

MIDDLE EAST

MODEL UNITED NATIONS NEWSLETTER



VOL. I ISSUE II

MARCH 2013

ONLINE EDITION

Conference Calendar

Upcoming Dates:

3/7 - 3/9
AISMUN Egypt

3/15
DCMUN Qatar

3/20 - 3/23
DIAMUN UAE

4/6 - 4/7
LAUMUN

4/11 - 4/13
THIMUN Qatar Film Festival

4/19
DESMUN Qatar

Online MUN:

3/2
O-MUN Americas/Europe

3/3
O-MUN Security Council

3/16
O-MUN Global Debate

3/10
O-MUN Asia

3/30
O-MUN Middle East/Africa

Students Converge in Doha for the THIMUN Qatar Conference 2013

By Cameron Janzen

OVER 1200 students attended the second annual session of The Hague International Model United Nations (THIMUN) Qatar Conference this past January. The theme of this year's conference was "Good Governance."

During the three-day conference, delegates had the opportunity to interact with fellow delegates from over 70 nations to foster collaboration on a variety of critical issues as a means of furthering international cooperation. The Qatar National Convention Center provided delegates with a state-of-the-art facility with plenty of open common areas to meet fellow delegates.

A grand affair, THIMUN Qatar's opening ceremonies featured over 300 student performers, including an inter-school concert band and choral



Debate in Doha: Held at the Qatar National Convention Center, THIMUN 2013 once again brought together a variety of students from different backgrounds and cultures.

group. His Excellency Dr. Ali bin Fetais Al Marri, Attorney General of the State of Qatar, and Rob Sherwin, the Deputy Country Chairman for Qatar Shell, were among the distinguished guest speakers who

spoke during the opening ceremonies. A newly developed student IT team also produced the [first live stream](#) of the opening and closing ceremonies.

The highlights of the conference were the expert pres-

entations given by a number of various high-profile government officials, professors, and students from the region. Members of the diplomatic

Continued on [page 6](#)

Sales Strategies: Cushioning Statements

By Kevin Felix Chan

SALESPeople use Cushioning Statements when they want to allow the customer to feel heard, when they want to enable the customer to gain confidence in the salesperson, and when they want customers to open up their thoughts. In Model UN, it is a strategy that the Best Delegate may use when he or she too wants other delegates to feel heard and enable other delegates to gain confidence and trust in him or her.

Here are some examples:
"Good question!"

"I'm glad you asked..."

"Another delegate asked me that earlier."

"Interesting point."

"I understand, but..."

Continued on [page 12](#)

O-MUN's Trip to THIMUN 2013: Making History



New Beginnings: The O-MUN delegation poses for a picture in front of the "I Amsterdam" statue in the Netherlands. This year, Online Model UN made its debut at THIMUN.

By Shreshta Balachandar

THE 45TH ANNUAL session of The Hague International Model United Nations (THIMUN) made an important mark in its history. Since its foundation in 1968, THIMUN has maintained a strict policy of only allowing school delegations to partici-

pate, which consequently prevents home-schooled students and individual delegates from attending. This year, however, marked the debut of the Online Model United Nations (O-MUN) delegation at THIMUN.

Led by O-MUN co-founder and Director Lisa Martin, and Assistant Directors Audrey

Cabral, McKenna Tucker and Thasbeeh Moosa, the O-MUN delegation was comprised of high school students from different corners of the world. Despite the fact that most of them only interacted with each other online prior to meeting,

Continued on [page 4](#)

How to Make a Speech

By Ryan Villanueva

WHEN I STARTED doing Model UN, my advisor would say that the number one fear in America is public speaking — and number two is death. More people would rather die than make a speech.

And as a high school freshman, I was afraid to speak. Whenever the chair asked for speakers, I would hesitate before raising my placard. I waited for other delegates to volunteer first. Then, lost in the throng of outstretched hands, I would finally raise mine — and not get called on.

It felt safer to blend into the crowd. But it also made me anonymous, and anonymity does not win awards. By definition, awards recognize delegates who distinguish themselves in committee — delegates who do not blend into the crowd.

In the moment of hesitation

Continued on [page 9](#)

INSIDE THIS EDITION:

PAGE 3
Metaphors from THIMUN 2013

PAGE 7
Curriculum Corner: Word Wall

PAGE 7
Point of Order

Successful 8th Annual Georgetown MUN Conference

By Sara Berhie

QATAR'S understanding of the value of education and investment in human capital development has been praised by students and adults alike. Referring to the Eighth Annual Georgetown Model United Nations Conference, the Charge d'Affaires and Head of Mission of Singapore, Syed Noureddin, said, "It is refreshing to have youth with such enthusiasm and energy engage in such issues."

The event hosted by Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar (SFS-Q) was a three-day forum featuring intensive and transformative dialogue and debate among hundreds of international high school students at the

Qatar National Convention Centre. Qatar, Bahrain, the United Kingdom, China and Switzerland were among over 25 countries represented at the academic platform. Young students who attended took on the roles of United Nations delegates, focusing on challenges and global issues. More information can be found in *The Peninsula's* coverage of the Doha conference, shown [here](#).

Model UN conferences are held in schools throughout the year. This time, SFS-Q MUN participants had the added privilege of assuming the roles and responsibilities of UN delegates in the same venue, the QNCC, where actual UN events have taken place. At an opening ceremony, Gerd Nonneman, Dean

of SFS-Q, told the students, "There is no better way to get to the heart of issues than to immerse yourself in the actual debate" — an immersion made more real since students would be "in an extraordinary building that has been the site of latest UN climate change negotiations, so you'll be working in the very same environment that the UN worked in the highest places." Human rights, pollution, the debt crisis, standards for intervention, and the crisis in Syria were among the topics discussed, as they are also on the actual UN agenda. "I was impressed by the creative ideas put forward at this conference," said a student from a high school in the United States, "This is the second conference I've participated in,

and it was more professional, delegates were more knowledgeable, and debates more intense."

The opening ceremonies also included a keynote address by Dr Charles King, professor of international affairs and government at the Washington DC Georgetown campus. The Model UN panels were headed by SFS-Q students, who also ensured respect for proceedings, including voting and debate guidelines. Participants had the added advantage of an enhanced diplomatic experience through a SFS-Q open house and a Diplomatic Reception, where they discussed the role and responsibility of diplomacy with the ambassadors of India, South Africa and the UK.

Record Number of Submission at THIMUN Qatar Northwestern Film Festival

By Cameron Janzen

FEBRUARY 14TH was the deadline for submission for the annual THIMUN Qatar Northwestern Film Festival. This year saw over 200 young film makers from all over the world contributing films to the Festival.

The THIMUN Qatar Northwestern Film Festival is an annual international film festival that encourages young film makers to create their own advocacy films. This year's films covered a wide range of topics, from the effects of over fishing on local communities, eating disorders, animal abuse, labour exploitation and many more. All nominated films can be viewed on the THIMUN Qatar Northwestern Film Festival YouTube Channel (thimunqatarfilmfest).

