



THE OLIVE BRANCH

MODEL UNITED NATIONS NEWSLETTER



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ONLINE EDITION

Conference Calendar

MUN Conferences:

2/3-2/6, 2015
THIMUN Qatar

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

1/25-1/30
THIMUN Hague

Online MUN:
12/6-12/7
Special Conference

12/13
Global Debate

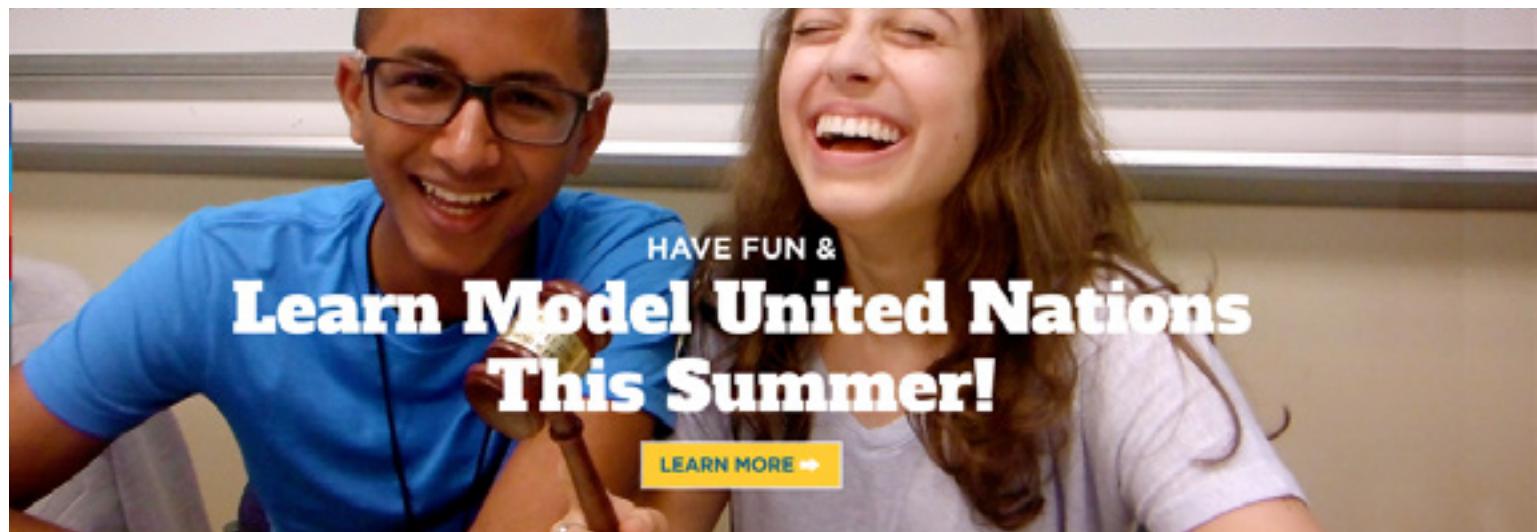
1/11
Asia Regional

12/18-12/19
jr. O-MUN

12/21
Advisory Panel

1/24
Middle East & Africa Regional

Introducing the Model United Nations Institute



At Best Delegate, we are passionate about Model United Nations. Today, we are proud to announce the Summer 2015 dates of our Model United Nations training programs!

The Model United Nations Institute by Best Delegate features high-quality educational programs designed to prepare

future leaders through Model United Nations. Our programs help students learn international politics and diplomacy, improve their leadership and communication skills, and join a passionate global community of future leaders.

We offer programs for high school and middle school

students of all MUN experience levels, from no prior experience to the most advanced delegates. Our programs are offered all summer at world-class universities, including Harvard, Columbia, Georgetown, UC Berkeley, and UCLA. And the MUN Institute is taught by a passionate team of professional

educators and the Diplomacy Fellows — the best delegates in college-level MUN.

Learn more about the MUN Institute on our new website - mun.bestdelegate.com. Also, follow us on Facebook and Twitter!

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O-Mun Receives World Summit Youth Award

On 13th November of this year, Online Model United Nations became the proud recipient of the World Summit Youth Award. The determination and tenacity of its delegates and its Executive Team had led it to winning one of the most prestigious awards for Information and Communications Technology (ICT) development in the world. The World Summit Youth Award competition is a project of the United Nations Millennium Campaign and brings together young developers and digital entrepreneurs under 30 years of age who use internet and mobile technology to put the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) into action and make a difference.

Over the last few months, a large international jury of social activists, young entrepreneurs, UN officials, businessmen, and ICT experts evaluated over 1896 submissions, across six different categories, from 138 UN member states. O-MUN emerged as one of the three victors in its category, likely in part because of its uniqueness. Amidst projects which aim to use the power of the internet to "redefine wealth and social welfare" and others which seek to "tackle the interrelated problems of hunger and waste" stands Online Model UN, a completely student-run organization with the potential of having an impact anywhere in the world that deals with the largest demographic in the world: youth. It is due to this distinction that the award has been very fitting for this organization, for it propagates, across every level of its organization, the idea of harnessing the power of the youth to change the world.

While many of the other recipients perform commendable work to further the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), their focus is generally narrowed down to a particular MDG. Online Model United Nations, on the other hand, serves as an organization working towards the fulfillment of every MDG of the United Nations. Through numerous debates and discussions, all held in an online environment, O-MUN does a job which very few organizations can do. It teaches young minds about the world's problems and the UN's goals, motivating them to take action and create a better world.

It is perhaps for this reason that O-MUN has been awarded with such a prestigious prize and been invited at the Winner's Event at Brazil. There, O-MUN representatives will have the opportunity to meet other social entrepreneurs, business leaders, representatives from international organizations, and government officials as well as get the chance to present their project to an international audience, gaining valuable support and a brilliant platform.

It is my hope that this event will enable the uniqueness and value of O-MUN to be recognized even further, this time by the UN itself, and enable it to cater to a wider body of potential leaders. Brazil's Winners Event holds new and great opportunities for this organization, and I am confident that it will be able to make use of them all.

