Announcements

• May 1: QLC and THIMUN Qatar Registration open to schools

• Check out the winners from the THIMUN Qatar Film Festival at:
  http://thimun-qatarpress.org

• Interview with Lisa Martin on Page 8 - read some advice she has on having an MUN club!

• Need help with opening debate speeches and tips on public speaking? Check out “Lessons from MUNI” on Page 12!

• HIAMUN 2016 was a success! Check out updates from this conference on page 6!


It’s a WRAP! Film Fest a HUGE Success!

By Maryam Al Khalifa, President of the 2016 Film Festival

That’s a wrap! The THIMUN Qatar Northwestern Film Festival was more than successful - the 3-day conference combined more than 40 students from local and global schools for such a wonderful event. I was certainly happy whilst meeting the student directors behind the remarkable films submitted for the festival.

The first day of the conference presented the filmmaker’s team work with one another, after the workshop sessions were completed all students were put into groups of 4 or 5 for the desert challenge at Sealine. Filmmakers enjoyed the adventure very much and especially Qatar’s exquisite coastline. The completed edited films were screened and the following day after time was provided in the computer labs. Filmmakers were given constructive feedback from the judges consisting of Northwestern Seniors, and the judges have announced the winner of the competition. Haytem Argane, Kalvin Luke Mallari, Hassan Jardali, Mohson Bukshaisha and Shaikha Al Moawdah were the winners, congratulations once again!

Dinner at Souq Waqif was amazing as the student directors began to enjoy their time more around the city of Doha. Filmmakers were introduced to the Qatari culture and heritage in a crowded Friday evening.

The final day concluded a screening of all nominated films at a ballroom in the Four Seasons Hotel, following a Q&A session with student directors behind each film, interviewed by Northwestern alumni Haneen Hindi. As time decayed towards the Gala Dinner evening, Film festival executive members were being prepared for the delightful evening. Audience arrived with their tickets and were given a warm welcome during the reception. At 6:20PM doors were open for the audience, seats were beginning to be filled and student directors appeared excited for the evening.

The ceremony began with opening speeches by Head of THIMUN Qatar Ms. Martin and Dean of Northwestern University in Qatar Dr. Everette Denis. As the audience was having dinner the Best Picture nominations were screened and ballots were on the table for them to decide on their winner of People’s Choice Award. The winner not only receives a trophy but also a QR10,000 cheque, Our Art Our Voices by Daniel Shen won the award. Student directors approached the stage for a full group photo and also collected their nomination plaques. The Gala Dinner was truly a success, once again I would like to thank everyone’s attendance and support I truly appreciate it. Dr. Everette Denis, Ms. Martin, Mr. Atkins, Haneen Hindi, Mr. Mercer and the entire TQN Film Festival executive team made this night possible, thank you. See you next year for the TQN Film Festival 2017!
Name: Raka Singhal
School: Qatar Academy

Number of Years Being an MUN Director: 12 years

Conferences Attended: Too many to count! International ones in Dublin, Milan, Hague, Beijing, Singapore and many local ones. Definitely 20 plus!

Idea of a dream vacation: Alaskan Cruise

Biggest pet peeve: Students wearing high heels for a conference.

Animal Lover?: NO

Biggest challenge juggling teaching and being an MUN Director: Depending on how active one is in MUN, balancing teaching and MUN gets very tricky if one is organising/participating in a conference. Giving up weekends and travelling overseas takes up a lot of family time and school work piles up too.

Three things you wish parents or students understood about MUN:
1. MUN is a serious activity and it is not all about trips.
2. Students must put in time to research topics being discussed in order to gain the maximum from a conference.
3. All parents must encourage their children to attend MUN as the skills they gain from the activities are life long; team work, public speaking, respecting other peoples opinions, listening to others viewpoints and being aware of the world will help them for the rest of their life.

Most memorable MUN moment: Being publicly acknowledged by an ex student, the guest speaker Saud al Thani at the last DCMUN conference for making a positive difference in his life through his experiences with MUN.

