MSMUN-Q Recap!

By Farah Hamza, MSMUN-Q Press Team

MSMUN-Q was a very successful conference! Delegates were hyped up and ready to debate at the very opening of the conference!

ECOSOC had a very interesting topic to debate, “Measures to prevent early and forced marriages” The second I walked into their commission I was startled by Netherlands and Sri Lanka’s policy statements. They were absolutely outstanding! Strong, to the point, and very informative! But the delegate of Syria found a way to counter the other delegate’s policy statements on how early and forced marriages are bad, and made it seem like a good thing!

There were also a few busy bees in GA1. They’ve started and finished their lobbying and done their resolutions. It is the delegate of Russia’s first time being main submitter and has a couple words for you guys, “It may be hard, but I’ll get through it”. Hopefully, all of you are as positive as the delegate of Russia is!

I interviewed a couple delegates in the commission rooms. One of them was the delegate of Sudan in GA6. He says that everyone in his group made a good effort in forming the resolution, and all the delegates cooperated with each other in a mannerly form. They eventually produced a well-detailed resolution. “Many people want to do something in the world to make it a better place, but they’ll face many challenges. Due to which they are not able to accomplish what they intend to do”. He also had a couple more inspiring sayings such as “Do not let the fear of death come in the way of what you believe is the mission of your life” and “Never compromise on your dreams, always compromise FOR your dreams”.

The delegates in GA3 and the Disarmament Commission are also firing it up. The Disarmament Commission are really firing it up on a topic concerning ISIS, it’s a bomb debate! “I enjoy MUN, and it’s a shame it’s my last conference” – A delegate in GA3.

The delegates in all of the commissions had a lot of fun sending in amendments and helping each other fix their resolutions instead of completely knocking them out.

In GA2, the deputy chair Malak Riad wanted to spice up the debate a bit, and played herself off as a delegate and let down some bomb POI’s on her delegates.

A lot of delegates couldn’t stop writing out PARAGRAPHS of POI’s and speeches, such as the delegate’s of the Netherlands, Sudan, and Syria in GA6. The delegate of Syria in ECOSOC was very friendly when talking about other delegates’ resolutions, but also stood her ground and was firm. The delegates in GA2 were pretty young, but their speeches and POI’s are outstanding compared to the other older delegates in the room.
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.

Employment and Decent Work: THIMUN Qatar’s 2017 Conference Theme

This year’s conference theme is Employment and Decent Work, inspired by Sustainable Development Goal 8, Decent work and economic growth.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) aim to encourage sustained economic growth by achieving higher levels of productivity and through technological innovation. Promoting policies that encourage entrepreneurship and job creation are key to this, as are effective measures to eradicate forced labour, slavery and human trafficking. With these targets in mind, the goal is to achieve full and productive employment, and decent work, for all women and men by 2030. This year’s agenda issues reflect many of the goals laid out by SDG 8, including:

- 7 per cent gross domestic product growth per annum in LDCs
- Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation
- Promotion of policies that support decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation
- Improve global resource efficiency in consumption and production
- Decouple economic growth from environmental degradation
- Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities
- Achiever equal pay for work of equal value
- Substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training
- Eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour
- Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers
- Devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism
- Encourage and expand access to banking, insurance and financial services for all
PHESMUN Outreach to Pakistan Education Centre

By Rahema Velmi, Park House English School

It was that epiphany of a moment where I sat in one of my conferences and looked around. There was not one single representative from a Pakistani school!

I have always had a passion instilled in me to do better, to bring change. The patriotism and dedication I had to my country, brought about my passion to better my Pakistani community. Before long, I had an entire proposal planned and prepared ready to be implemented on how I was going to start MUN at one of the Pakistani schools here in Qatar – Pakistan Education Centre. The principal of PEC, Madam Nargis Raza Otho, extended her greatest gratitude to welcome my initiative and the plans I had wished to impose.

The prepared assembly to a collective group of students from Grades 9-10 at Pakistan Education Centre marked the beginning foundations of the budding Model United Nations to be established. I was excited to finally be standing in front of them all! The assembly was an explanatory one, to show the basic gist of MUN and make aware to the students of the fruitful opportunity which would be at their grasp. In my assistance, my director Ms Naomi Rennicks and our PHESMUN Secretary General Chris Nasrawi, both added a courteous speech to the students to showcase the virtues Model United Nations had to offer. The introductions had been set, mandatory applications were distributed and that enthusiastic buzz in the pool of students which I was lucky to witness, had me http://thimunqatar-press.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/main_photo-PHESMUN-outreach.jpg euphoric for what was to come.