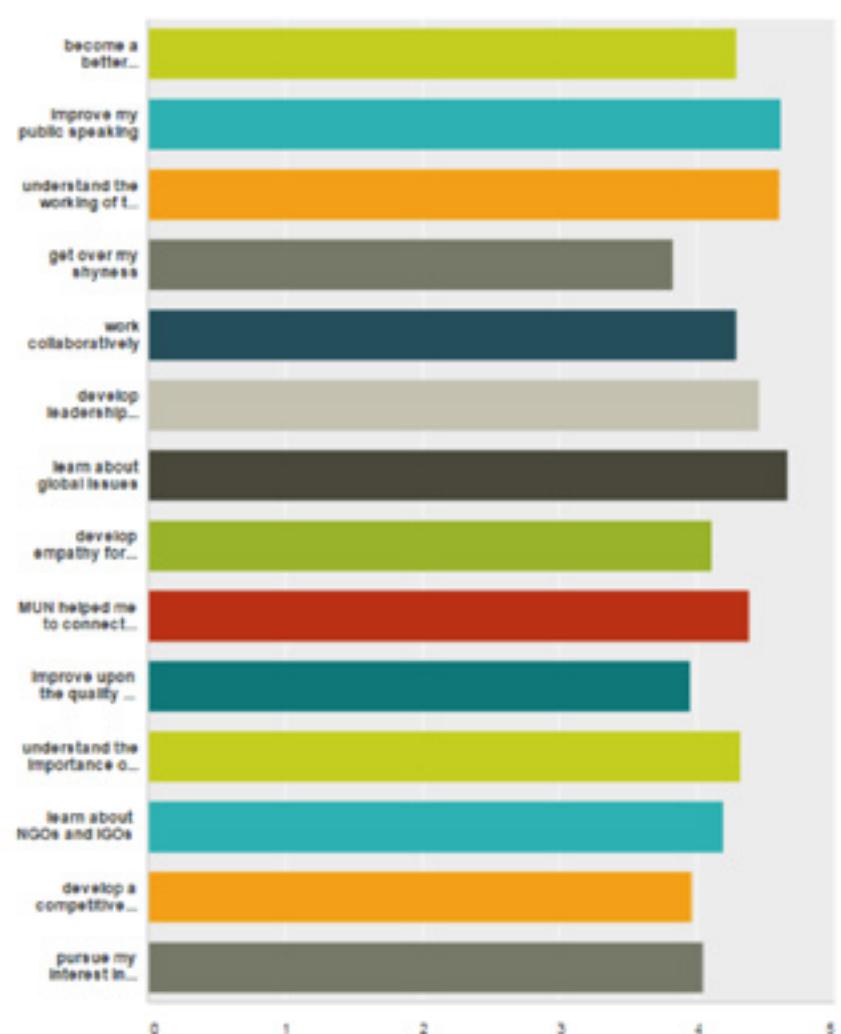
Find more information about the Youth Award at <http://youthaward.org/winners/>
online-model-united-nations

- Zohaib Ahmed

The Results Are In: Impactful, Life Changing and Improvable

Participation in Model United Nations helped me to...

Answered: 342 Skipped: 545



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The Diplomatic Lens



THIMUN Qatar Proudly Presents:

The Regional Committee on the Middle East and North Africa

February 3-6, 2015

Doha, Qatar

This committee is the first-ever international Arabic committee to be held at THIMUN Qatar. Conference procedures will all be conducted in Modern Standard Arabic. The topics to be debated are:

- 1. Measures of Promoting Arabic Language and Culture
- 2. The Question of Syria
- 3. Religious Organizations' Effect on the Political Process

In addition to the THIMUN Qatar committee, other programs to help you develop Arabic MUN include:

- A one day Arabic MUN Conference, held on April 25th, 2015 at Qatar Academy
- Online MUN Arabic Conferences, held monthly, free of charge, starting November 1, 2014

Why Arabic MUN?

This unique initiative aims to make passionate MUNers and Arabic-speaking students learn, think, research, analyze, debate, and give speeches, all in Modern Standard Arabic. By joining the Arabic Committee, you can:

- Become a pioneer by participating in the development of a first-of-its-kind, international MUN program
- Take a practical step in strengthening your Arabic language

- Develop critical thinking skills around pressing political and economic issues in the region
- Develop MUN skills like research, debate, rules of procedure, speechmaking, public speaking, and resolution writing as they are all performed in Arabic
- Stand in the shoes of an Arab diplomat in order to gain a broader world vision
- Gain significantly-valuable qualification for college applications and career opportunities

Our Vision

The THIMUN Qatar Arabic MUN program aims to:

- Create a language of diplomacy between young Arabic-speaking delegates and leaders
- Expand the reach of Model United Nations to new, diverse students
- Assist in creating tomorrow's leaders
- Become the leading Arabic MUN conference destination worldwide.

Who are we looking for?

Strong Leaders who want to **develop diverse skills, gain experience** in Arabic MUN, **meet amazing people**, and **have a great time** in the process. We welcome first time and experienced MUN delegates. We welcome proficient and beginner Arabic speakers. However, the essential factor is a **desire to lead a change and become an influencer**.

ARE YOU UP FOR THE CHALLENGE? Then the Arabic MUN Program is the place for YOU!

Places are limited, so **APPLY NOW**. Send an application request to thimunqatar@qf.org.qa, and email nabila.lassar@onlinemodelun.org for any questions or assistance.

يفخر بتقديمي



اللجنة الإقليمية لقضايا الشرق الأوسط وشمال أفريقيا

٣ إلى ٦ فبراير ٢٠١٥، الدوحة، قطر

هذه اللجنة تعد أول لجنة إقليمية عربية في مؤتمر ثايمن العالمي لنماذج الأمم المتحدة. جميع الاجراءات تدار كلياً، باللغة العربية الفصحى. المواضيع المعروضة للنقاش هي:

- .1 الحفظ على اللغة والحضارة العربية وكيفية تمييزها
- .2 دور الجماعات الدينية في الوضع السياسي
- .3 القضية السورية

إلى جانب مؤتمر ثايمن، يمكنك المشاركة في نموذج الأمم المتحدة من خلال:

- مؤتمر يوم واحد في ٢١ أبريل، ٢٠١٥ في أكاديمية قطر.
- مؤتمرات اللجنة العربية في نموذج الأمم المتحدة أون لاين، تدار شهرياً، بدأً من نوفمبر ٢٠١٤

نموذج للأمم المتحدة باللغة العربية... لماذا؟!

