Approved: I realized that I can go out and make my own difference, I truly was empowered and motivated, and I take action and pass on this education to others. I decided to take a step forward. I went to Mr. Dalghish 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 Voluntourism, a Nepali organization, and he gave me all the contacts I would need to start doing 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

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/2014-winners. 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.


- OLC Press

OLC 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 funded 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 OLC (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 Dalghish, 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. Dalghish 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 Voluntourism, a Nepali organization, and he gave me all the contacts I would need to start doing 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.

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- 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

Page 1
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. Most of the students are going to school just because of the pushing of their parent. 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 siting 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
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.

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 back-ground 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.


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 it 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

The Delegate’s Guide to Mastering Arabic MUN

The Diplomatic Lens
From the Techie's Desk

The THIMUN app is the first official application for the event. The application made with the sole purpose of serving participating students 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 available 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 Conference

Hi there! I’m Adaba, 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 Rahlouf 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), Measured International School, and American School of Doha.

As of now, our four committees will be the Human Rights Commission, Environment Commission, Disaster Management Commission, and ECOSOC.

Our two backup committees are GA3 - Social and Humanitarian Committee and a Special Commission on Organized Crime and Drug Trafficking, in that order of priority. These committees will be encouraged to involve themselves in the theme of the conference, “Protection of Human Rights.” The chair appointments will be released in January, and our Head of Administration will take over signing up for our anticipated administrative positions open in February.

Further details will come soon. Let the excitement begin!

Lama Amed

Myn 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 reading. As a member of the THIMUN Qatar 2014 tech team, 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.

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Lama Amed
Two weeks ago, we encountered a revolutionary event in the region 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 attack on an army school in Peshawar, Pakistan. Whether it was in 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 grumans 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 grumans 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 peace.

Meanwhile, United States President Barack Obama said terrorists had “once again shown their depravity,” and United Nations Security General Ban Ki-moon said the mass killing of children was “against all moral and humanitarian values.” As if this was not enough, the tragedy was further fueled by the comparisons of the Peshawar deaths to others in the region. People expressed their ill-founded views by saying that similar acts happened every day in Afghanistan. He pleaded for their humanitarian support and peace.

The time of reviewing position papers before the conference is one of the most challenging activities for a Model UN (especially for the Chair and Director). Judging from the sheer number of delegates that seek to attend well-organised 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 get out key points towards consensus. Why is this so? Because for most experienced Chairs or persons, 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 MUNners 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 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 delegations’ 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 position paper.

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 goal 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 would love you to 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 abrasive 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 your 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 get them to intervene at all times distracts from focussing on what’s happening. Second, as mentioned earlier, Chairs/Directors may not be 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 most 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 choice 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 Pena

Anamay Saxena

5 Things Your Model UN Chair Wishes You Knew

UAE O-MUN

With the New Year 2015, the UAE O-MUN Program, led by Karan Wadhwa (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 before 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 great 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.

Dennis Pena

UAE O-MUN

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IV ANNUAL SESSION ADMINISTRATIVE HANDBOOK

THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA
TRANSFORMATIONS AND CHALLENGES AHEAD

3rd February to 6th February 2015, Qatar National Convention Center, Doha-Qatar
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