



# THE OLIVE BRANCH

MODEL UNITED NATIONS NEWSLETTER



VOL. III ISSUE I

JANUARY 2015

ONLINE EDITION

## Conference Calendar

### MUN Conferences:

2/3-2/6, 2015  
THIMUN Qatar

4/2-4/4, 2015  
THIMUN Qatar Northwest  
Film Festival

1/25-1/30  
THIMUN Hague

### Online MUN:

1/24  
Middle East & Africa Regional

## Submissions Now Accepted for THIMUN Qatar Northwestern Film Festival



The annual THIMUN Qatar Northwestern Film Festival is pleased to announce the opening of its film submission window. This film event is open to independent filmmakers in middle and high school. The missions of the Film Festival are to encourage better understanding of and appreciation for cinematic arts, to help put a human face on contemporary issues facing the world today, and to support learning in Model United Nations programs by encouraging students to become advocates on global issues.

Interested students are encouraged to submit a 5-8 minute film of advocacy, one that informs others of an issue or advances a cause. For examples of last year's award-winning films, go to

<http://qatar.thimun.org/index.php/film-festival/2014winners>. Nominated directors will be flown to Doha for a three-day, all-expense-paid weekend of film workshops, cultural events, and a Gala Dinner and awards ceremony.

The deadline to submit films is February 14, 2015. Visit the THIMUN Qatar Northwestern Film Festival webpage at <http://qatar.thimun.org/index.php/9-homepage/3-film-festival>. For complete contest rules and registration information, go to <http://qatar.thimun.org/index.php/film-festival/registration>. Please direct questions to the THIMUN Qatar office at [thimunqatar@qf.org.qa](mailto:thimunqatar@qf.org.qa).

- QLC Press

## QLC Results in Unique Project

A pencil and paper... To most of us, they are not worth much, but there are people in the world who can't even get those. Education is the key to life; it is in our nature to seek knowledge, and we have a right to it. The United Nations set a goal to have all children everywhere, girls and boys alike, able to seek the opportunity to complete primary school education by 2015. Sadly, this goal has not yet been achieved, and it is our responsibility. I am familiar with the improper access to education in many countries around the world, and it has been always an issue that bugged me. So I fundraised a couple of times and raised awareness through campaigns and such. However, I had never experienced helping with my own hands. I always felt like it was an un-doable thing and that I was not old enough to travel and take on the project

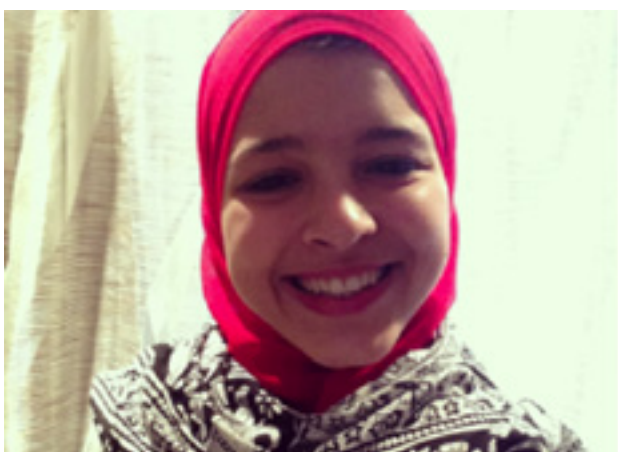
But after I went to the QLC (Qatar Leadership Conference), I truly was empowered and motivated, and I was ready to lead my own path. During the conference, I was fortunate enough to hear Mr. Peter Dalglish, a man that I will never forget in my entire life. He spoke of what life is like for the children in Nepal, Afghanistan, Sudan, and other third-world countries. However, that was not what caught my attention: being an Egyptian and living in Egypt most of my life, I knew what street children experienced and the poor education they received. What fired me up were his words of encouragement; I realized that I can go out and make my own

change. I realized how blessed I am to receive proper education, and I felt like it was my responsibility to take action and pass on this education to others. I decided to take a step forward.

I went to Mr. Dalglish and asked him about the ways by which I could start helping and making a small change. He was very helpful and he told me about Himalayan Volunteering, a Nepali organization, and he gave me all the contacts I would need to start taking action. I then emailed him and the organization, and I decided I wanted to adopt a school in Nepal. My idea was to get children to go to school and be enthusiastic about it. Many children drop out of school in less fortunate places like in Nepal because they see it as a waste of time when they can be working and bringing in money instead. This is partly because the curriculum and the teaching techniques are boring and based off memorizing, as Mr. Prabin, one of Mr. Peter's friends, told me. Hence, I decided I wanted to arrange a trip to Nepal with a group of students and teachers from my school, the American School of Doha (ASD). ASD teachers will train the Nepalese teachers so that they can improve their teaching skills, and our student volunteers will be teaching the children different things like English, math, and science in interactive ways and activities. We will also be bringing in different useful resources to the school to help the learning process. The plan is that we will be visiting the school every Eid and Spring break to furthermore improve the learning process. The goal from this is to see the Nepali children get more interested in school year after year and to get them the proper education that can empower them and change their life.

