It was a great three days here at the THIMUN Qatar Northwestern Film Festival! The event started with Doha’s worst sandstorm in recent memory, but it ended with all the glitter and pomp of a gala evening befitting the nominated directors in attendance. Nineteen films were nominated in the categories of Best Sound, Best Poster, Best Editing, Best Cinematography, Best Story, Best National Film, Best Junior Film, and, of course, Best Picture. There was also a People’s Choice Award, which was determined by the number of votes at the Gala Dinner plus the number of hits on the film’s YouTube channel. The Film Festival, now in its sixth year, is a partnership between Northwestern University Qatar and THIMUN Qatar.

By: Lisa Martin

The goals of the event are to promote the work of aspiring young filmmakers, provide an opportunity to come together in Doha to attend film workshops and activities, and participate in the Gala evening. The directors of the nominated films came from as close as Qatar and as far away as Ecuador, Taiwan, Afghanistan, India, Singapore, The Netherlands, and the United Arab Emirates. The event has grown in international prestige, and this year’s iteration attracted a wider scope of films than in past years.

The Gala Dinner and Awards Ceremony were organized by the THIMUN Qatar Film Festival Executive Team, led by President Mohammed Al Malek. The students were responsible for planning the events, workshops, and associated activities during the three day event. To see all of the Film Festival award winners, click the following link: http://thimunqatarpress.org/and-the-winners-are/.

By: Lisa Martin

The THIMUN Qatar-Afghanistan initiative is now in its fifth month. The five delegates who traveled to Doha in February are now well into their club activities, having taken the complete journey from novice delegates to experienced club volunteers. For those unfamiliar with the initiative, a little background is in order.

Students in Kabul worked online with other delegates from Qatar and around the world. The idea of a collaborative project was born out of informal conversations at the Qatar Leadership Conference. Like all good QLC initiatives, it started as a ‘what if’ conversation, and by the time the Head of THIMUN Qatar, Lisa Martin, and UN Habitat’s
As the office transitions into Film Festival mode, the MUN store-
room is finally organized, and the QLC venue is fully booked, I 
believe it is time to add my own personal reflection on the confer-
ence that was THIMUN Qatar 2015. With hardly a moment's 
downtime since Mike Lee, PGA of the conference, brought 
down the final gavel and the skateboarding divas made an ap-
pearance in Education City during Cultural Night, it 
has been hard to catch my breath and think too deeply 
about the amazing events that transpired the first week 
of February. I seem to keep coming back to words like 
'magical' to describe this event. So I'm going to try and 
capture the magic, before it fades too far away.

First, a small disclaimer: One day, when my MUN days 
are behind me, I will write a book on the 'behind the 
scenes' drama that takes place at a big conference like 
THIMUN Qatar. Yes, it was there, causing stressful 
moments, fearful moments, and downright anger. The 
pulling of the HR C issue on Baluchistan was the public 
drama, but there were behind-the-scenes dramas too. 
But these account for a tiny fraction of my THIMUN 
Qatar experience. Some day, I WILL write this book, and it will 
be a good one!

Qatar Foundation's HR Department: SHOUT OUT 
to the guys that got everyone their visas...the last one secured as he was on his way to the airport the day before the conference. That's a 100% success rate, folks!! If you got a visa through our office, it is time to give thanks where thanks are due! Thank you, Mr. Al Suwaidi and Mr. Salem Al-Marri, for making dreams 
come true.

Opening Ceremonies: The color! The pageantry! Angelika 
Kuster's artful hand and Head of Admin Maisha Loveday's at-
tention to detail resulted in our largest Parade of Nations ever, 
and it was impressive. And in case that wasn't enough, it was

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quickly followed by a moving keynote by Peter Dalglish, an incredible performance by the American School Band and Choir (who sang an utterly amazing rendition of Famine Song), and the Shell representative making his opening remarks and giving a shout out to his own daughter, a MUN delegate in the crowd.

Osama Ghani: Osama and I have taken quite the MUN journey together. That’s another blog post, but I was very proud to see my Secretary-General making his very moving opening speech. I just wish that I had the opportunity to meet his parents!

