Meet THIMUN Qatar’s Arabic Consultant

By Lisa Martin

September launches the beginning of the new THIMUN Qatar season: new programs, initiatives, and a few new faces.

TQ Office: New to the office is Lisa Martin, who assumed the position in August. Jesse Atkins, the regional coordinator, also is set to begin his first start of the year. Abhay Valiyaveettil rounds out the team, providing critical IT support to the THIMUN Qatar program as well as assisting schools in the region with conference-related IT needs. The 2014-15 year has a number of exciting new initiatives, in addition to its regular host of offerings. Here’s an update of upcoming events:

Leadership Conference
The Qatar Leadership Conference is a unique event, bringing together regional and international enthusiasts and experts on MUN and leadership. This year, the QLC will be held from October 16-18 at the Qatar National Convention Center. Over 80 presenters will share their expertise in the areas of running MUN conferences, conflict resolution, Arabic MUN initiatives, online ICJ, and international enthusiasts.

Recruit Like You’re A Best Delegate

By Kevin Felix Chan

Everyone knows the first Model UN club meeting will be the largest meeting of the year. Many students who you’ve recruited are interested in learning more to see if joining Model UN is worth their time. And in most cases, you want as many of them to join as possible, a task which will require you to run a solid first meeting.

A great first MUN club meeting requires preparation work before the meeting, a compelling and concise presentation during the meeting, and follow-up work after the meeting. Here are 15 tips for running a great first MUN club meeting, organized into those three categories:

Before the Meeting
1. Practice the agenda. Make sure you know who will present what, the time allotted to each presenter, and the order of the presenters.

2. Set up a banner. Like we mentioned in “Recruit Like a Best Delegate,” a banner is a good way to convey the idea that your club is established and prestigious. Have it hanging visibly at the first meeting.

3. Check A/V. If you are using any audio/visual or media, make sure it works. A broken microphone or malfunctioning video means you won’t be able to get your message across as effectively as you had planned.

4. Wear team t-shirts. This allows prospective members to clearly identify the officers who they can talk to for more information.

5. Greet people before the meeting. It’s a very simple gesture, but not enough people do it. Smiling makes a huge difference — officers who smile while they present convey the idea your club is fun.

6. Smile. It’s a very simple gesture, but not enough people do it. Smiling makes a huge difference — officers who smile while they present convey the idea your club is fun.

7. Introduce yourself and other key officers. Make sure to briefly introduce yourself at the beginning of your presentation and introduce the next speaker when you finish speaking. The president of the club may also want to introduce other key officers so people are
Meet THIMUN Qatar’s Arabic Consultant, cont.

Model United Nations and leadership.
Based in Cairo, Nabila will be developing a host of MUN materials in Arabic, to be shared free of cost to interested students and schools via the THIMUN Qatar office. She will visit Doha three times this year to assist with the development of a larger Arabic program in Qatar. Nabila will present workshops on Arabic MUN at the Qatar Leadership Conference, oversee the online Arabic MUN program, and work closely with the THIMUN Qatar office to implement an Arabic MUN conference at Qatar Academy in late March. This year, the THIMUN Qatar MUN conference will host a Special Regional Committee for the Middle East and North Africa (SRCMENA II) in Arabic, the first non-English committee to be held at the conference. The THIMUN Qatar office looks forward to working with Nabila and to developing and expanding this exciting new MUN program for students within Qatar and the region, and for Arabic speaking students around the world. “The honor of getting to help others, guide and encourage them, into making the most out of their MUN experience, and gaining the same breakthroughs I had, was indescribable,” Nabila explains. “It transformed me into a different person. As I watched them change, challenge their fears, and focused on their development, I developed in ways beyond my wildest imagination. That is when I discovered that whatever happens, wherever I go in life, I am meant to be a trainer in MUN.”

By Reem Awad

HELLO! My name is Reem Awad and I am the Secretary- General for Khartoum International Community School’s (KICSMUN) Model United Nations IX 2014. Through our theme, Global Inequality and Inequity, we felt the need to tackle the injustice and the lack of wealth distribution around the world, but more specifically, in Africa.