The month prior to the assembly was a hectic combination of meetings, discussions and simple hardship of bringing the MUN workshops to life at PEC; with Madam Zaibunissa Kazi, Madam Naheed Akhtar and Sir Rana Wasim, this initiative would not have been even remotely possible with the continuous support, patience and the strong commitment they had. These teachers from PEC, I would like to thank for working with me collaboratively in every step of the way, with generosity sessions, with 16th January 2016 being the first. When I met the students for the first time, they surpassed all of my expectations and were even better than I thought they would be. Every issue was taken with the utmost interest, from illegal immigrants to the refugee crisis, and hands flew up at every question I asked. It was what I would define perfectly as 'youth in action.' The energy in the room was always hyped and energetic, and complimented the spirit needed for something like MUN. Many of the students were already conclusive debaters and the vigour in their opinions and arguments reflected it. Despite it being Saturday mornings, we all beat the odds of morning blues to fight for another change, another idea or another breakthrough in resolving the stakes of the issues at hand!

We held our closing ceremony with certificate distribution on Sunday, the 6th of March, as a way of commemorating the entire journey praise those who participated. The PHESMUN Executive Team showed their support in attendance as well – Director Ms Naomi Rennicks, PHESMUN Secretary General Chris Nasrawi, Deputy Secretary General Mousa Al Waraki and Head of Admin Firas Al Chaer.

We all have shared an immense bond over the journey we have had and I wish every single one of them the best of luck for their future MUN aspirations. With that, I feel proud to say that Pakistan Education Centre is the first Pakistani school in Qatar to be taking part in Model United Nations!
THIMIUN OMUN: New Year

THIMIUN O-MUN (Online Model United Nations) is about to start its new year, with a new leadership team, a new structure, and a variety of events being planned for the upcoming academic year. Last month, the new O-MUN leadership team has been chosen, with both returning members and new members. The O-MUN team consists of Program Directors Nick Yeh and Kudzai Mukaratirwa, in addition to 9 Assistant Directors. The Assistant Directors have roles pertaining to managing the secretariat, strategic planning, moderating, public affairs, national programs, technology, and the four debate teams. They are all university students, or will be starting university in Fall 2016, and come from several countries and universities, including Georgetown, Erasmus, UCL, Australian National University, NYU AD, and the Washington University in St. Louis.

The AD team will be overseeing O-MUN’s newly assigned and carefully chosen Executive Leadership Team, Executive Administrative Officers (EAOs), and Public Affairs officers. The members of these teams are 15 high school students, who are all committed MUN and O-MUN delegates – coming from over 11 countries and many different schools. O-MUN reinforces its global presence with the new leadership team and Assistant Directors, who all come from more than 17 countries, and live across 5 continents (North America, Europe, Asia, Africa, and Australia). The new team looks forward to widening O-MUN’s reach, offering many interesting debates, and hosting a variety of events and sessions for the O-MUN community to provide a more comprehensive and inclusive program.

O-MUN’s new plan includes the upcoming ‘Content Tuesday’, which will start in August, and will consist of a series of discussions and events intended to give O-MUN a variety of functions and connect the community. These include informal debates and discussions revolving around current affairs, MUN conferences and camps, and the benefits of MUN (including college applications). In addition, O-MUN will host sessions on getting introduced to MUN and becoming better O-MUN and MUN delegates. That is all in addition to O-MUN’s main function, which is hosting online MUN debates. These will include General Assembly, ECOSOC, Disarmament Commission, Environment Commission, and Security Council debates held to discuss a wide variety of topics. The most recent upcoming debate is held as a part of the Disarmament Commission on May 21st, and will be discussing ‘Measures to Abolish Biological Weapons’.

For more information on the upcoming O-MUN events and activities, make sure you check our website, onlinemodelunitednations.org, and follow our Facebook Page – ‘Online Model United Nations (O-MUN)’ – and our Facebook group, ‘O-MUN Delegates’. The O-MUN leadership team is looking forward to a productive year full of great debates, discussions, and an amazing community!
Al-Khor International School MUN

Al-Khor International School held its second Model United Nations conference last Friday on the 15th of April 2016. The Executive Team for AKISMUN has spent months before in preparation to this date and the final outcome of their handwork was well deserved.