Open Forum: The biggest pleasure from getting involved in MUN, is in seeing the changes it makes in the lives of the students. Nothing can better the feeling you get when you see how a stumbling, stuttering, shy newcomer evolves into a confident, comfortable and effective speaker in a short span of time. It never ceases to amaze me to see how informed and well read this generation of students is; it is so impressive to observe them putting forth their viewpoints and desperately trying to come up with solutions to world problems.
MUN Updates from Alexandria

By Adam Carter, MUN Director, Schutz American School

By recruiting new schools and offering the largest MUN conference in Alexandria, Schutz American School has continued to advance the Model United Nations experience in Egypt. The theme of their fifth annual Schutz American School Model United Nations Conference (SASMUN) in March was “We Are Africa.” The two-day conference focused on a myriad of contemporary issues affecting Africa, such as soil degradation, the conflict in South Sudan and Boko Haram in West Africa. Schutz welcomed over 110 students in three General Assembly committees from seven schools in Alexandria and Cairo.

Schutz has helped promote MUN in the Alexandria area by doing outreach visits to local schools to introduce the concept and encourage other schools to participate. This year, they also held practice simulations in the months leading up to the conference in order to give delegates from other schools more experience. By participating in these run-up simulations and interacting with the more experienced delegates of Schutz, students became more comfortable with parliamentary procedure and debating. They also offered an extra day of lobbying a few days before the conference officially began, to give students from other schools with the opportunity to brainstorm with each other to discuss their ideas and start to draft their resolutions.

Another innovation Schutz has introduced to the MUN experience is to raise funds for a non-profit that is actively addressing some of the issues being debated during the conference. This year, their keynote speaker was a social entrepreneur who has created a viable business providing “dignity kits” for girls in sub-Saharan Africa that would miss considerable school time due to the lack of proper materials during their menstrual cycle. By setting aside a portion of conference registration fees, they were able to donate over $1,100 towards this worthy project. In addition, they passed around donation buckets to assist Syrian refugees in Alexandria, raising another $100 for local relief projects. As their MUN Director Adam Carter stated, “Our hope is to provide a new model for MUN conferences. It’s great for students to debate these important issues, but it’s even more of a learning experience when students are able to bring positive change. By studying an issue as they prepare for the conference and then hearing from a social entrepreneur or humanitarian that has already found effective ways to improve the situation, students realize they wear two hats at once: diplomats and activists.”

More information on their recent conference is available on their website: www.sasmunv.weebly.com
Travel Log DIAMUN

By Christina Jisto

Wednesday (Opening Ceremony)- My friend and I had left school early that day, to prepare for the DIAMUN opening ceremony. We went together to the venue. It was held at the American University in Dubai, AUD. This was my first time stepping foot inside an actual college campus. I had a glimpse of college life for the first time. Since we arrived earlier than our school, we had spare time to relax in the campus before the ceremony started. We obviously found a Starbucks coffee shop in the campus and chilled there for while. After that, we went to explore the campus and took “Instagram Worthy Photos” for our feed. Our school arrived 30 minutes before the ceremony started. I took some pictures with the rest of my school’s MUN team. We all entered the AUD auditorium with excitement. We had special seats up front because we were sister schools with Dubai International Academy, DIA. Students sang beautiful choir songs and performed an act about DIAMUN’s central topic for this year, Women and Development: Investing in Our Future. Speeches were made by the Secretary General and other important speakers. The ceremony ended with the Secretary General declaring that DIAMUN 2016 was officially opened!

