



# THE OLIVE BRANCH

MODEL UNITED NATIONS NEWSLETTER



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APRIL 2014

ONLINE EDITION

## Conference Calendar

### Upcoming Dates:

4/6-4/7  
GCIMUN Beirut

4/10-4/12  
American University of  
Sharjah Model United Na-  
tions (AUSMUN)

4/11-4/13  
THIMUN Qatar Northw-  
estern Film Festival  
4/19  
Dukhan English School  
Model United Nations  
(DESMUN)

### Online MUN:

4/12  
Americas/Europe

4/13  
Asia Regional

4/19  
Global Debate

4/20  
Middle East/Africa

4/19-4/21  
THIMUN O-MUN ICJ

## Cracking the Glass Ceiling: Hayah International Academy Model UN



*"Glass Ceilings," the theme of the fourth annual Hayah International Academy Model United Nations (HIAMUN) conference, emphasized recognizing limits in personal and global development — and, more importantly, learning how to break past them.*

By Laila Sherif Said

**HAYAH** International Academy Model United Nations (HIAMUN) was first launched in 2011, with less than 50 delegates and one forum (the General Assembly). This year, we

are proud to have hosted over 240 students from 6 different schools, spanning 6 forums (AL, ECOSOC, GA, HRC, ICJ and SC). Moreover, in addition to expanding the number of forums and delegates, HIAMUN was the first conference (with

the exception of THIMUN) to introduce digital badging.

From the 19th to the 22nd of February, the intense debate sessions and the fun social event gave everyone fond memories to take home with them.

This year's theme was "Glass

Ceilings" and the measures that could be taken to break them: Glass Ceilings, as limitations or boundaries that are set on minority groups or individuals in general, have always been

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## O-MUN Arabic Launched

By Ibrahim El Kazaz

**ONLINE MUN** is a program with a mission to go beyond the range of the normal MUN programs by connecting students from around the world, regardless of affordability or convenience. This week, OMUN proved its worth again by going beyond normal MUN programs in an experimental debate that turned out to be more of a success than most anticipated. The Arabic OMUN debate took Arabic speakers in the OMUN program by storm, as it proved that online collaboration between students could achieve the impossible. The initiative of the program saw the current SG of OMUN, Maryam Al-Ammari, AD of the MEA region in OMUN, Salam Kaedan, Director of OMUN, Lisa Martin, and EAO of Egypt Alia

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## Student Films Widely Watched Ahead of the Film Festival

By Cameron Janzen

**SUBMISSIONS ARE** now closed and filmmakers from around the world have been invited to attend the THIMUN Qatar Northwestern Film Festival 2014. Since all the nominated films can be found online, some of the films have already been seen by a large number of viewers on the THIMUN Qatar YouTube channel.

Organized jointly by THIMUN Qatar and Northwestern University in Qatar, the film festival is open to high school students across the world. Its mission is to "encourage a bet-

ter understanding of and appreciation for cinematic arts" and "to help to put a human face on the contemporary is-

ssues facing the world today." From April 17 to 19, students will be involved in numerous workshops and interactions

with Northwestern University faculty and local media experts.

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# Take a Bow, O-MUN

By Jayesh Kaushik

**LOOKING AT** the pictures and resolutions, sending friend requests and crying are just some of the ways people deal with “post-MUN conference depression.” I decided to write a blog post to document how I’ve been dealing with the stress. The past three days were the most exhausting, tiring yet amazing days that I have had in a long time. I was lucky enough to have the opportunity to be at DIAMUN, Dubai International Academy Model United Nations 2014 again, this time as a judge at the International Court of Justice. Since I have never been in the ICJ before, nervousness, confusion, and anxiety were natural. I was also afraid of being alone and being left out during committee sessions as I did not know any of the judges or other members of the court really well. But was I mistaken!

I have to express my deep gratitude to both Alia Sahni and Saarthak Saxena, two people almost everyone at O-MUN is familiar with, for being with me throughout the conference. Not only did they make me dance at the social event, but also made court proceedings and lunch breaks really, really fun! Both of them embody characteristics of a perfect ICJ advocate: well-researched, organized and assertive. Representing Japan as the respondent party against

Australia on the issue of whaling in the Antarctic, their presentation was factual, firm and to the point. Because of this, I was not surprised when all the judges in the committee passed the verdict in Japan’s favor. Congratulations again, everyone!

I would also like to congratulate Bassim Eledath, delegate extraordinaire, who is almost an O-MUN celebrity known for his amazing debating and research skills. Bassim won best delegate in the General Assembly 1 and main submitted a great resolution alongside Karan Wadhvani, also an active member of our community. Additionally, congratulations to Abhishek Patel (whom I spoke to not more than twice) for winning the best position paper in the Security Council!

This list of mentions would be incomplete if I did not mention Sparsh Jain, Ashish Tharoor, Ananya Saxena, Milan Kewalramani and Farhan Farooqui, who each made me feel extremely comfortable at the conference and organized a really great meet up! I met many new people, learned a lot of things, had a great amount of fun, and made a considerable number of new friends, so I would definitely call this conference a fantastic success for myself. Winning the best judge at the ICJ was something that just added to the wonderful experience.



After roleplaying as a judge for the ICJ at DIAMUN 2014, Jayesh notes that the conference was a “fantastic success.”

I could really keep going on and on about this conference. But like all good things, DIAMUN 2014 also came to an end. Thank you to the executive team of the conference for organizing such a

professional and enjoyable conference that I look forward to each year. DIAMUN will always be a highlight in my list of conferences, and I look forward to being a part of it next year, too!

## Best Picture Nominees 2014

الحمالي  
"AlHamali"

The Forgotten  
This is a story about hope...

