Announcements

OMUN Debates

• Security Council: Role of women promoting peace and security. Lobbying- 9/3, Debate- 10/4
• General Assembly 2: The question of volatile food prices and its effect on vulnerable urban populations- 10/10
• Human Rights Council: Assistant to refugees, returners, and displaced persons- 10/17
• Advisory Panel on the Questions of ASEAN: Question of the One Market Economy- 10/24

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QLC2015 Just Around the Corner

By Razan Kalhout, Secretary General

There is less than a month left until the Qatar Leadership Conference begins! We’re excited, and we hope you are too! Our schedule for QLC is busy and eventful, we have the strongest presenter line-up QLC has ever seen. Are you going to go see Oliver Percovich, founder of Skateistan, or are you going to see Ali Abu Awwad, Palestinian peace activist? How do you decide whether to go see a humanitarian who has devoted his life to working with Bangkok’s destitute, or QLC returning speaker, Peter Dalglish? Our featured presenters from abroad as well, like Abdullah Al Shackarchi, a student at the University of Surrey, who’s going to be presenting “Documentary Filmmaking: Impact and How to Get Started” alongside a local presenter from Carnegie Mellon University Ibrahim Soltan. Maybe you want to be involved in the Tech team at MUN, then go to Abdullah’s workshop “Student Driven Technology in MUN”. We’re also bringing in Yousef Ramzy and Ahmed Al Agha, from the American University of Cairo, who’ll be presenting “Filmmaking: Video Production - The Technical Side” and “Photography and Video for MUN Press Teams (with a special QLC project too)”.

We’ve also recently chosen some of our local presenters, like Qatari filmmaker and writer Hamida Al Kuwari, she’s going to be presenting “Sincere Storytelling”. You might not be interested in filmmaking, but you could be wanting some insight into the paradox of college applications, then you’ll want to gossee “Essays for Applications” with college counselor Jaime Peterson.

If you don’t like hearing adults talk a lot, that’s okay! Your own peers will be offering you something to better yourself. For example you’ve got Tartelle Eltigani and Abdullah Naji presenting “MUN 101: The Power of Persuasion”, a workshop that’ll circle the process of being a delegate - what do YOU need to do to shine at MUN. If you’re already an experienced MUN delegate, then attend “Financial Crisis of 2008” with Emad Iqbal. There’s something interesting for you - hear the facts from a year 12 student at DohaCollege!

We’ve got a myriad of schools registered for QLC this year, so you’ll leave with new friends, and an insight into different cultures and personas. We can’t wait to inspire all of our participants, and to bring out the leaders within you. We believe that everyone who enters QLC is capable of leading worthwhile initiatives, and with the workshops we’re offering, you’ll be better equipped to take charge and lead others to a better future.
Student Spotlight!

Name: William Stowe

Grade: 10th grade

School/Country:
American International School of Dhaka, Bangladesh

Three words that describe you as a delegate:
Passionate, confident and articulate

Favourite Comfort Food:
Donuts...Donuts make everything okay

Pet Peeves:
Grammar Nazis!!!

Personal MUN goal:
My personal MUN Goal for this year is to improve my impromptu speaking skills. When people ask me questions, I often take forever to find my mouths, then I say something stupid, and then I realize what I should have said—something that would have sounded smarter.

Name: Neha Rathi

Grade: 11

School/Country:
Dubai International Academy, United Arab Emirates

Current MUN Leadership Positions:
Under Secretary General OMUN United Arab Emirates 2015-2016, Executive President for DIAMUN 2016

Three words that describe you as a delegate:
Passionate, confident and articulate

Favourite Comfort Food:
Gajar ka halwa (Indian dessert)

Dream vacation:
A cruise around the world

One major improvement you'd like to see in Model UN:
No matter how cliché this sounds, MUN transforms the lives of everyone who steps in. Two years ago, I couldn't imagine being where I am right now. However as a pretty active delegate, I've always wanted the right to "Follow-up" to a Point of information. Even as a chair, I feel terrible denying a delegate of that motion as it plays a huge role in determining a delegate who just reads of his notes and one who knows his notes.

Name: Ahmed El-Halwagy

Grade: 11

School/Country:
Hayah International Academy, Cairo Egypt

Current MUN Leadership positions:
President of General Assembly 1: Disarmament and International Security in the upcoming HIA-MUN'16.

