that at present, about 80% of women dress in the cholari outside of Kabul. Women in the provinces are controlled by their mahram – that is to say, male family members – and forced to wear the headdress. Nothing is wrong with the Afghan headdress: the problem is that large numbers of women wear it against their will.

As a teenager in Kabul, Mursal dresses in casual

Western clothes. However, she still faces the challenge to do so without objections from other Afghans. She often hears "Look at her. Why is she so shameless? Why is she so free?" in the streets. However, Mursal asserts that Afghans are united towards "making the country beautiful like other countries." She expresses hope that "one day we will say that Afghanistan is a beautiful country and people will not be living in conflict anymore."

Sri Lankan Delegation-Eastern Province MUN Initiative

The Eastern Province MUN Initiative by Qatar Academy introduced the Eastern International College (EIC) in Batticaloa, Sri Lanka to MUN in May 2015. The initiative grew phenomenally to even embrace seven students from EIC to the THIMUN-Q'16 conference, as the delegation of Norway. It happens to be their first traditional MUN experience apart from O-MUN.

On being asked how the delegates found the conference so far, they replied with awe for the new experiences and friends they made. They also found the issues interesting and grasping. The delegates said that it improved their public speaking and language skills, and helped them build their confidence. MUN also proved to be a platform for them to stay updated with the world affairs and form connections with people of different nationalities.



MUN Leadership Series: An Interview with the Secretary-General of THIMUN Qatar 2016

By Kimberley Chu

A tale of an admin turned Secretary-General of THIMUN Qatar 2016. Adeeba Ahmad talks about peacemaking and MUN community service in this interview.

Kimberley: Why did you join MUN?

Adeeba: Surprisingly enough, I did not join MUN as a delegate. I was an admin, in grade 8, my brother became secretary general for THIMUN Singapore and he convinced me to join MUN as well. Initially, like most delegates, I joined MUN because I thought it would look good on my resume, but most people will realize that you don't need to do more than a few conferences. But, the first conference I went to as an admin, I saw the debate and it was amazing. The debate in Environmental Commission was exciting. The next year in Grade 9, I signed up to be a delegate. That really set off my MUN career, eventually, that's how I became Secretary General for THIMUN Qatar.

Kimberley: How did you feel when you found out that you were selected as SG for THIMUN Qatar?

Adeeba: I think that because I'm been doing it so long and working my way up, I was anxious. It was nerve wrecking when I was going through the application process. When I first heard that I got the position, Ms. Martin gave me a phone call and she said "Adeeba, do you accept your position as SG?" I was in awe and said yes. But, after that, I was in shock for a few hours because I just couldn't believe it.

Kimberley: How do you feel about the Qatar Leadership Conference (QLC)?

Adeeba: I'm an advocate for the QLC, I think it's an amazing experience and there's so many different speakers that come from different parts of the world. It's not always about MUN, many of my friends who don't do MUN and they attend the QLC because the workshops there are extremely thought provoking. There's so many workshops on leadership and on peacemaking. I think that's why it's been so successful.

Kimberley: MUN has been criticized as a sport for the rich and elite because of expensive conference fees and superficial debate, meaning that MUNers in LEDCs do not have much access to the MUN world. What do you think about this?

Adeeba: MUN has mostly been for the privileged children because of its expensive fees and it shouldn't be like that. Personally, I believe that MUN should be available in every school and available to every child, however the current situation doesn't make it like that. There's why we have programs like the Afghanistan Initiative. Also at THIMUN Qatar this year, we're having delegates coming from Sri Lanka and from Palestine.

Sadly, it's impossible to bring every underprivileged child to THIMUN Qatar. Personally, I do believe that as delegates, we do like to debate and use our research skills. But we don't focus on the actual social aspect of THIMUN Qatar. When you're surrounded by other people of different backgrounds and repre-

senting different ideas, the point of Model United Nations is to give an opportunity for nations to sit down and negotiate, to put aside our differences in order to make peace. This kind of open-mindedness that MUN encourages is the most important thing that any delegate can take away from any conference. That kind of environment should be available to every student in the world.

Kimberley: What does THIMUN Qatar do in their service initiatives?

Adeeba: THIMUN Qatar began a program with a sister school in Sri Lanka a few years ago. The school was hit by the 2004 Tsunami, since then, the sister school has been struggling to provide education. But THIMUN Qatar began a program called QA Action where students would fundraise to support our sister school in Sri Lanka. The students from that school are coming to THIMUN Qatar this year. There are other similar programs happening in Palestine and Afghanistan.