The two councils we are hosting this year at KICSMUN are The Economic and Social Council as well as the Security Council, covering topics regarding the access and protection of female education in Africa, the role of MEDCS in the exploitation of resources in Africa as well as the question of Palestine and the Islamic State Militants. Choosing our topics wasn’t a difficult task: we wanted to address issues closer to home, issues that may have affected us and our families, issues that would speak for those voices that were not heard.

Although we are a smaller conference, we are proud of what KICSMUN has grown into. Starting off with one council and ten participants in the library has become a conference bringing together three local schools with more than 60 non-KICS students and over 80- KICS Senior School students. To us, this is more than we can ask for. Being the only school offering MUN to external students as well as our own we set the goal to become the heart of MUN in Khartoum and Africa by incorporating more schools from the local and international arenas.

Students from KICS have also participated in international conferences in Cairo (Cairo American College’s MUN-CACMUN), Amman (Amman Model United Nations) and The Hague (The Hague International Model United Nations-THIMUN), and their experiences have allowed the continuous growth and development of KICSMUN as they have grown into more able delegates, passing on their skills and passion to those just starting their MUN career.

We have been extremely lucky in hosting keynote-speakers such as, British Paralympian Medalist, Mr. Ben Rushgrove, Deputy Executive Director and Chief Operating Office for the World Food Programme, Mr. Amir Mahmoud Abdulla, and this year Professor Fouad Makki, Assistant Professor, Development Sociology from Cornell University, USA. Their advice and knowledge has given us insight into the different opinions and viewpoints around the world. As well as supporting the development of our Model United Nations programme.

Secretariat members are hastening to continue preparations for our conference, in such an admirable way that reflects the sense of professionalism and dedication that we at KICSMUN model.

KICSMUN IX 2014: Global Inequality and Inequity is up and running with lots more to come!

Global Inequality and Inequity

Keynote Speaker: DR FOUAD MAKKI, Assistant Professor, Development Sociology, Cornell University, USA

Security Council:
1) The Question of the Israeli-Palestinian Crisis
2) The Question of the Islamic State

Economic and Social Council:
1) The Exploitation of Resources in Africa by MEDC’s
2) Access and Protection of Female Education, with Specific Focus on Central Africa

Conference Dates 19 - 22 November 2014

Secretary-General Reem Awad Mohammed

The Olive Branch

Kevin Felix Chan and Ryan Villanueva, Best Delegate Co-Founders
Lisa Martin, Head of THIMUN Qatar, Founder of Online Model United Nations

Brillian Bao, Lead Editor
Staff Writers/Contributors: Reem Awad, Jessica Chen, Nabila El-lassar, Arsalan Muhammad, Rohan Sinha, Sarah Tahir, Abhay Velayveettil

Founded in January 2013
The Diplomatic Lens

In this new monthly column by Arabic consultant Nabila Elsasrawi, delegates will have the opportunity to learn from her MUN experience and background.

By Nabila Elsasrawi

EVERY STORY in MUN is unique. If you ask any hardcore MUNer to explain why they’re there or care so much about a “make-believe” United Nations, or why there are tears streaming down his face in his conference’s closing ceremony, you will probably get the same answer. “You have to go through it to understand.” I agree, and here is my MUN story.

My first taste of MUN happened when I was 10, right after I moved to Egypt. In my fourth year in Cairo at The American University’s Junior Summer Program, I gained a smoother transition into what would have otherwise been a very difficult phase. Joining MUN eased the challenge of making new friends and communicating with others in a country and society I had not yet adjusted to. At the same time, I learned how to analyze, research, and debate. Most importantly, I gained the confidence to voice my opinions at a young age.