Favorite Comfort Food:
Pizza.

Dream Vacation:
A yearlong tour to explore the beauty of Africa and Asia.

Personal MUN Goal:
My personal MUN Goal for this year is to improve my impromptu speaking skills. When people ask me questions, I often take forever to find my mouths, then I say something stupid, and then I realize what I should have said—something that would have sounded smarter.

Name: Yengkhom Hojai Ningtam

Grade: 12

School/Country:
Delhi Public School - Modern Indian School/ India

Three words that describe you as a delegate:
A Developer, Agile, Comprehensive

Favorite Comfort Food:
Garlic Tomato Prawns

Favorite thing to do when you don't have homework:
Make Music on DAW (Digital Audio Workstation)

Dream vacation:
A complete 2 month tour of India

Pet Peeve:
Sudden temperature changes.

One major improvement you'd like to see in Model UN:
Fair time allotment for all discussions and resolutions.

Personal MUN Goal for the year:
To win my case as an advocate in the upcoming THIMUN Qatar 2016. In addition, to run a perfectly organized forum in the upcoming HIAMUN’16. One of my great interests is to see delegates more engaged in MUN conferences that use the native language of the country where the conference is being held.
The BPS MUN- Far from a concept By BPS MUN Coordinators

By Nandini and Siddharth

Close to the heels of DCMUN VII and amazed by how effectively the students of Doha College organized a two day conference at their school, Siddharth Gurla and Aranya Nandi voiced their thoughts about organizing an MUN in Birla Public School. They were ably supported by Nandini Nair, Kalyani Menon, Anurag Srivastava, Baibhav Panda, Sreeraj Marar and Viraj Kumar. For people who had only been to just 3 MUN conferences in their life, this seemed to be a Herculean task. However, as their plans unfolded, they began to realize that with hard work and dedication, Birla Public School Model United Nations could well become a reality.

They started out by talking to Vice Principal, Mr. George Edison, who, without any hesitation, consented to the idea. A few weeks later, they were informed that Ms. Lisa Martin, head of THIMUN Qatar and founder of Online Model United Nations would be visiting their school to talk to them about the delights of attending and organizing an MUN conference. They were glad to have had an opportunity to meet her and witness an absolutely brilliant speech she gave about MUN-ing. It definitely boosted their passion to organize an MUN conference at their school.

The next task was to let their classmates and juniors know. A group of them started collecting names of interested students from 9th grade upwards. By the end of this process they had an overwhelming number of 100 plus names on their list!

Buzzing with excitement and elated at the interest shown by the students, they set out to decide the agenda for the first meeting. E-mails were sent out to all the students notifying them that a training session would be held, after which there would be a one-hour debate to put what was learnt into action!

The training sessions were quite successful in giving those first timers, an insight into what MUNs are and how they should be made use of. Nandini was given the task of recruiting the admin staff. They had a media team as well led by Mohammed Ali Faisal, who documented the whole process.

Two meetings and numerous training sessions later; Aranya and Siddharth, boosted by the interest shown by the school came up with an idea to organize a full fledged two-day inter-school MUN conference at their school during the third week of December!

As of now, preparations are in full swing for the conference. Hopefully, Birla Public School will see many other schools in December for a bang-on MUN debut!
DIAMUN 2016

By: Sara Atassi, Renessa Tahilramani and Neha Rathi DIAMUN Executive

Less than a decade ago, DIAMUN was simply an idea. But today, it is one of the leading conferences in the Middle East attracting over 52 schools from all over Asia, Africa, Europe and America. The aim of the conference is to provide a platform for delegates to discuss, collaborate and formulate solutions to combat worldwide issues. It is a unique conference to engage in challenging debates over economic, social and political issues serving as a gateway to develop and inculcate essential skills such as public speaking, writing, researching, consensus building and conflict resolving skills.