Fifteen films were nominated for awards in seven different categories. Students attending the festival will come from nations all over the globe, including the Netherlands, Ecuador, United States, Pakistan, Singapore, UAE, Egypt, Oman, and Qatar. Film

makers will participate in three days of intense workshops designed to enhance their skills and understanding of the importance of visual advocacy. The festival

will conclude with a gala awards evening at the St. Regis hotel.

The following students and films have been nominated for the best pic-

ture award. Congratulations to all the filmmakers for their role in advocating and raising awareness about important issues!

Student	Film Title	School
Mirte Ebel	Life at Sea	Deutsche Internationale Schule Den Haag
Paula Ortiz	Untangling the Fishing Net	Fundacion Colegio Americano de Quito
Will Wegner	Dogs in Doha	American School of Doha
Amal Al-Muftah	Split Second	Qatar Academy
SuleimaAlhaj Abed	Yaqeen	Doha College
Jenica Woolley	Dancing Eyes	American School of Doha
Mohammad Logman	An Innocent Outcome	Aitchison College
Asaad Al-Raeesi	Smoke	The Sultan School
Faraz Ahmed	Battle with Foods	John Burroughs

Film Festival

By Rouda Al-Attayah

THIS YEAR'S THIMUN Qatar Northwestern Film Festival will welcome filmmakers from all around the world again on April 11-13. A competition based event, the film festival gives high school students the opportunity to submit films of their own production. These films are on issues that the students have researched and debated in school or at Model UN conferences. The festival is designed to motivate and inspire young filmmakers to showcase their talents by advocating a certain global issue and developing their interpersonal skills while undertaking this experience. The film festival allows students to not only learn about policy points regarding their topic, but also be direct advocates of the issue they choose, in light of their social, economic, and political influences.

"Each film puts a human face on the issues of today," stated Noor Al Thani, this year's student coordinator for the film festival. "The problems of the world are often portrayed in factual, often statistical terms; film, however, has a special ability to connect viewers to a problem in more personal way." The ultimate goal of film is to allow the audience to establish an effective under-

standing of the issue at hand, which, in turn, would motivate the audience and the filmmaker to take action. The THIMUN Qatar Northwestern Film Festival also strives to provide support to students by featuring workshops conducted by leading industry professionals and university professionals. In addition, numerous social activities are provided to participants at the festival, including the gala awards evening. This year's gala awards night will be held in the ballroom of the St. Regis hotel.

For all film enthusiasts, consider taking this festival as an opportunity for delivering a crucial message to the world. For those who are motivated to submit a documentary, please keep in mind that all films must be between two to seven minutes in length, and films must be issue and advocacy-based. The original submission for films was on the 14th of February. Film festival filmmakers can win awards and cash prizes of 2,000 Qatari Riyals for categories including Best Story, Best Cinematography, Best Sound, Best Editing, Best Poster, and People's Choice Award. International participants also receive complimentary airfare and accommodation. The grand prize for Overall Best Picture will receive 10,000 Qatari Riyals.

Abu Dhabi Model UN Conference

By Saarthak Saxena

ABU DHABI Model United Nations, known as ADMUN for short, is a conference hosted by Al Nahda National School and seven other private schools in the capital of the United Arab Emirates. ADMUN kicked off on February 27 and ended on March 2, uniting students from schools all over the Middle East at a single conference. Students gathered to debate issues as wide-ranging as the Situation in Syria to Internet Piracy to Global Warming. This year's theme of International Peace directly connected to ADMUN's mission: "Urging delegates toward a greater cause by promoting enlightened, sound, logical, and reasonable debating to arrive at a consensus to solve international problems," bringing to mind imperative Security Council

issues such as the Syrian civil war and conflict between Israel and Palestine. ADMUN, however, has proven to not just serve as an excellent place for debate and diplomacy. Zapaer Alip, Chair of the Commission on Science and Technology Development spoke of how the conference was able to foster feelings of community and friendship among the delegates, teachers, speakers, staff, and all those who attended. The best part of the experience, stated Alip, was "the atmosphere created by people who were passionate about the issues and maintained a sense of professionalism, while still being friendly and outgoing." For delegates in Abu Dhabi wishing to get a small taste of what Model United Nations is truly like in the Middle East, ADMUN certainly seems to be one of the places to go.



Middle East Model United Nations Newsletter

Kevin Felix Chan and Ryan Villanueva, Best Delegate Co-Founders

Lisa Martin, Online Model United Nations Director/Co-Founder

Cameron Janzen, Head of THIMUN Qatar

Jullian Bao, Lead Editor

Ashley Inman, Best Delegate Media Associate

Founded in January 2013

The Rise of Model United Nations in Egypt

By Omar Eldarawy

FROM NEW to old to new... to new again? Model United Nations conferences seem to be formulating at a speed faster than ever here in Egypt, to every delegate's advantage. Hayah International Academy Model United Nations 3rd Annual Conference only just occurred from February 21st to the 24th with about 188 participants attending — and yet still, it seems to be on everyone's mind. After closing ceremonies, we stayed in Cairo, ready for more and anxiously awaiting the ever-prestigious Oasis International School Model United Nations from February 24th to the 28th. Now, our delegates are patiently waiting and preparing for the March set of Model UN conferences. The American International School Model United Nations 23rd Annual Conference takes place from the 9th of March until the 11th. Soon after, the British International School of Cairo Junior Model United Nations 3rd Annual Conference joins the group above, with excitement coursing through our delegates' minds. Finally, to finish off the list of conferences planned,

we move from Cairo to Alexandria whilst Schutz American School Model United Nations 2nd Annual Conference takes over. Given our busy conference

schedule that is already planned for the rest of the season, justifications aren't required to say the words "Model UN in Egypt is epic!"



Omar is one of Egypt's Model UN delegates gaining exposure to the Middle East circuit

A Letter from the THIMUN Press Team

DEAR ALL,

On behalf of all of us, THIMUN Qatar 2013 was an absolute blast for the Press Team this year! We had the honor of being this year's Heads of Press, and we were given the privilege of carrying many responsibilities throughout the conference. From our very first team meeting in October, we knew that this year's group was going to be THIMUN Qatar's best Press Team since its inception, and this year's effort definitely met — and exceeded — all of our expectations.

Deciding to make innovation a key focus, we chose to make this year's set-up was different from that of previous years! First, given the rapid growth of technology in the Middle East, we expanded our reach in social media. Not

only did the Press Team communicate with delegates and schools through Twitter and Facebook, but we also launched a new website, too. On our website, we included hundreds of photos, all of our written articles, artist drawings, and even a live streaming of the Opening and Closing ceremonies. We also decided to start a new addition to the Press Team, Online Broadcasting. This group created several daily videos of the conference and uploaded them on YouTube, and this allowed us to share the events and memories of delegates on an everyday basis. This idea of visual communication sparked the interest of many of our viewers; overall, this turned out to be a wonderful addition to our team's agenda. As Heads of the Press Team, we were immensely proud to see our hardworking team excel throughout

the duration of the conference, and we would like to sincerely thank them for all their tremendous efforts. This unforgettable team consisting of twenty-seven members went above and beyond this year with their time and dedication, and collectively, they have been the perfect example of what an organized Press Team is. By the third and final day of this conference, we came to realize that this team had turned into a family — which is exactly what we had hoped for straight from the beginning. As this is our final THIMUN Model UN conference, we are certain that the THIMUN Press Team will continue to shine in the following years, and grow even bigger and better.