Thursday (Conference Day 1)- Even though I was representing North Korea, I did meet some wonderful people in my committee. My friend and I were in the same committee so, we met double the times the people. Like all MUN conferences, it always had to start with a 2-3 hour lobbying session. During lobbying, I met new people, exchanged ideas, and created resolutions. I was pretty proud of myself because I actually imputed some of my preambulatory clauses onto my group’s final resolution. My committee was the last to be released for lunch. The cafeteria was packed with hungry teenagers. My friend and I found our friends outside and decided to wait for the crowd to simmer down. After a while of waiting, we got our food. Lunch time was up so, we all had to return back to our committees. Lobbying continued on for about two hours. My committee was the first to send in all the resolutions to the Advisory Panel for reviewing. Because we had spare time, we were granted a long indoor recess by the Dias. Opening speeches were presented by delegates towards the end of the day.

Friday (Conference Day 2 + Social Night)- I walked into the the conference hall and noticed that all the seats were modified and moved. The day before, all the seats were organized from A to Z, today, all the seats were arranged from Z to A. DPR Korea started with the letter ‘D’ and so I was set in the back. I tend to get very distracted when I’m placed in the back. I wasn’t paying much attention to the speakers while in the process of debate. My friend and I kept sending each other notes which kept me productive. I really wanted to speak, either by asking a question or going up to the podium, but I didn’t have the guts to. During a ten minute indoor recess, two girls approached me and asked if I could declare war on China. I started laughing, China is North Korea’s ally. They said that they had gotten 13 people to start a war. A war could’ve potentially entertained the entire committee. The plan eventually got cancelled due to unknown reasons. I was really impressed by all the delegates who went up to the podium to present their point of view on the resolution that was at hand. Hats of to them! Later on, during the debate session, one of our deputy chairs decided to act as a delegate and had gone up to the podium. His point of view was very entertaining and inspired other delegates on how to approach their own views in an entertaining manner. I noticed a familiar face sitting in the back of the committee hall. It was the head of THIMUN, Lisa Martin. She was the one who had put me in “The Olive Branch’ newsletter--February Edition. I obviously had to go say “Hi”. After lunch, the Dias introduced the idea of superlatives, meaning best chair, best dressed, etc. The Dias counted up the votes and planned to read them aloud the next day. The conference ended at around 5:30 and the social night started at 7:00. I went back home, got ready, and met up with my friends at Jumeirah Beach Hotel. The party was so much fun. I was so energized by everyone’s dancing and enthusiasm. The music was on point and very upbeat. It felt as if I was in a MUN nightclub. Three hours later, everyone started leaving as the party started wrapping up.

Saturday (Conference Day 3)- My seat was back up front. I was happy to see that. I knew I would be more concentrated up front. Debate session one was on going till lunch. My friend and I continued to send each other notes and discussed about talking up on the podium and/or asking a question. This was my last chance to speak. My mind kept on reminding me, “You didn’t speak up in THIMUN, you better speak up now in DIAMUN”. After a long hard process of thinking, I finally rose my placard to state a Point of Information. My friend and I planned to raise our placards at the same time to ask different questions. Unfortunately, my friend was not recognized by the Dias. Instead, I was. I was shaking, I had never spoken up in front of such a large crowd. “DPR Korea,” the Dias called out. I rose up and stated my Point of Information, POL. No words could explain how I felt at that moment. Me, being the shyest of all people, actually spoke up. Later, my committee was released to proceed to the Plenary session. All the General Assembly committees got together and did an hour of debate on three resolutions. I sat with my friends from the other GA committees. My friend started sending threat notes to the delegation of India and South Korea since we were both representing DPR Korea. Although the delegation of India complained about us to the admin, we still had fun. We sent funny notes to Canada which made everyone laugh. After the Plenary session ended, we were dismissed to the closing ceremony. I was proud to have attended two successful MUN conferences. Hopefully I will be attending more in the future but for now, two is good. It was a fun experience and I’m glad to have shared it with you!
DIAMUN 2016 Recap: Women and Development

By Kymberley Chu

Dubai International Academy Model United Nations (DIAMUN) is an annual MUN conference in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. DIAMUN was founded by Poonam Bhojani, the CEO of Innoven-tures Education. The 8th Annual DIAMUN had over 42 schools and 800 delegates attend on March 16th to 19th, 2016.