Following the success of last year’s conference, the Executive Team 2016 was dedicated to follow up on that legacy and thus creating a whole new experience for everyone who attended. There was a lot of enthusiasm, especially from those who had done their fair share of research and resolution.

A total of 210 delegates from 9 schools were present which was split between 10 committees. These numbers has been a monumental increase from last year. The theme of “Global Goals” was truly thought provoking because it led to passionate debates in all the committee rooms. The energy from the delegates was a pure spectacle; the rooms were packed with excitement as intense discussions were carried out.

At the end of the day, delegates came out of the conference having an increased awareness in issues around the world, improved their skills in debating and have had a whole day of fun and socializing with new people.

What’s next for AKISMUN? More delegates, more committees, more fun, or a combination of all three? We will just have to wait and see what the next Executive Team members have to offer.

-AKISMUN Executive Team 2016
The English Modern School
Be Preppin’!

By Layla Hamza, The English Modern School

Looks like we’ll be having some very fun debates today! The English Modern School has been firing it up lately. We’ve been preparing for this conference for around a month! But don’t get intimidated just yet, because we’re just as scared as you guys are! It is the first year of MUN for The English Modern School, but we’re more prepared than ever!

These past few weeks, we have been having so much fun preparing! Having mock debates, weekly 1 Hour meetings after school every Tuesday, preparing policy statements, resolutions, and speeches and showing it to each other. Even our officers such as our deputy chair for GA2, Malak Riad, have been preparing for this conference too! She’s been busy like a bee preparing a few Ice Breakers for her commission, so be excited for that! She’s also been very helpful at school by preparing her school mates that are attending for this conference. “I’m pretty confident that it’ll be a great experience, and hope that I don’t have to heat the debate and make a couple juniors cry”. Yes, she sounds a bit intimidating, but don’t worry, you’ll be just fine!

Many of our delegates such as Tala Awwad have been preparing their policy statements, speeches, and resolutions. She and many others keep going over them every day looking for places that can be improved and they fix them, together. Tala specifically keeps practicing her speeches and watches out for her eye contact, tone, clarity, confidence, and body language. She shows her work to her friends and family to see their initial reactions and takes advice from them.

Even our younger delegates are pumped up for this conference, like Suliman Suliman. “I will peacefully nuke whoever tries to attack me. And also I will try to be the best and beat them all! And of course, get my resolution passed!”

We’re all helping each other out for this conference, and we’ll also be helping any other schools that might want some help with anything! MUN isn’t as intimidating as most of you might think. It’s really not that bad for those first comers out there, because if you really think about it, every single person in that room with you is at the same level of fear as you. Yes, they might be older or younger, but don’t underestimate them. They might be scared, yes, but they will try as hard as possible to make their resolutions pass.

I’ll be coming over to all the commissions to snap pictures of you all having fun and reporting what you’re doing throughout the conference, so expect to see me! Being a delegate in all my past conferences, I know exactly how you all feel. So don’t stress, keep calm, and have fun!

On behalf of The English Modern School and the delegates attending from it, we hope that all of yours and our resolutions pass, and that you all enjoy your time, and take it easy. Serious, but easy.
A Tribute to Outgoing jrOMUN SG, Jessica Chen

By Kristin Rowe, Terry Chung and Lisa Martin

Jessica Chen has been the backbone of the jrO-MUN program for the past three years. She critically supported the first jrO-MUN Secretary General, Rohan Sinha, to establish the program, and then when she took up the position outright herself, she polished all its features to a shine. She remained in the position for 18 months, smoothing the path for her successor, Terry Chung, and she has remained as a consultant “SG Emeritus” figure through her senior year. Jessica provides an unparalleled example of a leader who has not gone “wide” but “deep” with her commitment to MUN through this outreach mentoring program. Under her leadership, jrOMUN has flourished and has the following notable achievements:

• jrO-MUN has catered for international students from Asia, the United States, the Middle East, and Europe – that is, delegates, chairs, mentors, and members of the Secretariat.