The Secretariat: Boring. No Story. No drama. No stress. No mess. And for the record, I DO consider this a magical moment. I love you guys! Thanks for keeping the conference humming quietly along in spite of the broken copy machine, which leads me to….

Photocopying Angels: Abhay and Bonaficio, who stayed up half the night at Qatar Academy and got all the resolutions printed on time. While this certainly was not magical for our IT coordinator and QA photocopying technician, it WAS like magic to see those thousands of pages of resolutions sitting at the door of the office early Thursday morning.

Arabic Committee: This was a THIMUN Qatar first, and though it was a challenge to bring to fruition, it ultimately showed the true potential of Arabic MUN. Each and every delegate in that committee should be proud for making history. I certainly was very proud of them. A very special hat tip to TQ’s Arabic Consultant, Nabilla Ellassar, who made this committee happen.

Director’s Training Institute: Seeing a room full of teachers acting as delegates acting as students is great. KFC from Best Delegate did a great job in helping teach MUN to teachers who were interested in gaining a deeper understanding of the MUN program. They had an awesome debate on drone technology the following day. We will definitely be holding this again next year! It was a great success.

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of mission in Afghanistan, Peter Dalsligh were done, the idea of a travel team to Qatar had been formulated. For three months, students from Qatar and around the world mentored the five Afghan Delegates, (as well as a larger group of students in Dalglish’s ‘Super English’ class). These students worked together via skype, Blackboard Collaborate and Facebook to prep and train one another. The Gang of Five, as they were affectionately called by the organizers, arrived in Doha not only bursting with enthusiasm, but armed with policy statements, opening speeches and resolutions. Some of the Afghan students entering the UN Habitat compound where they held their first MUN sessions via Blackboard Collaborate.

**THIMUN Qatar-Doha**

The Afghan delegations participated successfully in their committee. They also took the conference by storm, making friends, holding press conferences, networking with students from around the world and in one special case, becoming very close with the John Burroughs School from Missouri, USA. The two delegations played tourist together, visiting the Islamic Art Museum, the souk, and even taking a very special Dhow ride. The Afghan students also visited the American School of Doha’s Sport’s Day, were invited to an old fashioned BBQ, and went to the mall and the movies.

At the cultural night the last evening of the conference, the delegates wowed their friends with some skateboarding, even enticing Lisa Martin onto a board for a few brief seconds.

It could have ended there. But as we know, once the MUN seed is planted, it is often quick to take root, and so the Gang of Five headed back to Kabul, armed with ideas and new-found knowledge and experience. If the trip to Doha seemed rather miraculous, what happened next was even more so.

**THIMUN in Afghanistan**

On a cold day in early March, the first THIMUN meeting was held in Afghanistan. The MUN novice delegates-turned MUN club leaders welcomed 22 students into their opening club session: 11 girls and 11 boys, a remarkable feat in a country where girls are extremely underrepresented in educational programs. A “What is MUN?” session was held, and our club leaders began to review the basics. Again, with the collaborative support of their network of students, they began to teach their new club members. We asked them to share their thoughts on the early development of their club.

**The first MUN club meeting in Kabul**

We asked the Kabul Club leaders a few questions on the set up of their MUN program, their goals, and what they hoped to see in the future.

Who are the students in the new club and how are they selected?

Sulaiman: All of the students who are participating MUN club are selected from Skateistan students-they are top students at Skateistan. For them MUN was something new as it was for us. Most of them found it really effective for them, as some of them said “this will help me in achieving my future goals.”

Rahmat: The students who are participating in the MUN Afghanistan club are all from different ethnicities, but most of the students are from poor families. They are studying but they are also working, but all of them are creative minded children. The reaction when we select them for the class was that they couldn’t even believe that they will be included in this project because. There are very few organizations which are providing international opportunity and MUN is that kind project; they all were so excited and the good thing that we found from their enthusiasm was their hard work in the class to make the most of the opportunity.