The project is now under construction: I have introduced it to my school principal Mr. Boudreau and my supervisor Mr. Crook, and they are very supportive of it. Arrangements are being made, and hopefully we will be able to pay our first visit next Eid break. The main goal from all of this is to see those children get the proper education they need to have an equal chance of becoming future global leaders. Knowledge is the true treasure of life, and it is the right for each person to be provided with the proper map to find this treasure.

- Lama Amed



## THIMUN Qatar Update

With just a month to go, THIMUN Qatar is really gearing up. After finishing up their research reports, local student officers will be working with the executive team for chair training and evaluations. The administrative team assignments for the conference have been completed, and they are now working on how to make the conference an enjoyable experience for all. The press team has begun training sessions and is working towards a pre-conference publication. Meanwhile, the IT team is in the stages of development of an app for THIMUN Qatar. The office is working hard to get the participation booklets published and the MUNIS system updated.

Conference logistical planning is underway as well. Hotel reservations, flight coordination, and buses are being finalized. Social night venues and catering services are being booked. In addition, the student officer social planning is reaching completion. Sessional speakers are being selected for different committees. Closing ceremony entertainment has been booked.

Overall, it's been a busy month for the THIMUN Qatar office, and for all student officers and support staff, but all the parts seem to be falling together. The Executive Team looks forward to welcoming all participants and directors to the conference in February.

- Osama Ghani



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# Thoughts on THIMUN Qatar

In the last couple of years MUN youth have represented countries of the world as a real member of the UN (United Nations) and shared the important issues facing their countries. Fortunately this year youth of Afghanistan have the chance to participate in MUN representing the country of Djibouti, which is located in the horn of Africa. Afghan youth will be able to show their talents, share their opinions and also talk about their experiences in Afghanistan. This Model United Nations conferences brings students together from around the world to learn and share ideas from a diverse set of experiences and backgrounds.

I had never heard of MUN before in Afghanistan, all the students in Afghanistan are just going to school, memorizing

the text books that they have to do that. They don't have any critical thinking, creativity and activities. They have a subject by the name of sport but there is no area for doing sports even. Students don't have the things for sport. Most of the students are going to school just because of the pushing of their parents. If their parents don't tell them to go to school, they are not going because they think that they are just wasting their time in school. It's just because of the old and useless method of studies and education in schools in Afghanistan. I think it's a big opportunity for students in Afghanistan to do MUN. when I first heard of MUN it was very exciting for me cause it was my first time doing MUN.

It has been great working with other students from around

the world which is my first time doing it in our country. Doing MUN with students from different countries and different cultures is interesting for all Afghan students, and it will be a great experience for all of us. The much exciting and important part of MUN is that we are doing it online and sitting it up by our self.

We are the only ones doing MUN in all of Afghanistan, and we are the luckiest of students in the country for doing this, because most of the children are working on the streets for their families to earn money for their sisters and brothers. They are not going to school; they are not having fun-just working and working.

- *Madina - Future THIMUN Qatar Delegate*



## Discrimination against girls and women

Across the world, there is discrimination against girls and women. This can be seen and is widespread in education and literacy.



Two times as many women compared to men are illiterate. Throughout Asia, Africa, the Middle East, more boys receive education especially at secondary level, though the gap has closed considerably in recent years. The Taliban Regime in Afghanistan for example took extreme measures against women's education, banning all girls from school, and women from paid work.



This is an issue that people have been paying more attention to, but even more action must be taken to reduce gender inequality. Gender equality is not only a human right that all should have access to, but studies have also shown that there is a positive correlation between empowerment of women and development. In other words, if gender inequality is reduced, an increase in development will be seen in countries.



## WHY is the status of women closely tied to economic development?

Women are....

key to efforts to improve the lot of children in the areas of:

NUTRITION  
EDUCATION  
HEALTH CARE  
SHELTER

key to REDUCING BIRTHRATES central to BASIC NEEDS for people in poor countries



The UN Division for the Advancement of Women and their Department of Economic and Social Affairs have spoken about.....

also supports agriculturally and societies overall

a strong MICRO-ECONOMIC efficiency argument, which argues that AGRICULTURAL growth will respond better if women have a greater say in their farms and firms.

a strong MACRO-ECONOMIC argument on how cross country studies over time show that gender equality, including equality in education and political participation, contribute to economic growth.

the importance of the question of access to resources. They believe that women need greater SOCIAL PROTECTION, access to FINANCIAL SERVICES, and PROPERTY (including private property and land). They also emphasize the attention that should be put on women's unpaid care responsibilities.

