



THE OLIVE BRANCH

MODEL UNITED NATIONS NEWSLETTER



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THIMUN Qatar Countdown

Announcements

- Check out page 5 for power-searching research tips for delegates!

- OMUN Debate: December 19, 2015 13:00 UTC

- THIMUN Qatar 2016: January 26-29, 2016

- Save the Date: Qatar Leadership Conference, Oct 20-22, 2016

- 2016: THIMUN Qatar Northwestern Film Festival on March 24-26, 2016 . More information at:

<http://qatar.thimun.org/film-festival>



By Sana Hussain

Greetings!

My name is Sana Hussain. I'm a senior at DPS Modern Indian School and I'll be the Deputy Secretary General at THIMUN 2016.

Anticipation is once again in the air, delegates continue to debate, admins and chairs continue to plan, and the executive team is working harder than ever before... because THIMUN Qatar 2016 is just around the corner! The good news is you can start preparing for THIMUN Qatar's upcoming conference. The research reports are up on the website and can be accessed by delegates as in only a matter of weeks you will find your-

self debating them at QNCC! They will give you valuable insight into the issues and how to tackle them. The reports cover all relevant areas of information in a detailed manner and should form the base of research, which you must build upon.

If you're a new delegate and THIMUN Qatar 2016 will be your first conference, and you're new to MUN protocol, don't fret. O-MUN Qatar holds monthly debates where you can practice your delegating skills, transcending physical boundaries limiting participation-we needed an efficiently streamlined platform to facilitate the operations of the program.

Here are a few tips to



Here are a few tips to stand out as a delegate in your committee:

-Stack up on the information: Your research is the most significant part of your preparation for the conference. Know your issues inside out and keep your facts ready.

-Have your resolution and/or clauses ready: MUN is all about solving the problems in the world. As a delegate, your priority should be looking for ideas to resolve the disputes in your committee. A planned set of clauses will help grab the notice of your fellow delegates.

-Make an impression while speaking: Your speeches are key to seizing

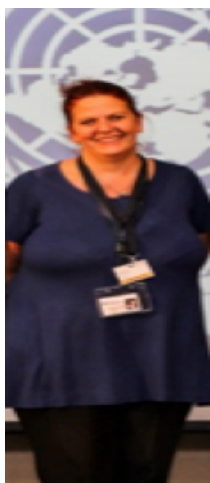
the attention of your peers, especially your opening statements. Take a stand and support it through your speech. Be clear, and concise.

-Lobby Well: Lobbying is crucial to a strong resolution. You must understand how to work with fellow delegates and merge your ideas to form a well-written set of answers to the given issue.

The most important thing as a delegate is to actively participate.

Next year's conference will be incredible. So mark your calendars for January 27, 2016 and start counting down the days.

Director Forum



Name: Joanne Conly

School: Doha College, Qatar

Number of Years Being an MUN Director: I have been working alongside Alan Butler for about 7 years but this is my first year as the Main Director of MUN

Conferences Attended: I have lost count. At least 20. My first conference as a teacher was at Qatar Academy back in the early days, however I remember attending them in my Junior and Senior Years.

Idea of a dream vacation: Before children –it was definitely a diving holiday somewhere fabulous like the Maldives or Pemba, however now that I have two rambunctious boys my dream holiday is one that entertains them such as Disney World.

Biggest pet peeve: I don't know, I have a few in class that would be when students write down an answer that if they used their common sense they would know was wrong, such as the mean of 5, 6 and 7 being 14.5. At home it is finding my toilet unflushed by those two rambunctious boys I was talking about earlier. Animal Lover? Yes, as a child we always had a house full of pets. Now I have a dog, some birds, Page 2

some fish but we have had a menagerie in the time I have been here.

Biggest challenge juggling teaching and being an MUN Director: TIME.

Trying to ensure that all parts of the job are done well and that I spend some time with my children.