• the program has become such a staple of the MUN global community that teachers at the American Embassy School in New Delhi, the International School of Bangkok, and Hsinchu Technology School in Taiwan now teach classes which they have designed to dovetail with the jrO-MUN program (also including the MS MUN summer academy course)

• jrO-MUN mentorship has evolved to engage student leaders across Asia and the Middle East (particularly international schools in Qatar) in a program that not only supports new MUN delegates in comparable international schools but also provides mentoring for the mentors of delegates in under-resourced communities such as in Afghanistan, Nepal, and Sri Lanka

Jessica was invited to attend the Qatar (MUN) Leadership Conference in 2014 and 2015 to present workshops on MUN mentoring programs and tools, and MUN Secretariat team-building. Additionally at Taipei American School, she has been at the forefront of that evolution from a Model UN simulation and debate program (essentially self-serving) to a more service-oriented and community-minded program that genuinely models the mission of the United Nations by unifying the strengths of others for the benefit of all.

Jessica is the consummate facilitator-leader. She is remarkable – not for stand-out traits typically associated with extroverts, but rather as the most high-functioning of administrators: a leader who models hard work and commitment, a leader who draws together great thinkers and doers, a leader who draws strength and “best work” out of others, while ensuring the smooth functioning of any program or project for which she is responsible.

Kavya Nayak (jrO-MUN DSG) describes her as her first MUN mentor back in middle school – indeed, someone who has continued to mentor Kavya not only through the past three years of MUN experiences, but also far beyond into academic and social support; Kavya points out that Jessica’s mentors have become her friends. Justin Rhee (co-SG of TASMUN alongside Jessica) also recognizes that Jessica’s group of friends are mostly MUN students from different grade levels, and that Jessica has thus advanced a culture of inter-grade MUN relationships. The reason why Jessica mentees become her close friends is because Jessica is a person who always has to help other people if she sees that they are struggling, in any regard. Jessica often helps with social and academic choices. Her opinion is greatly valued among her friends.

Terry Chung, incoming Secretary General for jrOMUN, notes “Jessica has the amazing ability to bring those that work with her together. She facilitates a professional yet very personal environment where each team member enjoys working with each other. Her method of mentorship and trust in her mentees to excel has helped many novice delegates, and officers to grow into better speakers.”

“She emerged as one of the most important leaders in the OMUN community, and her mark on jrOMUN is indelible,” said Lisa Martin, founder of the OMUN program. “It has been an honor to watch her mature into an incredible global leader. She will be missed by one and all in the OMUN community!”
Catching up with MSMUN-Q’s SG, Ahmed Al Hajari

Ahmed Al-Hajari is a grade 11 student at Qatar Academy currently serving as Secretary General of MSMUN-Q. Ahmed has been involved in MUN for five years and he’s attended around twenty-two conferences both locally and internationally. He started with MSMUN after he got the position of junior MUN coordinator. Being a junior MUN coordinator in Qatar Academy helps to prepare or teach the inexperienced Middle Schoolers MUN from scratch.

“That was a very hard thing to do just because of how complicated Model United Nations is.” He started to have a connection with the students that he was teaching. This inspired him to keep going and to apply for the position of Secretary General. “The thing I like about the middle school MUN experience is that it gives younger students and juniors a chance to have these leadership roles in this conference.” He believes that MSMUN is a way of connecting the high school and middle school students in all the different schools. Only a few schools in Qatar currently have a middle school club and those middle school clubs are held and lead by high school students.

“I feel that MSMUN connects and serves as a bridge between the middle school and high school students and I think that’s something that lots of schools are missing within the world because of the gap that there is between the middle schoolers and the high schoolers.”

Ahmed stated that the advice he would give to the middle school delegates is to not hold themselves back and to not be afraid to speak out. “Everyone makes mistakes, if you make a mistake it’s fine because MSMUN is a learning experience and it’s good to learn from those mistakes and to not repeat them again.” Ahmed is sure that the delegates that he’s been mentoring are going to be a full potential in the conference because of the excitement that they have in club meetings and the amount of excitement the middle schoolers have for MUN.

So far the best part of Ahmed’s MSMUN experience is having a connection with the middle schoolers. This project has proven to be useful to building that bridge between the high school and the middle school. “Earlier before I started with these students I’d see them around school but I’d never acknowledged them. Now we’ve worked very closely with them it creates some type of relationship.” If Ahmed was to describe MSMUN in one word he would say “it’s exciting or it’s a learning experience.”