## Actions taken?

States and international agencies have been giving more attention to ending discrimination. They have taken actions such as:

- Improving school situations
- Ensuring greater access to health and birth control
- Educating mothers about prenatal and child health
- Raising women's status in society such as through increasing their involvement in politics

International agencies have been helping women organize income producing activities such as small businesses and farms. UNICEF has helped women obtain bank loans to start up their businesses.

Women have also organized cooperatives throughout the global south. They have been producing income through textile, retail stores and agricultural goods. Profitable businesses can help earn income for women and help subsidize health and sanitation services in the slums.

## Some recommendations from UN women on how to improve the situation for women:

- Develop and implement policies on the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development in line with international norms and standards on gender equality, non-discrimination and human rights;
- Ensure women's right to an adequate standard of living, through increasing access to decent work and providing gender-responsive, universally accessible and high quality services, social protection measures and infrastructure, including education, health, water and sanitation, and energy.
- Prioritize the development of gender-responsive policies aimed at generating decent work, with a focus on labour market segregation, gender wage gaps and the unequal distribution of unpaid care work within households, and between households and the state;
- Invest in women's skills development and education to increase their access to green jobs, including targeted measures to increased women's education, employment and leadership in science, technology, engineering and mathematics

Sources:

UN Division for the Advancement of Women and Department of Economic and Social Affairs on the launching the World Survey on the Role of Women in Development

World Survey on the Role of Women in Development 2014: Gender equality and sustainable development

"International Relations Tenth Edition" Goldstein, Pevehouse



SAVE THE DATE  
9th - 12th September, 2015

THEME: EVALUATION OF THE  
MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS  
(2000-2015)



# The Diplomatic Lens

## The Delegate's Guide to Mastering Arabic MUN

With the first ever [THIMUN Qatar Arabic Conference](#) this February, a group of pioneering delegates will make history as they assemble to discuss & resolve pressing matters in the region in the Special Committee on The Middle East & North Africa, while carrying out all MUN procedures in Modern Standard Arabic.

These delegates will be paving the way for a new regional initiative that will soon become an International phenomenon. MUN in Arabic. You may be asking, how much does Arabic MUN differ from English, and whether or not it is a suitable choice for you. The truth is, it doesn't differ much, and you don't have to be an Arabic language expert to master it. You just have to master the basics, and then learn to get better at it. This is what you need to know to master Arabic MUN.

### 1. Know the terms:

The Delegate	مندوبنا / مندوبنا
The Chair	مجلسنا / مجلسنا
The debate	مناقشة
The Resolution	قرارنا
Lobbying	مناخلة
Voting Procedure	تصويتنا / تصويتنا
Raise a Point of Order/ Personal Privilege	مستنقذ / مستنقذ
Raise Point of Information to Chair/	مستنقذ / مستنقذ

First, get well acquainted with Arabic MUN terms.

### 2. THIMUN Procedure

Second, get well acquainted with Arabic THIMUN procedure, as well as your own committee's procedure. Start with the available [Arabic THIMUN manual](#) and [video](#) that cover all steps of the conference, from opening speech, to lobbying, to draft resolution & voting. Moreover, stay in touch with Arabic O-MUN for our online conferences & training sessions.

### 3. Read the Topic Very well

This cannot be said enough. The [topic](#) can have massive impact on how well you do in a committee. It is written with that purpose in mind. To Help YOU. It is deliberately filled with information to help you understand the issue, decide where your country may stand, and guide you on the areas that you can research to gain an edge, and give power to your delegation in the conference. The topic is your gold mine. [Use it well](#). Let it be your guide to research.

### 4. Do Smart Research.

The question of whether to research in Arabic, or English, or both, is yours to make. There is an abundance of [Arabic resources](#) made available by the UN, and major International News Agencies. I recommend you start with Arabic search, and only move to English to add to your findings, & gain a more comprehensive view of the topic. It pays well to search in more than one language, even in an all-Arabic committee. Here are some good [starting points for Arabic research](#).

Regardless of language, the key to smart research is that it is targeted, and effective in acquiring **purposeful information** with as little time & effort as possible. Purposeful information can strengthen your position in the committee. It goes beyond background explanation that gets you acquainted with the topic. The best research includes facts & figures, your countries statements on the issue, and key info on opponent's weaknesses, and your country's strengths regarding the issue at hand. Effective research will lead you to a strong policy statement.

### 5. Policy statement

A country's policy statement (foreign policy) comes after good background, as well as targeted research.

**Background information** on your delegations includes its basic history, location, economic & political situation. A **good policy statement** however, dictates in detail: your delegations stance on the issue/ topic, its possible allies and adversaries (or neither) on this issue, its previous statements and actions regarding the issue/topic, and what role you expect it to play in the committee/ issue and why. This is targeted research. Your policy statement can have a massive impact on your performance in the conference. Be sure to give it the attention it deserves.