FUTURE STEPS

QATAR  
Water Crisis

connected  
a documentary

Madrassa-e-Umeed  
مدرسه ای-امید  
"Education is a right, not a privilege"

A Victim

Vote for your Favorite films on THIMUN Qatar’s YouTube Page:  
<http://www.youtube.com/user/THIMUNQatarFilmFest>

BIOFUELS:  
FUELS FOR THE FUTURE  
JASON CHEN



## The Olive Branch

**Kevin Felix Chan and Ryan Villanueva**, Best Delegate Co-Founders  
**Lisa Martin**, Online Model United Nations Director/Co-Founder  
**Cameron Janzen**, Head of THIMUN Qatar

**Jullian Bao**, Lead Editor  
**Lwam Stefanos**, Content Editor  
**Brilliant Bao**, Design Editor  
**Staff Writers/Contributors:** Alex Helling, Ibrahim El Kazaz, Ugbad Kasim, Jayesh

Kaushik, Eric Lin, Laila Sherif Said, Ananya Saxena, Abhay Valiyaveetil

Founded in January 2013

# Nominated Films for the 2014 THIMUN Qatar Film Festival

Film	Name of Director
A Victim	Naseh Jrab
Abstract Conformity	Eman Pathan
Al Hamali	Amal Al Muftah
Biofuels : Fuels for the Future	Jason Chen
Books for the Future	Hein Htet
Breaking Boundaries	Hadiya Darvishi
Connected	Harrison Macon
Enviro-Man	Charlie Cracknell
Future Steps	Sarhan Khan
Hadeel	Hind Ibrahim Zurub
High School Hip Hop	Siddarth Nair
Hit	Haroon Matties
Madrassa	Shayna Dhanoo
Masoom	Harsha Patil
McDiabetes	Hamza Asim
Save Us	Hamza Ahmad
The Forgotten	Sarah Moabi
The Lack of Security of Women	Anya Prasad
The Middle Eastern Dream	Andrew Kim
The Technology Trail	Alyssa Choo
Water Conservation	Hakimi Fairus
Water Crisis	Abdul latif Al Kuwari
Wave	Burak Özçelik
Workers	Anisha Pai

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# Intro to O-MUN: A MUNificent Welcome

By Ananya Saxena

**MUNIFICENT** welcome! This week marks the completion of my sixth debate here at O-MUN. In just two short months, this institution has not only changed Model United Nations from a mere hobby to a passion of mine, but it has also given me the opportunity to meet an interesting and intellectual group of boys and girls.

My introduction to Online Model UN may resemble that of others' experiences: I vividly remember sitting in front of my laptop for the first "Test Your Tech" session. Just like most other people who join O-MUN, the questions running through my head were, "How can you have an Model UN debate online? Do you write or type resolutions? Do you have to wear a suit in front of a screen? Do you have placards?" In hindsight, I am glad I had these silly questions running through my mind, for it was my inquisitiveness that led me to make an account on the website and sign up for my first UAE National debate.

The executive team could not have been more helpful in introducing me to the world of online Model UN. I would like to give a special thank you to the UAE National Liaison Ashish Tharoor, EAO Jayesh Kaushik, and DSG of Special Conferences Farhan Farooqui, who all proved immensely helpful in answering my innumerable queries, even during debate.

At O-MUN, I realized how much concern the youth have for global issues not only in Dubai, and not only in the Middle East, but worldwide. Moreover, these students are capable of effectively brainstorming and developing feasibly and noteworthy solutions for these problems. At O-MUN, I realized that I don't need to save up every last penny (more accurately, a Dirham) in order to

attend a Model UN conference in order to find insightful debate and share my ideas and soak up those of others. The interest that members have debating over this online interface is on par with an actual, in-person conference. Online Model UN is an innovative concept which allows everyone — from middle school students to undergraduates — to enjoy the platform that is Model United Nations. And that is why, just ten minutes after the National debate ended, I was already signed up for the next debate scheduled in the Middle East and Security Council debates — hooked!

As I previously stated, it was not only the caliber of debate that kept me coming back, but it was also the feeling of being part of this camaraderie in this community. Online Model UN is a place welcome to anyone and everyone, regardless of their geographic location, ethnicity, or gender. These factors contributed to O-MUN's new ranking as one of my favorite pastimes. I have had the privilege of meeting such friendly and enthusiastic intellectuals, alongside the very cultured and perceptive Miss Lisa Martin, and been enlightened greatly in terms of backgrounds and acuties of students. I am certain that this diversity has and will help me become more open-minded as a person.

So what does it all come down to? If you have a computer, internet connection, an interest in the matters of the United Nations, and the desire to learn and build friendships, then O-MUN is an activity you should definitely consider. It is not necessary to be wearing the finest suit, or travelling halfway across the globe, for this program allows you to transform your ideas into resolutions, collaborate, provides scope for growth in the Model UN world, and become a part of a virtual family just from your laptop screen.



After joining O-MUN for two months, Ananya already feels welcome into her new MUN community.

# Presenters Sought for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Qatar MUN and Film Leadership Conference in Doha

By Cameron Janzen

IN SEPTEMBER 2013, over 500 international and national Model UN leaders came together in Doha, Qatar to participate in workshops and provide an opportunity to exchange ideas and develop partnerships with each other. The Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar, Northwestern University in Qatar, and THIMUN Qatar have already begun the process of preparing for the Third Annual MUN and Film Leadership Conference that will be held this year from 16-18th October 2014.

Workshops provide an opportunity for Model UN and media leaders to present their work in a focused way and to have facilitate discussions on particular topics of interest to the community.

Conference organizers are hoping to attract a wide variety of workshop proposals related to the development of leadership and advancement of Model UN programs. In order to achieve this, both students and teachers are encouraged to submit proposals for the conference. If you are interested in presenting at the conference, please complete the following application form at <https://qlcpresentersapplication.eventbrite.com>. The deadline for submitting proposals is 30 April 2014.