DIAMUN 2016’s theme was Women and Development, the theme was chosen in order to distinguish DIAMUN from other MiddleEastern MUN conferences.

Specifically, DIAMUN’s secretariat’s team consisted of 4 male and 6 female leaders for an almost equal ratio according to Deputy Secretary-General Divij Bindal. In addition, the opening ceremony was conducted at American University of Dubai where the keynote speaker was Mr. Lawrence Chickering, the founder of Educate Girls Globally (EGG).

With this in mind, the Special Conference topics revolved around equal access to education and increasing job opportunities for women in the MENA region. This is clearly evidenced in committees such as the World Economic Forum and the League of Arab States, which discussed on women empowerment as a catalyst for socio-economic development and measures to attain women’s involvement and representation in politics and management levels throughout the Arab League states respectively.

In addition, the latest committees included SPCA (Special Conference in Arabic), Approval Panel (APQ), and Youth Assembly. All of which facilitated debate sessions on gender empowerment topics such as “Understanding the challenges faced by women in refugee camps” and “Action Paper on Achieving Gender Equality in the MENA Region.”

President of the General Assembly Suhail Mayor reported “The SPCA was created to connect with our roots in the UAE, specifically, a committee dealing with gender empowerment and understanding localized issues in the MENA region.”

Overall, the 8th DIAMUN inspired numerous delegates around the world to not only enjoy debating but to also advocate for gender equality.
HIAMUN 2016

By Noran Alaa, HIAMUN '16 Press Team head

Over 300 participants from across 9 schools in Cairo attended Hayah International Academy’s Sixth Annual Model United Nations Conference, HIAMUN ‘16, making it the largest HIAMUN conference yet. Notably, this was the first HIAMUN conference after receiving the THIMUN affiliation, which motivated our Academic and Organizing Committees to deliver the best conference yet. The conference's central theme was METAMORPHOSIS: the idea that the change that we are able to make could eventually lead to total transformation. The delegates entered the conference aiming to create whatever change, knowing it could carry out a ripple effect within their forums, whether it was a new amendment or a resolution.

During the four-day conference in February, the conference was delighted to have special guest Mr. Peter Daglish, Canadian humanitarian and country representative for UN-habitat in Afghanistan, who delivered several talks each day of the conference to different groups. Mr. Daglish provided a source of inspiration to HIAMUN delegates, starting with his opening ceremony speech, where he emphasized that “we are needed.” Throughout the four days, Mr. Daglish encouraged us to volunteer, in the spirit of change and service that MUN encourages.

As the President of General Assembly 1, Ahmed El-Halwagy said, “The delegates are here with the intention of developing and gaining new experiences; At the same time, they all have a great sense of humor.” That is what’s special about HIAMUN; it aims to deliver an organized, professional conference that offers a beneficial learning experience for all delegates and student officers involved, while simultaneously providing a fun and enjoyable experience. As serious and focused as the delegates are, there’s an ultimate balance of humor and jokes within the forum. Some of the conference’s most memorable moments were our character of the year, Tux the Monkey, who walked around the conference in full costume, causing both laughs and confusion. Another important aspect of HIAMUN was an outing like no other, where the delegates were entertained by illusionist and mentalist Moustapha Berjaoui’s mind-blowing performance in the outing. It seemed like the question repeated most throughout the outing was, “how is this even possible?”

Participating in a fun conference did not prevent HIAMUN delegates from acting professionally and responsibly, passing several constructive resolutions, and engaging in many heated debates throughout all eight forums, which included GA, GA1, GA3, GA6, ECOSOC, Security Council, SRCMENA, and the ICJ, which witnessed two controversial cases, where the advocates actively fought in support of their country’s cases. There are some moments from the forums that echoed in the whole conference, and are remembered today, such as ECOSOC’s Slovakia’s singing or when the chair made the whole forum get up and put their hands up to be more active or when General Assembly decided to sing their points of information.