This year, DIAMUN 2016 will be hosting its first ever Special Committee in Arabic. It will be inclusive of both Arab and Non-Arab member states, however the committee will be run strictly in Arabic, inclusive of all resolutions and speeches. This committee will be an excellent opportunity for native Arabic speakers who wish to partake in DIAMUN, but lack strong English speaking skills. The Special Committee in Arabic aims to bring together Arabic speakers and honour the United Arab Emirates through language. The topics to be discussed in the DIAMUN 2016 committee will be:

1) Developing measures to increase job opportunities for women in the MENA region in order to increase economic inclusion.
2) Measures to provide women with equal access to education and ensure the development and provision of support for their higher education, with focus on the MENA region.
3) Understanding the challenges and disadvantages faced by women in refugee camps as a result of the Arab Spring, addressing measures through which this can be combatted and their needs can be fulfilled.

The committee was initiated by the Executive Team of DIAMUN 2016 and will be chaired by the President, Sara Atassi and co-chaired by DIA students Karim Ali and Hana Irro. The chairs and delegates will be trained in the protocol of the committee in preparation for the conference. We encourage any and all Arabic speakers to join the committee regardless of skill level in the Arabic language for a unique, beneficial and memorable experience. Positions as delegate are open.

The link to register online for DIAMUN is: http://diamun.org/2016/onlineregistration

New Delegate Focus

Name: Goushique Jonathan Pragash
City/Country: Batticaloa, eastern Sri Lanka
Number of brothers/sisters: 1 sister
A little bit of information about parents if desired:
Dad is the Assistant Registrar in the Eastern University, Sri Lanka. My mom works as the Nursing Officer in the Teaching Hospital Batticaloa
Grade in school: Edexcel AS
Favorite subject in school: ICT
Favorite activity to do in free time: Composing music
Some interesting fact or two about yourself:
I love learning about smart stuff, like phones, tabs, etc. I am a member in the Android Central so I help others to repair phones and stuff via the Internet.
Thoughts about MUN:
MUN is an international club so being a member is a golden opportunity. So being a MUN member is a great privilege being recognized internationally.
What have you learned?:
I've learned a lot about the UN, its international influence, and the help it has done in keeping the international peace stable. This was very interesting to learn.
What is the most difficult/most fun about learning MUN:
The most difficult thing about MUN is keeping up the courage to speak without stage fear and to express personal views about MUN had been easy.
Thoughts about your future participation in MUN:
It will be great if I can participate in the future programs of MUN.
sent him back to his committee. At the end of the day he had not only manged to make his voice heard, he was a main submitter with a winning resolution. The smile on his face!

**Open Forum:** MUN intimidates most people. It certainly intimidated me the first time I turned up to THIMUN 2012 as a chaperone! As a novice to MUN my learning curve was steep, not only in getting my head around the procedures, but also in appreciating the use of MUN. In my first conference, I saw delegates reduced to tears by others demolishing their clauses, and I saw timid delegates shying into corners, wishing they could speak up but paralyzed with fear. I heard words bandied around like ‘caucus’, and ‘quorum’ and felt completely...baffled. Why were hundreds of students flying in from around the world for this? I couldn't follow the structure, and I didn't understand how the delegates seemed to know what they were doing!

By my second conference, I had begun to understand. I began to see what is so crystal clear to me now; that actually, after working as an educator for 10 years, I felt that I had finally found the medium with which to best develop that elusive quality, ‘critical thinking’. The holy grail of education! Ownership! Research skills! Students spending hours and hours happily researching foreign policy and drafting clause after clause! Practicing speaking skills in front of a mirror (yes, I know you do this delegates)! Confidence, accountability, responsibility, global awareness and team work!! I can feel a little teacherly shiver running through me as I saw all this and so much more coming through out of MUN delegates.

My learning curve is still continuing, and I am now looking to find out, what do other teachers think of how MUN affects their students? How do parents feel about their children being and MUN Director: Trying to wedge in a social life!

**Three things you wish parents or students understood about MUN:**
1. Most of the delegates you meet are just as nervous as you are. Smile, shake hands and ask them if they know which bathrooms have the windows that can easily be popped open in case of an emergency exit.
2. Every conference is a unique crystal made up of all the delegates in attendance. Standardization is an ugly myth, and comparing one conference to another is foolish and will blind you to the merits of the conference, the discussion, or the delegate in front of you. Never be dismissive and always listen more than you speak.
3. Each conference is only as good as your Leadership Team, particularly the Admin and Tech teams. Trust them.

