MSMUN-Q Team:
More than Just Pretty Faces

With just 2 months to go, the first annual Middle School Model United Nations in Qatar (MSMUN-Q) conference is ready to serve some MUN mojo and flare to middle school students, along with the help of the extremely-talented group of student officers from all over Qatar. After finishing up their research reports, the executive team worked for three hours straight on Friday the 20th of February at Qatar Academy with the student officer team for some intense chair training (plus chairing scenarios) and evaluation specifically aimed for middle school delegates. “You have to be careful when writing a research report, making sure they’re not too complex so it is simple and easy to follow for See Page 7: MSUMUN-Q

My ICJ Experience

By: Lina Maragha

Lina is a student at the American School of Doha and a recent participant in THIMUN Qatar’s International Court of Justice (ICJ) simulation. She explains what it was like to be new to the ICJ and why she found it to be such an enjoyable experience.

This year, as a second-year participant of THIMUN Qatar, I took part in the International Court of Justice as an advocate for whaling in Japan. The role of an advocate is to represent a case with two other fellow advocates and argue your case to the ICJ. At first, I thought it was a lost cause defending something as vile as the killing of whales, was definitely not something I could possibly win at. I was blessed to have an amazing librarian who told me to approach this with a different perspective.

We decided to add a twist to the case and look at the laws that were put in place rather than the ethics and morals that were behind it. My perspective on this modern world issue widened and I started to see both sides of it. Even so, I walked into the conference not expecting it to be half as much fun as it truly was.

From putting on robes, to rebuttals, to questioning witnesses, my experience affirmed my dreams of becoming a lawyer. Since the ICJ consists of a much smaller amount of people in comparison to GAs, as a committee, we truly bonded. Over the course of the three days of the conference, I spoke to these people as if I had known them for years. They were all amazing individuals that were from all over the world.
THIMUN Qatar 2015 was truly a great experience for many students from all around the world! O-MUN students were able to participate in their first-ever Model UN conference and excel because of the training they got online before going to the conference. For many students on the Online Travel Team to THIMUN Qatar 2015, this was either their first Model UN conference or first international conference.

On the travel team this year, there were seven students who came from Israel representing the country’s Arab minority. For them, it was a very special and unique experience. They finally had the opportunity to work and communicate with students from all around the world, especially with fellow Arabs who came from countries that they cannot visit due to their Israeli passports. There were also five students of Indian and Pakistani nationalities who came from different schools in Dubai and a student from Qatar who joined the travel team. They made long-lasting friendships during the conference and shared many memorable and funny moments. The special thing about the Online Travel Teams is that it brings people with different backgrounds and cultures and puts them on the same team! They met face-to-face for the first time at the conference after months of working together online, and then they become really good and close friends.

As a Director of the Online Travel Team alongside Ugbad Kasim from Somaliland, THIMUN Qatar 2015 truly was one of the most memorable experiences I have ever had. What makes it this memorable, of course, is the awesome delegation! I will never forget the times we spent together sharing different aspects and stories about our lives. Thank you very much for the great team that made this conference unforgettable. And a special thanks to Mrs. Lisa Martin for making this possible in the first place!

Here are what some of the delegates had to say about their experience:

Haseeb Malik: (Bahrain-GA6) “Debating has always been a passion, and finding O-MUN as a platform to attend THIMUN Qatar 2015 was more than pleasing. I made some amazing friends along the way, captured a lot of memories, and shared a lot of stories. I cherish every moment and every word exchanged with my fellow O-MUN members. I was extremely delighted to meet Mrs. Lisa Martin, an inspiring, hardworking and passionate individual. I am more than delighted to be a member of O-MUN and look forward to more experiences with it.”

Noor Freg: (Bahrain-Environmental Commission) “The days that I spent during THIMUN Qatar were the best days of my life; I got to know many wonderful, amazing and inspiring people; I made new friends and new family. THIMUN Qatar was and will be the best thing that happened to me. It made me more confident and a stronger delegate, and I hope that I’ll get the chance to return to this place again.”

See Page 7: TRAVEL TEAM
HIAMUN, Hayah International School's Model UN conference in New Cairo, Egypt, was granted THIMUN-affiliated status after this year’s 2015 conference. The conference embodied all of the key elements of a THIMUN program, including strong student leadership and a meticulous adherence to THIMUN rules and procedure. The veteran Student Executive Team was led by Secretary-General Mohamed Sabry and Deputy Secretary-General Omar El Shahidi.

Click here to watch the HIAMUN 2015 Opening Video.