All in all, HIAMUN’s sixth annual session was nothing short of an unforgettable experience, thanks to the active delegates, responsible presidents and chairs, and hardworking Academic and Organizing committees, and of course, the Secretary General and Deputy Secretary General. We hope the experience has inspired the participants to make a change, because even the smallest changes can create a great ripple effect.
Universal American School in Kuwait hosted their first MUN conference at their campus in Hawally on March 3-5, 2016. The event was kicked off with an opening ceremony featuring keynote speaker Faisal AlFuhaid, a graduate of GUST, founder of EQUATE (socio-cultural/economic) Diwaniya, and currently a commercial real estate developer. Also welcoming students were UAS owner Nora Alghanim and superintendent Dr. James Moras. Delegates from a number of schools in Kuwait including BBS, ACA Boys and Girls Schools, TEA, ASK, ABS and UAS debated issues in commissions including Territorial, Human Rights, Disarmament, Environmental, ECOSOC, the Arab League and the Security Council. More information about UASMUN can be found on their webpage at www.uasmun.org.
MUN Leadership: An Interview with Lisa Martin

By Kymberley Chu

Lisa Martin is a prominent MUN leader who co-founded Online Model United Nations (OMUN) and is the director of THIMUN Qatar. Below is a transcript of the MUN Leadership Interview.

Kymberley: How was your first time as a MUN director?

Lisa Martin: In 1991 my head of school had just picked me up at the airport…I was getting ready to start my assignment as a new history teacher at ACS Abu Dhabi. He casually mentioned that he had signed me up to take students to something called THI-MOON. This was before the internet, we never received our Form II information in the mail, and we arrived horribly unprepared. We represented Nepal. I'll never forget it!

Kymberley: What strongly distinguishes MUN from other similar debate activities?

Lisa Martin: It allows participants to discuss and research things that are not normally covered in schools. MUN fills that void.

Kymberley: How was THIMUN Qatar founded?

Lisa Martin: When the THIMUN Foundation was looking to expand its conferences, they realized there was a huge and growing demand for a conference in the Middle East. The decision was made to hold one in The Gulf, and Qatar Academy won the opportunity to host it. With the backing of the Qatar Foundation, and the great conference facilities that the region provides, the rest is history.

Kymberley: As a director, what is the educational significance of OMUN?

Lisa Martin: The very nature of learning has changed, and schools have been some of the last to figure this out. People today work, learn and socialize in teams, and on platforms, that sometimes then morph into face to face/traditional work environments. OMUN gathers people around an interest, and teaches and executes its programming through social media in a way that is both new and inclusive. It's the inclusiveness of OMUN that is its strength.

Kymberley: What challenges have you faced in OMUN and THIMUN Qatar?

Lisa Martin: The biggest challenge OMUN has faced is the fact that right as it began to feel like an established program, I had to step away from its leadership. There are numerous ideas I have for OMUN’s growth but I will have to wait until my time at THIMUN Qatar ends.

Kymberley: Have you participated in any MUN debates?

Lisa Martin: Yes, many.

Kymberley: How has technology impacted the MUN scene?

Lisa Martin: It’s allowed communities of interest to develop around MUN, and to assist with sharing information, research. It has allowed MUN conferences to reach out to other interested schools and students, and has probably been extremely important in the growth of MUN into new areas.

Kymberley: Do you have any advice for small or recent MUN clubs?

Lisa Martin: Keep it simple. Focus on debate and student leadership. Once you have hooked people into the actual fun of debating, you can develop a more elaborate club leadership program.
The World is our Home: a History of the THIMUN Qatar Theme Song

Not all MUN conferences have their own commissioned theme song, but no THIMUN Qatar conference would be complete without the traditional opening ceremony performance of The World is Our Home.

According to Cameron Janzen, the founder of THIMUN Qatar, the idea came from the Qatar Academy Choir and Band teacher, Mandy Hollingsworth. The idea was shared with Mark Seay, band director at ASD, who happened to meet choral composer, professor and head of music education at the University of Florida, Dr. Russell Robinson at a NESA conference in Bangkok, and approached Robinson with the idea.