Ahmed believes in the power of MUN to help “generate the believers of tomorrow”. He hopes that this passion for MUN can be led for further generations.

As for the delegates participating in MSMUN, they’ve been showing a great sense of excitement and are anticipating the upcoming conference. Ola El Aker, the ambassador of France, is an eighth grade student at Qatar Academy involved with MSMUN. She hopes to gain the experience of working in committee for a day. She wants to work with younger people and people that are her age. Ola joined MSMUN because she knows that she will also be participating in MUN in her high school and IB years. She stated: “I just want to know what I’ll be doing for the next four years of my life.”

Sama Ayoub is a seventh grade student at Qatar Academy taking part in MSMUN. She is also a student ambassador of Mexico. Sama hopes to gain a lot of experience from MSMUN that will help her with her daily life and her future job. “MUN helps students to gain confidence and it helps solve world issues.”
Cycling Club in Kabul: Youth Leadership in Action

The following story is brought to you by an interesting guy leading a great club in Afghanistan. Asghar Mehrban is a cyclist, and is forging new paths for bikers in Kabul. I wanted to share his story with our readers since it epitomizes the kind of youth leadership TQ is all about. Here is the story. ~Lisa

I am Asghar Mehrban. I am 18 years old and studying at the Physical Education & Sport Institute. I am head of the “Drop & Ride’s” bike freestyle team, and manager of “The Borderfree Afghan Cycling team”. I started to study bike freestyling when I was 15 years old. I wished to have a professional bike club to learn and train biking for kids, both boys and girls, where I could explore my people’s talents to the world.

Even with all of the security, cultural, social and economic problems that we have (in Afghanistan) we are not going to stop. I say “we are alive and stop means die”…

I was thinking about why girls can’t ride bikes in Afghanistan. It was clear, lots of Afghan people never wanted to see a girl biking; they are thinking that it’s a shame for their girls to ride a bike in an Islamic society like Afghanistan. In other countries, riding the bike for a girl is easy and simply, but for Afghan girls, riding the bike is like a dream, and so very difficult.

By competition of the Afghan Peace Volunteers NGO, we made the “Border Free Afghan Cycling Team” where every girl can join us, and learn to bike for free.

These are our goals.

• We the young generation of this country have extend our hands together to build a green and equal world for all men & women in Afghanistan.

• We encourage men, women, boys, and girl in Afghanistan to ride bikes.

• We also ask all to join us in wearing our blue scarf. The words, “Border Free” are embroidered in English and Dari by our Seamstress team, and they reflect our belief that we all live equal under the same blue sky.

• To encourage ALL people of the human family, worldwide, to ride bicycles. By cycling, we can each do our part to prevent further Global Warming. We know that around the globe, across all borders, climate change is altering the lands and waters we all depend upon for survival and we are leaving future generations with a very different world. We must do our part to stop damage to all life on this planet.

I asked Asghar a couple of questions:

Lisa: What is a big wish that you have for your club?

Asghar: I will support my teams. And train them professionally. And also register the new members and help them if I cant. If I was rich I would make a bike club like Skateistan where the boys, girls and kids could train freely. We are going to make the team larger but there is a lot of concern because the girls that can’t buy a bike (cannot afford to).

Lisa: Last message?

Asghar: Keep calm and save the earth from Global Warming. In love Asghar Mehrban, the Borderfree Afghan cycling team and Drop and Ride bike freestyle team

Lisa: Do you ever feel in danger?

Asghar: Their speech is bad (verbal harassment). There are some places for picnic like Qargha- it’s too far. We want to ride everywhere but we can’t ride there or like this. There are a lot of gangsters annoying us. And people think that it’s not part of Islamic culture and we have to stop it.

Afghan youth are thinking about new things and they want some changes and they realize their human rights and respect them. But not all of them; others are thinking that old culture is better and women do not have some rights that
News stations around the world are buzzing about “The Election”, but not this one. While everybody is distracted by U.S. Presidential politics and the associated fanfare, there is another important “selection” going on right now. The position of U.N. Secretary-General is up for grabs, and for the first time in history the public will be able to follow the process to elect the world’s Diplomat-in-Chief. The UN is a notoriously bureaucratic organization, and this process has in the past been held almost entirely behind closed doors. While for decades Model UN conferences have held elections for conference Secretary-General, including open speeches and resulting in often female Secretaries-General, in this case the United Nations has lagged far behind Model UN.