Three things you wish parents or students understood about MUN:

1) I think one of the things that I find so great about MUN is the opportunity for students to be from another country and I always want students to really embrace that, but as they are often teenagers, they still look at issues from their point of view and if I could get one thing through to students it would be that, stop looking at it with your value systems try looking at it from another point of view.

2) For parents I wish they would understand the time element. From both sides, how much time and effort their children put into MUN is amazing and I would like more to come to opening ceremonies and see that, also for them to realize how much time and effort goes into it from a staff point of view, and that we might not be able to answer that email immediately.

3) How much MUN helps students to develop in some many ways. That is not just an after-school activity but if done well can change a student's outlook on the world. Most memorable MUN moment: To be fair at the moment, it has to be this whole recent DCMUN VIII, working with students who constantly surprise you with their maturity but at the same time you can have a laugh with in their silly moments.

MSMUN-Qatar Update

By Ahmed Al Hajari, Secretary General for MSMUN-Q

Model United Nations is an open forum for all students to debate for resolutions to eclectic contemporary issues that emerge around the world. It not only provides a proactive way to learn and contemplate about political, socio-economic and humanitarian measures in different countries perspectives but also allows students to develop public speaking skills by exposing them to a series of productive debates. Formally the idea of Model United Nations is introduced only to high school students however the THIMUN office in Qatar have worked the past few years to change that idea by the creation of a new Middle School conference, the first of its kind in the region that ran for its time last year.

In May 2016, the second annual Middle School Model United Nations Qatar will take place, under the theme of 'Safety and Security'. Approximately 250 delegates from many different school around the countries will come together to share there assigned countries view points on different issues the world in facing today. Such as the question of protection of Syrian refugees debated in

General Assembly 1, or the issues regarding confronting the threat of ISIS attacks in Disarmament Committee (DC) and the issue of climate change in the Environmental Committee (EC).

The Executive team hopes that these issue will be in interest to the younger groups so that it can spark heated discussions in committee rooms, and help in the growth of these future leaders. The Executive Team of MSMUN 2015 is thrilled to provide room for 250 dedicated delegates to explore the issues and represent their respective assigned countries' view-points. In preparation of the conference we are accepting student officer applications for 10th and 11th grade students by December 3rd. We hope to compose a diverse yet comfortable conference for a big body of delegates to thrive in with their interests and dedication to MUN. We aspire to set an example for the progressive growth of the conference in its magnitude and quality in the future and we could not do it without the effort of the THIMUN Office, directors, executives, student officers and mostly, the enthusiasm and excitement of the middle school participants.



Student Spotlight



Name: Dina N. Awartani

Grade: 12

School/Country: Amna Bint Wahab in Qatar

Current MUN leadership positions: Student officer in THIMUN 2016, Secretary General of ISMUN 2016, Arabic Ambassador of

Name: Sutanka Sujaini

Grade: 11th

School/Country: DPS-Modern Indian School, Qatar

Current MUN Leadership Positions: School Outreach Officer of Qatar (OMUN-Q)

Three words that describe you as a delegate: Patient, hardworking, altruistic

Favorite Comfort Food: Food cooked by Mom

Favorite thing to do when you don't have homework: Sleep

Dream vacation: Australia

Personal MUN Goal for

the Middle East

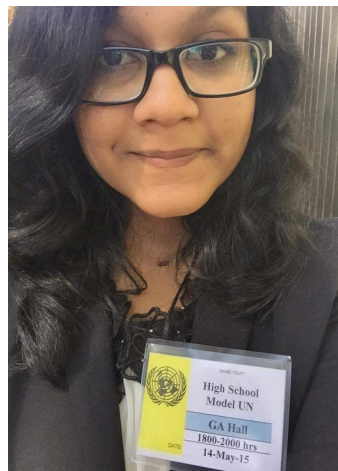
Three words that describe me as a delegate: Social/Observant/Talented note-passer ;)

Favorite comfort food: Ice-cream and Mac and cheese

Pet-peeve: Nagging and repeating something more than twice drives me crazy III

Dream vacation: Back-packing through Europe.