You can see a copy of last year's conference program for further information about topic areas and examples of workshop titles at our website: <http://qatar.thimun.org/>. Please contact THIMUN Qatar if you have any further questions about the leadership conference.



Carl Wilkens, the founder of World Outside My Shoes, speaks at the 2013 conference.

## Chair Reflections from DIAMUN

By Ananya Saxena

DIAMUN, for the past three years, has been one of my favorite MUN conferences- one which has taught me not only how to be a holistic delegate, but also one which has helped me create friendships I will certainly have for a lifetime. DIAMUN 2014 presented me with a different role, one I was very keen to uphold, since my very first MUN conference at DIAMUN 2012.

THIMUN O-MUN delegates and members of the leadership team represented some of the finest delegates, advocates, and not to forget judges at DIAMUN 2014. I had the privilege of being the Deputy Chair to the third General Assembly, giving me a unique standpoint on this conference as a whole.

In this blog post, why yes, I certainly wish to find closure for this remarkable weekend of Model United Nations event, but I also wish to further exude the level and multiplicity of skill that O-MUN members have.

Taking a seat in front of a house of 140 talented, assertive, and prepared delegates was no effortless task. I knew how to be a delegate, this view seemed incorrect — I felt as though I belonged in the crowd of delegates, familiar surroundings, and not on the stage on black leather swivel chairs.

To assume the role of a Student Officer was a concept that was very new to me; however, it gave me a keen insight into what goes on behind the scenes of an event of such caliber. At O-MUN, the members of the Executive and Global Leadership Team put out a multitude of exemplary debates, hangouts, and semi-

nars every month, and as a delegate, it was easy for me to take it for granted. Having placed myself in the position of a facilitator for the first time helped me to realize the effort and time provided to make such events happen. The night before, at the opening ceremony, I had had the opportunity to meet Deputy SG of the Middle East, Saarthak Saxena (and as the UAE EAO so eloquently put it, delegate extraordinaire), as well as the first General Assembly's best delegate Bassim Eledath, for the very first time. I also caught a glimpse of Abhishek Patel, the delegate of USA to the Security Council and a familiar O-MUN personality. Getting to meet and know many of these MUNers online was a great experience, but getting to meet them in person exceeded any and all of my expectations.

It is important to mention that I was lucky enough to have the UAE National Liaison Ashish Tharoor as my co-chair. Yes, he most definitely exuded all the qualities of an excellent chair, but what really resonated with me was his ability to make all the delegates and fellow chairs fall in love with him; O-MUN not only improves our skills, but teaches us the importance of co-existing and building relationships and at DIAMUN 2014, Ashish fully endorsed that.

Another highlight of this weekend would be the DIAMUN and O-MUN meetup evening! Not only was this a first for DIAMUN and O-MUN alike, but it was a first for me. Interacting with O-MUN members online on debates can be an intimidating task, for most of them are extremely self-confident and intelligent. However, sharing a meal

with these people in a pair of jeans and t-shirt, and engaging in lighthearted and humorous conversations added a greater human dimension to our connections and helped us build memories and friendships. It makes me proud to know that we, THIMUN O-MUN, brought home three distinct awards: Bassim's best delegate, Saarthak and Alia's winning case, and Jayesh's best judge award! This itself is a happy reminder of the

sheer level of skill within this organization, one which I am extremely proud to be a part of.

To end, I can say with certainty that DIAMUN 2014 was one of successful firsts. Whether it was chairing for the first time, meeting many of my online friends for the first time, or realizing the level of hard work that goes into a debate for the first time, it was simply unforgettable!



## Film Festival, cont.

On April 19th, the films will be screened and awarded prizes, followed by a gala awards night to be hosted in a local hotel.

Many of the entries are now being viewed by a large number of viewers. One film in particular – "Al-Hamali" – has already collected more than 100,000

views on YouTube. Additionally, it has been featured in numerous press stories in Qatar. This documentary, submitted by a Qatar Academy student and a THIMUN Film Festival alum, Amal Al-Muftah, interviews porters in a local market about how they got into their work, and offers a unique insight into

their lives.

Another poignant film submitted by Doha College students focuses on the life of laborers in Qatar; this is a topic that has recently been gaining international attention.

There is a large variety of topics covered by these year's Best Picture Nomi-

nations, ranging from the impact of divorce, exploring bio-fuels, the effects of hip-hop culture in Canadian high schools, pollution, and community and service projects.

All films in the festival can be found online at the [THUMUN Qatar YouTube channel](#).

# From Model UN to the UN

By Ugbad Kasim

As a child, I had one dream and that was to become a gynecologist one day because I always wanted help my people and my country and because I believed that being a doctor is the best way to achieve that goal. As I grew up, things changed and I could no longer study medicine, but I didn't give up, so I started studying economics in my undergraduate degree which gave me the opportunity to see the world in a different way.

It's been 2 years and half since I started doing Model UN and it has been the most amazing years of my life. Being part of Model UN gave me the opportunity to view the world differently and to think differently. I didn't become a doctor- though I still have that dream- but I realized that not only doctors help people in need, there are millions of other ways you could help. I studied economics and with this specialization and now, I know that I can bring a change to my county.

Here in Somaliland, work opportunities are very limited and you don't have many options. A person is forced to work anywhere he or she gets a job regardless of his or her specialization or expertise. Most of the youth who are fresh undergraduates find it difficult to get a job and that forces them to migrate out of the country illegally, seeking a better life. This has brought a tragedy to hundreds of youth and ended their lives while migrating from country to country.