### 6. Opening Speech.

The opening speech is your first impression with the committee. You want to be as effective as possible in commanding attention, gaining ground, influencing the committee, and being well remembered. This will give you ground while lobbying and act as a confidence booster in debates. **Prepare your opening speech in advance**. Come prepared with it written, and practiced to perfection. Make sure it has a [hook, key information, and call to action](#). Use this opportunity.

### 7. Lobbying & Draft Resolution

The main submitter presents the draft resolution. If you are to present one, be sure to make it A) Consider as many delegations interests as possible, and B) Flawless when it comes to structure, spelling and THIMUN standards. This is what will help it win votes, and get fewer requests for amendments. In the THIMUN [Arabic manual](#), you'll find a sample draft resolution. Use it to **prepare a few operative clauses** prior to the conference. This will be extremely helpful during **lobbying** with other delegations and preparing a resolution to present to the committee for debate & voting.

### 8. Debates.

Debating is arguably the best part of the conference. Even if you are not an Arabic expert, you may be surprised at how well you can debate in MSA, with a few simple tricks.

#### 1) Write your points down.

Put it down on paper the first few times. This will allow you to think the words through and choose exactly the right wording for the situation. After a few attempts, you'll find the paper is no longer needed. It's just a re-assurance – no more than moral support.

#### 2) Practice them once before speaking.

Whether to yourself or to a friend, practice the manner of giving a speech to a large audience, so you can command attention when the time for your speech comes.

#### 3) Have a few key terms prepared for different scenarios.

Little trick: Get some key phrases and expressions prepared as back up for different possible scenarios, so you can slip them into the speech and save time during the heated debate.

#### 4) Keep going.

Don't stop your speech if you think you have made a mistake. Everyone around you is learning. A mix-up in pronunciation or grammar here and there are normal, if not expected. But the fact that you are working through a foreign language, makes you admirable. Little do you know, that the people in the room are looking up to you. Believe that, and act like it.

#### 5) Body Language.

The phrase 90% of communication is non-verbal, absolutely applies here, most especially in the case of Arabic language. It is not all about impeccable terminology and vocabulary. It's about how you present your words. Use a clear, stable voice. Address the audience. Avoid monotone. Speak with expressiveness and energy. Believe what you're saying, and enjoy it.

That is how you master debates in Standard Arabic Language.

### 9. Maintain Diplomacy.

I will conclude with the most crucial and defining condition that governs Arabic MUN, in which Arab delegates debate controversial matters of the Arab World: [D.I.P.L.O.M.A.C.Y.](#)

It is very easy to analyze a decade old war, or debate current world issues unraveling on the opposite side of the globe. It is NOT easy however, to read about what the other half of the world is reporting on the crisis happening outside your window, or that directly involved a family member, or a dear friend. Nor is not very easy to dissect & debate it, representing a country other than your own. How many times have you seen a friend debate like an ambassador on a pressing International crisis, then lose his temper on an issue in his own country? How many times have **you**?

This is where **objective analysis & diplomacy skills** are tested. And **this is what MUN builds**.

In the Regional Arabic committee on Middle East & North Africa, the delegates will be addressing local issues, from an **objective, unbiased, fact-based and diplomatic** perspective, representing countries other than their own. This is where the power & value of what MUN can do to educate, build, change and inspire a generation comes to light. That is why the Arabic committee, that attempts to foster these skills in Arabic language, is such a valuable initiative.

**Now**, go through the available resources ([manual](#), [video](#), [sources](#), [topics](#)), and **prepare**:

1. Your Policy Statement
2. Your Opening Speech
3. Three Operative Clauses for each [topic](#).

Honorable delegate, you are now ready for the Arabic THIMUN Conference.

- *Nabila Elassar*

## من منظور دبلوماسي

# كيف تتجح في مؤتمر ثايمن باللغة العربية

مع اقتراب أول مؤتمر اقليمي لثايمن باللغة العربية في فبراير، بدأت التحضيرات لأعضاء وفد اللجنة الإقليمية لقضايا الشرق الأوسط و شمال أفريقيا، الذين سيصنعون التاريخ، حين يجتمعون لمواجهة وتحليل قضايا راهنة في العالم العربي، باللغة العربية الفصحى.

هذه الخطوة تعد بداية لحركة إقليمية، وقريباً، عالمية، في نماذج الأمم المتحدة حول العالم. MUN باللغة العربية الفصحى.