By my fifth delegate experience in CU’s Model American Presidency, MUN had become my retreat. The sessions were my favorite part of the conference setting, proposing real solutions to fix an ongoing world problem that the UN itself has not resolved yet… is indescribable. It makes you feel so powerful. For a young person, it pushes you leaps forward in terms of maturity, problem solving abilities, and expression and eloquence, push out of public speaking, foster your self confidence to voice your opinions at a debate. Most importantly, I gained the confidence to voice my opinions at a young age.

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In the normal sequence of events. You graduate, you move on. You start your professional life. I knew that. It was definitely possible to stay for a year, as others had. But, that’s not what I wanted. I didn’t want a re-do, nor did I want to take away someone else’s place, and chance to benefit from the secretariat experience. So, I had to endure. But then, I found bestdelegate.com. After reading Ryan and Kevin’s stories, I could hardly believe myself. I wasn’t alone! There are others! They actually left their professional careers to form a different kind of professional career in what they did love them. The best job on Earth. Travelling the world, teaching MUN.

And with that, came a spark of hope. I now know what I want to do in life. I know what I am capable of. That would have never happened without the life skills and inspiring breakthroughs I made through MUN. Yes, there were challenges. Yes, it wasn’t easy. But every obstacle, every difficulty only made me stronger. To those difficulties, whether caused by other people, or by circumstances, I say: Thank you, You are the reason why MUN is, and will remain the best thing that has happened to me.

And that is why, with every bit of passion I have, I will always carry on teaching others how to make the most-out of their time in MUN, using all my knowledge.

I now aim to encourage others to go through the expedition of being inspired and becoming inspiere through Model UN.

This was my MUN journey. What will be yours?

1. MUN can help you grow every part of your skills and potential as a person.
2. MUN can make you uncover talents you never knew you had.
3. MUN can transform you from a person of a passive non-interested view of politics, into a research hungry, debate welcoming fanatic.
4. MUN can dissolve your fear of public speaking, foster your self expression and eloquence, push out your creativity, and turn you into an influencer of others.
5. MUNs are usually a community. They invite you into a circle of lifelong friends, and newly found family.
6. The process of representing a country, while defending its rights and interests in an actual international conference setting, proposing real solutions to fix an ongoing world problem that the UN itself has not resolved yet… is indescribable. It makes you feel so powerful. For a young person, it pushes you leaps forward in terms of maturity, problem solving ability and responsibility.
7. MUN shows you your weaknesses, and pushes your limits in handling challenges and pressure.
8. MUN teaches you massive interpersonal skills, diplomatic skills, professionalism, crisis management, and true leadership.
9. MUN can give you hope, and belief in what you are capable of in life.
10. The honor of being able to develop other people, and help them grow with this journey, turns you into the best version of yourself.

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This was my MUN journey. What will be yours?
OMUN Welcome Message

By Rohan Sinha

I AM Rohan Sinha, and I am honored to serve as OMUN Secretary General and thrilled to kick-off the 2014-2015 MUN season. As we know in the O-MUN community, this is also the Islamic year of 1435-1436, the Chinese year of the horse, and the Japanese Heisei 26.

Before I talk about O-MUN, I want to first talk about 2014. As we know, this was the year of the World Cup, a time when we strained our collective, watching Germany play Argentina; the year we fully sequenced the salmon genome; the year China installed Australia’s total solar capacity in a matter of months.

Unfortunately, we more readily recognize 2014 as the year pro-Russian separatists annexed Crimea; the year ISIS slaughtered throughout Northern Iraq; the year Boko Haram kidnapped 276 girls in the year Israel invaded Gaza. But I personally continue life as usual. Ebola is not in Taipei, missiles aren’t fired at Taipei American School, and my sixteen-year-old sister has not been kidnapped and sold into prostitution. My daily stresses range from studying for my biology test to thinking about college applications. I laugh with supportive friends and go home to supportive parents. My life is good.

Of course, I know that the world is far worse than the world I see; my CNN alerts constantly remind me of this fact. However, I don’t act in the literal sense of the word because I realize that my potential will increase if I first get a college education. Hence, 1, and many of you, will spend a few years in college before stepping into society.