I find myself very lucky because of where I am now. I had a dream when I joined Model UN and that was to work for the UN one day, and today my dream has come true. I work for United Nations World Food Program and I know that I give support to most of the poorest people in my community. I work as a food aid monitor and seeing a smile on one child's face makes me feel that I have succeeded in my goal. I have to admit that I have gone through difficulties to reach where I am now, but I am happy to see what I have accomplished so far. This is just the beginning of my journey and I know that I have a lot of ideas going on in my mind and I need to put it in action. This might take some time but I hope I will accomplish them.

Lastly I would like to thank my parents who always supported me and all those people who encouraged me to do Model UN, especially Lisa Martin.



Snapshots from Somaliland: (Top) Ugbad stands beside a vehicle for the World Food Programme — the organization where she is currently employed — accomplishing her dream to work for the United Nations; (Bottom) Children smile for a candid photo

## HIAMUN, cont.

an issue in most societies. Our aim was to encourage delegates to think outside the box, beyond the limits constraining them and come up with plans to shatter the glass ceilings that societies have set regarding the present issues at hand. Issues that delegates discussed and debated in this year's conference varied from nuclear proliferation to freedom of press to overpopulation to gender and racial inequality. And, of course, there was the crisis situation in the Security Council that was on the verge of causing World War III.

Our inspiring guest speaker, Mr. Omar Samra, took part in a very engaging Q&A session at the opening ceremony during which he talked about breaking his own glass ceilings and overcoming his own personal chal-

lenges. Mr. Samra was the first Egyptian and Arab to climb Mt. Everest as well as the Seven Summits. He will be the first Egyptian to travel into space this upcoming year.

As the conference came to an end, the proud members of the secretariat gave their closing speeches, handed out the best delegate and lobbyist awards, and bid a bittersweet farewell to everyone until next year. Delegates, faculty, and staffers alike were already eager for a hopefully larger and improved HIAMUN 2015.

For more information about Hayah International Academy Model United Nations, please visit our website at [HIAMUN.org](http://HIAMUN.org), Facebook page at [facebook.com/HIAMUN](https://www.facebook.com/HIAMUN), or feel free to send us an email at [MUN@hayahacademy.com](mailto:MUN@hayahacademy.com).



The delegate representing the United Kingdom raises his placard to speak.

# BAYMUN becomes the 6th THIMUN Affiliated Conference in the Region

By Cameron Janzen

The BAYMUN conference, hosted by the Bahrain Bayan School, was granted THIMUN affiliation status in March. This prestigious accomplishment marks a significant accomplishment for the five year old conference.

BAYMUN is the largest conference in Bahrain and is currently being led by Ms. Radia Haider. With over 300 delegates from twenty schools, BAYMUN is a strong national conference that serves as the focal point for MUN activity on the island. For Rona Murad, the 2013 Secretary General THIMUN affiliation represents “years of hard work accomplished by the staff team and Mrs. Radia, BayMUN truly is one of the best Model United Nations in the country. This success is shared and cherished by all students who participated and didn’t. It helped us all push us out of our comfort zone and open our eyes to leadership in our generation and the future generations.”

Bahrain Bayan School is clearly in support of the conference and values their affiliation status highly. Shaikha Al Arayedh, President of General Assembly for the 2013 conference, states, “The affiliation to me is a sign of success and not only self-establishment, but establishment for the entire Model UN system in our school.” Bayan student

Marwah Abdulmalik agrees, explaining that Model UN is an important part of the school identity since it has active support from all levels of the school. She

says, “To see our efforts and long hours of dedication awarded with the affiliation serves as a source of pride for us, and a source of motivation for future

students aspiring to be global leaders and pioneers.”

There was a formal affiliation ceremony at the school on April 1, 2014.



The backdrop for BAYMUN at the Bahrain Bayan School

## A Power Bloc in and After Committee: Reflections on THIMUN

By Eric Lin

**I DON'T KNOW** why, but it is hard talking about my conference experience at THIMUN after the conference itself happened. There is this reminiscence that just digs at you and, well, it feels bittersweet. Simply put, the conference was great, the debate was good, but what really made it fantastic was that I found a new family consisting of my fellow delegates.

For this blog post, I want to go beyond the Online Model United Nations (O-MUN) THIMUN team and the O-MUN delegates I met to focus on a different group from committee – the resolution bloc.

I recall, distinctly, the birth of the bloc, which ultimately became an awesome coalition of countries. It all started with a handshake between me and most of the other delegates in the corner of the HRC delegation room. When we finally got seated, there was only one physical chair, so I let Sam (the delegate representing South Africa) take it, since he was the one using the computer and merging all of the documents. I recall Sam and I talking about how some people could think we have a “holier than thou” mindset, so we immediately made it clear that the chair was, solely for the purpose of using the laptop - not to step on anyone’s toes’. When I brought up a chair so I could sit down, it might have seemed like a power move from the outside looking in since the two of us definitely spearheaded the resolution as well. But from day one, there was a special bond between all the members of

the bloc up until the end of the conference. We shared an awesome group hug at the end when the resolution passed not only in our committee, but again in the plenary session.

I have been to quite a few conferences, but this team of fantastic individuals

really set THIMUN apart from the other conferences that I have attended in the past. The different cultures, the faces, and the personalities all coalesced into this medley of fun and productivity that seemed almost surreal.

Regardless of the outcome of the

resolution that my team and I drafted, as well as of the debate and the ultimate vote, it was the team that mattered. It was the team that I knew always had my back: my number 2, South Africa, and everyone else individually. I will always remember and cherish our memories.



A member of a power bloc in a THIMUN committee makes several points.