This article will be the first in a series about the selection of UNSG, a process that will continue for the next several months. We’re seeking to provide you with a little bit of “insider” information about the process, so you can stay up to date on the selection for one of the most challenging jobs in the world.

The Rules

The next Secretary-General needs to be approved by all of the Permanent 5 Members of the Security Council (China, France, Russia, UK, and USA) and 2/3 of the United Nations General Assembly. Realistically, this means that the P5 will pick the Secretary-General, as it is incredibly unlikely that they would agree on a candidate that the rest of the organization couldn’t support. Candidates can declare their candidacy at any time until the next SG is chosen, which means that while there are currently 9 candidates, many more could join the fray in the coming months (including possibly Kevin Rudd from Australia, Angela Merkel from Germany, or Michelle Bachelet from Chile).

The Norms

In the past the Secretary-General and other top UN jobs have been chosen on the basis of “Regional Rotation”, so that each region will eventually get a chance to hold each job. In the history of the United Nations every regional group except for the Eastern Europe Group has had at least one Secretary-General, which has led to the high number of candidates and support for an Eastern European Secretary-General this time. However, with a more open process (and the lack of consolidation among Eastern European countries around a single candidate), this norm may be abandoned in favor of public support for candidates, rather than back-room deals to keep groups of Member States happy.

It has also been the norm in the past for the Secretary-General to be approved without a vote, once negotiations have completed. This year, with more public information and public interest in the process, it is much more likely than usual for a vote to be held on the Secretary-General.

The Candidates

We’d like to briefly introduce each of the (current) candidates to you, as well as any interesting information pertaining to their candidacy so far. If you want more information, you can find full bios online, or full statements and videos about each of their candidacies on the UN President of the General Assembly’s website. Candidates are ordered based on when they declared their candidacy.

• Dr. Srgjan Kerim

Nationality: Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (Eastern Europe Group)


Candidacy: Dr. Kerim was the first to announce his candidacy, and is possibly the strongest proponent of the “Regional Rotation” model that the United Nations has followed in the past (which also contributed to his timing as President of the General Assembly). Both of the Eastern European Presidents of the General Assembly (arguably the highest role at the United Nations behind Secretary-General) from the past decade are now candidates for Secretary-General.

Dr. Kerim also has stated that if elected, he would appoint a female Deputy Secretary-General, and has promised to improve the gender equality on UN staff to a 60/40 male to female ratio. His campaign is funded by the Macedonian government, with a current budget of about 100,000 Euros.

(Continued on Page 11-12)
House of Flags Continuation (Part 2)

• Dr. Vesna Pusić

Nationality: Republic of Croatia (Eastern Europe Group)

Past Jobs: Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of Croatia (2011-2016), First Deputy Prime Minister of Croatia (2012-2016)

Candidacy: During her question-and-answer session with Ambassadors and Civil Society members, Dr. Pusić was asked about countries “imposing” their cultures on others through the United Nations. She has been a consistent advocate for women’s rights in all societies globally, and responded to this question that “no culture is set in stone”. She also stated during this session that she supports a merit basis as the main terms for hiring Senior Staff, rather than geographic diversity.

Dr. Pusić is a supporter of reforms to mandate a single term for the Secretary-General, rather than the two consecutive five-year terms allowed.

• Dr. Danilo Türk

Nationality: Slovenia (Eastern Europe)


Candidacy: Though Eastern European, Dr. Türk was the first candidate to come out and say that merit, rather than rotation, should be the primary reason for appointment for senior U.N. Officials, stating that underrepresented small countries should “Come with good candidates”.

His message has focused heavily on communication between the U.N. and the public, criticizing the use of “UN-ese” jargon, calling the meetings “boring”, and calling for better storytelling by the United Nations. Türk also supports U.N. Security Council reform.

• Dr. Igor Lukšić

Nationality: Montenegro (Eastern Europe Group)

Past Jobs: Minister of Foreign Affairs (2012-Present), Prime Minister of Montenegro (2010-2012), Minister of Finance (2004-2010)

Candidacy: Dr. Lukšić is another strong proponent of regional rotation at the United Nations, and has stated that his Deputy would be a female from the Southern Hemisphere. He has agreed to make his campaign budget public in the coming days.