**Most memorable MUN moment:**
In MISMUN’s first conference, we had a year 7 delegate who came to me, distressed, saying that the older students were disregarding his input because of his age. After a brief and calming discussion, I

**Name:** Naomi Rennicks

**School:** Park House English School, Qatar

**Number of Years Being an MUN Director:** I’m embarking on my fifth

**Conferences Attended:** All QLC, THIMUN, DCMUN and DCMUN ODTC conferences over the last 3 years.

**Idea of a dream vacation:** Someplace with hot weather, steeped in History and culture that offers a chance to learn something new and challenges my limits! I’ve a long wish list but maybe Colombia or India or...

**Biggest pet peeve:** People being rude or disrespectful to workers in the service industry

**Animal Lover?** Allergic to cats! Dogs are better company!

**Biggest challenge juggling teaching and being MUN Director:**
TIME! The delegates are fantastic and the Executive Team at Park House is exceptional but the time needed to run MUN is very demanding especially when teaching a full timetable.

**Three things you wish parents or students understood about MUN:**

1) **Identity -** students learn to respect and empathise with different perspectives, cultures, and nationalities and through understanding the world they find their own identity instead of simply accepting at face value what is passed from the previous generation.
2) **Invaluable skills -** research skills, public speaking, resolution writing, discipline and patience.
3) **Global responsibility -** MUN helps delegates gain a better understanding of how the actions of some can affect others. They learn how to become more responsible global citizens.

**Most memorable MUN moment:**
My most memorable MUN moment is Christopher Nasrawi’s interview for a position on the THIMUN Qatar Executive Team for 2016. Starting MUN Christopher was the most nervous public speaker I have ever seen. For years he battled his nerves and worked hard to be prepared for conferences building his skills to Security Council standard. In that interview I was blown away by his maturity and vision and was proud to have him as Park House’s Secretary General and now the President of the General Secretary for THIMUN Qatar 2016.
Three years of happiness, joy, motivation, empowerment and awareness. These five descriptions adequately portray my three year experience with THIMUN Qatar. The organization has helped me in various aspects in life as before I even joined MUN, I was dumb founded to what was happening around me. Today, THIMUN has made me an international citizen who is truly engaged in every humanitarian and security issue. Unded in 2011, THIMUN Qatar is known for prominently supporting the youth across the Middle East. Thanks to THIMUN Qatar, ideas have been formed, significant global issues such as the Syrian Crisis have been discussed and voices have been heard. Before my first conference in 2013, I barely had any confidence to go up to a podium and speak but with the support of my mentors and colleagues, it became possible. After my first conference in January 2013, I went on to be a main submitter on four consecutive occasions and they were all passed with overwhelming majorities. Before going to my first THIMUN Qatar conference in 2013, I was still undecided on what I want to be in the future and where. However, that all changed when I participated as it was through MUN in general and THIMUN Qatar in specific where I discovered my true passion: Global affairs and sociology. Today, I am a student at the American University of Beirut which is recognized as one of the region's most participating and enthusiastic (student wise) in current Middle Eastern and Lebanese affairs. Besides my sixth form grades and parental motivation, THIMUN Qatar did play a notable role in me choosing AUB. I hope to develop my leadership skills even more and further expand my knowledge on different cultures and affairs.

The people behind my enjoyment are countless as I've met hundreds of people from different countries and cultures, however; there are always particular people who made it an exceptional experience. Firstly, Mrs. Sinclair of Qatar International School – my MUN coordinator provided the club and I with unconditional love and support. She handled everything in the most professional manner and always guided us in the right path. QIS was always known for its commitment to MUN and its constant success at major conferences and without Mrs. Sinclair, that wouldn't have been possible. I wish her the best of luck in her future in all aspects.

Another person I'd love to thank is Mrs. Lisa Martin- head of THIMUN Qatar-. Mrs. Martin gave me the opportunity to participate in a life changing project: The THIMUN Qatar Afghanistan Initiative. It was back in Qatar Leadership Conference where Mrs. Martin introduced herself to the Qatar MUN society and it was through that conference where Mrs. Martin offered the hundreds attending the conference to participate in the Afghanistan project and without hesitation, I signed up. Thankfully I was chosen to be part of it and frankly, it was an amazing experience.