**Was it hard for students at first?**

Sulaiman At first it was hard for students to talk and take part in class activities and after the second session we saw a big difference in their
Continued from Page 3

TQ-Afghanistan ‘Press Conference’: A lot of tears were shed in Room 102 as the delegation representing Djibouti shared their Kabul to Doha journey, supported by their friends and online collaborators who stood behind them, literally and metaphorically, every step of the way. For many, this was the most emotional moment of THIMUN Qatar, making the day’s MUN meeting in Kabul today even more special. This delegation touched people’s hearts and brought the conference together as a community.

My mom: Yes, my mother attended her first MUN conference. She came all the way from California for the event. I understand that she spoke to at least half of the THIMUN Qatar crowd. That’s what half the THIMUN Qatar crowd tells me. It was great to have her here!

Closing Ceremonies: Too many wonderful moments here, but having the Afghan Delegation on the stage with their ambassador to Doha was as amazing as DSG Shad’s closing speech. Both were very inspiring and moving.

Cultural Night: I got on a skateboard. YES! I did, kindly helped by Skateistan’s Talia Kaufmann. My daughter got some skateboarding lessons from Mursal and Madina. (Thanks to Beruk for bringing the extra board!) The John Burroughs students got ‘hennaed’ (not a real word), and some Palestinian delegates from the special O-MUN delegation shared their culture in an impressive display of folkloric dancing. Tariq arranged for the falcon, and lots of good music and hot tea were enjoyed by all at the heart of Education City. It was a good, good night.

There is another book that I want to write, but that is the one I will carry in my heart and cherish for as long as I live...the private and not-so-private stories of transformation and empowerment that THIMUN Qatar has brought to individuals. If you have made it this far and are nodding in agreement, you will know I am speaking to you! Whether through Facebook or Blackboard Collaborate, via email or Whatsapp, via face-to-face interactions at the reflection pool, or in the TQ office surrounded by enthusiastic students, this impact is what gives meaning to my THIMUN Qatar memories. It’s not just delegates who are grateful for being part of THIMUN Qatar 2015. I am very VERY grateful too.

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How did you see them change?

Rahmat: They all are trying to achieve the opportunity so they all are trying. At first they were a bit shy but now they all trying to take part in the class, and are all trying to be the best and to be the top of the class.

What are the goals of the club?

Rahmat: The ultimate goal of the club is to make a place for the club as an organization where we would be able to hold an MUN conferences, film festival and Leadership conferences inside the country and to invite worldwide students to Afghanistan. The objectives are

1) First we need to start the program in one or two schools.
2) Send some of the students to THIMUN Qatar festivals.
3) Make a core of MUN specialists.
4) Find some people to help us to make a separate place for the project.

Sulaiman: Our goal is to make this club wider in Kabul first and then in the provinces. So overall our goal is to promote it to an organization like Thimun Qatar. It is only possible to work hard and get support of some governmental and non governmental NGOs to help us develop our program.

The THIMUN office is thrilled to be supporting these young delegates turned leaders, and look forward to future participation by Afghan students in our programs.

Club Leader, Rahmat, meeting up with Alain Medinger, Co-Chair of the THIMUN Foundation, at the recent THIMUN Qatar Northwestern Film Festival. Rahmat’s film, Afghan Children, was nominated in the category of Best Sound.
MUNspiration

By: Jane Lee

Fellow delegates and respected guests,

The start of our MUN stories may all seem different, but each of them ultimately boil down to the same conclusion: MUN changed my life, your life, and pretty much every MUNer’s life.

As cliché as this may sound, I want to emphasize how much MUN impacted my life. It has indeed been a remarkable journey, and I want to thank everyone involved in my MUN career for it.

I jumped on the MUN bandwagon when I was in 7th grade. At the time, I had no idea what MUN was; in fact, I thought it would be some sort of a club that would teach me about Chinese culture because MUN sounded like moon, and it was around the time of Chinese Lunar Festival holidays when I first heard this word. (Trust me, this isn’t a joke.)

Anyways, my friend offered me a bag of french fries under the condition of me accompanying her to the first MUN meeting. I gladly agreed; I mean, who wouldn’t say yes to free fries?

After a long hour of listening to information that was barely comprehensible, I signed myself up as the delegate of the Philippines in the Human Rights Council.

This is how my MUN journey began; a pretty ironic start to something that eventually took on such a large role in my life.