تهدف هذه المبادرة المتميزة، إلى أن تدفع الشغوفين بمحاكاة الأمم المتحدة لتعلم كيفية التفكير، التحليل، البحث، النقاش، التعبير، القاء الخطابات، وكتابة القرار، باللغة العربية الفصحى. من خلال المشاركة في هذا البرنامج ستتمكن من أن:

- أن تصبح رائداً وتشترك في أول جلسة لمؤتمر عالمي ضخم، يعد الوحيد من نوعه حول العالم.
- أن تأخذ خطوة عملية إيجابية للتطور من لياقتك في اللغة العربية الفصحى، وتتفعّل بنفس التغيير في محيط حوك.
- تتمي قدرتك على التحليل النقدي خلال التفكير في قضايا سياسية واقتصادية هامة في المنطقة.
- تتمي جميع مهارات محاكاة الأمم المتحدة بشكل أقوى، لأن البحث، النقاش، إجراءات اللجنة، الخطابات وكتابة القرار يدارون باللغة العربية وفي محيط مختلف.
- الوقف في مركز دبلوماسي عربي والتفكير من وجهة نظره، وذلك سيعطيك نظرة أعمق، أشمل وأنضج للعالم من حولك.
- كسب مؤهل هام ومميز للتقديم على الجامعات أو في مستقبلك المهني.

رؤى وأهداف برنامج ثايمن قطر باللغة العربية:

- بناء وتعزيز لغة حوار دبلوماسية باستخدام اللغة العربية بين مندوبي وقائدين شباب.
- توسيع نطاق نماذج الأمم المتحدة لتضم شباباً ذوي خلفيات متعددة من حول العالم.
- أن نساهم في بناء قائد ورائد المستقبل.
- أن نصبح المصدر الرئيسي والوجهة الأولى لنماذج الأمم المتحدة باللغة العربية حول العالم.

على من يُحثّ؟

يبحث النموذج باللغة العربية على: قياديين، يريدون التطوير من مهارات متعددة، وتنمية خبرتهم في نموذج باللغة العربية، أثناء التعرف على أشخاص رائعين، والتمنع بتجربة لا مثيل لها حول العالم.

نرحب بأشخاص خبرتهم قصيرة أو طويلة في نماذج الأمم المتحدة. نرحب بأشخاص ماهرين أو مبتدئين في اللغة العربية الفصحى. لكن، الميزة الجوهرية التي نبحث عنها، هي الرغبة في القيادة، العزمية على النجاح، والأمل في التأثير في الآخرين.

هل أنت جاهز للتحدي؟

إذا، لا تفوّت فرصتك في هذه التجربة الفريدة، وقدم حالاً، للمشاركة في النموذج العالمي الأول للأمم المتحدة باللغة العربية.

أرسل طلب التقديم إلى: thimunqatar@qf.org.qa ، وراسل nabila.lassar@onlinemodelun.org لأي أسئلة أو مساعدة.



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A Leadership How-To: Three Pillars

Best delegates and gavel chasers are prevalent throughout the Model UN community. However, often times the definition of what an effective leader is unclear for delegates. Therefore, this post will focus on three aspects of effective leadership, which will focus on the importance of developing into a best delegate as opposed to a gavel chaser. The “Three Pillars” include: 1. They Treat Others Well, 2. They Are Treated Well by Others, and 3. They Treat Themselves Well. These Three Pillars will allow you to improve your communication skills, work more efficiently, and continually reflect upon your development as a leader.

Pillar I. Treat Others Well

A Best Delegate leads by example and works to empower others. People within Model UN committees are trying to represent their position to the best of their ability; a leader recognizes this, and instead of dominating

the committee conversation, they orchestrate it. When it comes down to it, Model UN boils down to positions, ideas, and compromise. Finding commonality between these three factors is the cornerstone of productivity. A productive delegate can cut to the core of the differing opinions argument and distinguish what they agree with and what they do not. Going one step further, a Best Delegate then figures out a way to highlight those similarities to push the group forward.

A lot of “gavel hunters” are so focused on winning an award that they forget the educational purpose of Model UN is to learn about leadership, diplomacy, and international relations. This means that a Best Delegate is primarily concerned about producing a quality product with their team. Therefore, it is important to find the “team players” of the committee: those who want to engage in Model UN to learn and enjoy their experience. This means collaborating with individuals so that everyone is contributing to the wellbeing of the group.



Pillar II. Be Treated Well by Others

Being a leader implies that there are people willing to follow you. People who do not treat others well are often met with contempt in Model UN. Gavel chasers tend to dominate their caucus group by aggressively talking over their fellow delegates and not collaborating. For better or for worse, these delegates will win awards. However, just because gavel-chasing tactics can lead to awards, it is merely a short-term success that is unsustainable outside of the standard four-day conference. Outside of a Model UN committee, leaders have the ability to garner, maintain, and build respect. It is true that Model UN provide tips and tricks for being

perceived as a leader, but true leadership can lead to genuine and sustainable relationships. Best Delegates focus on creating these types of relationships that branch beyond the committee room.

On the high school and college circuits, the reputations of successful delegates will often times proceed them. Sometimes this is a good thing, and other times it is not. However, being aware of this reputation inside and outside of committee can be used to your advantage. If you develop the reputation inside and outside of MUN as a respectable leader who is enjoyable to work with, then you will naturally attract “team players” looking to develop something great, as opposed to the “power delegates” who are just looking to dominate conversation.



Pillar III. Treat Yourself Well

There is only one person you can control, and that person is yourself. This pillar is arguably the most important of the three pillars and is often overlooked in Model UN training. The idea of “treating yourself well” means that you devote time to developing your own leadership as well as the way in which you react to the world. This is all about focusing on personal development and striving to become better than what one was the day before. In terms of leadership, this means becoming self-aware. By developing self-awareness, we can become our own best teacher.