Over 200 students from schools throughout greater Cairo attended three days of lobbying and debate, including an ICJ, Arab League, three GA committees, and an ECOSOC. The cultural evening, held on the second evening, featured the extremely popular Egyptian group Cairokee, met with incredible enthusiasm by attending delegates.

The THIMUN Foundation recognizes conferences through its affiliation process, evaluating conferences on 12 standards including institutional and school support, leadership structure, rules and procedure, internationalism, facilities, guest services, communication and finance. HIAMUN received high marks across the board, a testament to the strategic planning the club has undertaken from its inception.

Congratulations to the HIAMUN Team for putting on an outstanding MUN conference!

Have a story idea? Send us a tweet at @bestdelegate
Why You Need to Try Crisis Committees

There’s no denying that crisis committees are having a moment of popularity right now in the MUN world. Crisis committees are innovative, exciting, and demand quick thinking – so it’s no surprise that many delegates are beginning to choose these committees over general assemblies. Although general assemblies are typically more related to the actual workings of the United Nations, crisis committees offer a new challenge that many delegates crave. To a seasoned delegate, general assemblies can become repetitive. Trying a crisis committee will help to improve your critical thinking and impromptu debating skills, both of which can be beneficial in GAs.

Unfortunately, many delegates are wary to branch out from their standard committee. Some find it difficult to try a different type of committee when they have already crafted a formula for success in their standard general assembly. Putting yourself in a different committee and exposing yourself to the crisis side of model UN will help you become to become an interdisciplinary, diverse delegate. Still not convinced? Take a look at the following testimonials from delegates who have tried crisis and never looked back:

“I think there are a couple of ways crisis committees can really help delegates. They’re often significantly smaller than GAs or other committees, which can allow delegates to speak more and be more involved in the debate. Given the dynamic nature of crisis committees, it is also a good opportunity for delegates to think on their feet, an important skill to learn.” - Aleksei Wan, Upper Canada College

“I think my favourite part about crisis committees is how the delegates can truly make the committee their own. The crisis directors allow the delegates to take control of the committee, and use personal and group directives to achieve goals. So far as I follow the law of averages.” - Haidnah Barbour, Outalla Trafalga High School

“Crisis committees are so intense that you think everything is happening in real life, and someone calls motion for recess. After 6 crisis committees, I think I’m ready to fight a war… and win.” - Daniel Mogilny, Crescent School

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Hi everyone.

Before I go on explaining how exactly Online Model United Nations (O-MUN) played a part into where I stand, here today in MUN, let me take you all on a trip down memory lane regarding how I encountered O-MUN. I am telling you, it is going to be a very interesting story.

2 years back: I, Nabil Ashraf, knew nothing of what exactly Model United Nations (MUN) was. One of my friends at my university, COMSATS Lahore in Pakistan, introduced me to this spectacular thing. Then, I went on the web googling about Model United Nations. Miraculously, I found information on Online Model United Nations, and I instantly decided to join the group on Facebook. It was as if fate wanted me to meet such amazing people, like Audrey, Lisa, Salam, Ervin, Mannmeet, and many more that I am missing currently. Gradually, I started participating in these online MUN simulations, something very alien to me at that time. I soon then became an ambassador and Executive Administration Officer for Pakistan, which was something greatly exciting. Later, these online debates gave me an edge at hand before starting my traditional MUN career in December 2013.

Even now, I owe the O-MUN community a lot. Now I am a part of Model United Nations community in Pakistan and organizing one of our very own international MUN conferences. I have won some awards, and I still remember the day when I had difficulty speaking online, let alone at an actual MUN conference. O-MUN is not just a platform to access the vast world of Model UN, but it is also a family, a bridge to connect people across the globe. I am proud to say that I am a part of such a heart-warming online community and look forward to being part of all its future endeavors. The concept of an online MUN here in Pakistan is a bit new and not common because we have many conferences already, but still, I think it is a major ice-breaker and a great deal to learn about MUN in the case of home.

O-MUN: A Bridge to Connect Communities

By: Michael Borgers

Before joining O-MUN, I had the pleasure of being able to do nothing over the weekends, and I took full advantage of that opportunity. I laid in bed all day doing nothing, eating M&M's and watching Netflix. Now, in a city with the population of 70 A380s and the population density of the Russian tundra, doing nothing is not that difficult.