In the second year of my MUN journey, I received the opportunity to attend my very first international conference in Singapore, MY-MUNOSIS IV conference. This was when I truly got to know about MUN as well as when I first encountered the jrO-MUN program and met Ms. Lisa Martin.

At this time, jrO-MUN was fairly new, and I, along with other friends from Taipei American School, was given the privilege to attend one of the very first jrO-MUN debates in preparation for our MY-MUNOSIS IV conference. The experience was simply extraordinary. This was a ground-breaking moment when I realized that my classmates and I could instantly connect to students in a completely different location, a completely different time zone, with a completely different culture. We were no longer confined under the physical limitations that we couldn’t teleport to another location in a split second for a debate; all we needed was a stable WiFi connection and a computer with a built-in microphone, which, in fact, wasn’t so hard to achieve compared to all the other limitations of physical conferences that we had previously faced.

jrO-MUN definitely helped me prepare for the upcoming conference and made it a successful one overall. But there was more to it: it continued to bother me with monthly debate advertisements, and by the start of my 8th grade summer, I was all-in with jrO-MUN, craving for more and more debates to happen.

As I stepped into high school, I was forced to say adieu to my beloved jrO-MUN program, but fortunately I was welcomed by the O-MUN community. I was happy that my graduation of jrO-MUN had led me to O-MUN community, which was a lot bigger and more diverse. Plus, O-MUN hosted more than just one debate happening per month and entertained me with debates ranging all the way from national to global debates.

Since then, my O-MUN journey has been filled with diversity and joy, starting from joining the debates as a delegate, all the way to serving as Deputy Secretary-General for O-MUN and meeting O-MUNers in real life through the O-MUN travel team to THIMUN Hague.

O-MUN has helped me open up many different doors in my MUN career through many different measures. It has helped me build skills as a delegate and as a Chair by letting me experience different positions quite frequently. O-MUN also allowed me to build my MUN experiences, which eventually built me up to leadership positions in face-to-face conferences.

But even outside the boundaries of MUN, O-MUN has let me build and keep valuable relationships with many. Although the people may technically be virtual, I was surprised how instantly I was able to connect and become friends with my fellow O-MUNers from my recent trip to The Hague.

O-MUN is definitely an amazing platform that provides so many opportunities and advantages to anyone. O-MUN inspired me in many different ways, and it will never cease to do so!
AISMUN in Cairo is one of the oldest THIMUN-affiliated conferences in the Middle East. The MUNification press team at American International School, led by Malak Sekaly and Sara Elmessiry, gives us this recap of AISMUN 2015.

This is now the 25th consecutive year that students will proudly add ‘attending AISMUN’ on their list of high school memories. The American International School of Egypt established AISMUN in 1991; since then, it has grown to be the largest student-led organization in AIS, as well as one of the most respected conferences in Egypt and the Middle East. Model United Nations is much more than an extracurricular activity people participate in for the mere purpose of having a more impressive college application; MUN is a lifetime experience that truly does develop valuable skills. AISMUN’s essential purpose is to give high school students a glimpse of the real world. We here at AIS strive to create high school graduates who are critical thinkers and visionaries.

Christopher Hitchens once said, “The essence of the independent mind lies not in what it thinks, but in how it thinks.” This is exactly what AISMUN offers its participants: a chance to think outside of the box of conformity and conventionality. With eight wonderful forums, a well-organized Secretariat, and an astonishing media team, AISMUN offers an experience that people cherish. I can undoubtedly speak for almost everyone who’s attended AISMUN before and say that it’s truly one of the best experiences high school has to offer.

The theme of AISMUN this year was liberty, independence, and the transfer of powers within nations, and our slogan was Spreading the Wings of Freedom. All forums collectively chose to discuss topics and issues that coincided with the theme and emulated the slogan. With issues ranging from the GA’s “Rise of violent actions against Islam and Arabs” to the discussion of the Ukraine conflict in the Security Council, AISMUN truly had much to offer.