# From the Techie's Desk...

By Abhay Valiyaveettil



**HELLO THERE!** I really hope all of you are having a great spring term and are busy with all sorts of activities. We at THIMUN Qatar are getting really busy with preparations for the THIMUN Qatar Northwestern Film Festival 2014, which is taking place in April this year. In this edition of "From the

Techie's Desk", I'd like to share some insights I gathered from the Press Team, and in particular the Online Broadcasting Team at THIMUN Qatar. I believe the team managed it really well and could perhaps help you out in managing the online aspect of your own conference.

To know what I'm exactly talking about, I think it's best to look at [this link](#) at some point. This is basically where the Online Broadcasting team would update the content and put in their pictures and articles for public viewing, each day. I remember the students would be going around collecting photos and writing up their articles so that they could then send them for editing to the team. Once that part is done, the students in-charge of publishing would log-on to the WordPress site and upload the content. For this website, they used WordPress as the platform and it was a rather simple yet efficient way to lay out the content from the conference days.

The Press team website has several dimensions to it. On the homepage, you

can find the articles updated till the last day of the conference while in session. The template gives us a nice way of organizing the articles and photos while adhering to a simple grid structure. There is also a section for the videos that basically embeds the playlist from our Youtube page. One of the most visited and thus important part of the website is the photo albums. These are sorted by the day of the conference and include photos from several members of the press team. Typically, during the conference session, these are uploaded at the end of each day and remain archived until the next conference. THIMUN Qatar always makes sure to live stream the opening and closing ceremony functions. This way the families of the delegates and other members can also view the event while they are not in town. The live stream tab on the website links the users to the live video that is streamed from the conference venue. We use the "livestream" box for this. It is a device that lets us patch a camera directly onto the network and can stream

it over the internet, in our case, even over a wireless connection. The audio-in line from the AV team at the venue greatly helped in ensuring good sound quality for the stream. Lastly, the press team also archives the daily publications that are handed out each morning during the conference. The "Issue Archive" tab takes us to the daily publications which can be viewed as PDF. I would really recommend using a platform such as this for any publication related activities that you may have for your conference. Please feel free to approach me at [avalivyaveettil@qf.org.qa](mailto:avalivyaveettil@qf.org.qa) if you would like to know more about setting these up and I'm sure I can help out.

Meanwhile, stay tuned for the next edition in which I'll be updating you about the implementation of the MUNIS Conference management system in RCIMUN-Istanbul 2014 and also the launching of the new Electronic Resolution Management System at the DCMUN one-day training conference.

## O-MUN Arabic Launched, cont.

El-Kattan taking lead in making the program a reality. I have to give a huge shout out to Salam who spent hours organizing and translating material to make everything appropriate and possible. The program did what OMUN does best, joining students from different parts of the world together under one cause, of having an Arabic version of MUN. It is important to note that there are other MUN programs with an Arabic program but the online version was harder to grasp theoretically because of the dialect problem.

Anyone who has attempted to speak Arabic in more than one country in the MENA region has come across a simple barrier, no one speaks the same Arabic. There is a proper version of Ara-

bic known as Modern Standard Arabic (MSA) but little to no countries speaks it in day-to-day life. Although students learn it in school, it is very different from the local dialect of most countries. This meant, to create a Model UN in Arabic, how do you invite students who are not perfect in MSA but want to debate in Arabic? Also, how do you incorporate the different dialects without having constant confusion between the delegates? This problem was debated between the students in the program as well as directors of different MUN programs in the region. Everyone agreed that MSA had to be part of the program but there was concern about students being intimidated. Some people wanted every part of the debate to be in MSA.

It was proposed to divide it by time, where 30 minutes would be in MSA and 50 minutes in free language. The final compromise was that the chairs were required to speak in MSA but the delegates were free to speak in whatever dialect they prefer. The result was surprisingly astounding. The students that were weak in MSA were influenced by the chair and attempted to speak in MSA as well. Let me quote a student from the debate, who said, "It seems like a brilliant compromise. I found it nice that I could speak in my dialect. I tried to speak MSA and when I failed, no one corrected me, so I was always sort of fluid. This makes the debate much better and more engaging." There was an obvious attempt from students to speak

the proper and correct Arabic. Personally, I think this is the perfect opportunity for students to improve their Arabic as well as to create the next generation of Arabic debaters. I know just by listening to the debate that my Arabic has improved and I am proud to be part of this program.

I cannot wait for the next debate, which is tentatively set for May 3, 13:00 UTC. To stay updated, join the [facebook group](#). Or, you can check our [website](#).

Congratulations are in order because right after the debate ended, Alia El Kattan was appointed as Secretary General of the OMUN Arabic program with Khalifa Al Khalifa (he was also the first chair of Arabic OMUN!) as her deputy. Congrats!

The screenshot shows the O-MUN Arabic interface. On the left, there is a 'PARTICIPANTS' list for the 'MAIN ROOM' with 25 members. The list includes names and country codes, such as 'Lisa Martin, Moderator', 'Salam Keadan, Assistant Dir...', and various countries like 'الامارات العربية المتحدة (سالم)', 'كندا (ندي شلش)', 'مصر (عبدالرحمن المصري)', 'الولايات المتحدة الأمريكية (أسامة)', 'algeria (Mohamad Mwasi) #2', 'china(fady) #2', 'Iraq (Aya) #2', 'hisrael(3# 1 (حلا)', '+Saudi Arabia (Nashwa)', '+باكستان(زين)', '+هولندا(عمر بهجت)', 'Hala', 'maram wattad #2', 'Ragadan', 'Away', and 'siwar'. The main area displays a slide titled 'النداء' (The Call) with Arabic text: 'عندما ينادي الرئيس على دولتك، الرجاء الضغط على زر التكلم وعبر إما أنك حاضر أو حاضر وسأصوت'. Below this, it says 'عندما تنهي التكلم، إحرص على إطفاء الميكروفون بالضغط مرة أخرى على زر التكلم.' and 'لا يمكن إرسال رسائل وقت النداء وقراءة القرار.' At the bottom, it says 'حظاً سعيداً!'. The interface also shows a timer at 00:57:12, a 'Load Content' button, a 'Recording' indicator, and a 'Bb Backboard' logo.