A lot of times, delegates will judge their performance in committee based on whether or not they won an award. However, Model UN awards are subjective and are poor at measuring one's personal development as a leader. The important person to measure yourself against is yourself because that will be the only constant in your Model UN career. This means reflecting on the things you do well and the things you need to improve upon after each conference. It can also be helpful to gather feedback from advisers, friends, and other delegates as to how to improve as a leader. Each Model UN conference is an opportunity to learn about one's own leadership, so treating yourself well becomes a journey of personal development. Understanding this concept will allow one to focus on learning from their success and failure. The journey of becoming a best delegate becomes more than just winning a wooden hammer. It becomes a journey of learning to treat others well, being treated well by others, and treating yourself well.

My hope is that these Three Pillars of leadership will make you reflect upon how you approach committee and your values as a delegate. Best of luck on your future MUN endeavors!

- Aaron Kalafarski

Introducing the Model United Nations Institute, cont.

The MUN Institute features the following programs for high school and middle school delegates:

The Diplomat and Junior Diplomat Programs for beginning-level delegates who want to get started and have fun learning Model United Nations.

The Ambassador Program for intermediate and advanced delegates who want to learn the strategies and secrets to becoming an award-winning delegate.

The Secretary-General Program for advanced high school delegates who want to chair

committees and start their own MUN conference.

The Crisis Program for intermediate and advanced high school delegates who want to participate in exciting and fast-paced crisis simulations, a growing trend in high school and college MUN.

The UN Studies Program for high school delegates who are interested in studying history, politics, and international relations in college. This is a special program offered only at Columbia that features visits to the UN and simulations using the new UN4MUN guidelines

recommended by the United Nations.

Registration is now open!

We are currently running our Early Registration discount until February 1. Sign up now and you will automatically receive \$50 off all of our programs!

Please contact Laurabeth Goldsmith, Program Manager, at mun@bestdelegate.com with any questions or thoughts about the MUN Institute, including our new website and registration system. She reads every email!



Afghanistan Initiative: Second Meeting Focuses on Education

As our second session of the QLC-Afghanistan project commenced, we were all very excited and eager not only to spread our MUN knowledge, but to also engage in a political discussion with these students. Their mentality and view on issues continues to shock and impress us all.

Our session began by reviewing country research. We use a collaborative Google document in which all information can be compiled and accessed by all members of the project. Research is one of the most important skills to acquire in the MUN world. It enables a delegate to speak and represent their country with a huge amount of compassion and confidence as a result of their extensive research. The concept of research is quite a foreign entity to our students in Afghanistan who have yet to be exposed to various resources and mediums in which they can research such as libraries or the Internet. However, we all agreed on one thing: "Knowledge is power." Not only is this phrase applicable in MUN, but it is also applicable in life as well, especially in the lives of these students.

Next, we moved on to our question-and-answer session. In an effort to initiate a discussion panel between everyone, we had questions prepared to ask the students in Afghanistan. Their answers truly blew us away: they speak with articulation and wisdom of those beyond their years. Among the topics discussed were changes to be made in the educational system in Afghanistan. Without any hesitation, one of the students stated that she would like to see a curriculum which isn't heavily reliant on textbooks and memorizing information but one that encourages students to think on a broader scale and explore different areas of learning, much like the IB system.

In addition to this, we discussed the importance of the role of women in the growth of Afghanistan. It was very refreshing to hear not only the females in the group stress the importance of a woman's role but the males agreeing to this as well. This is a testament to how alike we all are, regardless how far away we live and different the lives we lead are. At MUN conferences, we discuss empowering women as well as granting women and men equal rights, and this is exactly the kind of plans these students are passionate about implementing in their nation in years to come.

- Ola Al Tai is a student at Qatar International School and one of the founding members of the THIMUN Qatar-Afghanistan Initiative.

We Can Be Heroes

Talent is hard to come by. Talent for debate and public speaking, even more so. If assembling so much talent, much energy, enthusiasm, and determination into one conference is an achievement, then DCMUN VII was an immense success.

Students from schools all over Qatar came to Doha College to participate in the 7th Doha College Model United Nations, which took place over the 6th and 7th of November. These students came from a variety of backgrounds and cultures, and witnessing them slip seamlessly between fierce, serious debate and good humoured conversation made for a truly united community and an exhilarating conference.

This young and fruitful generation of aspiring diplomats and lawyers, politicians, and leaders are well on their way to becoming heroes, a central theme of DCMUN VII. Deputy Secretary-General Nikita Coutinho lamented the unfortunate reality that neither Batman nor Katniss Everdeen will appear to ignite a revolution. Instead, she said, "It falls

upon us to become the heroes we need; the heroes the world deserves."

For a Model United Nations conference, there was nothing 'model' about the issues the delegates tackled, from the raging civil war in Syria to ongoing environmental terrorism. However, as Dr. Rodney Sharkey, the Closing Ceremonies' keynote speaker, reminded staff and delegates, our contribution to these issues through MUN is only role play- it is a model, and we must keep that in mind with every conference we attend. Yet, as Ryian Alam, DCMUN Secretary-General, said in her closing words, we have already begun the revolution towards a better world by simply attending the conference and making the commitment, from the research and preparation carried out prior to the conference to taking time that could have been spent relaxing by the pool or shopping at the mall to try and fix real world problems and, ultimately, making the small but significant choice in our own lives to advocate change.

Indeed, Deputy Secre-

tary-General Dulshan Jayasekera hit the hammer on the gavel when he told the gathered delegates during Opening Ceremonies, "When you stepped into your committee rooms today, you stopped being high school students and became the voices of forty different nations, all unified with a common goal, and that is to solve as many issues as possible without the use of violence."

Speaking takes courage. Arguing requires patience. Performing needs finesse. During the entire conference, from lobbying, to heated debate, to Closing Ceremonies (and some nighttime celebrations), these characteristics were shown by every single participant, embellished with a ribbon of jovial amity. For the delegates and student officers, MUN is not merely an after-school activity or an imitation of the real thing. It is a chance for them to show that they care for the world and its people, and to prove that they can, and will, create a better future.

- Ralf Yap and Anisha Pai

Community and Opportunity: A Word on O-MUN

You know you've done countless O-MUN debates when you've become an expert in Java when you least expected it. Well, that's how it worked for me. Hello, and welcome — Bassim here. Sit back and enjoy my long yet blissful MUN journey filled with ups, downs, sides, wry humor, and, of course, my unparalleled charm.