This leads me finally to O-MUN. We are all motivated to do good in this world, but as the saying goes, “motivation is what gets you started, habit is what keeps you going.” We need habit if we want to act realistically in the future, and not just continue setting materialistic jobs.

O-MUN is a habit. As high school students, though, we are not the ones negotiating with ISIS, or the ones organizing antiretroviral drugs in Mali; we can at least get used to being aware and solving problems; this is the purpose of O-MUN.

Furthermore, because O-MUN is in over 40 countries, we can think with a tight knit and active community of likeminded individuals from across the world, teaching ourselves and each other to care about the paralyzed women in Gaza and stranded Yazidis in Iraq. So take advantage of what we offer. Join a debate or two. Use O-MUN to establish a habit.

And don’t forget to have fun.


and much more. There are still a few spots available. If you are interested in attending, contact the THIMUN Qatar office.

THIMUN Qatar Conference

The fourth annual THIMUN conference will take place the first week in February. Held at the spectacular Qatar National Convention center, this world-class venue will host over 1400 delegates and staff. This year’s conference theme is the Middle East and North Africa. THIMUN Qatar will also be holding a special committee in Arabic focusing on high interest regional issues. The deadline to apply is September 17th. For more information visit the conference website.

Film Festival

The THIMUN Qatar Northwestern Film Festival will take place in Doha on April 2-4. This unique festival gives young filmmakers a venue to share advocacy films. Over 100 films were submitted at last year’s festival, and nominated directors were flown to Doha for two days of workshops and cultural activities, culminating in an awards ceremony. You can view nominated and winning films on the Film Festival website.

Training Sessions

Best Delegate will be visiting our region once again, first at the QLC where it will be offering workshops on a variety of topics, and again during winter and spring. THIMUN Qatar will be supporting efforts to train additional MUN coaches, who can do outreach and trainings for students and teachers in the region. Best Delegate and THIMUN Qatar will be launching a two tiered certification process for university students and teachers. More information on this unique professional development opportunity will be highlighted in future editions of the Olive Branch.

Regional Conferences

The Middle East is a growing number of MUN conferences. We are working to update our database and make these conferences easily accessible on our website. If you are looking for a conference in your country or in the region, the THIMUN Qatar office can point you in the right direction. If you run a THIMUN-style program and would like to be included in our database, let us know.

Middle School Programs

The office will be working to support the development of a middle school network of interested schools looking to expand or develop MUN programs for younger students. One cost-effective way to provide debating opportunities is through the jrOMUN program. We’ll highlight the development of middle school MUN in one of our upcoming Olive Branch editions.

OMUN is a habit. As MUN continues to expand in the Middle East region, the THIMUN Qatar office is here to support the work of delegates, students leaders, teachers, and MUN programs. Here’s to a great, debate-filled 2014-2015 school year.

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Online Model UN

Now in its fourth year, OMUN provides many opportunities each month to debate online, and at no cost to participants. With offerings including Security Council, APQ, ICJ, and traditional GA debates, delegates can participate year round, enhance their debating skills. Experienced online delegates also have the opportunity to begin moderating and chairing online, a wonderful opportunity for aspiring MUN leaders. Information can be found on the OMUN Website.

Sincerely,
Rohan Sinha
Secretary General O-MUN, 2014-2015
The Qatar Leadership Conference

By Arsalaan Muhammad

As we advance toward the beginning of another school year, we not only approach Shakespearean sonnets and Pythagorean theories, but also a crossroad where we have the fortune to take advantage of opportunities to improve both our inter as well as intrapersonal skills. One such prospect is the third annual Qatar Leadership Conference (QLC). The QLC is largely a conference for students who want to refine their skills. These skills come under an umbrella of items such as skill building (e.g., debating techniques, resolution writing, becoming a leader), organization, community and service, and even film and media! There will be over 100 workshops, which are designed to bring out the best in you! We have international and local presenters, both adults and students, who will present a variety of workshops to help you not only become the best delegate but also best person possible.