As Robinson remembers, “The theme of “The World is Our Home” came to me as I envisioned the flag ceremony representing many countries. I contacted my collaborator, Carl Strommen in New York to write the band accompaniment. In a short amount of time it was finished. It is now published by Carl Fischer Publishing in New York City and being sung and performed around the world with “Commissioned and Dedicated to THIMUN” at the top of the first page of the music. With over 250 pieces in print, I am very proud to have been asked to write this very special composition.”

Cameron Janzen also added that “each year ASD would preform at the Opening Ceremony and when the MUN conference was moved to the convention center we wanted something special.” And the rest is history!

Link to song: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y6Tqz_Lcq0g

American School of Doha gets ready for MSMUN-Q!

By DSG Somin Chung

On Thursday April 7th, 2016, the American School of Doha (ASD) held its first ever middle school Mock United Nations conference. Since November 2015, student officers from Middle School MUN and ASD middle school directors have cooperated to establish a Middle school MUN club. Around fifty middle school students from sixth to eighth grade participated in this small-scale conference along with the help from a couple voluntary high school delegates and experienced chairs. Despite this conference being the first conference experience for majority of the delegates, due to steadfast training over the course of couple months, the delegates successfully conducted a fruitful debate on the topic of child marriage. The students were divided into two committees: UNICEF and UNHCR with around twenty delegations represented in each committee.

With the official conference coming up in just a month, the preparation for Middle School MUN conference is full hands on deck. The executive committee is planning a chair training session on Friday April 29th with all student officers present in order to prepare the new, inexperienced chairs to be able to handle situations effectively in the upcoming conference. The new delegates are also being prepared online in the forum of ‘Edmodo’ where MUN-related resources are readily available and the mentee-mentor interaction is facilitated.
“Admin, please suspend note passing and secure all doors.”

You know it’s serious when the doors are being secured. The phrase itself has a professional aura, a certain gravity that brings a hush across the room. It also sounds really cool. The rustling of papers, the scratching of pens, the uttering of words ceased. Voting was underway. The topic of concern? Reducing the effects of armed conflict on international diplomatic relations. Placards rose and fell, as they are meant to do during voting. “Clapping is in order.” Applause. Everything happened swiftly, without a slip or a hiccup. And with that, the delegates, clad in their suits and skirts and armed with the determination of olympians, moved on to the next resolution at hand.

Such was the character of the Doha College One Day Training Conference, which took place on March 18, 2016. The ODTC is designed for students new to MUN to become accustomed to the style and nature of MUN conferences and the expectations MUN sets. This year’s ODTC was centered around borders - both those that surround countries and those that are created in the digital space. The latter is becoming increasingly relevant in today’s world, especially with the growth of digital communications that extend past the physical boundaries that separate one country from another.

The Internet, a ubiquitous presence in our every day lives, is an accessible utility and a very powerful tool as a result. And yet it is one that can be abused by the nefarious minority. Cyber terrorism is a prevalent threat not only to individuals but to entire governments and nations. It is vital that the safety of the public on digital media is maintained, their privacy protected and their rights enforced.

At the end of the day, resolutions are passed, arguments are shared, knowledge is explored and teamwork is encouraged to build the future leaders of our generation so our tomorrow becomes a place of peace and communication. And yet it still astounds us how we can get up so early and look so good.
A Word from the SG of BISCMUN

By Ibrahim Abouelfettouh, Secretary General BISCMUN 2016

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

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

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

In conclusion, thankfully, we achieved our goals. Thoughts were provoked, ideas challenged, and resolutions proposed. Personally, I ended off my MUN high school career on a high note, and I’m sure, as did everyone. The opportunity I was given to do this was immense, but it wasn’t of my doing, because I couldn’t have done any of this alone. Therefore, I would like to thank everyone who contributed, the Secretariat, the admins, the student officers and of course, the directors. I would also like to personally thank Ms. Martin, who came all the way to Egypt with intents of improving our conference, which is vital to the success of anything. Without any of this tremendous help, this conference wouldn’t have been such a success.
Lessons from MUN: How to Write an Opening Speech

By Caroline Bello

Public Speaking

Public speaking is a highly valuable skill you have the opportunity to develop through Model United Nations. Knowing how to prepare and deliver well-organized and thoughtful speeches will help you in school, your future career, and the rest of your life.