Believe it or not, I was a very different person two years ago, or, as I now recall, an era ago. I was timid back then, afraid of taking risks and fearful of going the extra mile, be it in academics or activities. For me, giving speeches was tantamount to a blind man confronting an elephant; I cringed at the very thought of it. Remaining hidden in the shadows and fettered by the realms of mediocrity, I failed to see the light at the end of my perpetual tunnel.

But then the day came, the day that presented me with

an opportunity to attend my first-ever Model UN conference. This gem of an opportunity was received with both hands; not my hands, but my parents'. Had my parents not forced me to go, I would not have found an exit route to my tunnel, or, rather, you would not have had the honor of enlightening yourself with my words of wisdom.

Model UN was overwhelming at first. All the rules and all the formalities, such as no personal pronouns, served as obstacles. But I was ready to endure them, as I saw a bright future within my reach. My first conference in China ran smoothly, and I even won the Outstanding Delegate award, a feat that I was, and still am, very proud of. My uphill struggle soon became a downhill joyride, of which I loved every moment. I started looking at my surroundings from a macro

perspective, and I mastered the element of empathy by "role-playing" other nations. I was not the outlandish speaker I once was; all those audience members whom I once perceived as uncouth savages soon became people who I revered. Those background guides that I once thought of as bulky textbooks turned into sacred scriptures. MUN had become my main source of procrastination, and that is not something you hear everyday.

My happiness only intensified after I joined O-MUN last year. Debate after debate, I became not only a comfortable speaker, but also a knowledgeable person who kept up with current affairs on a frequent basis. I was part of a community of like-minded, driven individuals who pushed me to my limits and motivated me to research harder and deliver more effectively. O-MUN also

gave me the chance to be a part of the international team which traveled to THIMUN-Qatar earlier this year. Soon after, I became the Press & Publications Officer for O-MUN, a designation that will one day, hopefully, bring me celebrity status (2 months and counting). My experience with O-MUN also led me to become the Middle East Media Chair at bestdelegate.com. These media related jobs soon inspired me to start my very own website, www.maverickyouth.com, which allows high school students to publish articles on various trends, phenomena or even global issues.

I believe the one aspect of O-MUN I've benefited the most from is 'community'. With all the global connections I've established over the months, seeking and giving MUN information has never been easier.

O-MUN has, as you've

seen above, opened a window of opportunities for both me and my fellow peers. I didn't participate in numerous online debates just to receive points; I did it because I felt empowered every time I clicked the speaking button to voice my nation's opinions. I felt a sense of responsibility, a feeling that I was quite alienated from in the beginning. Obviously, not everything I've been through in O-MUN is full of sunshines and rainbows; there were times when I stumbled and fell, but those experiences have only made me stronger. Those experiences are what have made me what I am today.

- Bassim Eledath



How To Approach a Small Country Assignment in Model UN

From the Techie's Desk: THIMUN Qatar Launches New Film Festival Platform

THIMUN QATAR NORTHWESTERN FILM FESTIVAL

1. REGISTRATION 2. FILE UPLOAD 3. FORM

THIMUN QATAR FILM FESTIVAL

1. ENTER THE FOLLOWING TO START THE APPLICATION PROCESS:

First Name: Type Your First Name Here

Movie Title: Type Your Short Movie Title Here

The THIMUN Qatar office recently partnered with three talented Carnegie Mellon University (CMU) Information Systems seniors who designed an online film festival submission program. As part of their capstone project, Sakib Mahmoud, Abdulrahman Takiddin, and Prince Abraham created a new platform that will greatly ease the film submission process for filmmakers participating in the annual THIMUN Qatar Northwestern University Film Festival. The development of this new program was overseen by THIMUN Qatar's IT Coordinator, Abhay Valiyaveettil, also a CMU graduate.

The online film submission system will allow students to seamlessly upload their films, posters and other materials directly onto the Film Festival database. In previous years, film submissions were accepted via physical CDs and flash disks. Registration forms were handwritten and then converted to digital format manually for processing. The newly-designed platform allows for all

these tasks to be done seamlessly and online, making the submission process easier for student directors from around the world.

THIMUN Qatar, in partnership with Northwestern University in Qatar, organizes the annual Film Festival, now in its sixth year. Since its inception, hundreds of student-made films have been submitted for this increasingly prestigious competition. Several successful short films have emerged as a result of the event and have gained recognition internationally. Last year, over 95 films were submitted by students from countries ranging from the United States to Singapore. Local filmmaker Amal Al Muftah's Al-Hamali, the Festival's 2014 Best Film recipient, is indicative of the high quality of film submissions the THIMUN Qatar Northwestern Film Festival continues to attract.

- Abhay Valiyaveettil



The vast majority of Model UN delegates will be assigned a smaller or seemingly obscure country at some point in their career. Simulating smaller countries is a challenge because they have less influence and are less active in international relations in real life. It becomes difficult to do research on that country's policies and past actions, and that makes it difficult to educate others about their policies and solutions or to get others to follow a small country as a leader in a MUN simulation. Many delegates, particularly those who are newer or struggle with research, do not like being assigned smaller countries for all these reasons.

I was part of a club program during high school and a brand new travel team during college though, so I had spent a significant portion of my Model UN career representing smaller countries. From my experience, I have observed several approaches that I believe are the wrong and right ways to take when given a small country assignment.