In one of many references to the United States election that has been made during this Secretary-General selection, Dr. Lukšić asked the audience if we need to “Make the U.N. Great Again”?

• Irina Bokova

Nationality: Bulgaria (Eastern Europe)


Candidacy: Dr. Bokova has stated publicly that she supports Regional Rotation for senior U.N. positions, and this rotation is what led to her current role at UNESCO. Bokova is the current candidate most supported by Russia, which is crucial both in consolidating the support of Eastern European countries and in obtaining the support of a veto-wielding country.

However, either because of Russia’s support for her candidacy or other reasons unknown, it seems that Bokova has made enemies of the British delegation, which also yields a veto. During a question-and-answer session, the British Ambassador to the United Nations asked Bokova which U.N. Agencies or Programs she would shut down for efficiency; Bokova dodged the question, however any answer would be unpopular among Member States and U.N. officials associated with these programs. The British Ambassador to UNESCO also recently triggered a corruption investigation into her appointment of a supposedly under qualified official at UNESCO, though it is unclear if this will yield any results.
**House of Flags Continuation (Part 3)**

- **Helen Clark**

  **Nationality**: New Zealand (Western Europe and Other)

  **Past Jobs**: Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (2009-Present), Prime Minister of New Zealand (1999-2008)

  **Candidacy**: Declaring immediately before briefing schedules were announced, Helen Clark is arguably the highest-profile candidate to declare candidacy for Secretary-General, and only the second candidate that isn't from Eastern Europe. Clark believes that a merit basis, rather than regional rotation should be the basis for appointments of senior U.N. officials. She has also expressed support for expansion of the Security Council.

  It appears that Clark has the support of the United Kingdom so far, and possibly France. This led a journalist to ask Clark if she was the "establishment" candidate, in another allusion to the current U.S. election. She of course denied this. However, in a blow to Clark's candidacy, former Australian Prime Minister (and potential SG candidate) Kevin Rudd has stated that while he respects Clark's work, he believes the Secretary-General should be selected from Eastern Europe.

- **António Guterres**

  **Nationality**: Portugal (Western Europe and Other)


  **Candidacy**: Guterres was the first candidate not from Eastern Europe to declare candidacy, a controversial move that has reportedly earned some criticism from Eastern European countries and others that support the regional rotation model. Guterres' candidacy is being funded by the Portuguese government.

  Guterres has announced that he would make sure that the United Nations staff has a perfect 50/50 gender balance. Guterres has also claimed that he would also exercise article 99 of the United Nations Charter, which allows the Secretary-General to bring matters of Peace and Security before the Security Council (rather than the Security Council setting this agenda themselves). Current SG Ban has never exercised this right.

- **Natalia Gherman**

  **Nationality**: Republic of Moldova (Eastern Europe)

  **Past Jobs**: Acting Prime Minister of Moldova (June-July 2015), Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration (2013-2016), Deputy Prime Minister (2013-2016)

  **Candidacy**: Gherman has called for greater transparency at the United Nations, and more accountability within different agencies and over the Member States to follow through on their commitments. Gherman has also called for the United Nations to make reforms to act more rapidly in response to crises, and well as to achieve greater gender parity throughout its offices.

- **Vuk Jeremić**

  **Nationality**: Republic of Serbia (Eastern Europe)

  **Past Jobs**: President of the UN General Assembly (2012-2013), Minister of Foreign Affairs (2007-2012)

  **Candidacy**: One of the most recent Presidents of the General Assembly and with formidable ties to the various Member State delegations at the United Nations, Jeremić declared his candidacy the day before interviews began for the role. Jeremić stated that he would guarantee perfect gender parity in his Under-Secretaries-General from "day one", and that he would also appoint a female Deputy. In regards to regional representation, however, Jeremić has stated that merit should be prioritized.

