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 interschool concert band and choral 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 presentations given by a number of various high-profile government officials, professors, and students from the region. Members of the diplomatic

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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…”

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

By Shreshita 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 participate, 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 Thaisheek 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, the O-MUN delegation was 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 presentations given by a number of various high-profile government officials, professors, and students from the region. Members of the diplomatic

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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 volunteers, I 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 bend into the crowd.

In the moment of hesitation
Successful 15th Annual Georgetown MUN Conference

By Sara Berbie

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 interactive and transforming, thought-provoking 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 challenging 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 way that international UN events have taken place. At an opening ceremony, Gerd Nonnemann, 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 where the actual UN events have taken place.” Through 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 hosted 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 responsibilities 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 festival 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, https://www.youtube.com/THIMUNfilmfestival.

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.

For all film enthusiasts, consider taking part in the Festival. “The problems of the world are often portrayed in factual, one-dimensional terms; film, however, has a special ability to connect viewers to a problem in more personal ways,” said one student. The ultimate goal of film is to allow the audience to establish an effective understanding 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 must be submitted for the festival. The deadline for submission for films was on the 14th of February. Film festival filmmakers can win awards and cash prizes of 2,000 Qatar Riyals for Best Short Film, Best Sound, Best Cinematography, 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 Qatar Riyals.
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!”

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 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

Metaphors: “Model UN is like a…”

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 and figures of speech, adding clarity to their speaking points, and other delegates use analogies as tactics 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 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.” — 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 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 mathematic: 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 mumar_analogies@gmail.com, and I will be sure to include them in next month’s issue.
The O-MUN delegation members felt as if they had known each forever 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 some delegates, THIMUN was their first face to face 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 our a single delegation.

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 overseas students and students from schools which do not go to O-MUN (getting a delegation at THIMUN for a new school can be extremely hard due to its long waiting list). I hope to see O-MUN's attendance at THIMUN grows in the coming years so that students who are new to MUN and even the most experienced students. All of them hadn't done MUN before, and are so skilled that they would intimidate even the most experienced students. All of these are just memories that I will never forget.

Salam Keadan — "There have never been a lot of programs that I can join 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 never forget."

The entire O-MUN delegation representing OPEC has 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 my preconceptions, and this is in store for us, but undoubtedly many others will feel the same way.

Lisa Martin — "It is almost beyond belief to put this week and this conference in 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 seems everyone else may say MISSION ACCOMPLISHED... O-MUN, put into the hands of some of the best Model UN Directors in the world, is a winning combination."

Omar Naguib makes a speech in Environment Commission I

Chris Bishop — "Online Model United Nations," these 4 words mean a lot to me, now more than ever for it has 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.
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 at 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. Googling 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 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, to 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!

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

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 Misérables 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!

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 George-town 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.”


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.

THIMUN 2013, cont.

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.
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 obvi- ous vocabulary technique while work- ing 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 stu- dents 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

By Lisa Martin

I REMEMBER back in the day when I used to teach students how to write res- olutions. 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 “ac- tively 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 resolu- tions was meant to be a clear signal to other nations and deliberative bodies (i.e., the nosey and less-civilized General Assembly) to keep their hands off the issue — the diplomatic equivalent to “mind your own business.” The proce- dural 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 mo- nopolize an issue with the use of this single phrase? The General Assembly certainly doesn’t think so. Legal scholar 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 rele- vance. 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 dele- gates understand that you are claiming ownership and a desire to act on the is- sue at hand.

Curriculum Corner

By Lisa Martin

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

Why Model UN? The most im- portant aspect of Model UN is that the program is to be clear about the fun- damental 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 commit- tee room? What international confer- ences should we attend? While these types of questions are important, they should always be addressed through the understanding of the core pur- pose 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 collabora- tion, solution-oriented discussion to important issues by instilling life-long passion for improving our global com- munity into today’s youth, who will be tomorrow’s leaders.”

Attendees of THIMUN confer- ences aim to seek, through discus- sion, 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 sol- u- tions to these problems, can learn to break away from narrow, national self-interests, and instead develop true international cooperation. The abil- ity 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 consid- eration or adoption of views and at- titudes 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 educa- tional 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 neigh- bors.”