قد يراودك التساؤل، هل هذا البرنامج مناسب لي؟ وكيف يختلف عن نماذج الأمم المتحدة التقليدية، باللغة الإنجليزية؟ في الحقيقة، أن الاختلاف بسيط، لا يعتدي سوي اللغة، وطبيعة القضايا. هذا المقال، يهدف لإعطائك كل ما تحتاج معرفته حول النموذج العربي. مع نهاية هذا المقال، ستصبح خبيراً في كيفية النجاح في مؤتمر ثايمن باللغة العربية. هل أنت جاهز؟

### 1. تعرف على المصطلحات

هذه هي المصطلحات الرئيسية المستخدمة في النموذج العربي:

The Delegate	عضو الوفد/ المندوب
The Chair	رئيس اللجنة
The debate	النداش
The Resolution	القرار
Lobbying	التحالف
Voting Procedure	اجراء التصويت
Raise a Point of Order/ Personal Privilege	رفع نقطة نظام/ حق شخصي
Raise Point of Information to Chair/ Speaker	رفع نقطة استفسارية لرئيس اللجنة/ المندوب المتحدث

### 2. قواعد وإجراءات ثايمن

تعرف جيداً على قواعد وإجراءات ثايمن الرسمية لمؤتمرات نماذج الأمم المتحدة، وكذلك إلى قواعد لجننتك. اقرأ هذا الكتيب وشاهد هذا الفيديو، لتكوّن فكرة كاملة عن الإجراءات العربية للنداش، الخطاب الاقتتاعي، التحالف، القرار، وإجراء التصويت. تابع كذلك، النموذج العربي أون لاين للمؤتمرات والجلسات التدريبية عبر الإنترنت.

### 3. اقرأ القضية، جيداً

القضية التي يحضرها لك رئيس اللجنة، هي كنز، و أقوى مصدر قوة لك في المؤتمر. فهي تتاح لك بهدف مساعدتك على النجاح. لا تقرأها فقط، لكن استخدم معلوماتها، افهم منها القضية، حاول أن تتعرف منها على الجوانب المختلفة للخلاف أو الأزمة، وكذلك إلى حلولها، واجعلها نقطة بداية لبحث اضافي، وعلي كتابة بنود فعالة للقرار.

### 4. ابحث، بذكاء، لا بكمية

ليس البحث الأفضل، هو البحث الأطول. كذلك، ليس البحث للجنة عربية، مقصور علي المصادر باللغة العربية. اختيار البحث بالعربية، أو الإنجليزية يرجع لك. من الأفضل أن تبدأ بمصادر عربية، ثم تنتقل لمصادر إنجليزية، لزيادة علمك واحاطتك بالقضية، أو لإيجاد معلومات محددة، كانت ناقصة من المصدر العربي. ابدأ بالبحث العربي من هنا.

أياً كانت لغته، البحث الذكي، هو ما يوصلك لمعلومات بناءة، مع أقل مجهود. المعلومات البناءة، هي ما تزيد من قوتك في المؤتمر، ولها استخدام عملي، مؤثر. فهذه المعلومات تتعدى الشرح الأساسي للقضية، ولكن تتضمن إحصائيات وتقارير من مصادر موثوقة، تواريخ هامة، تصريحات رسمية و تصريحات دولتك السابقة تجاه القضية، ومعلومات تضعف معارضي موقفك، وتقوي الدولة التي تمثلها. هذا البحث الموجه لمعلومات بناءة، هو ما سيوصلك إي تصريح سياسة خارجية قوي.

### 5. تصريح السياسة الخارجية

هذا التصريح هو تقرير، يجب تسليمه قبل المؤتمر، يعرض موقف دولتك من القضية بالتفصيل. التصريح السياسي الجيد، يأتي نتيجة بحث ناجح لمعلومات بناءة، و يتضمن المعلومات تتعدى الشرح الأساسي للقضية، ولكن تتضمن إحصائيات ولتلك دولتك. رأي وتصرف دولتك تجاه هذه القضية. ماذا كان موقفها؟ هل تغير؟ من الجهات المعنية؟ ما الدول التي تشارك وتعارض دولتك في موقفها؟ والأهم، ما الدور الذي تتوقع أن تلعبه دولتك في المؤتمر لمواجهة القضية؟ من المؤكد أن تصريح السياسة الخارجية جوهري في نجاحك في المؤتمر. اهتم به جيداً.

## From the Techie's Desk

The THIMUN app is the first official application for the event. The application was made with the sole purpose of serving the participants of the THIMUN conference, be it the admin team or the chairs. The app was made with the people of the conference in mind.

This application integrates different resources, such as the map feature, which presents to the participants a layout of the conference to help people get around with minimal confusion. Other features of the application include conference schedules with events of each day. It includes a functionality that informs the tech actions team of any problems during the conference, helping the tech team to immediately respond to issues. The beauty of the application comes from its simple aesthetic and great functionality that help people get around and be informed. There are other features for international participants, such as information about restaurants and malls in the area. It also helps with the hotel reservation process. The application is centered around giving delegates a great conference experience with no worries and confusions. The application will see further improvements including reminders and push notifications notifying participants of the different conference events taking place. The app will also include a rating feature which will allow the participants to rate their experience in the conference and to give thoughts and opinions.

The application will be available in the app store in January and this will be available to all. The application is made in both mobile and tablet platforms for different operating systems such as Android and iOS.