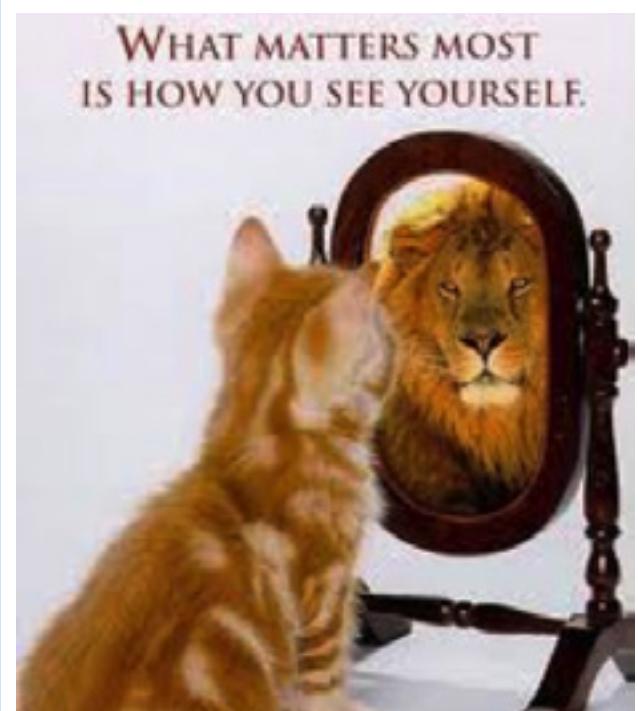
Wrong Approaches

I believe there are two wrong approaches that delegates commonly use. The first wrong approach is to just complain that they are not a P5 country and how unfair it is for the powerhouses to always get assigned a P5 (and win awards easier). These delegates tend not to try or put in a full effort or dwell on their disadvantage when they see a more influential country in real life take a leadership role in a MUN simulation. Life is not fair, and complaining won't help you be productive in this case.

The second wrong approach is to think that just because no one will probably know anything about your country, you should just make up your country's policy and "BS" your way through committee. It might work, especially if you're in a novice high school setting, though less likely in advanced committees or at the university level where people actually know their facts. However, you would be doing yourself an educational disservice for not learning about a certain part of the world and not learning how to deal with less influential positions.

Right Approaches

I believe there are two right approaches to such an assignment. The first right approach is the educational approach, or what I call the Best Supporting Actor approach. You want to become an expert in simulating your specific small country. Instead of stressing out that you are not an influential country, you want to role-play your country to the best extent it can realistically be in



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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

My Encounter With Another World



I went to the Qatar Leadership Conference this October as a student speaker for the O-MUN/Taipei American School team. The QLC itself was great, and making speeches about O-MUN ICJ was also great, but what I took away most from the QLC was neither of the above. It was rather a deep-seated feeling of inspiration and passion — a passion that I had never encountered before.



How To Approach a Small Country Assignment in Model UN, cont.

the international system. For example, you could be a great deputy to a larger country in your regional bloc, or you could act as a neutral mediator and present.

The second approach is the competitive approach, or what's called the Lion in the Mirror approach.

You want to become an expert at overcoming the challenge of a small country and become a leader as one. Instead of seeing yourself as limited to your small country, you want to see yourself as the bloc leader based on shared background (geographic, political, economic, etc.), similar policies, or common solutions. It helps to imagine yourself as a duplicate of the regional hegemon. Bhutan is no longer just Bhutan; it is now the leader of the large Asian bloc or the influential anti-intervention bloc and has the same power as a second China or India in committee.

I tended to use the latter approach since I came from a competitive circuit. I shared some of the preparation tactics in my blog post about my experience as Bhutan dominating the P5 here. Tactically though, it's important to focus on research because common knowledge

or the news probably do not cover this country's policies. Specifically, the research can focus on treaties, conventions, and resolutions that the country has adopted or not adopted; country specific programs that have been implemented on the topic including domestic ones; and any statements made by government officials including UN GA speeches. These are better starting points for extrapolating country policy if it comes down to having to make part of it up.

Ultimately, Model UN is about learning. Regardless if you want to learn about the real world and how small countries fit into the system and struggle to influence policy or if you want to learn about how to compete with a disadvantageous assignment in order to challenge your skills, you should take the small country assignment as a good learning opportunity and make the most of it.

Have you been assigned a small country? How did you effectively approach it?

- Kevin Felix Chan

After hearing Mr. Keesey and Ms. Leahy's presentation on their work in creating the Kony 2012 campaign and resisting the Lord's Resistance Army in Uganda, I was deeply moved by the sheer variety of ways in which we could help make the world a better place. Even as teenagers, there are so many different ways in which we could help change other people's lives for the better. This presentation, or rather the general atmosphere of the QLC, got me fired up and ready to do something, anything to change the world for the better. I then met a man who changed my view of the world and has become my mentor and role model for years to come.

His name was Peter Dalglish. Upon first sight, he seemed like an ordinary middle-aged man with suntanned skin and a slight disregard for physical appearance. But when he spoke, he became a sort of angel-incarnate who talked genially and practically about improving the world, step-by-step, and inspiring young people to stand up for their own passion. According to Dalglish, regardless of age, location, or creed, everyone could make a change for the better in their own ways. So, after his speech, I eagerly went to talk to him about a project that I had in mind. This meeting, surprisingly, considering the sheer amount of people waiting in line to talk to him, lasted for an entire hour. My idea was simple. By combining my passion of tennis and my drive to change lives for the better, I proposed to bring a group of students to teach rural Nepali kids how to play tennis.

After QLC, I remained in contact with Peter. Approximately one month later, in November, I packed my bags, bought a plane ticket, and went to Nepal. This reconnaissance trip, suggested by Peter and eagerly followed up on by me,

opened me up to a brand new cultural background and urgency for change. I visited several public schools in Pokhara and rural Bandipur to get a sense of what education is like there. But as one of Peter's friends in Nepal said, the schools' infrastructure is extremely dilapidated, and the educational curriculum is based solely on rote memorization, something which has remained the same since the 1960s. So based on my firsthand observation of Nepali kid's situation and their predicament, I went back to Taiwan and started to devise a plan that would directly tackle the deficiencies of Nepal's education system.

My basic plan is to build a public multi-functional playground for the kids in rural Banipur that would provide kids with a suitable facility to play sports (tennis, volleyball, soccer, and cricket). This allows the kids to learn actively and develop self-confidence. Additionally, I would also like to use the time while we are there to introduce more advanced technologies such as PCs and tablets to the kids so that after we are gone they will be able to learn by themselves more sustainably, and with minimal maintenance.