The interface for O-MUN in Arabic

# Opposing Views: Crimea

By Alex Helling

**ONE OF** the key strategies in preparing MUNers for debate and resolution writing is to develop an understanding of the spectrum of opinion about the topic being debated. Once delegates understand the basic opposing views of the issue, they can better determine on which side and to what extent their assigned nation supports one of the two main views. Each month Opposing Views will outline a debate taken from the website Database. With hundreds of debates outlined in an easy to use format, this is a great resource for MUNers. This month's opposing view focus on the on-going tensions in Crimea and if Russia had the right to send troops into Crimea

## Points For

### Invited by the legitimate government of the Ukraine

President Yanukovich is Ukraine's legitimate President. He is therefore perfectly at liberty to allow Russian troops into his country to keep the peace in much the same way as countries around the world welcome US troops on their soil as protection from external threats or UN peacekeepers to keep the peace domestically. Yanukovich in a letter to Putin called "on the President of Russia, Mr. Putin, asking him to use the armed forces of the Russian Federation to establish legitimacy, peace, law and order, stability and defending the people of Ukraine."

### Necessary response to an illegal coup

The current government in Ukraine is the result of an illegal coup. On the 21st February Yanukovich and the opposition in Ukraine agreed to EU proposals that restored the 2004 Ukrainian constitution and set Presidential elections for later in 2014. The two sides were "to create a coalition and form a national unity government". Thus Yanukovich was to remain President until the next elections. The opposition however ignored this deal. As Putin puts it "They immediately seized his residence rather than giving him a chance to fulfil the agreement... He didn't have any chance of being reelected." The Ukrainian opposition used illegal and unconstitutional means to effect regime change. Russia therefore has a right to act to protect those who there has been an "armed seizure of power".

### Crimea should be Russian

Russia has a strong claim to the Crimea; The territory was only handed over in 1954 by Nikita Krushchev for political reasons.[1] Previously it had been Russian for three hundred years. Historically, Crimea is Russian, not Ukrainian. Culturally Crimea is important to Russia too, it was the main Russian tourism destination during the Soviet Union and symbolised Russia's gains in the 18th and 19th Centuries. Russia for most of the 1990s refused to accept Ukraine's independence, let alone Crimea that Crimea should be a part of it with the Russian Parliament engaging in actions such as declaring Sevastopol a Russian city. Therefore the sovereignty of the region should be considered to be contested.



*Russia has dramatically escalated tension in the Crimea, sending troops to expand control of the region.*

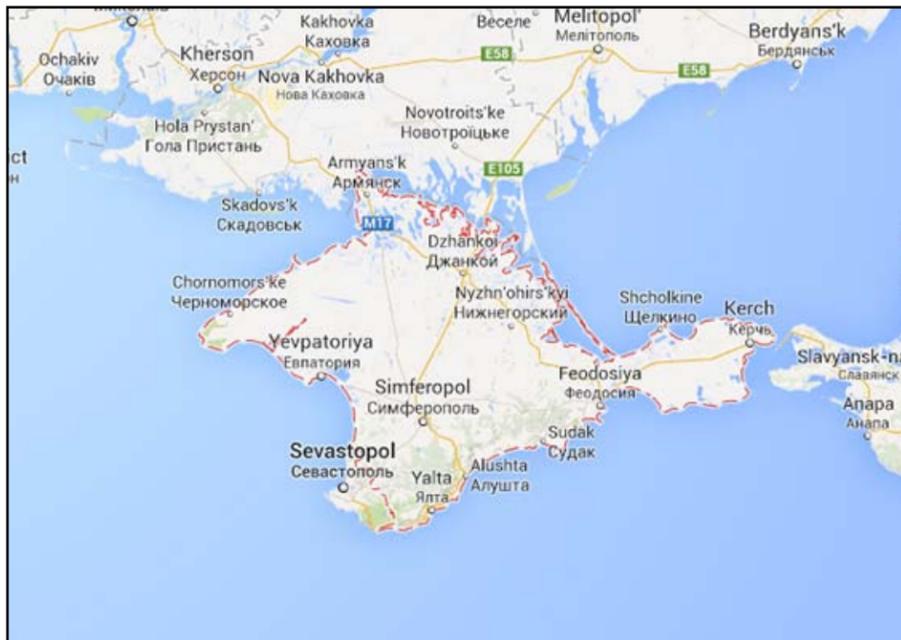
### Approval of the Parliament

The Russian parliament has agreed to approve force "in connection with the extraordinary situation in Ukraine, the threat to the lives of citizens of the Russian Federation, our compatriots." The Russian Federal Council approved the move unanimously so allowing Russian troops to be used. This gives President Putin the authority to use the Russian

### Council sanction

The legality of Russia's invasion of Crimea is simple "Russia's military intervention in Ukraine violates international law." The UN Charter is unambiguous "All Members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state". Russia has both threatened

that Yanukovich has "no political future" and helped him for "humanitarian reasons". If this is the case, then military action in Ukraine is superfluous; what Russia needs is to help establish a new government in Ukraine that is legitimate. The action in Crimea, however, simply unites Ukrainian opinion against him making it less likely that a pro-Russian candidate stands a chance of winning the election. Already, 58% of Ukrainians support integration with the European Union. This rash action on Crimea could ensure that Putin permanently loses Ukraine from Russia's sphere of influence.



*On Google Maps, Crimea is shaded gray — the color used to represent the disputed territories of the world.*

military in Crimea, or elsewhere in the Ukraine, if he believes it is necessary.