  Jeremić has stated that his campaign will be funded through donations and his personal finances rather than from any government. One thing that could stand in the way of his selection, however, is that while he was Minister of Foreign Affairs of Serbia, he jetted around the globe to lead the charge to oppose international recognition of Kosovo as an independent country, while over 100 Member States today recognize Kosovo. However, it was ultimately his idea to work through the U.N. System by submitting to the International Court of Justice for an advisory statement on the matter, even though that backfired for Serbia. However, this issue didn't stop him from being elected as President of the General Assembly, so it may not be an issue for Secretary-General either.
Model UN Teaches the 10 Future Skills Employers Want

By Kevin Felix Chan

The World Economic Forum recently repub-
lished an article from Knowledge@Wharton,
the business journal of the Wharton School of the
University of Pennsylvania, about what future work
skills employers are look-
ing for. Employers have
identified that there is a
skills gap, meaning colleges
are not teaching the skills
that employers actually
want. What are some of
those future skills? Here
is the list from the World
Economic Forum’s Future
of Jobs Report.

Looking at the Top 10
Skills in 2020, it is appar-
ent to anyone who does
Model United Nations that
MUN is actually filling in
the skill gap mentioned in
the article. In other words,
MUN is teaching all the
skills needed for the future
job market!

Specifically for the Top 10
skills mentioned:

1. **Complex problem solving:** The main objective
of Model UN delegates is to solve global problems,
and almost every problem includes a complex set of
political, economic, humanitar-
ian, and security issues related to it. If the
problems weren’t com-
plex, real-life diplomats
would’ve resolved them
already!

2. **Critical thinking:** The research process helps
MUN delegates develop critical thinking skills.
Delegates learn to concep-
tualize issues and analyze
different facts as well as
policies related to the issue.
Their critical thinking
skills are often challenged
in committees as other
delegates may question
their line of reasoning in
their country policies and
possible solutions.

3. **Creativity:** Model UN challenges delegates to be
creative with their solu-
tions. Instead of merely
copying and repeating
existing solutions, dele-
gates are expected to come
up with creative solutions
to resolve the issue. A lot of
creativity also takes place
during the conference
when delegates can syn-
thesize other delegates’ ideas
and come up with collabor-
ative solutions. Creativity
is extremely pronounced
in crisis committees where
many scenarios require
creative decision-making.

4. **People management:** The best delegates in MUN
committees are usually
people managers; they have
to manage the different
players in their resolution
group. People management
skills are also developed
when MUN students run
their own club and orga-
nize their own conference;
they are essentially manag-
ing others to run their own
nonprofit.

5. **Coordinating with others:** MUN delegates always
work in teams in order to
write their resolutions and
lobby for support. This
requires coordinating with
others in their team to
ensure that the resolutions
are well-written, on policy,
and incorporate all their
allies’ perspectives.

6. **Emotional intelligence:** Model UN is a “smart
sport” — it requires social
and emotional intelligence
to be able to understand
people, to work with
people, and to persuade
people. This is perhaps the
biggest difference between
Model UN and any other
academic competitions like
speech and debate.

7. **Judgment and decision-making:** Model UN
is not scripted and the
entire simulation requires
delegates to make a lot of
decisions about themselves
and about others including
who to work with and who
to vote for. This is further
pronounced in crisis com-
mittees where delegates
have to constantly use their
judgment to make deci-
sions based on imperfect
information.

8. **Negotiation:** The whole point of Model UN is to
negotiate solutions to glo-
bal issues until they could be
passed or adopted by the
committee. MUN delegates
learn to negotiate in small
and large groups during
unmoderated caucus or
lobbying sessions.

9. **Negotiation:** The whole point of Model UN is to
take negotiations to global
issues until they could be
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committee. MUN delegates
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unmoderated caucus or
lobbying sessions.

10. **Cognitive flexibility:** MUN delegates develop
the mental ability to switch
between thinking about
two different concepts or
think about multiple con-
cepts simultaneously when
they are introduced to
conflicting country policies
on various issues. Better
yet, delegates develop this
when they are assigned to
represent a country that
has a totally different viewpoint than the one they live
in!

Overall, Model UN does a great job at giving students
opportunities to develop
and practice the skills that
have been identified as
desirable for the future
workforce.
We offer programs for students age 9-18 ranging from beginner to advanced programs.

**PASSIONATE PROFESSIONAL STAFF:**
Our Staff are passionate about helping students gain confidence & learn Model UN.

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

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

**ADVANCED MODEL UN RESOURCES:**
Our students receive exclusive resources that prepare them step-by-step for MUN conferences.

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

Our students rated our program 4.8 out of 5:

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