As the core of the THIMUN mission statement and Model UN programs is belief that MUN is about youth leader- ship 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 ques- tion 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 respon- sible stakeholders in the organization. Student leaders should be given mean- ingful roles and provided with oppor- tunities 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 will- ing to take on these responsibilities.

From the very first planning meet- ing, student leaders should be at the table working with the teacher mentor on collaborative solution-oriented dis- cussion 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 question you would like us to address, in future articles please email me at cam.janzen@uofg.org.

Point of Order

By Cameron Janzen

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 Villaneuva

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

  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 ‘interfere in matters which are essentially within 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?

By Lisa Martin

RECENTLY, I 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 the theme was 'Energy and Sustainability.' Despite researching seriously, 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!

Technology: Thinking in the Clouds

Omar Raghib
http://soundcloud.com/omar-raghib-1/pecs-narratives

Certification: The communiqué was published after the fact that Kyoto Protocol will expire in 2012. Kyoto Protocol rules, given the country’s influence, will be crucial to the success of the protocol. Due to the Kyoto Protocol, the country will consume less gas. Due to less consumption, taxes need to be raised in other areas of the economy to make up for less in less revenues.

Omar Raghib was also chosen to work as a commentator and discuss questions from students. The next question was “What’s your plan for the next year?”

Omar Raghib mentioned that his plan is to continue working on the protocol and ensuring compliance with the rules.

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Annex 1 Countries

Write a comment...
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. 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.

   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.

   For 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 caucuses 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.
tioner's point of view. This is because Shanthanu:

national sovereignty? Where do you

between foreign intervention and

What are your views on the conflict

in Syria and the positions Russia and

scene. Based on the current situation

he is relatively new to the Model UN

exceptional zeal for debate, even though

is relatively new to the Model UN

MUNer in both traditional and online

School in Bahrain, and she is a regular

2012, and Shanthanu Rao, a delegate

Al-Ammari from Bahrain, who I met

Up, I decided to interview two Model

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

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 for-

eign intervention and national sover-
eignty 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 for-
eign intervention by countries unless a situation is urgent. As for a line, foreign intervention should end once a prede-
termined 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 re-
sponse. For these reasons, I feel that the right to follow up is integral to any de-
bate. 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 ex-
changes 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 pos-
able to coerce countries into following international law. The fact that the ICJ cannot check into its decisions, howev-
er, is a problem. Again, the problem of foreign intervention by countries unless a situation is urgent.

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

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

Shanthanu: My most memorable con-
fermence so far has been THIMUN Qa-
tar 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 ad-
ministrative 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 in-
teresting because we deal directly with the matters 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 chal-

YOUR TITLE HERE.
MODEL UNITED NATIONS NEWSLETTER

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!

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

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QLC 2013

QATAR LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE
October 3rd-5th, 2013
Deadline for Registration June 30th
Resource Corner: The Day

By Tracey Sinclair

**THE DAY** is a fantastic site to support club activities and develop students’ awareness of current events. The world’s first current affairs teaching and learning site, The Day publishes daily news for inquiring minds. Staff writers compose three news articles daily, each one aimed at explaining specific current events and designed for use in the classroom. Each article has discussion points, suggested activities and recommended web links for further study, ensuring that every article is ideal for discussion. In our club meeting at Qatar International School, we will often use the site for background reading before we begin debating an issue. The site has become a cornerstone resource for our MUN program. This does require a subscription, but is reasonable and can be used throughout the school and to support the curriculum. I would recommend talking to your librarian or related personnel to see if this can be purchased for your team. You will find that this is a valuable resource for your club.

Resource: The Day

**Type of Resource:** Electronic
**Purpose:** Current Events/Policy Statement
**Prep Cost:** Free 30-Day Trial

Sales Strategies, cont.

There are many situations in Model UN when you can insert a **Cushioning Statement** to make other delegates feel that they can trust you or that you care about their questions and opinions: when you yield your speech time to questions, when you are defending your policies or solutions in an unmoderated or informal caucus, and when you are answering questions during formal caucus. You can even insert Cushioning Statements into your speech, although Cushioning Statements are usually most effective when directed at the individual delegate that is questioning or interacting with you.

Interested in writing for the Middle East MUN Newsletter?

The submission cycle ends on the 30th of each month. Articles and an accompanying photo should be emailed to info@bestdelegate.com.