Thank you,
Lana Mahmoud & Rana Abu Al Saud



The THIMUN Press Team celebrates another successful conference this year

Metaphors: "Model UN is like α..."

By Numair Mujeeb

ANYONE WHO HAS spent any time at a Model UN conference will quickly note the use of analogies in debate. Some delegates use analogies as a tactic for adding clarity to their speaking points, and other delegates use analogies as tactic to create interest in themselves. Either way, original Model UN metaphors can make any speech, idea, or delegate memorable. Below is the second collection of analogies that I have accumulated from a recent conference, THIMUN Qatar — I hope you enjoy them!

"This resolution is tall, smart and handsome, just like the delegate of Chile!" - *Abdulla Hassan, Qatar International School*

"This resolution uses various techniques, similar to how Bulbasaur uses vine whip on Squirtle, which makes it super-effective!"

"This resolution is like a bad Model UN analogy: it's mildly entertaining and gets everyone interested, until everyone starts realizing that it actually is completely superfluous and serves no real purpose." - *Caleb Dudte, American International School in Lagos*

"This resolution is like a blunt pencil — pointless."

"This resolution is like Spongebob Squarepants: it makes you smile, but when you really look at it, it has no brain and is full of holes."

"This resolution is like Jamba Juice — it blends everything important into a healthy snack that is good for you!"

"This resolution is like the really pure mathematics: it sounds really cool at first, but after ten seconds you realize that it's the most useless thing on earth."

That wraps up this time's collection of analogies! Be sure to send your favorite analogies to me at mun.analogies@gmail.com, and I will be sure to include them in next month's issue.

O-MUN's Trip to THIMUN 2013, cont.

the O-MUN delegation members felt as if they had known each other when they met at The Hague.

The O-MUN delegates represented OPEC (Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Nations) in councils such as the General Assemblies, the Economic and Social Council, the Environment Commission, and Special Conference on Energy and Sustainability. For

“Despite the fact that most [delegates] only interacted with each other online prior to meeting, the O-MUN delegation members felt like they had known each other when they met at The Hague.”

some delegates, THIMUN was their first face-to-face Model UN experience, but preparation through regular online debates allowed them to participate without being hindered by the problems that first-time delegates usually have. Despite a lack of overall face-to-face experience, most of the O-MUN delegates main-submitted a resolution (a high honor at THIMUN), all of which, except one, were passed. This is an indicator of success given the fact that THIMUN does not give out awards.

Apart from debating in their respective committees, the O-MUN team was also involved in hosting demo debates for the delegates at THIMUN. O-MUN participants from around the world joined the delegates at THIMUN during these online debates which were also chaired and moderated by O-MUN members.

O-MUN presents an opportunity to attend one of the largest and most prestigious conferences in the world for those who do not have the opportunity to such as homeschooled students and students from schools which do not go to THIMUN (getting a delegation at THIMUN for a new school can be extremely hard due to its long waiting

Thasbeeh Moosa — “This was probably one of my favorite trips. From meeting everyone that I work with for the first time, to taking these students around Amsterdam, every moment has been brilliant. Running around and ensuring nothing happens to 10 students was by far the hardest thing I’ve ever done. I now have the utmost respect for shepherders and teachers that go on such trips with students. I don’t think I would have shared this week with any other group of students.”

McKenna Tucker — “After returning home from THIMUN The Hague 2013, I’ve realized that one of my favorite aspects of the experience was being immersed in the cultural diversity of delegates and directors, and my team. Since O-MUN spans the globe, our delegation was as diverse as the world is vast. I loved sitting down with our delegate from Lebanon to talk about the political hostilities and conflicts his country is currently facing, and then turning around to discuss the grossness of raw herring with our delegate from Taiwan; watching our delegate from Jordan help our delegate from Egypt brush up on his Arabic, then turning around to speak a little Spanish with our team assistant from the USA. It was incredible to witness how students from such different, and even divergent, cultures and nationalities can come together and act as such a cohesive and powerful team. Serving as a leader and participant in that was an honor and something I will carry with me throughout the future.”

Audrey Cabral — “In addition to enjoying this trip so very much, it has

lines of, “what is MUN?” I am constantly in disbelief at that very thought. Getting chosen to attend THIMUN with O-MUN was one of the best moments of my life.”

Nadine Fattaleh — “Debating days were everything I wished for and more. I know I get a bit aggressive and over-excited during debate. The trip to Amsterdam was amazing, even though I had no time to change and went around

you high-class training. I mean, it was obvious how good our training was from the multitude of main submitters we had on our delegation, and some of them hadn’t done MUN before, and are so skilled that they would intimidate even the most experienced students. All of those are just memories that I will forever cherish now.”

Salam Keadan — “There have never been a lot of programs that I can join



Omar Naguib makes a speech in Environment Commission 1

with white socks and ballerina’s (fashion suicide). I really enjoyed cycling around the city, and learning to use the bike lanes. I’m sure I’ll go back there one day. Overall, I couldn’t have asked for a better THIMUN experience that I spend with my O-MUN delegation, ECOSOC friends, ABS schoolmates, and the Kaleidoscope of other MUN friends I’ve made at AMMUN and THIMUN over the years.”

Chris Bishop — “Personally, it was my first experience of a face to face conference, and I had absolutely no idea what to expect. It seemed as if everybody but me knew what they were doing when we arrived at the World Forum on Monday morning, but I quickly applied what I had learnt from the online world and got stuck right in... I made the speech, I answered the POIs and together with our co-submitters, and new friends, we passed the resolution by a landslide.

“[O-MUN] was the culmination of months of work, and I felt it symbolised not just my work, or Nadine’s work, or our work, but the monumental effort and graft put into O-MUN over the last year.”

The feeling I got was immense. It was the culmination of months of work, and I felt it symbolised not just my work, or Nadine’s work, or our work, but the monumental effort and graft put into O-MUN over the last year. It showed that we knew what we were doing just as well as any other delegate. It proved to the rest of my committee what Nadine and I already knew.”

Omar Naguib — “Somewhere around 6 months ago, I had no clue what MUN was, and I just passed a resolution by overwhelming majority in the biggest conference on earth. I am proof that O-MUN is just an accessible version of MUN, because there is no way I could have passed a resolution at THIMUN without the experience I received through O-MUN.”

Hasan Shami — “Just imagine that to do MUN, you don’t need to be privileged or go to a privileged school, you don’t need to wear a suit, and you don’t need to pay. There are so many possibilities that one can do with such a breakthrough program that can give

over here, at least not what I was looking for, O-MUN was the perfect thing for me, I’m really glad I am a part of this amazing journey! When I joined O-MUN, I finally felt that I belong to something, like I have something to do and enjoy at the same time! So THIMUN week was one of the best weeks of my life, unfortunately it was over by no time! I had an awesome week, unforgettable moments, met wonderful great students from all around the world! I really miss everyone and everything over there!”