The Secretary-General and everyone participating in this AISMUN conference sought possible solutions to the wide range of issues at hand. For years now, AISMUN has been a THIMUN-affiliated MUN conference. Undoubtedly, this is something everyone at AIS takes pride in. There are countless prestigious conferences around the world that are affiliated with THIMUN, such as Berlin MUN, Rome International MUN, and St. Andrews MUN. Keeping AISMUN amongst such respected conferences is something we strive to maintain. There are many great benefits to being a THIMUN affiliated conference. Firstly, assistance is offered from the THIMUN office in the setting up and organizing process. Also, it provides accreditation from the world’s foremost international Model United Nations organizations. And it provides the opportunity of sharing knowledge between great minds of both teachers and students.

One might wonder what the purpose of MUN is. There are innumerable benefits. Pages and pages couldn’t do justice to the extent to which MUN is beneficial. MUN promotes interest and support for working later for the United Nations. It also promotes interaction and dialogue between young people of different nationalities, cultures, and perspectives, which allows for wonderful exposure to people from around the world. One of the main keys of success is allowing for different perspectives to work with one another. One resolution is not the same as many resolutions merging together to offer the best possible solutions. Hence, MUN truly does tackle the significance of the formation of decisions based on global perspectives.

Another great benefit of MUN is that it brings to light many important issues and conflicts that people often neglect. This provides participants at AISMUN with a wider scope of the world beyond rigid textbooks and fixed rubrics. No amount of words can emphasize the extent to which AISMUN is an unforgettable experience. Not only does it develop extraordinary skills that people take with them outside the walls of the forums, but it also brings people of different mindsets and perspectives together and offers the chance to merge such different mindsets together to form outstanding solutions to prevalent issues.

One can never put the memorable experience MUN offers into words, and so it is important for everyone to attend a MUN conference and witness it firsthand. As Deputy President of the International Court of Justice at AISMUN, I can speak for myself and for everyone else and say that I am proud to be a participant in the American International School of Egypt’s 25th Model United Nations conference.
As a Student Officer, the first part of a conference is always the most exciting. You get to meet new delegates who in turn become new friends. You get to listen to dialogue on research that both you and your delegates have done. But most importantly, you learn how to make an impact on your community, and that is what makes the MUN community such a great one to be a part of. However, at the same time, the issue of formatting always seems to come up. During my time as a The Hague International Model United Nations (THIMUN) Chair, formatting mistakes were constant issues. Of course, it is not completely the fault of delegates – more often than not, they do not know any better. This article is intended to explain the importance of formatting and provide tips for the essential parts of organizing a resolution. It will serve as a general overview of more thorough formatting resolution formatting.

Here are four key points to consider:

1. Know the format required and why it is required.
   As a Chair at a conference using THIMUN Procedure, you should be familiar with the THIMUN Educational site, where you can find the THIMUN Resolution format. You’ll find all the guidelines and a sample resolution along with Preambulatory and Operative Clause terms you can use (this will include Advisory Panel- and Security Council-specific terms as well). You can find an example of a correctly formatted resolution and the same guidelines at the Malaysian Model United Nations site as well.

Correct formatting is essential for two reasons. First, it shows that you adhere to a standard that THIMUN or the conference you are attending wishes to uphold. Second, correct formatting should make reading a resolution easy and will limit unnecessary distractions.

2. Remember the essential formatting.
   Most of the time, resolutions arrive at the deadline Chairs give (e.g. 70% of resolutions arrive at the 11AM deadline, with only one hour to format the resolutions). If you are rushing to meet a deadline, take care to format these essential components correctly:

   The header [FORUM:, QUESTION OF:, SUBMITTED BY:, and committee name e.g. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY] should be correct. This is the first thing everyone reading a resolution sees, so it needs to be done correctly in order for the format to be clear. Be mindful that the topic and submitter’s delegation are done correctly. Remember that there are no co-submitters on the header.

   Appropriate Preambulatory and Operative Clause terms must be included. Make sure that there are no amendments to “strike” a clause just because one of the terms are meant for the Advisory Panel/Security Council only. Do not repeat the terms without using additional words such as “further” or “strongly.” Only one period should be in the whole entire resolution. This is the first rule of resolution writing that MUN delegates learn, so periods scattered around the resolution can be very distracting.