The goal of making an application was to benefit THIMUN Qatar participants as well as to allow them to use the app for conference purposes and outside-of-conference purposes to enjoy the beauty that Qatar offers. The application will hopefully bring about significant changes in the experience of the participants and a more satisfied experience for all.

- Akhil Johm

## Qatar Academy Middle School Conference

Hi there! I'm Adeeba, the Secretary-General of the first junior Model UN conference at Qatar Academy, to be held on the 24th of April, 2015. Joining me in organizing this conference are my two Deputy Secretary-Generals, Razan El Kahlout from Qatar Academy and Dasa Riadi from Qatar International School. Also on the team is Houda Kerkadi, a Qatar Academy student who will be our Head of Administration. We are well under way in planning our conference.

With approximately 100 students registered from both Qatar Academy and schools around Qatar, we are preparing for at least four committees, with additional committees to be added should the



numbers of registered delegates increase! The conference will be hosted at the Qatar Academy campus, and the theme will revolve around Human Rights. Participating schools include Qatar Academy, Doha College, Delhi Public School (DPS), Meseieed International School, and American School of Doha.

As of now, our four committees will be the Human Rights Commission, Environment Commission, Disarmament Commission, and ECOSOC. Our two backup committees are GA3- Social and Humanitarian Committee and a Special Conference on Organised Crime and Drug Trafficking, in that order of priority. These committees will be entertained under the theme of the conference, "Protection of Human Rights." The chair appointments will be released in January, and our Head of Administration will be taking sign ups for our anticipated administrative position openings in February.

Further details will come soon. Let the excitement begin!

- Lama Amed

## Flo Speaks Out!

My name is Florine Spiekerman, and I live in Hangzhou, China. While I originally hail from the Netherlands, I spent my life living in various countries in Europe before moving to China 6 years ago. When I'm not debating or participating in International Court of Justice (ICJ) simulations, I enjoy baking, sleeping, and vandalizing my teacher's whiteboard with lame math jokes.

I first became an Executive Administrative Officer (EAO) for China in early 2014, and I have been helping out as a mentor for O-MUN's ICJ program for a few months. I joined O-MUN around 2012, after my mom heard about O-MUN at THIMUN Qatar 2011 and urged me to join. Since then, I have debated in most styles of committee that O-MUN offers. What I love most about O-MUN is the familial atmosphere between the delegates. I might be fiercely debating with some of them in the morning, but I will be poking them through Facebook or Skyping them later that evening. Additionally, O-MUN has allowed me to meet people from incredibly different backgrounds than my



own, teaching me about their countries and cultures.

A remarkable experience I had at a MUN conference would be meeting some of the founders of the Invisible Children organization at BEIMUN 2014 and getting to talk to them about their work with former child soldiers. It was remarkable to see that people who had accomplished so much really had respect for what young students were doing in the MUN program, and hearing about their experiences abroad was incredible.

O-MUN has helped me develop both personally and as a delegate, and I wish to share the same experience with my fellow peers. I hope the best for O-MUN, and I will continually assist with its future endeavors. Cheers to a great 2015.

-Florine Spiekerman

Black.

Two weeks ago, we encountered a revolutionary response to one of the most tragic events of the year. News channels, social media, schools, and charities alike made clear their mourning and condolences regarding Tuesday, December 16th, 2014's Taliban attacks on an army school in Peshawar, Pakistan. Whether it was passionate posts of disbelief, anger, and condemnation, use of powerful hashtags, the changing of profile pictures to the color black, or the silences held and candles lit for the 145 lives lost, the world came together to bleed along in the sorrow for the students of the Army Public School in Peshawar and Pakistan as a whole.

While it pains to revisit the events of that day, I think I must do so in order to justify the statements that follow.

It started off as a regular school day, and at around 12:00PM local time, armed militants dressed as security guards at the school took children under hostage. By half past noon, 15 children and 5 adults were killed, and six gunmen were holding another 500 students. Taliban representatives called into BBC, claiming the attack as revenge for the strong military offensive against them by the Pakistani army. Reuters news agency quoted the Taliban saying, "We targeted the school because the army targets our families. We want them to feel our pain." Soon after, the army reached the school and managed to evacuate all but 1/5th of the schoolchildren and teachers in captivity, many of whom were injured. The Pakistani security forces killed 3 of the gunmen two hours after the attack commenced, and by the end of the ordeal, there were 145 casualties from the school.

Without a doubt, grave fear has been instilled in the hearts of the poor children in Pakistan, especially those who were rescued from the site. The following days saw an overwhelming number of funerals of poor, innocent children completely disinterested in and disconnected from the religious and political feud between Taliban and the Pakistani government. The tears and pain of those mourning were universal.

Many notable people spoke out on the atrocities of the day. Former Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf appealed to economic superpower United States of America to aid them in removing the presence of Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), which was actually led in Afghanistan. He pleaded for their humanitarian support and political direction.