Personal MUN goal for the year: To not make a fool of myself while chairing in Arabic. Also, start a new MUN club at university (if I get accepted).



the year: As the School Outreach Officer, I would like to see new delegates participate in debates. Moreover I would like to work on improving myself as a Delegate.

One major improvement you'd like to see in Model UN: Training sessions for new delegates so that they can participate actively during the debate.



Name: Robin de Zeeuw

Grade: 12 (Senior year)

School/Country: International School of Curacao, Curacao

Current MUN Leadership Positions: President of the General Assembly at THIMUN H 2016, Deputy Secretary General (DSG) of the Americas at OMUN 2015-2016, Head of Debate Team 2 at OMUN 2015-2016, Secretary General

Name: Kashf Al Noor Rana

Grade: Year 11

School/Country: Wesgreen International School, Sharjah U.A.E

Current MUN leadership positions: None

Three words that describe you as a delegate: Determined, researcher, dedicated

Favorite comfort food: My favorite comfort food is Ice Cream

Favorite thing to do when there's no homework: Whenever I don't have any homework I like to do one the following; either research random topics or read a novel that interests me

at the International School of Curacao MUN conference (ISCMUN) 2016, Director at Curacao Model United Nations (CURMUN)

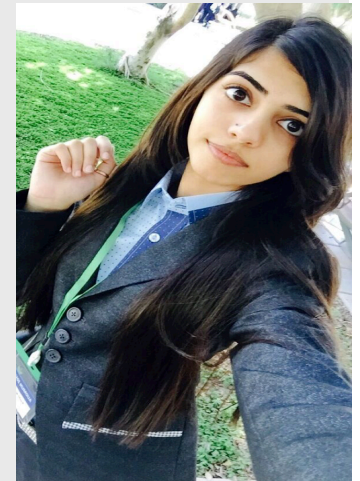
Three words that describe you as a delegate: Daring, Innovative, Energetic

Favorite thing to do when you don't have homework: Netflix

Dream vacation: World trip with stops in Buenos Aires, London, Joburg, Doha, Tehran, Shanghai, Sydney and New York.

Pet Peeve: When people don't follow up on their word

One major improvement you'd like to see in Model UN: That instead of it being a school program it becomes a national program that students debate in and then are selected to represent that nation abroad.



Dream Vacation: My dream vacation is a World Tour and a few weeks spent at a beach house

Personal MUN goal for the year: My very own personal goal of the year is to get the best delegation award. I sincerely do hope I achieve it.

The Art of Political Courage (AMMUN Recap)



Delegate discussing clauses in Security Council.



Deputy Secretary General Suraya Salfiti presents her welcoming note at the opening ceremony.

By *KyMBERLEY CHU*

“Political courage is the ability to stand up and to voice your opinion.” Tara Matalka, the Secretary General of Amman Model United Nations (AMMUN) said.

Over 16 schools and 500 delegates participated in Amman Model United Nations (AMMUN), Jordan on October 28th to November 2nd, 2015. This 14th annual session of AMMUN brought together delegates from diverse places such as Turkey and Tanzania, delegates passionately debated about global issues such as ISIS. This year, political courage was the chosen theme of AMMUN.

In a dynamic and changing world, the theme of political courage is heavily emphasised. AMMUN aims to further inspire youth involvement in global affairs and to provide a political voice for the oppressed. The theme of political courage (proposed by deputy secretary general Suraya Salfiti) is prominent through AMMUN’s opening ceremony, special conference (SPC) committee focusing on Jordan’s internal security, highly distinguished guest speakers such as former Jordanian prime minister Taher Masri, followed by a unique NGO sponsored project with the Nour al Barakah organization.