Nick Yeh — “While the debates were a lot of fun, I also really enjoyed meeting the different people and making friends as a result... The cultural experience of just going to Amsterdam and The Hague was amazing (and yes, this includes enjoying the food). When we visited Amsterdam on Wednesday, I felt that I learned a lot more than I expected... Finally,

I truly miss out of everything was meeting and hanging out with my O-MUN Team.”

Rameez Remsudeen — “Online Model United Nations,” these 4 words mean a lot to me, now more than ever for it’s had a massive effect on my life. A year ago, I barely knew what a Model United Nations was. Today, I am part of the leadership team of the world’s most innovative MUN platform. I’ve made a bunch of amazing friends from around the world, whom I never would have met, if it weren’t for this program. Today, I am fortunate enough to represent O-MUN as part of this very organization’s first delegation to The Hague International Model United Nations, The Netherlands, something I’d never really imagined I’d do.”

Congratulations to the O-MUN team for a successful trip to THIMUN 2013! To read more about their trip, you can visit the members’ individual journal entries [here](#).



The entire O-MUN delegation representing OPEC

list). I hope to see O-MUN’s attendance at THIMUN conferences grow in the coming years so that students who are not able to have the chance to do so. Here is what the individual team members had to share about their conference experiences:

Lisa Martin — “It is almost beyond possible to put this week and this conference into words. This was unquestionably one of the best, most fun, unique, crazy, outgoing group of delegates that I have ever worked with. Our primary focus at THIMUN was to share O-MUN in the all critical and necessary Demo Debates..., after THIMUN, it appears evident that we can definitely say MISSION ACCOMPLISHED... O-MUN, put into the hands of some of the best Model UN Directors in the world, is a winning combination.”

been monumental for O-MUN’s progress and development. The outreach we were able to do while at THIMUN was tremendous, as was the response we received from delegates and directors. New delegates are pouring in, and each time I see a new delegate added to our group, it reminds me how very grateful I am that O-MUN has had this chance to share our program with the world. As a delegation, I believe O-MUN shattered expectations and proved the value our program has. There’s no telling what is in store for us, but undoubtedly many exciting advances are on our horizon. I’m honored to be a part of O-MUN and cannot wait to see where this journey takes us next.”

Russel Evans — “If you would have told me a year ago that in one year’s time I would be attending the largest MUN conference in the world, I probably would have said something along the

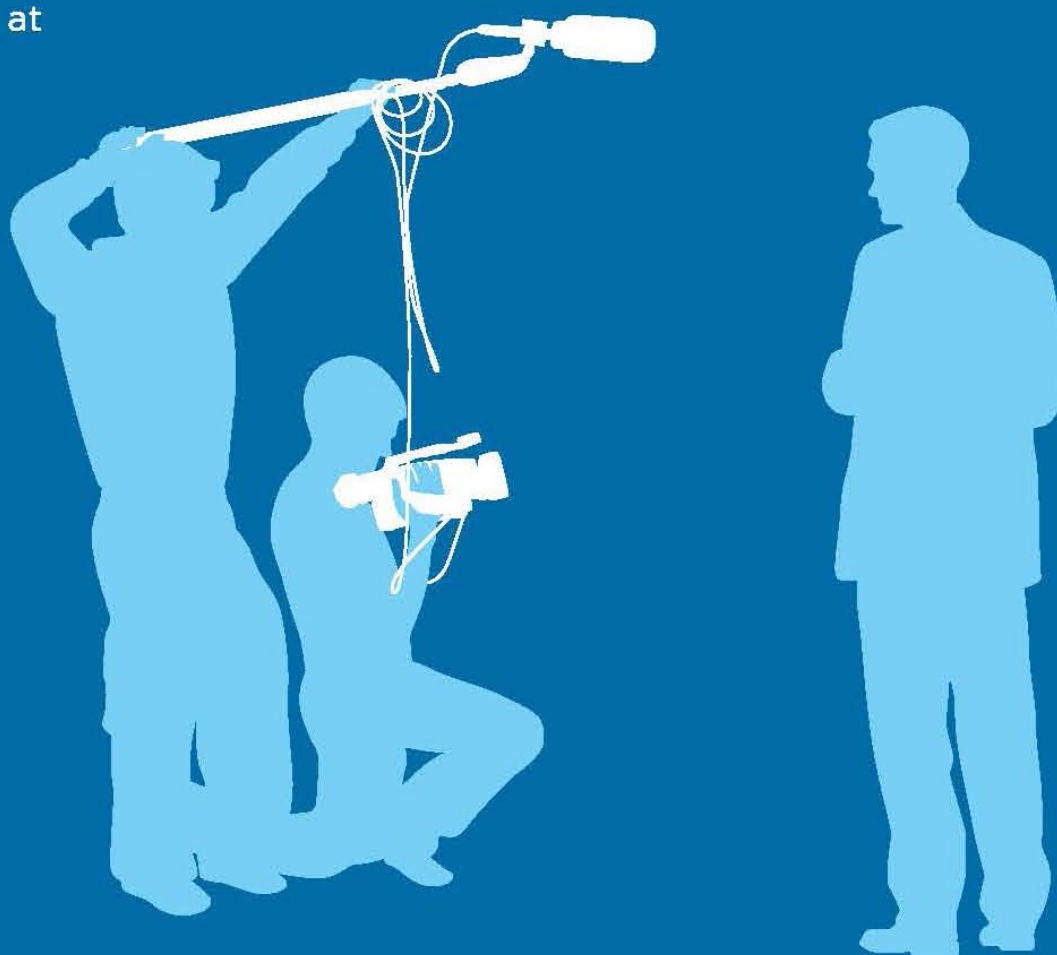
2013 THIMUN QATAR NORTHWESTERN FILM FESTIVAL

THIMUN Qatar and Northwestern University in Qatar are encouraging high school student films through a documentary film festival from April 11-13, 2013 in Doha, Qatar.

Educational opportunities and prize money are offered for winning entries.

The film submission deadline is February 14, 2013.

Details can be found online at www.thimunqatar.org



Operation OPEC: A Look at O-MUN's THIMUN Debut

By Lisa Martin

DELEGATION OPEC made its mark on THIMUN 2013, and in unexpected ways. At the heart of our team's journey to The Hague was the unique proposition that a team of students from seven countries, who had never met face-to-face, would be able to hit the ground running as a team. But O-MUN's OPEC delegation proved to be more than just a marketing machine, a demo-debate production crew, or a group of random, disconnected, pretty faces there to enjoy a week in The Netherlands. Unique to this team was how its members started as individuals, and what they then accomplished as a delegation — the OPEC delegation. Let's break this down.

The OPEC team was comprised of nine individuals. Four had never done Model UN before finding O-MUN, and with the exception of one face-to-face debate between the four of them, they represented our THIMUN novices. One third of the team hailed from the Middle East, from countries such as Jordan, Israel and Lebanon — a political combination that caused us much derisive merriment and several hilarious photo opportunities. Four of the OPEC delegates had previous MUN conference experience, but none of these students had ever prepared for an academic conference online, where the face-to-face dynamic of debating is of prime importance. Nevertheless, the delegates came prepared: most team members were main sponsors of their resolutions, and in all but one case, their resolutions were passed in committee.