Meanwhile, United States President Barack Obama said terrorists had "once again shown their depravity," and United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said it was "an act of horror and rank cowardice." As if this was not enough, the tragedy was further fueled by the comparisons of the Peshawaran deaths to others in the region. Many people expressed their ill-founded views by saying that similar acts happened every day in Palestine or that what happened earlier this year with the Malaysian Airline flights was not given enough attention. Others discussed how people turned a blind eye to the events in Peshawar, given that the death of celebrities like Robin Williams and Philip Hughes received more coverage.

Putting death on a scale, especially something so wanton, is pathetic. It is disappointing to see people be insensitive to fellow humans in the modern era. Pain that Pakistanis and, furthermore, all global citizens endured following this attack cannot be vectored into units; children dying of hunger are not insignificant, children dying in war are not irrelevant, and children dying of disease are not unimportant. We SHOULD NOT translate mourning for Peshawar into ignorance for these children. We weep for all — these children did not deserve to die like this.

After countless generations of evolutionary success, can we still not combat this abomination? We must not let terror prevail in the name of God and religion around the world. Speak up, children, men, women: help your policy-makers.

So this is indeed the bottom-line, and there are questions we should start answering: Where do we go from here? What must we do to make the beliefs and practices of terrorist organizations obsolete? How can we achieve permanent peace? December 16, 2014 will forever be the blackest of days. These victims will not be forgotten.

- Ananya Saxena

# 5 Things Your Model UN Chair Wishes You Knew

## 1. Your position papers make them look forward to seeing you.

The time of reviewing position papers before the conference is one of the most challenging activities for a Model UN dais (especially for the Chair and Director). Judging from the sheer number of delegates that seek to attend a well-organized Model UN, it can be hectic having to read all the position papers and evaluate which of them merit consideration for awards. However, the most refreshing moments in the review process occur when you spot simple, well-written, and insightful position papers that make the issues come alive and set out key points towards consensus. Why is this so? Because for most experienced Chairpersons, they can tell whether a debate will be interesting or morose just by reviewing position papers. For the same reason, they can tell which delegates have the potential to make debate interesting and engaging. Many dais veterans remember countries that impress us on paper before even seeing their ambassadors in committee.



## 2. They want to see the traits that made them successful MUNers in you.

It is common knowledge that most MUN Chairs and Directors have also been esteemed delegates. What this means is that, despite all the orientation that dais staff may have about treating all delegates with fairness and equal assessment, they are usually attracted to delegates that exhibit the traits that they had when they were also delegates. What this may mean is that, for advanced levels of Model UN, the delegates' aspiration for recognition and awards may have to move them to check the background of who is going to staff the dais. This may be very difficult and involving, but it is often worth the time investment. Another variant of this is that Chairs and Directors may love delegates who have the characteristics of their MUN role models. For critical awards decisions, seemingly trivial issues like, "He speaks like Nelson Mandela," or, "She gestures like Margaret Thatcher," can be enough to give one delegate an advantage over the other.



## 3. They like when you acknowledge them in your speeches.

While delegates take center stage once conference begins, the staff are crucial in the planning and execution of efficient committees. A common delegate mindset is that dais staff are largely seen rather than heard in order to give the delegates room to operate. Meanwhile, we can't run away from the fact that conference officials like to be noticed and recognised by the delegates for their hard work. Remember being told to acknowledge the Chair when you address committee? You could make that your tool to warm yourself into the Chair's good graces. Refer to the Chair in procedure, defer to the wisdom of the

Chair in substantive issues, and make reference to their statements throughout committee. In doing this, you make sure the Chair has an opportunity to stay involved in debate, even though they are not competing.

## 4. They wish you would refrain from toying and testing the rules.

Stop picking on the Chair and putting them on the spot with the risk of embarrassing them in front of the committee. It's true that the dais' job is to be abreast with substantive issues and rules of procedure, but it is also a fact that they can't know all they need to know at all times. Your Chair/Director wishes that you could make their job easier by being on top of proceedings yourself and refer only the most difficult issues to them for their intervention. There are two main reasons for this. First, the dais are also interested in enjoying the debate, so getting them to intervene at all times distracts them from focussing on what's happening. Second, as mentioned earlier, Chairs/Directors may not have all the facts at every time, and you could therefore put them in an embarrassing situation. But the truth remains that Chairs with long histories in banging the gavel have probably met that annoying delegate who keeps frivolously testing the dais in an attempt to prove to other delegates they understand what is in the delegate training handbook.



## 5. They would love to get your candid feedback on their performance

Most conferences have post-conference evaluations from delegates, but it can be so cool and helpful to have delegates who speak with dais staff about highlights in their performance, both positive and negative. Since delegates and officials attend multiple conferences in a year, it is most probable that you will see your Chair or Director at your next conference. If you bother to have a one-on-one interaction with them about their performance, you will likely achieve two things by the time you meet at the next conference: either they will modify their chairing style to suit you, or conversely, you will modify your delegate style to fit their expectations and give yourself a head start in the race to become the apple of the dais' eye.