During the opening ceremony, deputy secretary general Suleiman Mashini presented his video focusing on political courage. Narrated by Lara Abdullah, Head of Training/President of General Assemblies, the video includes snippets of past conflicts and the music video “This is War” by 30 Seconds to Mars. This inspiring video ended with a call to action: to voice out your opinion, to stand up for justice and equality to create a better future for the world.

“It is a unique opportunity to bring people from such diverse backgrounds and nationalities, to spend several days together in order to debate global issues, it’s an amazing opportunity. The theme of political courage is also something to be noted and encouraged.” UNICEF representative in Jordan, Robert Jenkins remarked with enthusiasm in a personal interview. Mr. Jenkins, a UNICEF representative

gave a speech on political dialogue and its crucial role in global affairs. In his speech, Mr. Jenkins encouraged many delegates to take part and solve global issues for equality.

Delegates expressed their own political courage through the recent addition of the Special Committee (SPC). They debated about Jordan’s future and its involvement in the Middle East such as the Syrian refugee crisis. Issues such as internal security and the foreign policy of Jordan were debated on by analysing economic, social, and humanitarian aspects. In addition, guest speakers such as the British Ambassador to Jordan provided advice on the delegates’ plans. After three days of lobbying and debating, delegates volunteered in a community service project with Nour al-Barakah.

Nour al-Barakah (NAB) is an NGO that runs an organic garden while providing a vocational outlet for young adults with intellectual disabilities. Over 20 delegates participated in a myriad of activities such as producing organic compost and playing football with the adults with intellectual disabilities. This hands-on project revealed the intangible amount of bravery and open mindedness of the delegates. In fact, AMMUN’s theme of political courage was amplified through the SPC, distinguished guest speakers, and its hands-on project among a multitude of factors.

Just as Yasmine Katkhuda, Head of Training said “It is the courage to stand up and stand your ground, what you believe in, hold that belief strongly.”

AMMUN exemplifies a balance of diplomacy and learning, its professional and open minded environment further encourages everyone to not only express their opinions, rather to also provide solutions and fight for equality in a turbulent world. Not only did AMMUN succeed with introducing the theme of political courage, rather AMMUN instilled a sense of unswerving bravery among today’s youth in the Middle East. The feeling of political courage is a belief that we all need to have.

Early Beginnings and Exceptional Valor- Sulaiman Sulaimankhil (post conference interview)

By Shubhangi Kumari

Moved by the entrenched destitution in Afghanistan, Sulaiman Sulaimankhil began teaching at the young age of 14. A year into his teenage years and Sulaiman was doing things far beyond his age.

Today Sulaiman is 17 years old and his habit has not changed but Afghanistan seems to be changing. He is the Development Director at HELA (Hope and Education for Leadership in Afghanistan) and a class instructor at Skateistan.

Skateistan is one of the very few places in Afghanistan where people do what they love. Over 50% of the students at Skateistan are street working children. In a country where girls are not allowed to ride bikes, Skateistan exhibits remarkable gender equality as it has over 40% female students. A temple and launch pad for children, Skateistan is the only NGO to have grown out of Afghanistan to South Africa and Cambodia.

If the journey has been beyond its makers' age, so have been the challenges it posed. In his workshop Sulaiman told us that Skateistan faces routine problems of intrusion for involving girls. Rumors by some groups and Mullahs have further tried hindering some of its progress but community support has always gotten them through. On being asked what his greatest challenges were, Sulaiman who had been assaulted several times for his cause and even on his way to QLC at the airport, says security and lack of resources have made him struggle the most.