Personally, I learned a lot about how to prepare a team in this fashion. Google Docs provided a way to "glue" to our search for information about OPEC, and we shared information and research through this system. I had students record answers to preassigned questions



The O-MUN delegation poses for a picture in front of a Model UN display about its operations.

on Sound Cloud, and we shared these with one another on our private TEAM THIMUN 2013 Facebook Group. I even encouraged one of our members, Hasan Shami, be our main submitter for the January Global Debate, and also to use the opportunity to make the rest of the team represent OPEC countries. Considering that Hasan's resolution on Carbon Capture and Sequestration passed in EC2, I think we can say that preparing for this conference online was indeed effective!

One of the best comments came from Omar Naguib, the delegate in EC1, who shouted out to me while he passed the O-MUN table — with a large group of delegates following him — and in this group, I even heard someone yell "Follow OPEC"!

"I wasn't sure what to expect, but lobbying was pretty much exactly what we've done in our globals," stated Omar, referring to the online lobbying sessions that we use for our global debates. Other than one delegate who entertained the

committee by speaking in crazy accents and singing songs from Les Miserables in the hall of the Bel Air, I would definitely have to rank that comment as one of the highlights of the entire conference.

This was unquestionably one of the best, funniest, craziest, most outgoing group of delegates that I have ever worked with. If this is a preview of O-MUN delegations to come...? Well, there's only 11 months until THIMUN 2014!

THIMUN 2013, cont.

core explained their national policies on issues ranging from the Falkland Islands, Nuclear Energy, and the use of tear gas on protesters. Professors and staff members from a institutions and organizations including the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar, Northwestern University in Qatar, UNESCO, IAEA, and various other NGOs gave expert insights to delegates pertaining to the topics they were debating. As delegate Reem Al Ansari said, "The debate and discussion sessions were highly engaging and beneficial for all."

Budding journalists and photographers produced an outstanding daily newsletter, writing and publishing theme-related articles. Titles included "The Future of Governance," "United Nations through Revolution and Sport," "Let's Go Green for our Home," and "Is Violence Necessary when Citizens Rebel." Their work can be seen on their website [here](#).

During closing ceremonies, delegates saw a local businessman and long-time supporter of Model UN programs, Mr. Bader Darwish, receive the THIMUN Qatar Peace and Service award. Following the presentation of Mr. Darwish's award, the Doha Jazz band concluded

the conference with an upbeat performance that entertained the crowd.

As Secretary General, Sultan Al Kaabi made his aim this year to make THIMUN 2013 a successful and memorable

conference, hoping that the delegates will consider what they have learned in their committee rooms and be inspired to make a change in their own communities.



The Doha Jazz Band performs during the THIMUN Qatar 2013 closing ceremonies, playing featured songs from the famous "Blues Brothers."

Lebanon Update

By Hasan Shami

THE MUN schedule here in Lebanon has been fairly busy during the last couple of months. January saw the holding of the American Community School's annual LEBMUN conference, which hosted over 150 delegates. Committees varied between GA, ECOSOC, Historical Security Council, and ICC. A relatively smaller conference was held in February, HHHS MUN, in which around four schools participated. The rules of procedure, however, varied between the two conferences: LEBMUN had a tendency to follow European (THIMUN) rules of procedures, while HHHS MUN strictly followed American (UNAUSA) procedures.

Furthermore, as previously mentioned in the last newsletter, the Lebanese American University had a unique role in educating delegates by holding an all-Lebanon MUN training program. On Saturday, February 23rd, this program concluded its training sessions for this year with Training Session 6, and is now beginning to prep are this year's thousands of delegates for a mock simulation and a conference to be held soon in LAU on April 6-7.

Curriculum Corner

By Lisa Martin

IN THIS regular column, we will share some teaching ideas that can be used with your club or Model UN class. Commonly used curricular practices and lessons can be modified to help you and your students master some Model United Nations basics, and add a bit of kick to your regular routine.

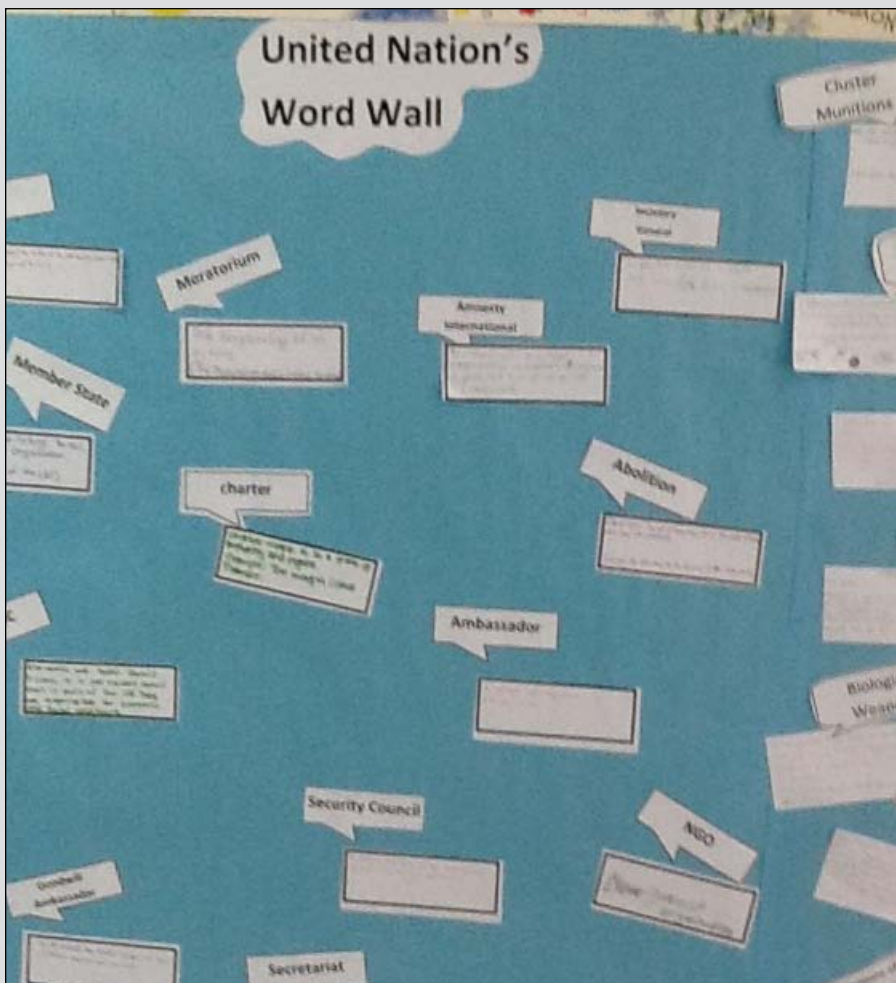
I'm starting simple, and throwing this space open for your ideas and best practices to be highlighted and shared. I'll start out with an easy idea.

United Nations Word Wall

I stumbled across this rather obvious vocabulary technique while working with my middle school students, a group particularly in need of expo-

sure to a whole host of new vocabulary words. I started this at the beginning of the year with the basics: Security Council, General Assembly, etc., before moving on to debate terms, and then to topic-specific words. Today, my students posted definitions for the terms "chemical weapons," "weapons of mass destruction," and "missile systems." From these words, I'm sure you can tell what our class is debating next. I do this simple activity at the beginning of each new unit. My daughter, who is in my class and ever the artist, even illustrates hers — a brilliant way of tapping into the talents of your artistic delegates.