- Dennis Penu

# UAE O-MUN

With the New Year 2015, the UAE O-MUN Program, led by Karan Wadhvani (Executive Administrative Officer) and Sparsh Jain (National Liaison) under the guidance of Ashish Tharoor (Deputy Secretary-General of the Middle East), has made swift progress in its National Debates Program. With THIMUN Hague, THIMUN Qatar, and DIAMUN taking place between January and March, it is going to be a busy few months for MUNers prior to these conferences. The UAE O-MUN Program has taken this in mind and has organized their National Debate of January as a practice debate for delegates attending these conferences. This will be a good opportunity for delegates from schools in the UAE to have a good practice run of THIMUN procedures, debating styles, and the creation of resolutions. The UAE National Program would also like to welcome its latest delegates from The Millennium School, Dubai and the American Community School, Abu Dhabi.

- Sparsh Jain



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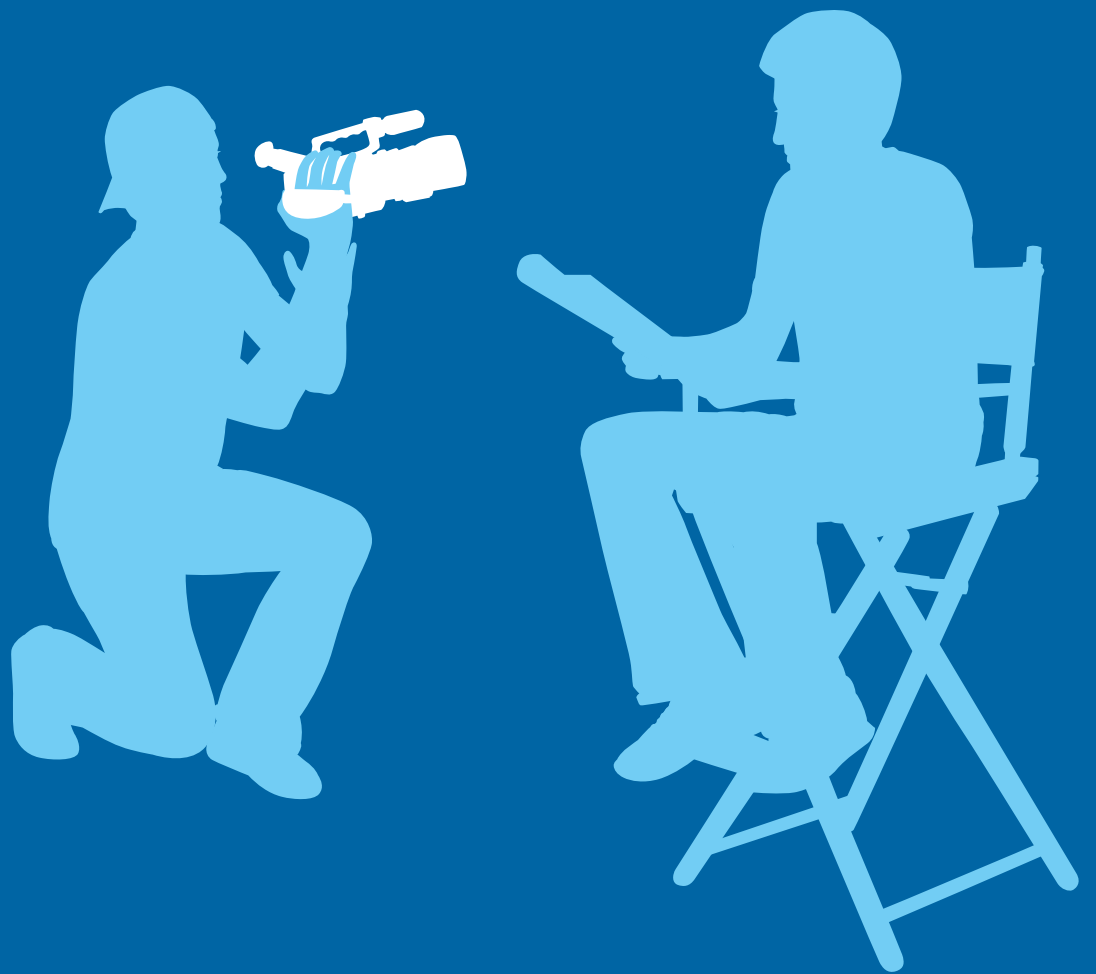
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# 2015 THIMUN QATAR NORTHWESTERN FILM FESTIVAL



THIMUN Qatar and Northwestern University in Qatar are encouraging high school student films through a documentary film festival from April 2-4, 2015 in Doha, Qatar.

Educational opportunities and prize money are offered for winning entries.

The film submission deadline is February 14, 2015.

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



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