Continued on Page 9
OMUN Comes to the Eastern Province

By THIMUN Qatar

Entering the cold, air-conditioned room in the IT labs seemed like heaven in the humid weather of Eravur. The QA Action team was met with giggles and greetings from 20 students who were excited. I think we were more nervous then the students were when we started introducing ourselves.

We started off with a game called fruits or vegetables as they were quite shy. Each student was designated a fruit or vegetable. They had to form a group and write down the names of the fruit and vegetables of their team members. They were then told to collaborate and write down the instructions of making a salad with the members’ fruits and vegetables. The room got louder with suggestions, and improvements being made and when Ms. Lisa announced that they had to put their pens down, there were still some students writing. The biggest struggle for them was deciding on the name of their salads as they took three minutes, thinking hard and blurting out ideas only to say another name. Eventually, we had to count them down to one choice.

Then Ms. Lisa asked for one representative from each team to stand up and read out their instructions, which made choosing a name seem relatively easy. The students giggled nervously, trying to pass the job to another team member while some teams had volunteers. There was quite some pressure on the first representative to say their instructions but after the first team went, the other teams started volunteering to go next as they were excited.

This game eased the idea of an MUN resolution and a quick preview of a Model United Nations (MUN) conference while also allowing students to interact with students outside of their close circle. It promoted collaboration and consideration, which are important characteristics of a MUN conference. Furthermore, we informed them of Online MUN (OMUN), created by Ms. Lisa Martin, which gave them the opportunity to practice their MUN skills and experience first hand how a conference might operate.

Knowledge was meant to be spread and we had the honor and privilege of being able to give what we have been given, making this a truly an unforgettable experience.
OMUN Qatar Launches Successful Debate

By Ronishka Sabu Deputy Head of Press and Social Media

OMUN Qatar had its humble beginnings back in May 2015. Since its inception, OMUN Qatar has been successful in developing a unique online debating platform, open to all aspiring high school students who wish to discuss the paramount issues and arrive at pragmatic solutions. OMUN Qatar provides a podium to discuss all the pressing issues of the world within the comforts of home. Easy to access virtual classrooms, and an integrated network of social media and free online programs, create the online debate’s universe. The mission of OMUN Qatar is to empower young minds all over Qatar to act as leaders and connect with people who are different from them.

OMUN Qatar had its 4th efficacious debate on 26th September 26, 2015. The delegates saw themselves debating on the clamant issue based on the laws governing consumer drones. There were a total of 25 participants including the officers and the head of THIMUN. The main submitter clearly delineated as to what has to be done regarding this issue. The delegates engaged themselves in a fruitful debate, speaking for or against the resolution, suggesting amendments and posing witty points of information. With an overwhelming majority, the resolution was passed. The General Assembly debate brought welcome and surprising endorsement of the laws governing the consumer drones.

It is clear from the debate that there is a new opportunity to move past defining the norm and toward implementation of the very concrete promise to enforce these laws. As reflected above, many constructive proposals were made by the delegates and now a reinvigorated community of supporters of the resolution will need to work out a plan of action for the years ahead. The Head of THIMUN, Ms. Lisa Martin congratulated everyone for their active and creditable performance.

OMUN Qatar also appointed a new batch of leaders for its next session. The leadership team comprises of Yash Mathne(Secretary General), Sai Samrit(Deputy Secretary General), Ganesh Kumar(National Liaison), Sanskriti Tandon(Deputy National Liaison), Sreeparna Bose(Head of Press and Social Media), Ronishka Sabu(Deputy Head of Press and Social Media), Sutanaka Sujaini(School Outreach) and Aaranya Dev Barman(School Outreach-Internal).

The team, headed by Ms. Lisa Martin, has worked effortlessly to make the debates as fruitful and engaging as possible. OMUN Qatar will be having its next challenging debate on the 24th of October. Come join us for an incredible debate experience!
HELA invited to attend NGO Gathering

By THIMUN Qatar

On Wednesday Mohammadm Bilal Mirbatzai, Finance Director of Hope for Education and Leadership in Afghanistan (HELA), attended a seminar for NGOs which was held in the Continental Hotel. The event was hosted by Counterpart International. About 30 people from about 30 different organizations were invited to the conference and Bilal attended on behalf of the HELA organization.

Participants at the seminar came along to find solutions to how to stabilize an organization financially and also how to develop a new organization. This seminar lasted the entire day and all the attendants tried to find ways and solutions to help new NGOs.