From the simple to the sophisticated, MUN teachers have developed a whole tool kit of ways to teach MUN. [Contact me](#) if you'd like to share yours, and we'll profile it here in our next issue.



Terms and definitions on the United Nations Word Wall

"Actively Seized of the Matter"

By Lisa Martin

I REMEMBER back in the day when I used to teach students how to write resolutions. The phrase "to remain actively seized of the matter" was rarely used by delegates, and when it was, it stood out as a pretentious add-on. Imagine my surprise, when over the course of this past year, every resolution up for debate ended with a seemingly-obligatory "actively seized" phrase.

This phrase "to remain actively seized of the matter" has been used at the United Nations to clearly delineate the Security Council's jurisdiction over an issue. This phrase on Security Council resolutions was meant to be a clear signal to other nations and deliberative bodies (i.e., the nosy and less-civilized General Assembly) to keep their hands off the issue — the diplomatic equivalent to "mind your own business." The procedural reference to this phrase is laid out in Article 12, Paragraph 1 of the United Nations Charter. So why is it that the General Assembly uses this phrase, with Model UN delegates eagerly following suit?

Can the Security Council really monopolize an issue with the use of this single phrase? The General Assembly certainly doesn't think so. Legal scholars and UN precedent has broadened the scope of this term to mean that the General Assembly can take up a specific issue, even if the Security Council is "seized" upon it. If the Council is mired in its own internal paralysis and cannot act upon it, the seized issue is up for grabs!

This gives the General Assembly the right to take up the issue, staking out its own claim to deal with the matter. Since GA resolutions are non-binding, the added phrase "to remain actively seized of the matter" is somewhat unnecessary; it doesn't provide any additional relevance. Countries frequently ignore GA resolutions, whether they have "actively seized" on them or not.

So now, when you put that phrase on the end of your resolution, you'll know where it came from. You can rest easy in the knowledge that your fellow delegates understand that you are claiming ownership and a desire to act on the issue at hand.

Point of Order

By Cameron Janzen

WELCOME TO Point of Order! Point of Order is a new monthly column designed to support Model UN leaders with the organizational aspect of running a conference, club, or class. We will examine the philosophy behind Model UN programs, organizational tools, and educational resources.

Why Model UN? The most important aspect of organizing an MUN program is to be clear about the fundamental purpose of the program. Sometimes, we confuse questions about the activities of Model UN with the purpose of Model UN. Should it be curricular or extra-curricular? What is the optimal size of a committee room? What international conferences should we attend? While these types of questions are important, they should always be addressed through the understanding of the core purpose of Model United Nations — the development of the student leaders of tomorrow. The THIMUN Foundation tries to encapsulate this core purpose through its mission statement, which is "to promote and foster collaborative solution-oriented discussion to important issues by instilling life-long passion for improving our global community into today's youth, who will be tomorrow's leaders."

Attendees of THIMUN conferences aim to seek, through discussion, negotiation and debate, solutions to the various problems of the world — for example, questions of human rights, protection of the environment, economic development, disarmament, the problems of youth and of refugees, as well as the more critical issues of war and peace. The young delegates participating in MUN, in seeking solutions to these problems, can learn to break away from narrow, national self-interests, and instead develop true international cooperation. The ability to focus on the greater issues at hand allow delegates to gain a unique insight into what the United Nations itself was designed to do.

For many delegates, the research and preparation required, the consideration or adoption of views and attitudes other than their own, and the involvement and interaction with so many other young people from around the world all combine to give the young people a deep insight into the world's problems, make them aware of the causes of conflict between nations, and lead them to a better understand-

ing of the interests and motivations of others.

Thus, the THIMUN Foundation, through its conferences and educational programs, attempts to fulfill the aims and goals set by the founders of the United Nations in the Preamble to the Charter of the United Nations: "to practice tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbors."

At the core of the THIMUN mission statement and Model UN programs is belief that MUN is about youth leadership and the attitudes and skills needed to become an effective leader. MUN programs are focused toward helping youth develop into positive agents for change, and giving an active role in shaping our future. MUN programs must always keep in mind that our fundamental purpose is to provide the opportunity for young people to articulate their opinions, grow their knowledge, and develop their skills.

When meeting with new MUN directors, I am often asked the question of how to get a program started. Again, the answer to this question starts with first examining the purpose of MUN. MUN clubs and conferences should have organizational structures that place students as key decision makers and organizers of every aspect of the program. Student leaders are mentored by their directors and need to be viewed as partners and responsible stakeholders in the organization. Student leaders should be given meaningful roles and provided with opportunities to demonstrate executive skill-making decisions. To start and maintain any program requires adults who are able to foster opportunities for students and students who are willing to take on these responsibilities.

From the very first planning meeting, student leaders should be at the table working with the teacher mentor on collaborative solution-oriented discussion to address the important issues of developing their program. For me, one quote would summarize the first step in organizing or reviewing your MUN program: "A leader is best when people barely know he exists, when his work is done, his aim fulfilled, they will say: we did it ourselves" — Lao Tzu.

Next month, we will examine the topic of developing a strategic plan specifically tailored for your Model UN program. If you have a topic or questions you would like us to address, in future articles please email me at cjanzen@qf.org.qa.



Student leaders in Model UN learn the ropes of consensus-building and communication

How to Teach Model UN: 5 Discussion Questions on the UN Charter

By Ryan Villanueva

RECENTLY, I spent a week discussing with my students what their experience in Model UN has taught them about the real United Nations. We discussed the UN's achievements, especially in development and decolonization, as well as its shortcomings, particularly in peace and security. We also took the opportunity to read the document that defines the organization — the [Charter of the United Nations](#).

The experience made me wonder how many students go through Model UN without actually reading the UN Charter. It also made me realize that the Charter might be difficult for a teacher to discuss if he or she never studied it as a student. But there are several reasons for including the UN Charter as part of your Model UN training:

- **Part of Model UN is learning about the UN and international issues.** The UN Charter describes the purpose and structure of the UN, and it highlights the international issues the UN is responsible for addressing.

- **Understanding the UN Charter helps you become a better delegate.** It should be part of your committee research because the Charter defines the purpose and powers of many of the committees you will simulate in Model UN. You can bring up relevant parts of the Charter during speeches and caucusing, and citing relevant articles of the Charter can strengthen your resolutions.

- **Reading the UN Charter is a good exercise in understanding and evaluating primary sources**, which is an important part of a social studies ed-

ucation, as well as a useful skill for writing research papers and participating in college-level discussions.

- **If you're going to Model UN, you should probably read the document that defines the real UN!**

You can read the text of the UN Charter at the official UN website [here](#). To help you with understanding the UN and holding a discussion with your students, start with these questions below:

- **What is the purpose of the UN?** This is covered in the [Preamble](#) and [Chapter I: Purposes and Principles](#). Are the UN's purposes and principles realistic? Does the UN today live up to what it set forth 66 years ago? Check out this [list](#) of the UN's greatest achievements.