   Numbering is the messiest part of formatting, especially with the clauses, sub-clauses, and sub-sub clauses. More specific formatting will be explained later, but if you do the numbering in a rush, the key is to be consistent in the way that you align numerals on the page.

   Content is important: make sure there are no vulgar words, inappropriate acronyms, or solutions that might be offensive to other nations or conference participants.

   Font is important as well – Times New Roman size 10 with 1.0 spacing is standard. Make sure that Preambulatory Clause terms are italicized and Operative Clause terms are underlined.

3. Be sure to add the finer, more detailed formatting.
   The other aspect of formatting includes the finer details, such as (but not limited to):
   - Semi-colons separating operative clauses
   - Colons separating Operative Clauses and Sub-clauses/Sub-sub-clauses
   - Writing phrases out before adding an acronym (e.g. United Nations would be listed in its full form prior to using UN as an acronym).
   - The lack of a comma after each sub-clause (new formatting rules)
   - First letters of sub-clauses and sub-sub clauses not capitalized
   - Operative Clause numbers align with Preambulatory Clauses
   - Hanging and indents

4. Remember the hangings and indents.

If you are well versed with Microsoft Word, we can number clauses, sub-clauses, and sub-sub-clauses using indents and hanging:

Clauses: 0 indentation, 0.63 hanging
Sub-Clauses: 1.37cm indentation to the left, 0.63 hanging
Sub-Sub Clauses: 2.54cm indentation to the left, 0.63 hanging

With all of these tips, you should be able to quickly format a resolution into good shape. Keep in mind that thorough formatting impresses your fellow delegates and dais, and it will set a precedent for your future writing!
The Diplomatic Lens

The THIMUN 2015 Arabic Commitee: From Vision to Success

By Nabila Gasser

Trepidation filled the hall as its entrants slowly filled it. With the sound of three clear strikes of the Chair's gavel and the words, "Honorable delegates, please come to order", the first-ever international committee to be held in Modern Standard Arabic at THIMUN 2015 officially began its history-making conference.

At first sight, the delegates sitting behind the Arabic placards appeared anticipatory, slightly nervous, and seemingly unprepared. Upon the announcement of the topics under discussion, the first delegate slowly walked up to the podium to present his opening speech. And it was at that point that every expectation and every prior assumption was shattered. The first delegate began addressing the committee in official standard Arabic while seamlessly and animatedly presenting his delegation's stance on the critical issues at hand. As the other delegates followed, one after the other, the entire energy in the room suddenly changed tone. Animation and liveliness built up with every new completed speech and every rebuttal. Trepidation was replaced with contagious empowerment, and it was soon made clear that this was going to be a conference to remember.

The topics on the agenda for the Arabic Regional Committee on The Middle East and North Africa were Methods of Promoting and Preserving Arabic Language, The Question of Syria, and The Role of Religious Organizations in the Political Process. Those topics are undoubtedly thought-provoking to research and analyze from an Arab delegation's point of view. However, the added challenge of researching and debating them in Arabic language made the committee a framework where going the extra mile was an expected necessity, not just an added value.

Upon listening to these delegates' speeches, aside from the difference of Modern Standard Arabic language being used, a few things could be observed. First, these delegates were not speaking in a highly familiar language: they were pushing through the sentences and exerting energy to formulate new words when developing impromptu rebuttals or question responses. Second, the points made and complex conclusions reached in the speeches clearly show that these delegates had done their homework and came prepared. But what was further noticed was that with every new speech, each delegate was getting better, showing clear and remarkable improvement in their Arabic language public speaking and ease of speech formulation. The final observation, which dawned after spending time in the room, was that the unique setting and circumstances in which they had gathered created an equally unique spirit and environment that only crowned the best MUN experiences. It was an unspoken camaraderie and silent acknowledgement of sharing an uphill climb that could only be appreciated by its participants. During lobbying, delegates were actually helping each other, and during breaks, they were still discussing the issues in their own language.