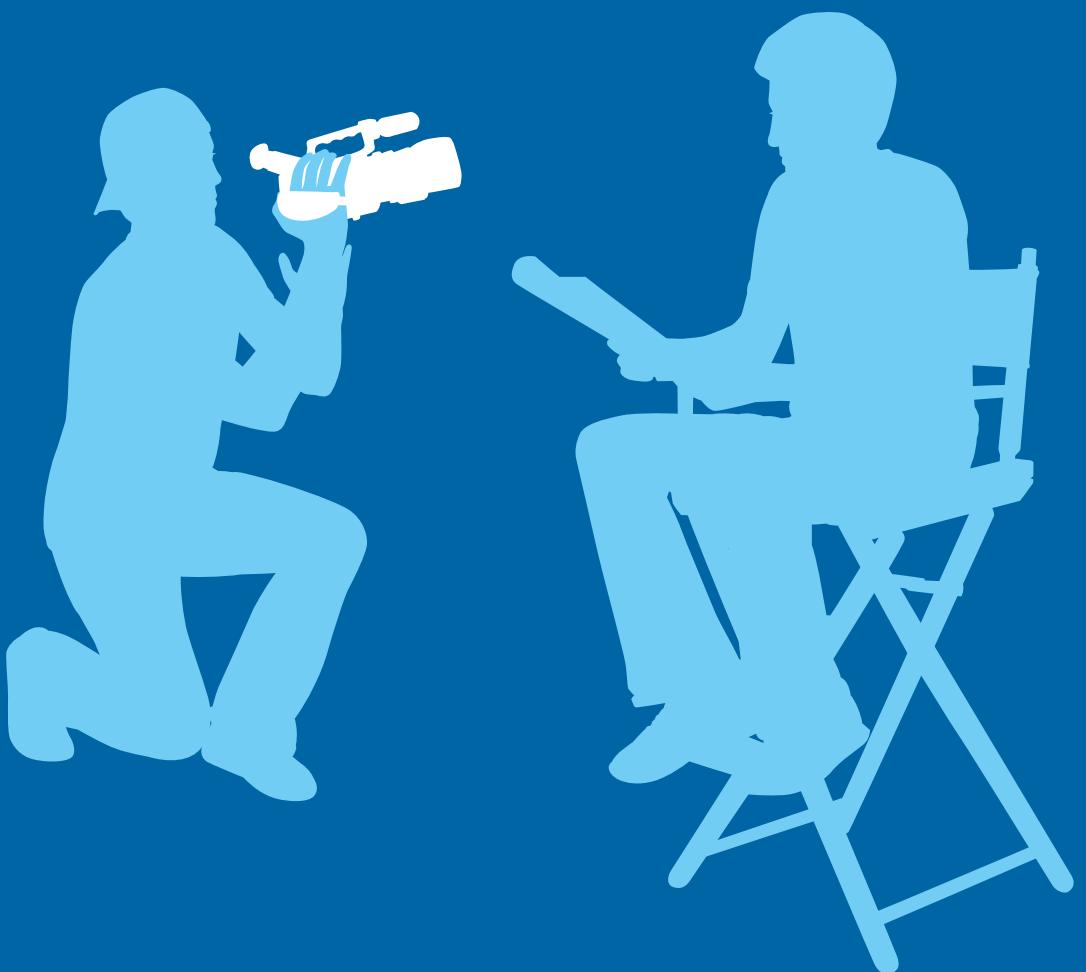
Although everything is still in the planning stages, I nevertheless would like to say that none of this could have happened without the QLC. The QLC is truly an inspirational conference that I believe will continue to inspire young people to do great things. In the words of Mark Twain, quoted by Mr. Dalglish, "Never let your school get in the way of your education." Stand up, discover the world, and be a change.

- Timothy Shu





2015 THIMUN QATAR NORTHWESTERN FILM FESTIVAL



NORTHWESTERN
UNIVERSITY
IN 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>

The Results Are In: Impactful, Life Changing, and Open to Improvement

The Global MUN survey, the largest of its kind, has recently wrapped up its first submission window, and there are very few surprises for Model United Nations practitioners. The results do, however, allow MUN program developers to make a case that Model UN has long term impact on participants. With just under 1500 past and present MUN delegates weighing in, their collective voice is extremely clear: MUN impacts feelings of social identity, helps to develop hard academic skills, and, ultimately, impacts career choice. Very few extracurricular programs can make this case. The purpose of this article is to lay out the findings and issue a challenge to school administrations around the world: if you are not investing in MUN for your students, why not?

The Facts

Before launching into the actual results and drawing some obvious conclusions, here is a bit on the actual survey, which opened on October 16 and closed November 14. The survey was shared extensively within the THIMUN network, via Best Delegate, MUN Planet, and individual networks in the USA, Latin America and Asia. Just under 1500 individuals took the survey (1487 to be exact), with 70% being current high school students, 17% in university, and 12% representing post-university/working adults. This last group was harder to reach, and it is one that future surveys hope to target and expand upon. Respondents were almost equally split between male and female (49% to 51%), with the largest demographic groups coming from the Middle East (23%), Europe (17%), and North America (18%). Seventy-four percent of students were familiar with THIMUN

procedures, with 32% familiar with North American style and 19% with UNA-USA. Just under 7% were aware and knowledgeable about UN4MUN procedures, something that we hope to explore in a future survey.

The Results

The survey aimed to gauge participant perception, motivation, and impact related to MUN, as well as to gather feedback on the current state of Model UN and the direction current and past delegates would like to see it develop. Participants also had the opportunity to share their MUN story, something we will profile in a series of blog posts in upcoming months. We'll also share more of the raw data in the upcoming month, but for now, the most compelling numbers are given here.

Individuals were asked to rate a series of statements related to their MUN participation. Individuals who somewhat or strongly agreed with the following statements are represented below.