- **How do countries join the UN?** [Chapter II: Membership](#) describes the requirements for UN membership. Why do countries want to join the UN? Is the membership process fair? (Consider that membership is subject to veto by the Security Council.)

- **How is the UN organized?** [Chapter III: Organs](#) breaks down the UN into 6 principal organs, and Chapters IV-XV describe the powers and membership of those organs. (Note that the Trusteeship Council no longer meets because it accomplished its mission of decolonization.) Does this organization make sense? Is it effective? Check out how the UN organization fits into the larger UN system [here](#).

- **Can the UN infringe on a country's sovereignty?** Article 2 is about upholding state sovereignty and ensuring that the UN does not "intervene in matters which are essentially within



Ryan Villanueva with students from his Model UN workshop in the Middle East from last September

the domestic jurisdiction" of a member state. However, the Security Council can authorize enforcement action under [Chapter VII](#) — but the Security Council is subject to the veto of the Permanent 5 (these members include the US, UK, France, Russia, and China). How does the UN balance its principle of sovereignty with maintaining international peace and security or promoting human rights? When should the Security Council determine that a domestic matter has become an international matter, such as in the case of human rights abuses? And what happens if those abuses take place within the territory of a Permanent 5 country?

- **Does the UN challenge the status quo, or preserve it?** The UN is "based on the principle of the sovereign equality of all its Members" (Ch. I, Art. 2). But some members are more equal than others; the Permanent 5 have veto power in the [Security Council](#) (Ch. V, Art. 27). Is the UN about promoting global progress or preserving the power of the Permanent 5?

This article is part of the "How to Teach Model UN" series for students and teachers who are new to Model UN. Check out previous articles on [Committee Research](#), [Country Research](#), and [Current Events](#).

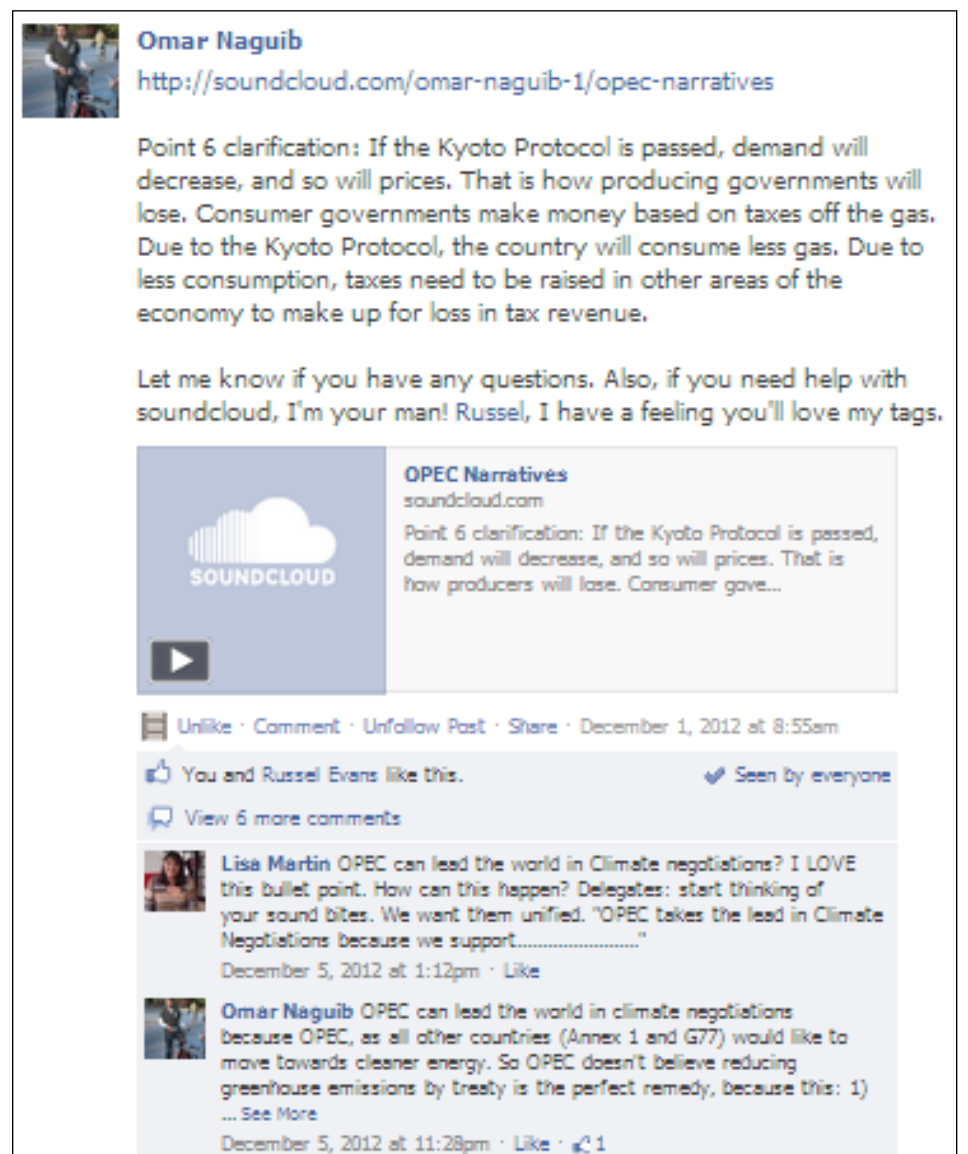
Technology: Thinking in the Clouds

By Lisa Martin

I RECENTLY had the unique opportunity to help the THIMUN team completely prepare for a conference online. We were given the challenge of representing OPEC at a conference where theme was "Energy and Sustainability." Despite researching seriously, we struggled to find ways to prepare accordingly that weren't monotonous. We were looking for simplicity for everyone; through this process, I realized that I wanted to "listen" to my students in an asynchronous manner. In other words, I didn't want to be reading endless papers — and I know my team didn't want

to be writing out answers to questions. We originally met on Blackboard once a week, but with time zone issues, we struggled even with that. So, I borrowed an idea from my history class, asking students to record their answers on [SoundCloud](#). My delegates liked this; they would post their recordings on our private Facebook group, and then we commented on the audio recordings. Everyone could do this at his or her leisure, and within 24 hours, we had "discussed" the response. This would also be an outstanding way to critique opening speeches, which I hope to try next year.

Have a technology idea? [Contact us](#), and we'll share it here!



(left) A snapshot of the Sound Cloud interface; (right) part of an O-MUN discussion thread on Facebook

How to Make a Speech, cont.

before raising my placard, my biggest fear was *not knowing what to say*. This is typical for many delegates, since most Model UN speeches have to be improvised quickly, particularly comments.

With that in mind, here are 3 tips on figuring out what to say in a speech:

1. Focus on one idea. Most delegates try to say too much in a single speech. Speaking time is typically one minute or less, which is barely enough time to say one thing well. Most delegates try to run through a laundry list of facts or points, but no single thing sticks in the minds of their audience.

It's a problem of information overload. There's a lot going on in committee — giving speeches, making motions, drafting resolutions. It's an overwhelming amount of information to process, both for the committee and you as an individual delegate trying to make a speech.