To shed some light on a few of our featured speakers, I will start by discussing one of this year’s underlying themes for a few of our discussion panels: war and conflict. In today’s world, we face a myriad of multi-layered predicaments. From the onslaught on Gaza to the continuation of the Syrian civil war, we have seen society slowly fall to its knees. Keeping this in mind, we have the honor and privilege of inviting those who have withstood times of despair and agony and continue to tell their stories, such as Dr. Mohammed S. Dajani Daoudi, a professor of international relations and diplomacy at Al-Quds University in Jerusalem; Syed Ali Zahir Moulana, the chief broker for the 2004 peace deal between the Eastern Province Tamil Tigers and the Sri Lankan government; and Ben Keesey, the current Chief Executive Officer for Invisible Children, Inc., which is known for the documentary KONY 2012 as well as success in raising over $70 million for its development programs in Central Africa. These people are just a few of the many accomplished speakers who will be presenting at this year’s conference. We will have speakers who will discuss everything from debating techniques, to the process by which peace is made, to even discussing the current Palestine-Israel issue by people who were at the heart of the conflict!

As a 17-year-old senior at Qatar Academy, I will be serving as this conference’s Secretary General. My role in general is to provide participants with the opportunity to perform their best, by ensuring that our conference runs as smoothly as possible. I am not alone on the job, and I have a team that comprises of five talented Deputy SGs: Tamim El Moatassem, Maha Al Kaabi, Temitope Akinade, Mohammed Fanzil Feroz, and Nikita Coutinho. We have worked tirelessly on everything from upgrading the capacity of this year’s conference to bringing in the finest speakers. Our actions are driven by wanting to ensure that participants go away with more than just the average experience. Our goal as executives is to serve you, the future leaders of tomorrow, with a platform of ideal workshops that you can build on to make yourself the best you can be.

This year’s conference is ensured to be an action-packed escapade, and so I ask only one thing of you: hopefully, by October 16th, you are ready for the ride.
Expanding the Circle: A Look Into the World of Best Delegate Summer Camps

By Sarah Tahir

ON JUNE 22 this year, students from all over the world commuted to Georgetown University, one of the world’s leading academic institutions, to take part in Best Delegate’s flagship programs. BD hosts two residential programs on the Georgetown campus: the Ambassador program and the Secretary-General program. Both are quite rigorous in nature; however, they offer different emphases.

The Ambassador program targets students with intermediate MUN experience. It works to develop and strengthen their previously learned skills, as well as introduce them to higher level concepts and tactics including social dynamics for lobby and merging and building consensus, all over the course of one week.

The Secretary-General program spans two weeks and covers all the information in the Ambassador program as well as lessons in International Relations theory, Crisis, Conference designs for others, then this program is geared toward you.

A key aspect to note is that the camps follow North American MUN procedure, which is new to most delegates coming from outside of the United States or Canada, but is relatively easy to pick up and can be quite valuable. Personally, I am very glad to know both THIMUN and North American procedures, as dual knowledge allows you to be more versatile in the conferences you attend, especially once you’re at the collegiate level.

Both programs feature dozens of debate and conference simulations, 360-degree feedback and mentoring from some of the best and brightest on the collegiate circuit, guest speakers ranging from members of the State Department to UN representatives, and finally, the opportunity to explore Washington DC, the hub of politics, diplomacy, and history in the United States.

For my part, going to the Secretary-General camp this past summer not only significantly improved my debate skills, but also opened me up to a whole new world of MUN. I understood theories behind policymaking, grappled with an entirely new procedure, discovered my interest in speech writing, and even learned MUN jargon (which I will most definitely be bringing back home)! Being on a college campus, staying in dorms, and meeting people from all over was an experience I’ll never forget.

I loved every second of it and forged friendships that I know will last me a lifetime. If you get the chance, go!
From the Techie’s Desk...