But then along came O-MUN. I had indulged in MUN activities prior to joining the O-MUN family. However, I would have never guessed that I would give up my weekends of doing nothing for anything remotely related to MUN. I joined about 2 months after THIMUN 2014, where I heard some people talk about O-MUN. So I registered online and took part in the April Global debate as the delegate of Malaysia. I will skip the details, but in short, I loved it. So I got more and more into it. I signed up for nearly every debate. However, what I did not realize is that I was getting more and more into O-MUN. I was also becoming a more active person. I actually started to wake up before 3pm on Sundays (thanks Asia debate) and was suddenly confronted with an abundance of free time. Thanks to O-MUN, I was forced to actually do stuff on my weekends. So I got back into rowing and swimming, writing articles for the local newspapers, and, most importantly, studying. My grades have improved, and I believe I am overall a happier person now thanks to O-MUN. O-MUN is what you make of it. It can simply be a tool to improve debate skills, or it can be a lifestyle. You meet so many fantastic people who encourage you to do more, be more active and do the things you once thought you could not. In conclusion: O-MUN is love, O-MUN is life.

Up through the Ranks

By: Patrick Arevalo

Patrick, second from right, with fellow MESAied students at THIMUN Qatar 2015

Patrick recently served as a Student Officer at THIMUN Qatar. A student from MESAied International School here in Qatar, he reflects on the doors THQ has opened for him and the confidence he has gained throughout the THIMUN journey.

From a clueless delegate intimidated by the intense atmosphere of a committee room to being the President of MESAied International School, I have found that Model United Nations has provided nothing but opportunities for me to climb the ranks.

It was Winter 2013 when I was preparing for my first conference, which was DCIMUN. I was, to be honest, scared. I was scared of the unknown; I was scared to step out of my comfort zone. In an effort to combat this, I spent countless hours trying to perfect my operative clause on the security of diplomats and diplomatic missions, writing, re-writing, and re-thinking everything in that one clause until I was satisfied and knew it was impenetrable.

When the time came for my bloc’s merged resolution to be debated, my clause was struck out by the delegate of Qatar by quite an overwhelming majority. I sat with my head down for the rest of the day. The Head Chair of my committee, Osama Ghani, gave me words of reassurance. Still, I tried participating to the very best of my ability and was nominated as a Best Delegate. This gave me hope to pursue greater things in MUN.

A series of doors started to open in front of me, all of which I took hesitantly at first due to the unknown that surrounded them: a Student Executive Officer position in the early development of MISMUN, a spot to participate in the Qatar Leadership Conference 2014, a position as an advocate in the ICJ of DCIMUN 2014, and finally, a position as a Student Officer in THIMUN Qatar 2015. It turns out that these doors to the unknown are what shaped me into becoming a well-rounded individual in and outside of school life; they changed my view of the world into something bigger than what I can ever imagine and helped me rise through the ranks of the Middle East MUN community.

Just over a year later, I walked down the halls of Qatar National Convention Centre as Deputy President of HRG1, a Student Officer with life-changing experiences behind me as a delegate, a QLC participant, a DCIMUN advocate, and a President of MISMUN.

My journey through the ranks will not stop; the unknown will always be an opportunity for me.
The fifth session of Hayah International Academy Model United Nations (HIAMUN) started on February 11th, with an intense start during Opening Ceremonies, which was a striking indicator to how the conference would go. The Ceremonies, which were led by Omar El Shashidi, Deputy Secretary-General for HIAMUN, started with an opening video followed by the seven Forum Presidents: Ahmed El Wakil, Security Council; Fariida Soliman, Arab League; Anas Soliman, ICJ; Ondine Atwa, ECOSOC; Mariam Hassaballa, GA1; Firas Atwa, GA2; and Alia El Kattan, GA3. This was followed by a word from Mrs. Lisa Martin, Head of THI-MUN Qatar, who spoke about the effects and importance of MUN on many students’ lives and careers. The keynote speaker for the Opening Ceremonies was Ambassador Tarek Adel, Permanent Representative of Egypt in the Arab League, which was followed by a heated debate during the Q&A with chair of HIAMUN’s Arab League forum, Malak Wahdan, on whether or not MUN should be an exact replica of the United Nations. This debate was an indication of the nature of the political spirit and interest which encompassed HIAMUN during the following three days. The Opening Ceremonies were wrapped up by Mohamed Sabry, HIAMUN Secretary-General, announcing the commencement of HIAMUN 2015.