We asked Sulaiman if he ever lost hope, and unfortunately despite showing such unparalleled courage there had been a time of despair. This was when three children from Skateistan who were serving at the NATO base in Afghanistan died in a suicide bombing. We were intrigued by how he manages to motivate himself to come out of such testing times. His words reflected



the fortitude his life has been illustrative of, "Every time I face a challenge I become stronger than before. This strength makes me find ways to get out of the tough situations. I never get disappointed and I can say that Sulaiman doesn't know anything by the name of disappointment." But times like these require the valiant to not only convince himself but also the ones around him. Thus we asked Sulaiman what he says to the people around him to have them overcome their fear and continue their stride; he says, "I just remind them that there is always a beautiful day after a dark night and they should always keep in mind that they are working for a better future. Sometimes we need to sacri-

fy for this and the only way to not be afraid is to stay strong and stay together because we are strong when we are together."

If Sulaiman's a hero, he is also a teenager just like us. His happiest moments range from scoring three goals for his team in a football match to the day he got a certificate for HELA as a registered NGO of Afghanistan. His story brews inspiration for the youth all around the world. Lastly, we asked him to sum up his experience at QLC'15 and we were gratified to know that he loved us as much as we loved him, and that we were able to touch his heart through the closing ceremony video.

Power Searching: What delegates need to know

It is astonishing, but not surprising, that most delegates do not use refined search techniques when doing country or committee research. Most MUN Directors do not teach them, and I should know. I was one of them. But the productivity factor of typing in random search terms and hoping for a good hit that will yield what you are looking for is a very ineffective method of doing research of any kind. Using a couple of simple tools, your search can be refined, yielding higher quality sites and more accurate and relevant information.

Let's try a simple search on child marriage. Go ahead and type into your search engine, "Child Marriage". On any given day, Google will return in the area of 53,000,000 hits. That's MILLIONS of hits, with most of them complete rubbish. Why oh why do you want to waste your time sifting through this? Obviously, if you were representing India, you could search 'Child Marriage India'. That would be a bit better, but not really. It would still yield 23,000,000 hits... that's MILLIONS of hits.

Try this: type **child marriage** India site:un.org. I've bold-

ed the operative term (excuse the pun). Now look at your results. It's 12,000! THOUSANDS compared to millions. And when you scroll down to see what has been delivered we see lots of substantive and likely very relevant material: press releases, resolutions, UN TV stories, information on the first International Day of the girl child. Importantly, each site is now a UN website, making this the perfect starting point for your research.

Site:un.org is a higher level domain, and it is a great way to search. If I want to find information on child marriage in Jordan, I can search child marriage site:jo. Jo is the domain for all websites published in Jordan, and if I were representing Jordan in GA2, I would want to check out press coverage from Jordan. Makes perfect sense!

When you focus your research on substance, instead of reading the same ol' same ol' as you sift through 53 MILLION hits, your end product is bound to be better, more relevant, and frankly, it makes you LOOK smarter. Knowledge is power, and you will impress your fellow delegates and in turn, bolster your own confidence.

From Victim to Leader- Ali Abu Awwad



By Shubhangi Kumari

“My brother’s murderer wanted to bury me in the same grave. He wanted to bury me, my dreams and my humanity in the very same grave as that of my brother.”

Mr Awwad, a Palestinian activist and pacifist, and advocate of non-violent resistance in the Israel-Palestine conflict, was a featured presenter at the QLC 2015. Born a refugee and belonging to a family of brave men and women, Mr. Awwad had a moving story and belief to share.

At the tender age of 17, Mr Awwad was arrested and tortured for years by the Israeli police to give information about his mother, herself a leader of one of the many movements against Israeli occupation. His story begins with a responsibility far beyond his age.

Before his arrest, he was a dreaming youth. He belonged to a secular and open family and dreamt of being a pilot- a dream considered insane for it

was dreamt in a land occupied. For Mr. Awwad and the likes of him, growing up in an occupied land was growing up without yourself, your dreams and your identity. His nascent dreams and identity were already struggling to survive and the subsequent imprisonment took away their last breath, but only for a short time.