The Crimean Parliament has also asked to join Russia and had a referendum that showed overwhelming support of the people for this action. "From today, as Crimea is part of the Russian Federation the only legal forces here are troops of the Russian Federation, and any troops of the third country will be considered to be armed groups with all the associated consequences." This clearly gives Russian troops the right to be in Crimea.

## Points Against

### It is an invasion without Security

the use of force by its parliament authorising the President to use force on Ukrainian territory and actually done so by sending troops into Crimea. The only legal way for the UN Charter's prohibition on force to be avoided is through a Security Council mandate; which Russia does not have.

### Russia should negotiate with the new government

If Putin is truly concerned about Ukraine's government being illegitimate and unconstitutional, then he should be supporting elections as soon as possible to settle the question of who the government. Putin himself accepts

### What are the consequences of violating international norms?

President Putin has noted Western nations are being hypocritical, highlighting their role in the Middle East over the last decade. It is true that violating the prohibition against force does not carry any immediate sanction, and that which it does carry are discretionary to individual powers. However, that does not mean the violation can be completely disregarded; instead it means that any attempt to annex Crimea will be seen as completely illegitimate. International institutions are also likely to react, albeit slowly and not very effectively. Institutions such as the Council of Europe demand "Ukraine's territorial integrity must be respected and international commitments upheld" while the OSCE is sending monitors to Ukraine. Some institutions may exclude Russia altogether; there have been suggestions that Russia could be thrown out of the G8. Most significantly, violation of international norms creates global tensions and violates the concept of the importance of dialogue and diplomacy. When countries unilaterally violate these norms, international security is threatened.

For more information, you can read the entire debate and access more resources on the topic [here](#).

# Resource Corner: Pew Research Center Global Attitudes Project

By Cameron Janzen

**MODEL UN DELEGATES** are expected to reflect their assigned government's position and understand the national perspective in order to be prepared for committee. The Pew Research Center's Global Attitudes site has easy-to-use resources that can help delegates discover the opinions of the countries that they are representing. The Pew Research

Center conducts public opinion surveys around the world on a broad array of subjects ranging from people's assessments of their own lives to their views about the current state of the world and important issues of the day. While Pew gathers surveys from a limited number of countries (sixty total), it gathers opinions from every region of the world and the most populous countries.

The site's home page has a global map shows countries surveyed by Pew Global Attitudes Project. To access key question trends from a specific country, the user can simply click on the map.

From the home page, one can also search by topic on a wide range of issues. For example, if you were writing a resolution on immigration, you could

select the topic immigration attitudes.

You will be brought to list of former surveys conducted by Pew. The major finding of the survey is identified in the title with a brief summary report.

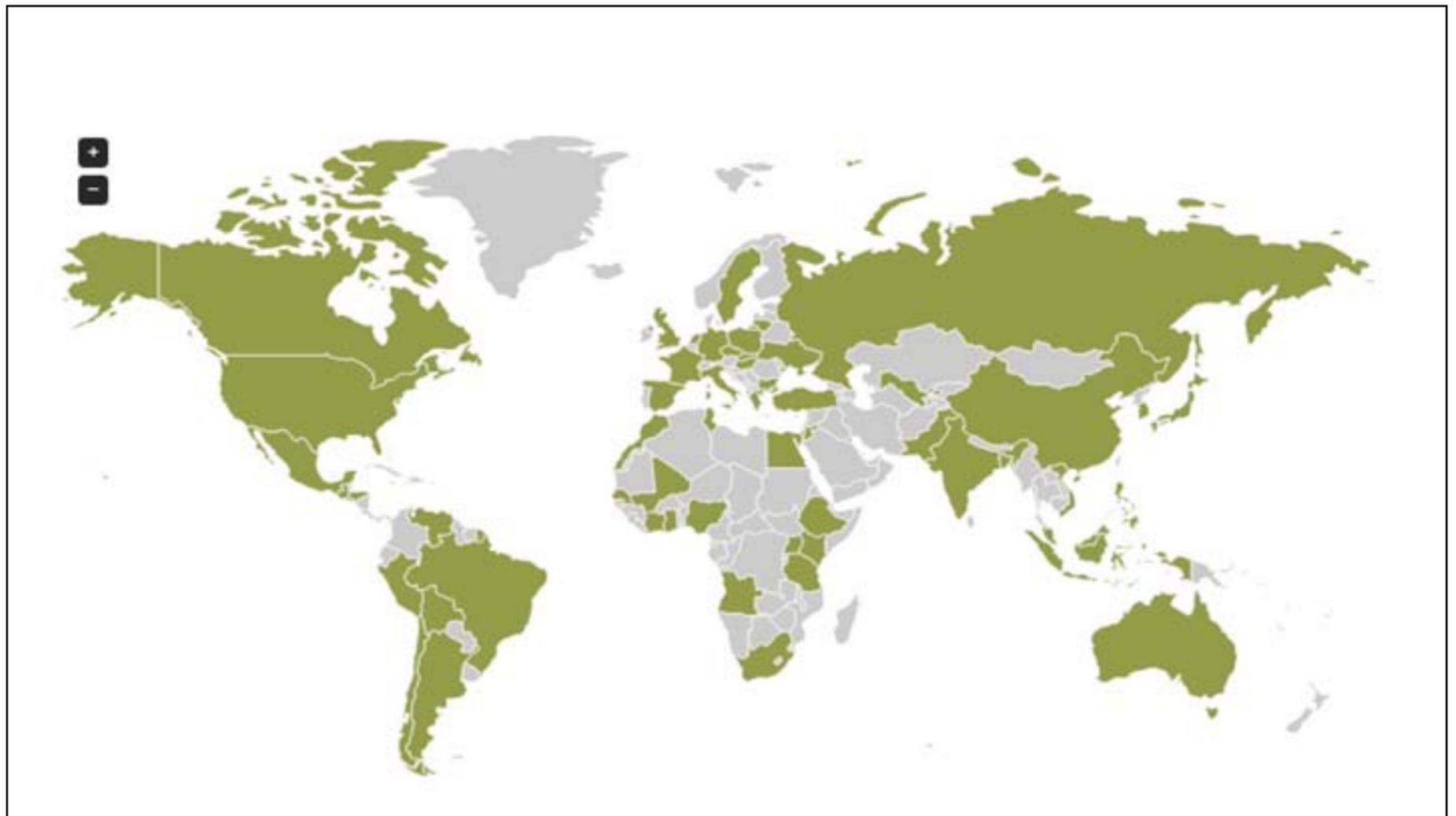
By clicking on the heading, you can read the entire report complete with statistical responses from individual countries and accompanying analyses provided by Pew.