By Abhay Valiyaveettil

HELLOEVERYONE and welcome back! Hope you all had a great summer and are all charged up for another exciting year of MUN. We, at the THIMUN Qatar office, are surely excited for all the events coming up this year and are also welcoming the new leadership under Ms. Lisa Martin, who I’m sure doesn’t need any further introduction at this point. In this edition, I’ll be briefly sharing with you our offerings for the coming year and as always, information about one cool app that you all can use.

First, let me explain the MUNIS System, which we use for managing and organizing our conferences at THIMUN. The MUNIS system can take care of all registrations and Online Form 2 submissions that the host school would be sending out to all the participating schools. Moreover, it can also be used for generating conference lists and participation rosters. Another great feature of this system is the financing. It has a smooth way of generating invoices for each school automatically and these invoices can be sent to schools directly to the participating schools’ email through the system itself. Certificates to the participating schools’ email invoices can be sent to schools directly. Moreover, it can also be used for generating conference lists and participation rosters. Another great feature of this system is the financing. It has a smooth way of generating invoices for each school automatically and these invoices can be sent to schools directly to the participating schools’ email through the system itself. Certificates to the participating schools’ email invoices can be sent to schools directly. Digital badging is an emerging platform which individuals can demonstrate their participation in various activities through online platforms. We already tested these badges for the THIMUN Qatar’s office is beginning to issue digital badges for participating students.

At the End of & After the Meeting

13. Remind your audience to fill out the sign-up form. Everyone should have a sign-up form or a link to your Google spreadsheet application form (ideally they should receive these as they walk through the door). If there’s one thing you want them to do after this meeting, it’s to fill out this form and bring it back to the next meeting!

14. Stay afterward. You want to be approachable, meet more members, and answer their questions. Like greeting people as they walk through the door, this is another way to build more personal connections with prospective members.

15. Invite them to a meet-and-greet social. You should organize a social to get to know the interested members better in an informal environment. These socials are effective for retention because people join clubs for both the club and the members in it. For college clubs, this is a valuable opportunity to learn about the new talent you’ve just recruited (such as their Model UN experience in high school).

16. Remind prospective members about the next meeting date, jRO-MUN: Breaking the Invisible Barrier

By Jessica Chen

To all you hardcore MUN enthusiasts out there, MUN may be something that comes naturally. To you, it may not just be an activity; it’s like a pair of 3D glasses that changes your perspective on the world including your views, intent, and beliefs, ultimately transitioning into another part of your life. However, discussing and attempting to solve prolonged but critical world issues as a teenager is no easy task, and that is why MUN is not a common activity among middle school students, who may find writing speeches and debating resolutions tedious. This means that middle school MUN delegates have great difficulties finding opportunities to attend traditional conferences that are economically and logistically practical.

This is where jRO-MUN comes in. jRO-MUN is an online debate platform that hosts monthly debates on critical issues that are middle school appropriate before the UN. jRO-MUN’s delegate base includes both students who do not have access to traditional conferences and those coming from countries such as India, Korea, China, Taiwan and the United Arab Emirates, who seek to increase their MUN control resolutions easily. Currently, it has been tested at two conferences including DCMUN ODTC, and has worked really well. At this point, it’s a free service, and we encourage schools to sign up for this service if interested.

Moreover, this year, the THIMUN Qatar office is beginning to issue digital badges for participating students. Digital badging is an emerging platform with which individuals can demonstrate their participation in various activities through online platforms. We already tested these badges for the THIMUN Qatar office.

Qatar Northwestern Film Festival held this April, and we look forward to offer it for all our future events. So please be sure to claim your digital badge from now on!

Lastly, I just wanted to share what I learned about Evernote recently. Evernote is a great platform for collaboration and serves as a workspace for any projects or documentation that you may be working on. It has a great interface and is accessible on desktop, tablets, and mobile devices. We hope to use this for promoting sharing any presenter materials during the Qatar Leadership Conference this October. Check it out here: https://evernote.com/

That’s it from me for now; hope you all have a great year ahead. Once again, if you have any tech-related questions or would like to know more about EVERNOTE or Digital Badging, feel free to email me at valiyaveettil@olivebranch.org.
Student Spotlight: Checking in with Delegates Around the Region

IN THIS new monthly spotlight, we will profile three students from the Middle East region and learn about everything from their personal MUN highlights to their favorite comfort foods. Interested in being profiled? Please email us at kfc@bestdelegate.com.