Surprisingly, according to him the prison was the best university he could ever attend. He read and traveled around the world through books and thus, he said, never lost his years in prison. During his imprisonment he was made to part with his mother; he went on a 17 day hunger strike to draw attention to his plight and to force the authorities to allow him to meet with her. The Israeli forces could not resist the humanity in them, and this was Mr. Awwad’s first achievement through non-violence. This incident made him realize the power of humanity and how he could make a difference through it and not anything else. The course of this

epiphany led him to forsake all the other paths he had taken in hopes of achieving justice; he stopped blaming, himself and others, in the battle of right vs wrong. This that made him realize the inner prison of hatred, judgement and rage and the impact it had created for him. He realized that he was in a prison of his own making, a prison greater than any state’s prison.

The timely realization of this led to a decision to love and respect himself and others, and solemnly renounce everything that made him a victim.

His resolve was soon tested. Recovering from a gunshot wound, Mr. Awwad got to know that his brother at the age of 31 years had been brutally shot and murdered by Israeli soldiers. Anger, hatred and vengeance began to grip his mind and body once again. He wanted justice. He wanted his brother back. But he was stuck, and his rage clashed with his newfound realization. He was stuck, as a fighter, a brother, and as a human.

He was stuck until he met a group of Israeli parents who lost their children to the war. Their tears were no different than his. But they were enemies. They were not supposed to have tears. These were not the faces he saw at patrol borders. Those were enemies, except now Mr Awwad just did not know who the enemy was. For him the only justice was

to have his brother back. How many Israelis can I kill to have my brother back? Will killing them create justice?

And then he asked himself: “What did my brother’s murderer want? My brother’s murderer wanted to bury me in the same grave. He wanted to bury me, my dreams and my humanity in the very same grave as that of my brother.” Again, his belief in resisting non-violently was tested. He took his case to mosques, to the authorities, even to the United Nations, only to be hit by another realization that he was still behaving like a victim. This was the final lesson he needed to learn so that he could integrate non-violent resistance fully into his life.

This was the story of Mr. Ali Abu Awwad, a man who lived through both an internal revolution of his heart and mind, in addition to the turmoil around him.

Mr. Awwad says that on the path of non-violence, you have to fight yourself. You wage and conquer the greatest war which is with not a country or faction or political party, but with yourself. It’s easy to bomb countries but difficult to fight within ourselves. Hence, non-violence is not for the weak. When you are a leader, you fight yourself, you respect your life and your humanity, even in the most miserable of times



HELA partners with Afghan NGO, Youth Union

By *Rahmat Hamdard*, CEO and founding member of HELA

On Saturday we have finally started our MUN project with an Afghan NGO by the name of Youth Union which has over than 30 branches in more than 22 provinces of Afghanistan, working for Afghan Youth the same as HELA organization doing.

We had a small opening ceremony at Youth Union, where we had invited student's parents, chair of the Youth Union and some of their employees.

First Head of Youth Union Mr. Hashimi had a speech. He promised to support HELA organization in each and everything and wanted to be in partnership with us as long as possible. The most interesting sentence which he said during of his speech and on which HELA organization must proud were that:

"I want HELA management team to make a class of MUN project for all our employees, it's such an amazing project and we don't want to miss such a big opportunity of learning something really unique." said Head of Youth Union Mr. Hashimi.

After that Mr. Rahmatullah Hamdard had a speech on behalf of HELA organization and partnering with the Youth Union- what opportunities can both organizations create for Afghan Youth? How to best serve Afghan Youth? And how to achieve student's parent support and trust? At the end of his speech he said: "HELA organization is committed to be an honest and one of the biggest partners of Youth Union for long time possible to better serve Afghan youth."

Student's parents were so happy. They named our organization a polite organization of Afghanistan and they also believes that HELA will improve very much.

Now our classes will be continually running at Youth Union on Saturday and Tuesday for two hours and per Youth Union chair's request we have made a class for Youth Union employees which will be on Thursday.

Our vision is to create the future leaders of Afghanistan and to serve them in the best way possible!