Focusing on one idea is a way to pierce through this haze of information. It can be your topic framework, a specific issue, or just saying "I disagree" with another delegate's speech. But when you focus on one idea, you are inviting the committee to focus on this one idea with you. Your challenge is to pick out one idea from the swirling mass of possible things to speak on.

For example, in speeches defending a resolution on which you are a sponsor, single out one operative clause — either the most important or controversial — and focus all of your speaking time on it.

2. Use a framework. After you've decided what idea to focus on, build a framework around it. Break down your one idea into a specified number of bullet points. Structure your speech so that it's logical and organized.



Delegates raise their placards to speak during a session of LUMUN XI, held at the Lahore University of Management Sciences last December

Framing makes it easier for the committee to understand what you're saying. Using a structure helps you look like you know what you're talking about. Using framing techniques will make other delegates more likely to remember what you've said. Hopefully, they use your framework in their own speeches and refer back to you. It not only makes you look good — it highlights you as a committee leader.

Using the example in the previous tip, after you choose one operative clause to focus on, speak on the top 3 reasons that this clause is important. Consider how it impacts your topic. Or perhaps it needs to be included in the resolution because of a compromise between different caucus blocs.

Here are more Best Delegate articles on [framing](#) in general and [framing your](#)

[topic](#).

3. Persuade, don't just describe.

Most delegates spend too much speaking time reciting facts instead of arguing a point. This is commonly found in opening speeches that feature statistics and stories related to the committee's topic. These might serve as good introductions, but other delegates and the dais staff already have this information in their research. They now want to hear your ideas on what to do about the problem and why.

The committee does not remember your speeches for the statistics or stories you tell, but rather the one idea your speech was about and how you made everyone feel while talking about it. Whenever you make a speech, you want

other delegates to think to themselves, "That's a good point." And when you get really good, they'll think, "Wow — I wish I said that."

Continuing the example above, it's not enough to describe what your operative clause does. You must explain why it is important to the committee. One way to do this is by referring to other delegates' prior speeches and pointing out that your operative clause addresses their concerns.

To win awards, you have to stand out. Public speaking is essential to standing out, and you cannot let fear stop you from making speeches. So, to win awards, you have to overcome any fears of public speaking you might have. You have to know what to say.



bestdelegate
Model United Nations Training Camps

Jordan (May 9-11)

Location: Amman Baccaureate School

Contact: Peter Carrigan

pcarrigan@abs.edu.jo

Qatar (May 16-18)

Location: Qatar Academy

Contact: thimunqatar@qf.org.qa

Cost: 500 QAR

Speak UP!

By Osama Ghani

FOR THIS MONTH'S edition of Speak Up, I decided to interview two Model UN delegates whom I have interacted with at previous conferences — Maryam Al-Ammari from Bahrain, who I met at the Qatar Leadership Conference 2012, and Shanthanu Rao, a delegate at THIMUN Qatar 2013. Maryam is a student at Ibn Khuldoon National School in Bahrain, and she is a regular MUNer in both traditional and online environments. Shanthanu is a student at Qatar Academy in Qatar with an exceptional zeal for debate, even though he is relatively new to the Model UN scene. Based on the current situation in Syria and the positions Russia and China are taking, I decided to ask them the following questions.

What are your views on the conflict between foreign intervention and national sovereignty? Where do you believe the line should be drawn?

Shanthanu: The balance between foreign intervention and natural sovereignty is very delicate. On one hand, the United Nations is entrusted with maintaining peace in the world, with the Security Council leading the way and determining when it is acceptable to use violence. On the other hand, all nations expect that the United Nations would respect their right to sovereignty. Further, with the Syrian conflict at hand and Russia and China holding the solutions up, it is difficult for other organizations to interfere. I believe that immediate urgency allows for intervention to be taken place, even if not by the United Nations, but not unilaterally.

Maryam: Generally, I'm against foreign intervention by countries unless a situation is urgent. As for a line, foreign intervention should end once a predetermined goal is complete.

Considering that you have been to THIMUN conferences and are aware of North American procedure as well, do you prefer having the right to follow up or not? Why?

Shanthanu: The right to follow up is extremely important from the questioner's point of view. This is because

delegates often avoid answering the question properly many a time, or, they may twist the answer or give a vague response. For these reasons, I feel that the right to follow up is integral to any debate. The fact that the THIMUN Rules of Procedure don't allow for a right to follow up is a severe drawback. I feel that in debates, most of the heated exchanges happen through follow ups.

Maryam: If a delegate formulates their point of information well enough, they shouldn't need the right to follow up.

According to the UN Charter, the Security Council is expected to keep its decisions in line with the charter, however, there is no system of checks or balances for this. Hence, not even the ICJ can challenge its decisions. What do you feel are the advantages and disadvantages of this?

Shanthanu: I feel that the advantages of this are that Security Council lie at the apex of power, and therefore, it is possible to coerce countries into following international law. The fact that the ICJ cannot check into its decisions, however, is a problem. Again, the problem of

Syria comes to mind. Since there are no checks and balances in place, this can be seen as one of the flaws of the UN.

Maryam: The Security Council deals with so many different and unique issues that sometimes it needs to be flexible when dealing with them. At the same time, this gives the Security Council far too much power.

What has been your most memorable conference so far in your career? Why?

Shanthanu: My most memorable conference so far has been THIMUN Qatar 2013. This is because it was my first traditional conference, and therefore, a completely new experience. Much of the allure was in not the actual debate itself, but instead in the wearing of suits, the preparation, and the social activity that took place. One of the highlights of the conference was the social night and the illusionist's performance. I also felt that knowing many members of the administrative staff made the conference extremely enjoyable. Lastly, if I had to say anything more, I loved note passing because it felt like an informal form of conversation in a formal setting.

Maryam: Also, this would be the first conference I attended. This would be BAYMUN 2012, my most memorable conference to date. I had so much fun discovering what Model UN really was, and I was in complete awe the entire time. My country assignment was also extremely interesting (I had represented Iran in the IAEA).

What is your favourite committee that you have participated in so far? Why?

Shanthanu: I felt that debate in GA5, the Legal Committee, was extremely interesting because we deal directly with the affairs of the United Nations, instead of foreign affairs. It intrigues me that we work on issues that relate to the reform of the UN itself. When I was in GA5, I debated the creation of a resource management plan and I really enjoyed researching the issue; it offered me a deeper insight into the workings of the United Nations.

Maryam: I really enjoy participating in DISEC (GA1). I am generally interested in issues to do with security — plus, I find debating such issues a fun challenge.



Maryam Al-Ammari (left), a delegate at the Qatar Leadership Conference, and Shanthanu Rao (right), a delegate at THIMUN Qatar 2013

YOUR TITLE HERE. MODEL UNITED NATIONS NEWSLETTER



VOL. I ISSUE I

JANUARY 2013

ONLINE EDITION

The Middle East MUN Newsletter is looking for a new title...

Since January 2013, our mission has been to communicate the events and achievements of the Model UN community members in the Middle East. This newsletter belongs to our readers, and we need your help in renaming it. Submit your suggestions to us at info@bestdelegate.com!

QLC 2013

QATAR LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

October 3rd-5th, 2013

Deadline for Registration June 30th