Noor-Gabriel Hage

Grade: 12
School/Country: Raha International School (RIS), Abu Dhabi, UAE

Current MUN Leadership Positions (for 2014-2015): Secretary-General of RISMUN

Three words that describe you as a delegate: Engaged, Supportive, Critical

Favorite comfort food: Hummus

Dream Vacation: 2-3 months backpacking across Europe with friends

Personal MUN goal for this year: This year as the new RISMUN SG, I hope to see it broadened here in Kuwait. At the Best Delegate camp in Washington D.C. this summer, I was exposed to such a high level of MUN, both in its regard and caliber, which I’d like to see here in Kuwait. Students in North America are afforded more opportunities, and thus have developed not only greater skill but a greater appreciation for Model UN. It seems to have its own culture surrounding it. Specifically, I want to see more conference opportunities, stronger MUN teams, an increased number of delegates and possibly even a university-hosted Model UN conference for high school students in Kuwait. Abroad you have NAIMUN, BMUN and BosMUN, to name a few; it’s not unrealistic to think we could have our own here in Kuwait open to high schools around the Arab World, especially since the American University of Kuwait (AUK) hosts AUKMUN for Universities in the region. I’d really love to initiate the defining change for my local MUN program over the next two years. I want to facilitate its growth and leave behind a program that will continue to grow and prosper for years to come.

Khader Kakesh

Grade: 12
School/country: Amman Baccalaureate School, Jordan


Three words that describe you as a delegate: Aggressive, Passionate, Persistent

Dream Vacation: A tour of Italy’s villages and rural areas

Favorite app: Facebook

Personal MUN goal for this year: My goal at AMMUN with the SG position has to be simple, even though it took me 4 years of work and 26 conferences to get the position. That goal would be “to leave a memorable legacy”, which is mainly derived from the greatest lesson MUN taught me: “you forget the papers, but remember the people.” After each conference experience, you begin forgetting the conferences and committees you were in but you will never forget the people who influenced your life positively, and it is that type of memorable legacy that I wish to leave behind me as I step off the AMMUN podium as SG for the last time.

Sarah Tahir

Grade: 11
School/country: American International School of Kuwait

Current MUN Leadership Positions (for 2014-2015): Executive Administrative Officer of Kuwait at THIMUN Online Model UN, and Member of AISK Model UN Executive Council

Three words that describe you as a delegate: Hard-working, Eager, Dedicated

Favorite comfort food: Chinese Food

Personal MUN goal for this year: My main goal for this year is to push my local MUN program to its limits and to just increase my participation in MUN as a whole; this means more conferences, more debates, and more consensus building.

Where would you like to see MUN in the next 10 years? Personally, I hope to see it broadened here in Kuwait. At the Best Delegate camp in Washington D.C. this summer, I was exposed to such a high level of MUN, both in its regard and caliber, which I’d like to see here in Kuwait. Students in North America are afforded more opportunities, and thus have developed not only greater skill but a greater appreciation for Model UN. It seems to have its own culture surrounding it. Specifically, I want to see more conference opportunities, stronger MUN teams, an increased number of delegates and possibly even a university-hosted Model UN conference for high school students in Kuwait. Abroad you have NAIMUN, BMUN and BosMUN, to name a few; it’s not unrealistic to think we could have our own here in Kuwait open to high schools around the Arab World, especially since the American University of Kuwait (AUK) hosts AUKMUN for Universities in the region. I’d really love to initiate the defining change for my local MUN program over the next two years. I want to facilitate its growth and leave behind a program that will continue to grow and prosper for years to come.

How has MUN impacted your career choice: MUN was the reason I am now pursuing a career in Political Science and International Relations, followed by a degree in International Law, which was a huge change from my original career choice, architecture.
DCMUN VII
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