UN Websites that Delegates Need to Know About

Most MUN delegates are deep into country and issue research. If you are looking for a few new sources of information, try checking these out!

Human Development Reports Compliments of the UN Development Program (UNDP)



There is nothing a delegate can debate that can't find some kind of statistical mention in the UNDP's annual Human Development Report (as shown above). This is an amazing compilation of statistics, everything from internet access per 10,000 people to literacy and infant mortality rates, to number of elected women in government, to the caloric intake of children. It goes on and on and on. UNDP ranks countries on their development index, but if that is too complicated to figure out, then the charts and charts of raw statistical data make up for it. So if you want to sound smart in committee by, for example, stating the percentage of people in your country living on degraded land and how that compares to other countries in the world, the Human Development Report is where you need to look. Hands down, this is one of the best resources out there for country-specific research and statistical data to back up your positions.

United Nations Foundation's UN Wire Feed your research needs with a steady stream of UN News

The United Nations Foundation (as shown below) is a public charity that was founded in order to help distribute Ted



the UN. The Foundation supports a myriad of programs, many of which will be familiar to MUN delegates. Of great value is the UN Wire, a daily wire feed of UN news. Getting this delivered to your in box and scimming through the titles of articles is a good way to keep very up to date on the Foundation's and the UN's work.

Politically Speaking Online Publication for the United Nations Department of Public Affairs



When you subscribe to this newsletter (as shown above), you will receive periodic email publications with recent news happening in and around the UN Secretariat. You can sign up here! What's even more awesome is that they have a Tumblr account, a really painless way to get lots of UN news delivered to you via social media.

UN Web TV Short (and not so short) recordings of all sorts of UN happenings.

When you listen to some of the meetings, you'll swear you are sitting in an MUN committee. It's fun to check out what a real GA committee looks and sounds like. With careful searching you might find a nugget of gold, your assigned country's rep in some video recorded debate or statement (as shown below). You can search by topic, or by most popular. Is it any surprise that Psy's meeting with Ban Ki Moon is the site's most popular video?

Have a great website to share? Email Lisa at lmartin@qf.org.qa and we'll be sure to share it.



DCMUN VIII – The Meaning of MUN

By Ralf Yap Head of Press for DCMUN

I came in to school on Sunday, after a long MUN-filled weekend, feeling content about the conference and what we had achieved. I walked up to the Sixth Form common room and pressed myself onto one of the many couches and listened to the conversation around me. It wasn't long before my peers started talking about the DCMUN VIII conference and it wasn't long after that when some innocent soul asked "what exactly is MUN?"

It was a great question. It made me think about MUN and what it means to me, and to all the students who take part in it. It's actually quite difficult to come up with a simple answer because there's so much more to MUN than can be expressed in a swiftly conjoined response. The Doha College Model United Nations was formed eight years ago and has since grown into the vibrant community that it is today. The eighth annual DCMUN conference was held on the 5th and 6th of

November 2015, and welcomed over 500 students from schools all over Qatar.

The students are the driving force of DCMUN; they are what makes it a student-run organisation. The main ingredient for a successful conference is an excellent student body, and DCMUN has exceptional participating students comprising incredibly high-achieving and dedicated individuals. Each conference revolves around a central theme: this conference's focus was on social and financial inequality, which was the fount of fruitful debate that spanned across the committees.

What's fantastic about MUN is that it deals with current, real-world issues, so everything that is discussed is entirely relevant to the delegates taking part. The delegates are tasked with finding solutions to problems that real diplomats and politicians face in today's society. That's a tall order in and of itself, so to actually figure out plausible courses of action for these issues is all the

all the more impressive.

However, delegates and debating aren't the only components of MUN. The admin team is considered (by its members at least) the "backbone of MUN" which is entirely reasonable to think, seeing as they are responsible for setting up all the committee rooms, providing lunch for craving delegates and making sure notes are delivered to where they need to be. The press team (which I am proud to be a part of) is made up of journalists that capture and collate all the goings-on in the conference and package it all up in magazine issues for people to read.