When investigating the extra challenges these exceptional delegates had encountered to successfully participate in this committee, their shared compassion became understandable. Even as Arab students, official Standard Arabic is not a language most are easily proficient at. At best, it is a second language that comes after one's native dialect, or, in most cases, it is a third or fourth language that comes after English or other foreign languages. The delegates of Arabic MUN, had undergone a process that started with researching the topics in Arabic and included analyzing, debating, and openly resolving them, all in a language that was not their native tongue. However, surely enough, despite any added efforts that accompanied Arabic MUN, the THIMUN Arabic committee delegates prepared and debated five detailed and solution-targeted resolutions, four of which successfully passed, after three days of intense debates on differing delegations' views on the topics. On the third day, one of the delegates said, "By now, I feel like I could do English MUN with my eyes closed."

With the last vote on the final resolution set forth by the committee, the first international Arabic committee came to an end. The delegates stepped forth one by one to receive their certificates from the chairs, and with a final clap and thank you, the 2015 conference was over. Yet, for the international Arabic program, much is yet to be discovered, and a big journey still lies ahead. On that note, I will say this. Out of all of my convictions, I believe in nothing more than the power of MUN to develop one's talent and change a person's life. My MUN journey is one that I am truly proud of. But the truth is that after working with the Arabic Program, I found that this experience created a new meaning to the concept of inspiration from MUN.

The THIMUN 2015 Arabic conference was like witnessing wonder. In it, I saw no ordinary forum and realized that participants were not ordinary delegates. They were delegates who chose to take a leap of faith, travel from within and outside the country to a committee that had never existed before, and do MUN in a language in which they were not confident, simply because they were seeking an experience they knew had no match anywhere else. I will never forget the delegates who got up and spoke after much fear and shyness, those who improved massively with every new speech, and those who started as good and became great. These delegates have the courage to do what I could not do at their age: to stand up against the prevailing social norm that exists everywhere around them and at most international schools in the Arab world, which is actually publicly and confidently using Arabic Language. Their words are why I continue to believe in MUN. This is what some of them had to say:

Salma Khaled: “On the first day, I was scared I would fall over then someone would ask me something I wouldn’t understand. But when I saw the other delegates were so passionate, I no longer cared about how strong my language was - I just wanted to debate! THIMUN Arabic changed my mindset in such a positive way. It allowed me to discuss local issues in my mother tongue and was such a rewarding, interesting experience that I am proud to have participated in.”

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Mohammed Omer: "The idea of a new Arabic committee seemed like a challenge to me at first. But after trying it, I found Arabic MUN is all about hard work and not giving up when you do not find the information you need. I am proud to have been in the first THIMUN Arabic committee. Now, as I sit down and reflect, I know this is a memory that will forever exist in my mind, heart, and soul."

Mariam El-Sheikh: "When I first joined MUN, I was aiming to gain a qualification that all colleges appreciated, but as I learned more about the Arabic program, I simply fell in love with it. MUN isn’t just a reference to put on your application form; it is a style of living that maximizes the best in THIMUN’s student-centered philosophy of active student leadership. ‘Empowering today’s youth…shaping tomorrow’s leaders’"

Abdulrahman Khalil: "I was at first a little scared of joining an Arabic MUN conference, as it was different from my previous MUN experiences. But, as I knew I would be setting the road for other students in the Middle East and all over the world, I applied. I was surprised at how good the other delegates were at debating in Arabic and at discussing the issues, and this helped me learn more. I got to know students from different Arab countries and can honestly say that this was one of the best MUN experiences I ever had.”

Moath Khalil: “To me, Arabic MUN was more than just a three-day conference. I believe this was an experience that changes you as a person. It is a form of empowerment that enables confidence building and skill development, be it public speaking, analysis, or debating skills. Though I had heard about many initiatives to support the promotion of Arabic language, I believe this one, which allows students to become leaders in their schools and make a real change, is what we need for societal development today. This experience was amazing in every sense of the word and one that no-one should ever miss.”

The future of the Arabic program is one that will depend primarily and solely on the support it receives from those who believe in the value of its mission, be it student officers, delegates, program supporters, school boards, or the media. The THIMUN Arabic MUN Program participants are young leaders who truly possess the capability of changing the future by influencing others and taking active steps in leading a positive social change through MUN, the most powerful youth leadership development platform out there. Can you do the same?