Pew surveys can also be helpful in identifying friendly and non-friendly states. Pew conducts national perspective surveys on larger nations. If your school was assigned to represent China, accessing Pew's opinion poll on favorable views of China would quickly review country's that would likely be natural allies (Pakistan) and those with historical

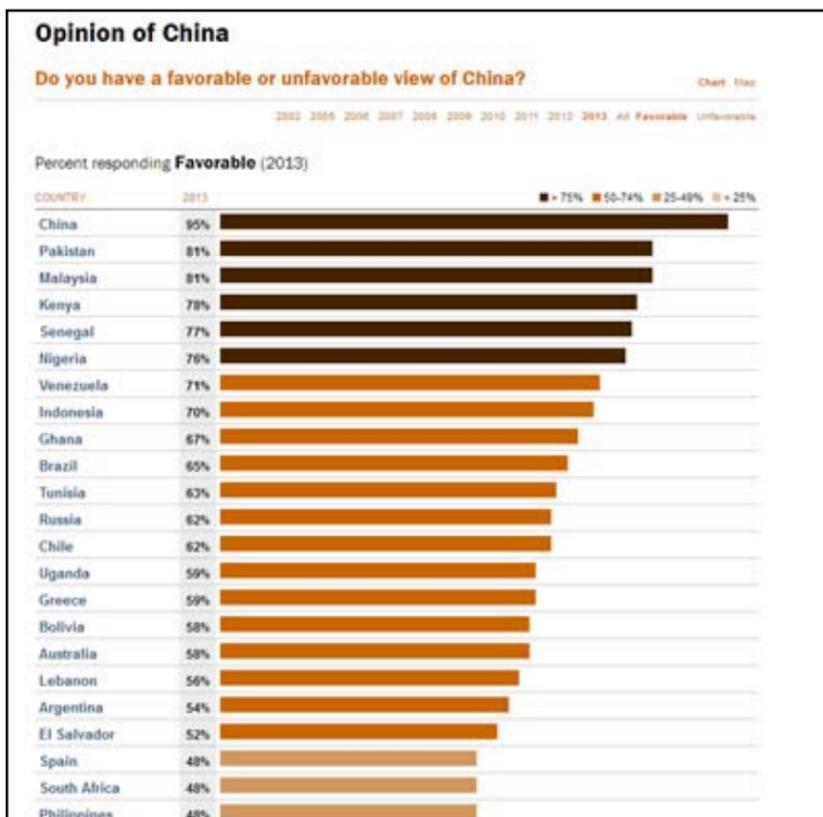
and/or historical tensions (Japan). As these polls are conducted annually, it would also easy to see how international issues can quickly influence public perceptions.

The obvious limitation of this source is that public opinion does not necessarily determine a country's foreign or domestic policy. For example, in a recent Pew poll, only 26% of Americans favored close ties with Saudi Arabia. Historically, however, this nation is one of the United States government's closest allies. This source is likely to be limited for experienced Model UN delegates who have an understanding of the complexity and, at times, the contradictions that exist within foreign policy decisions.

**Type of Resource:** Electronic  
**Purpose:** To present global opinion polls on issues.  
**Cost:** Free  
**Website:** <http://www.pewglobal.org/database/>



Clockwise from top: a map of countries Pew collects data on; a graph of various nation's favorability ratings for China; the index of topics covered by the Pew Research Center Global Attitudes Project



<b>0-9</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>O</b>
2008 Election	Gender	Older Adults
2012 Election	Generations and Age	
<b>A</b>	George W. Bush	<b>P</b>
Asia and the Pacific	Global Balance of Power	Political Attitudes and Values
	Globalization and Trade	Political Issue Priorities
	Government Spending and the Deficit	Population Projections
	Governments and Institutions	Population Trends
Barack Obama		Presidential Approval
Bilateral Relations		Protests and Uprisings
<b>B</b>		<b>R</b>
	<b>H</b>	Race and Ethnicity
	Health	Religion and Government
	Health Care	Religion and Politics
<b>C</b>		Religion and Society
Candidate Support	<b>I</b>	Religious Affiliation
Candidate Traits and Positions	Immigration	Religious Beliefs and Practices
Capitalism	Immigration Attitudes	Religious Extremism
Catholics and Catholicism	Income	Religious Leaders
China	Income Inequality	Restrictions on Religion
Christians and Christianity	Individualism and Individual Opportunity	Russia
Communism	International Organizations	
Country Image	International Threats and Allies	<b>S</b>
Criminal Justice	Internet Activities	Social Media
		Social Networking
<b>D</b>	<b>J</b>	Social Values
Democracy	Jews and Judaism	Socioeconomic Class
Demographics		Sub-Saharan Africa
Digital Divide	<b>L</b>	
Disasters and Accidents	Latin America	
Discrimination and Prejudice		



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