Bilal stated “I felt very happy because I meet with lots of CEOs from NGOs and shared ideas. We participated in discussions about the problems of how to establish NGOs and the steps of making NGOs. There are problems that we talked about why they (officials) take money (bribes) when you are going to start work or register your NGO. Overall it was a great time and lots of people were interested in our NGO when I said we were working in MUN, OMUN, and film making projects.”

It was a big honor that in such a big Seminar that HELA was invited. We are looking forward to taking part in such Seminars. This provides many opportunities for our members, students and even to other organizations for youth!

Continuation of Page 6, Farewell and Good Luck!

Throughout the years, media has portrayed Afghanistan as a country of war informally dominated by terrorist groups and underdevelopment. However, it never revealed the face of its youth who have massive potential in education and expression. By November 2014, my team and I began working with five Afghan students along with UN Habitat representative in Afghanistan: The Canadian humanitarian Peter Dalglish through the program Blackboard Collaborative. At first, they were hesitant and lost when it came to formal debating but within two months, they learned how to do so and came to participate in THIMUN Qatar as the first ever Afghan student delegation from Kabul. Their participation was breathtaking. They showed over a 1500 students what the media didn’t. Today, a formal MUN club has been established in Kabul, Afghanistan and it is officially recognized as an NGO. I can’t be more proud to what my team and I have contributed to starting in Afghanistan.

Last but not least is Ola Al Tai, THIMUN Qatar 2016’s Deputy Secretary General and a friend who means a lot to me. Taking full charge of the MUN club at QIS in 2014 as the Secretary General, Ola has always supported us to do our best in conferences. As a friend (and also part of the Afghanistan Initiative team), Ola never failed to put a smile on my face in the last academic year even during my hardships. Our friendship came out of competition and team work at the same time as I served as the vice secretary general of the MUN club in QIS. Her passion to Model United Nations is extraordinary and her loving character brings a smile to everyone. I’m confident that THIMUN Qatar will be something else with her as DSG.

There are a lot of things that made me enjoy my MUN experience in general in Qatar but this article would sum it up. I wish everyone who I’ve worked with over the past three years the best of luck in their academic future. If I were to give a general advice on joining MUN, I could write a full book but to sum it up by looking at current events in the Middle East; I would say that MUN helps you in solving issues in a more professional, mature and intellectual manner rather than violence and taking such issues as a personal matter that could ruin society relationships. More importantly, I would also say that MUN helps get rid of stereotypes and promotes friendship and acceptance.
Dear fellow intellectuals,

Bahrain Bayan School is pleased to announce its 8th annual Model United Nations Conference (BayMUN VIII)! It is to be held on the 27th and 28th of November at our campus. The attendance of international students would be mutually benefited, since an environment as such is considered perfect for unique social experiences to thrive.

BayMUN is affiliated by The Hague International Model United Nations (THIMUN), making it one of the few conferences in the Arabian Gulf and the first in the Kingdom of Bahrain. The infamous event hosted nearly 500 participants that partook in creating fruitful debates, competitive resolutions, and friendly interactions. The event, located in the pearl of the gulf, is not only open to the ideas of different cultures and beliefs — but encourages it. Just as how The United Nations provides arguments carried by different countries and mindsets, a goal for our conference is to do the same in order to obtain a more parallel model. Moreover, aside from the intellectual growth that all parties will receive, it will be our objective to make our visitors feel warmly welcomed. Our conference is just as entertaining as it is strict. We promise you to never have a dull or alienating moment.

With a firm link to a trusted travel agency, several packages will be set as choices. A package would involve accommodation, transport, and optional tourist activities. Leaving home is challenging just as it is exciting. We will do whatever we can to make your visit joyful and free of worry.

To register please visit our website (www.bayanmun.com) and fill out the first registration form available which concerns only the MUN director of the school itself. Once this is accomplished, our team shall send another form for students. The last day for registration is October 25th and the last day for payment is October 31st.

Be sure to forward this email to the relevant personnel in charge. If you have any questions, please feel free to email us, visit our website, or contact us using any of the information provided on our website.

Regards,
The BayMUN team
Write for the Olive Branch!

Submit articles by the 1st of the month.

Email thimunqblog@gmail.com for more information