At an MUN conference, you will have many opportunities to give speeches. As the representative of your assigned country, you will be expected to speak about your country's policy on the committee topics and your proposed solutions.

There are two main opportunities to make speeches in Model UN:

- **Speakers List:** When the committee begins, the chair will create a list of delegates who wish to give speeches. These speeches are typically about the how each country feels about the topic, and range from 1-2 minutes long. The first time you speak on the speakers list is referred to as your opening speech. You should prepare this speech before the conference. After your first speech, you can send a note to the chair to request to be put on the Speakers List again.

- **Moderated Caucus:** Whereas the speakers list is about the topic in general, a moderated caucus is about a specific part of the topic. A moderated caucus has no Speakers List; delegates must raise their placards and wait for the chair to call on them to speak. Each delegate typically gets 30 seconds to 1 minute to speak, and have to focus on the topic of the caucus.

Public Speaking Structure

One of the easiest ways to organize your speeches in Model UN, especially for opening speeches, is to use the following three-part formula:

1. **Hook:** An engaging way to grab your audience's attention;
2. **Point:** Your country policy on the topic; and,
3. **Call to Action:** Your possible solutions to the topic.

1. **Hook**

The beginning of a speech should grab your audience's attention. It should give your audience a reason to listen to you – otherwise they won’t. An attention-grabbing introduction is often called a "hook." There are many different types of hooks, but here are a few common ones that work well in Model UN.

**Question:** Asking the audience a question is often an easy way to get their attention.

**Example:** “Do you think it is possible for us to live in a world without poverty? The people of my country think so. We believe we can achieve the end of poverty.”

**Quote:** A quote engages the audience when they recognize the figure you’re quoting.

**Example:** “Fifty years ago, United States President John F. Kennedy said, ‘Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country.’ Today, ask not what the world can do for you, but what you can do for the world.”

**Statistic:** A statistic can grab an audience's attention if it is surprising or interesting.

**Example:** “Over 1 billion people around the world live on less than US$1.25 a day. Over 1 billion people live in extreme poverty.”

**Story:** A story is the oldest form of communication and if told well, can certainly grab an audience's attention. But speeches in MUN are typically very short, so keep the story brief!

**Example:** “Several years ago, in rural Pakistan, a girl was walking to school when a gunshot rang out – and she was shot in the head. The Taliban killed girls to go to school. But that girl survived, and today she fights for girls' right to education around the world. That girl’s name was Malala.”

2. **Point**

The point is the purpose of your speech. It is the reason why you’re speaking. Once you have your audience's attention, you should deliver your point. MUN speeches are often short, so stick to one point. Make it significant but simple to understand. It is better to say one thing well than many things poorly.

In opening speeches in MUN, the “point” is to state your country policy on the topic. Then offer 2-3 reasons explaining why your country had adopted this policy.

**Example:** “The Republic of Korea believes that education is a human right, and that all people should have access to education. Education is a pathway out of poverty for millions in developing countries, like Korea was just a few decades ago. Education is the driver of change and development in this world, and education is critical for the human race to continue to thrive and grow.”

3. **Call to Action**

Good speeches end with a "call to action," which is when you tell your audience to go and do something. Your call to action is your specific solution to the problem.

**Example:** “To provide universal access to education, Korea proposes the creation of an international fund called ‘Education For All’ that will support 3 programs in developing countries: building more schools, training new teachers, and preventing girls from dropping out of school. We call upon the international community to create and donate to this fund, so we can guarantee education as a right globally.”
Write for the Olive Branch!

Submit articles by the 1st of the month.

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