HIAMUN 2015’s theme, “Breaking Cycles,” meant to inform all individuals of the cycles that are the most corruptive, for all mankind to spread awareness of such cycles, and for global citizens to not be allowed to slip into their daily routines or make them the norm. HIAMUN hoped that such cycles, as diverse as they are, can be successfully broken and put to an end by the current generation. The debates during the conference represented the theme and the diverse backgrounds that the delegates came from, including Fares Ghamrawy from Basata, a small village school on the Red Sea where he is the only student in his class. Debates in the forums clearly represented the fun yet highly passionate and academic standards HIAMUN has come to be known by.

The conference outing, featuring one of Egypt’s most popular bands, Cairooke, was also one of the highlights of this year’s conference. Cairooke’s concert was incredibly anticipated. The fact that they performed a private concert in Hayah’s theatre was beyond the delegates’ expectations. The event was outstanding.
Continued from Page 2: TRAVEL TEAM

Abduallah Najji: (HRC 2) “Being an O-MUN member for quite a while now; it was of true honour to be representing it in a conference like THIMUN Qatar 2015. MUN has always been the activity I resort to outside of my study life. It gives me happiness knowing that I can help make a positive impact for the world we live in through the resolutions we write and debate. In the THIMUN Qatar conference, I’ve met many great people who I’ve now built relationships with. Additionally, I had the opportunity to finally meet Mrs. Lisa Martin, a super-inspiring individual who just simply loves what she does, and that motivates whoever’s around her. I overall had a surreal experience in the conference, it was quite frankly the most fun I’ve had in a MUN conference. Ever!”

Fadi Keadan: (Bahrain-GA3) “It was an amazing trip. I really had fun because this is a once in a lifetime opportunity, and my dream came true by visiting Qatar. I am so happy and glad that I got the chance to visit this country. THIMUN Qatar was a great experience for me; I asked many questions, learned a lot, and met many new people with different cultures and backgrounds. I was really proud of myself for being part of the online travel team. I was and still very happy about this wonderful opportunity. And I will always try to come back.”

Noor Ashqar: (Bahrain-GA2) “THIMUN Qatar was AMAZING. I loved it so much like the others did; it was an experience without any imperfections. And it inspired me with more information and more courage. I hope that I can have the same chance again and join the conference because it means a lot to me.”

Continued from Page 1: MSUMUN-Q

middle schoolers. It’s really harder than it looks,” commented Aiea Mansour, the Head Chair of GA3 for the upcoming MSMUN-Q 2015. Of course, no chair training is complete without the help of six large boxes of pizza, potato wedges, and large bottles of fizzy drinks, and after working tirelessly for hours, the MSMUN-Q team deserved a little treat.

The Admin Team assignments for the conference are almost complete, and conference staffers are now working to make sure the conference runs as smoothly as possible, thanks to their Head of Admin Houda Kerkaddi. Furthermore, the conference must issue a great big thanks to Zoe Martin-Parkinson for designing the official MSMUN-Q logo!

Continued from Page 6: RECAP

vibrant; the band’s background lightning was the only thing in sight in the theatre’s dark atmosphere, and the crowds jumped up and down and did not miss a word of the revolutionary lyrics. The concert and the amazing shawarma that followed it were a very welcome break for the students and directors from the hectic debating of the previous two days.

The Closing Ceremonies were more of a celebration of everyone who had participated in making HIAMUN 2015 such a success. The Forum Presidents recalled all the fun moments that happened in their respective forums over the conference days, sharing inside jokes and confiscated notepaper, then handed out awards for Best Delegate and Best Lobbyist. The Presidents’ speeches were preceded by the Closing Ceremonies video, which featured many participants of the conference. A final mention is needed for conference staff’s notable efforts behind the scenes. The Organizing Committee included the Admin Team who made sure the delegates were comfortable in the forums and the Logistics and Catering Team who kept everyone well fed with good food, including the annual highlight, the HIAMUN chocolate fountain. The Transportation and Venue Team made sure the buses and rooms were coordinated smoothly. The Press Team also made sure to document conference memories as they produced the newsletters, all anticipated videos in the ceremonies, and the live media feeds. The combined efforts of those in charge of the financial concerns, public relations, and administration issues all contributed to the conference’s success.

HIAMUN has grown every year from strength to strength, and this year was no different. With over 280 students from seven different schools participating in over seven forums, this was the biggest, and arguably best, HIAMUN to date. And to cap things off, nearly a week after the conference ended, we were informed that HIAMUN’s application had been accepted and that we had officially become a THIMUN-Affiliated conference! For more information about HIAMUN, please visit HIAMUN.org or email HIAMUN Director Karim El Dib at keldib@hayahacademy.com
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