Kimberley: Over the course of your MUN career, you must have met a lot of inspirational guest speakers and MUNers. Who would you consider to be the most influential MUNer you have met?

Adeeba: That's a difficult question. There are so many names. One

person that I thought of was my deputy secretary general. He goes to Doha College and his name is Thurshan. An interesting thing about Thurshan is that his family had escaped from Sri Lanka as refugees. He gave a very touching speech at DCMUN, a powerful speech on that experience and his high school MUN career. Personally for me, I felt surprised, it really opened up my eyes.

Kimberley: What makes THIMUN Qatar stand out?

Adeeba: Besides the sheer scale, I think it's the multiculturalism. Qatar's almost in the center of the world, we're in between the Western and Eastern hemisphere, especially where there's recent conflicts in the Middle East going on. Most of my friends have ties to actual issues that are debated here. Every delegate comes out of the conference feeling they really opened up their eyes.

Kimberley: What advice do you have for MUNers?

Adeeba: At some point, you will struggle with research, with realism, with country representation. Don't forget that MUN is about negotiation and solution finding. Don't put aside a solution for the sake of your pride. Remember that you're here to make peace.



The MUN Director Institute: Model UN Professional Development

By Ryan Villanueva

Directors learned how to prepare delegates by participating in their own debate. Because why should delegates have all the fun?

I enjoy teaching Model UN to students, but there's a special joy I get out of teaching Model UN to teachers.

I love showing a fellow professional what makes Model UN such an awesome and life-changing activity. Especially someone who's new to MUN -- their eyes pop out when they realize how big Model UN is, how much it differs all over the world, how educationally rich and deep it is, and how much more their students can get out of it.

Last month I had the pleasure of working with nearly 40 teachers and educators as part of the MUN Director Institute at THIMUN Qatar. It's the fourth Director Institute that Best Delegate has run in Qatar -- QLC'14, TQ'15, QLC'15, and now TQ'16. And at the same time that I was leading the Institute in Qatar, my co-founder KFC was leading the MUN Director Institute at THIMUN Hague.

I was pleasantly surprised by how diverse the directors were. Directors came from Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, DR Congo, South Africa, China, Taiwan, and more. There were experienced teachers who were brand new to Model UN, younger teachers who were responsible for their school's MUN program, university students from O-MUN and the young leaders from HELA.

The Director Institute featured Best Delegate's Level 1 Director Program. Designed for teachers who are new to Model UN, the objective of the program was to explain how MUN works and show teachers how to prepare their students for conferences.

On the Thursday of the conference, I kicked off the program with a hallmark Best Delegate lesson, "Fruits and Vegetables." Directors represented different fruits and vegetables, debated which was better, and wrote salad recipes.

This activity is great for students but I love watching directors go through it. They're always nervous at first but then they really get into it, making up funny speeches; the vegetables argue that they're healthier but the fruits claim kids don't eat vegetables. Directors also really get into writing salad recipes, which is a "head fake" for resolution writing.

After Fruits and Vegetables, I followed with a lesson on the United Nations. I studied political science in college and I enjoy teaching others about this major global institution we are simulating in Model UN and the very important work that it does. But what makes this lesson really

fun is pointing out the tensions of the UN, like how its purpose is to help the world, and yet it is constrained by national sovereignty and each country pursuing its self-interest. I show teachers that students get to explore this tension through Model UN.

The rest of the program continued with lessons on how directors should prepare students for Model UN conferences. Directors learned how to create country profiles, research binders, position papers, opening speeches, and draft resolutions. I provided tips on how to conduct online research about the United Nations and country policy and how to give students improve their public speaking.

On the Friday morning of the conference, directors got a chance to take on the role of delegates by participating in a 2-hour Director Debate. Directors had received country assignments prior to the conference, as well as a background guide on their topic, "Climate Change-Related Natural Disasters."

Through the Director Debate, directors were able to apply the skills they had learned through the Level 1 Program. They gave opening speeches, engaged in lobbying, drafted resolutions, and debated them. I served as chair, and I would take the opportunity to pause to make sure directors understood what was happening in committee and answer questions about procedure.

For many directors, the debate is when everything "clicks." They get to see how rules of procedure work, how to make points and motions. They also experience firsthand the nervousness of making that opening speech, the fear of public

(Continued on Page 17)



The MUN Director Institute: Model UN Professional Development

(Continuation from Page 16)

speaking, the chaos of lobbying and resolution writing, the thrill of debating a resolution and raising a good POI -- and how much fun Model UN can be! After the debate, Directors are able to better empathize with their students.