President Thushan Puhaleendran, Secretary General Michael Young, and Deputy Secretary Generals Ameya Shete and Nadia Bahemia form this year's leadership team. They are at the helm of the vessel that is DCMUN and are in charge of this congregation of some of the brightest minds in the country.

As far as highlights go, there

were undoubtedly a number of memorable moments within the committee rooms but some of the more collective experiences were during the opening and closing ceremonies which involved a number of entertaining and inspiring speeches from delegates, chairs and executives, as well as a musical performance by Doha College's own Lauryn Healey and Nikita Vye. One especially impactful speech was made by Thushan Puhaleendran, in which he talked about his life before coming to Qatar and the hardships he and his family encountered. It was truly moving, and served as a perfect point of reflection for everyone in the hall.

DCMUN is a social foundation, a conference for future leaders, for forward-thinkers. It gives students a voice, a chance to develop world views and an opportunity to take steps into becoming tomorrow's makers of change. It gives aspiring politicians, speakers and writers the opportunity to build upon a passion or create one that wasn't there before. MUN is so many things to so many peo-



TQ NUQ Film Festival now accepting submissions

Head of THIMUN Qatar Northwestern Film Festival, Maryam Al-Khalifa

The THIMUN Qatar Film Festival aims to create films that inspire, educate and engage around issues, both global and local. The Film Festival seeks to help put a human face on contemporary issues facing the world today, and to develop a better understanding of, and appreciation for, the cinematic arts. High school students have the chance to create a variety of 3 - 8 minute films including documentaries that achieve the goal. The submission window has officially opened and filmmakers are able submit heir films in the following link

<http://tqnfilmfestival.com/>

The window officially closes at February 10th

2016, late film submissions are prohibited. As a part of the THIMUN Qatar conference the Film Festival will take part in the Film Institute which helps filmmakers to develop their cinematic art skills and assist applying them for those who wish to submit a film in the festival or simply for those passionate and dedicated to the art. This year's 6th annual Film Festival continues to have a huge audience from all around the world, and every year films create impact and change towards today's society. I look forward to witness filmmakers submit their films and are preparing their best to win in the upcoming Film Festival.

For more information visit

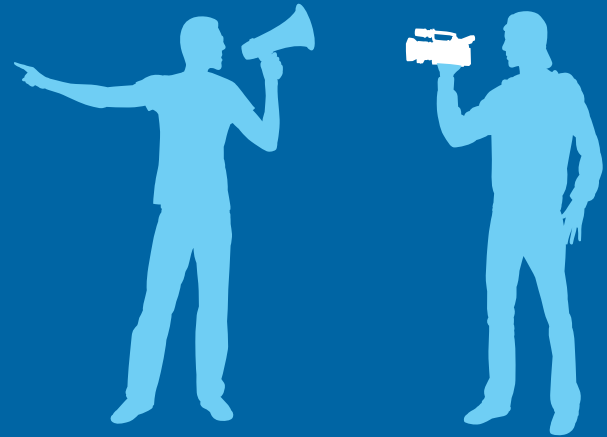
<http://qatar.thimun.org/index.php/film-festival/registration>





THIMUN
QATAR
NORTHWESTERN
FILM
FESTIVAL

2016 THIMUN QATAR
NORTHWESTERN
FILM FESTIVAL



THIMUN Qatar and Northwestern University in Qatar are encouraging high school student films through a documentary film festival from March 24-26, 2016 in Doha, Qatar.

Educational opportunities and prize money are offered for winning entries.

The film submission deadline is February 10, 2016.

Details can be found online at
<http://qatar.thimun.org/film-festival>



Write for the Olive Branch!

Submit articles by the 1st of the month.

Email thimunqblog@gmail.com
for more information