After lunch on Friday, directors had the option to take a Certification Exam. The exam had 35 multiple choice and short answer questions on the United Nations, rules of procedure, research, public speaking, and resolution writing. Many directors were nervous about the exam -- they were cramming during lunch!

A score of 80% was required to pass the exam. Results were announced a week after the conference ended. 25 directors took the exam and 44% passed.

The MUN Director Institute is the first of its kind: a Model UN professional development opportunity designed to help teachers and educators understand Model UN and empower their students. Teachers are heroes and I'm thankful for the opportunity to work with them. I especially appreciate

it because if I can impact a single teacher, they will impact all of their students.

I hope that the teachers who participated in last month's Director Institutes in both Qatar and The Hague take what they learned back to their home countries and empower their students to lead through Model UN.

Interested in the next Director Institute? Plans are in the works for Qatar Leadership Conference 2016!



3 Lessons from the THIMUN Hague Director Institute

By Kevin Felix Chan

The Hague International Model United Nations (THIMUN) is one of the largest and most prestigious Model UN conferences with over 3,000 delegates participating every year. After multiple Director Institutes at THIMUN Qatar, Best Delegate ran the Director Institute for faculty advisors at THIMUN Hague for the first time this past January. Level 1 taught beginner Directors the basic concepts of Model UN such as resolution-writing and THIMUN rules of procedure and Level 2 taught advanced Directors how to empower student leaders to run their clubs, train their teams, and host their own conferences.

In the process of teaching the Director Institute, I learned a few lessons as well:

1. Teaching Load is the biggest pain point: Directors mentioned that their biggest challenge was that there was no teaching load relief despite putting in so many extra days in Model

UN. Teaching load relief was considered much more desirable than a MUN Director stipend, which some well-funded schools give out. Short of integrating Model UN into the classroom, this will continually be a structural issue that needs to be tackled. In the meantime, students and parents should definitely thank their Directors for putting in so many extra unpaid hours in supervising the MUN club after school and chaperoning them at MUN conferences!

2. Student Officer structures can be modified: Many Directors realised that they could do so much more in empowering their student officers -- the THIMUN culture proudly upholds that MUN should be a student-led activity -- and feel a lot less overwhelmed if they modified their Student Officer structures. Most Directors inherited the Student Officer structure, but many of these are no longer built for the expanded club membership and club activities if the club has grown beyond 20 members. Relat-



ed to this point, clubs that host their own conferences -- even if it's just an internal mock session -- should have two separate Student Officer structures for the club and the conference. This division of responsibility will make everyone's lives more clear and sustainable.

3. Knowledge needs to be institutionalised: One of the biggest issues for schools worldwide but is particularly prevalent at international schools is high teacher turnover. As I saw at THIMUN Hague, this even affects schools that run some of the most established and prestigious THIMUN-affili-

ated conferences. Although students run the MUN club, they should try to institutionalise their knowledge so that the club does not face a knowledge gap when both new students and a new Director take over. Directors cited in particular that knowing typical deliverables and timelines for various projects such as taking a team to an international trip or running a conference should be written down in a formal club document. This would make it much easier for them to step into the role and help guide the new Student Officers in meeting their deliverables on time.



MUN MODEL
UNITED NATIONS
INSTITUTE

Learn Model UN! SUMMER
2016

**WE OFFER
PROGRAMS AT**
HARVARD, GEORGETOWN,
COLUMBIA, UCLA,
UC BERKELEY & UC IRVINE.

We offer programs for students age 9-18 ranging from beginner to advanced programs.

PASSIONATE PROFESSIONAL STAFF:

Our Staff are passionate about helping students gain confidence & learn Model UN.

PERSONALIZED INSTRUCTION:

Our program provides a small group setting (1 to 8 ratio) which means students obtain personal feedback on public speaking, position papers, & resolution writing.

INTERACTIVE EDUCATIONAL CURRICULUM:

Our day to day includes lectures, simulations, feedback, & free time. Our programs culminate in a final full day Model UN simulation.

ADVANCED MODEL UN RESOURCES:

Our students receive exclusive resources that prepare them step-by-step for MUN conferences.

GAIN KNOWLEDGE AND NEW SKILLS:

Our program teaches Model UN which enables students to gain real world skills, learn about global issues, enhance their leadership, & get accepted into great universities.

{ Our students rated our program **4.8 out of 5:** 🐾🐾🐾🐾🐾 }



VISIT MUNINSTITUTE.COM TO LEARN MORE

Save \$100

WITH DISCOUNT CODE MUNI2016

Write for the Olive Branch!

Submit articles by the 1st of the month.

**Email thimunqblog@gmail.com
for more information**