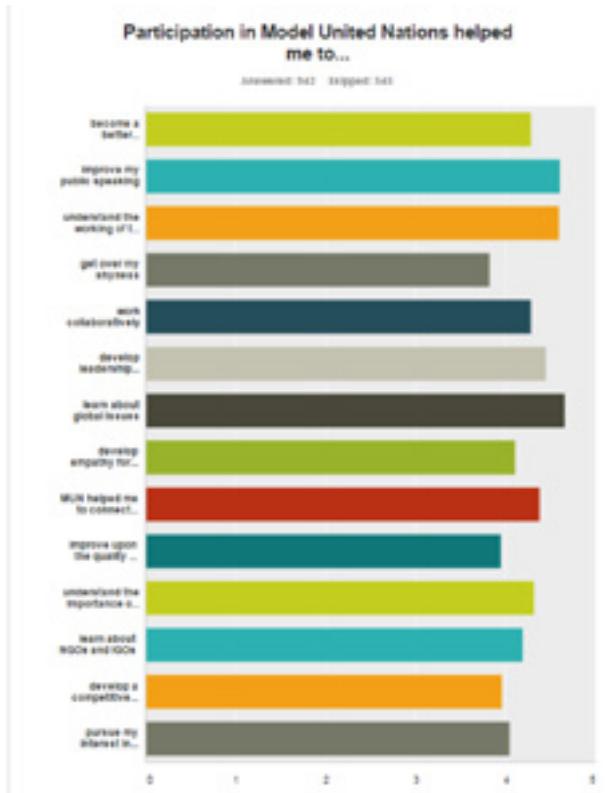
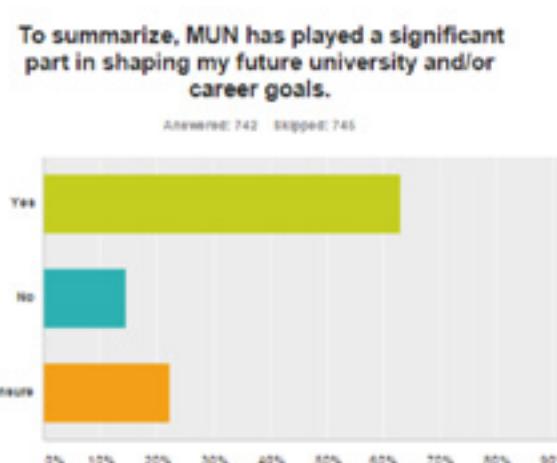
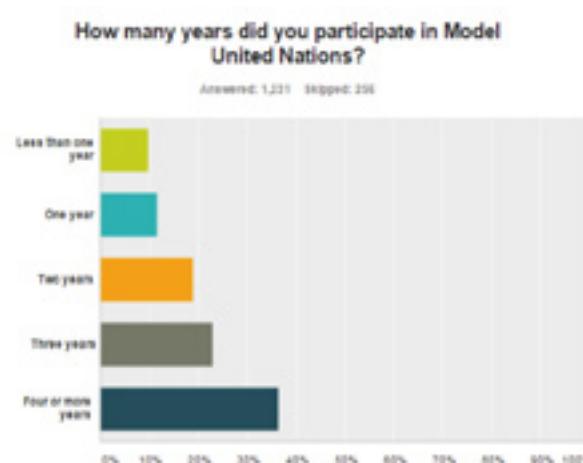
General statements about MUN participation (agree somewhat, agree strongly)

- Developed better analytical skills (39%, 50%)
- Learned to argue effectively (35%, 58%)
- Increased self-confidence (31%, 55%)
- Challenged my own beliefs (35%, 43%)
- Allowed me to work collaboratively with others (39%, 50%)
- Became part of a community that meant something to me (27%, 55%)

Participation in MUN helped me to (agree somewhat, agree strongly)

- Become a better researcher (41%, 47%)
- Improve public speaking (27%, 68%)
- Understand the workings of the UN (26%, 68%)
- Develop leadership skills (31%, 59%)
- Learn about global issues (23%, 73%)
- Helped me socially (31%, 56%)
- Understand the importance of collaboration in problem solving (38%, 49%)

These two sections of the survey asked similar questions in different ways, but the striking feedback from participants is that they gained significantly both social and academic skills from their participation in MUN. Over 50% strongly agreed that MUN taught them to be better researchers, public speakers, global citizens, and leaders. I believe that another significant finding is that Model UN participants felt they understood the importance of collaboration and being part of a group. MUN touches on the emotive aspects of learning, as well as the academic skills we associate with MUN participation. This powerful combination is why I think Model United Nations is so impactful, as the next part of the survey showed.



Jobs and Careers: Did MUN Participation Matter?

In the early stages of developing this survey, this question rose to the fore time and again. At the end of a student's MUN career, did it impact job/career choice? This was the one question many people wanted to have an answer to. And the answer is yes!

Post-university students were asked the following. 162 respondents replied that they agreed or strongly agreed:

- MUN directly influenced my career choice: (28%, 24%)
- Opened doors for me professionally (27%, 30%)
- Taught me skills that I use in my job (39%, 32%)
- Improved my public speaking which has benefited me in my job (30%, 51%)

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Unsure/Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total	Average Rating
MUN should be more inclusive.	2.39% 20	8.61% 72	33.73% 282	33.61% 281	21.65% 181	836	3.64
Online Model UN programs offer a way for greater participation.	5.64% 47	8.15% 68	38.49% 321	28.36% 236	19.42% 162	834	3.48
MUN programs should more closely model the workings of the United Nations itself.	3.28% 27	11.08% 93	26.19% 219	35.88% 301	24.87% 207	839	3.70
Model United Nations is a great way to teach global issues.	1.29% 10	9.96% 8	4.33% 36	38.49% 325	63.18% 525	832	4.53
UNAMUN is an initiative that should be expanded.	2.29% 19	1.39% 11	72.66% 603	11.81% 98	11.89% 99	830	3.30
The focus of MUN should be on educational and skill development.	2.40% 20	7.48% 62	24.81% 208	45.88% 382	19.33% 161	833	3.72
MUN programs are elitist and only for well-offrich participants.	28.59% 238	33.19% 285	20.94% 175	26.12% 168	8.28% 69	835	2.67

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Model United Nations-Global Survey						
MUN would spread more quickly if it wasn't so expensive.	7.08% 59	11.12% 93	29.72% 251	31.88% 264	24.82% 205	836
There is value in having MUN programs in other languages besides English.	3.87% 32	6.20% 52	29.12% 248	34.77% 307	33.99% 276	835
Competition is a positive motivator in MUN programs.	6.57% 55	10.51% 88	23.30% 195	35.24% 295	24.37% 204	837

Lastly, a whopping 71% of these respondents said that MUN played a significant role in shaping their career and professional life. 48% of university students also stated that MUN directly influenced their choice of major.

Future of Model United Nations

The survey also asked current and past delegates how they would like to see MUN develop in the future. This question dovetailed into a larger question of perception of Model UN: to what degree is MUN elitist or too expensive? The majority of participants (57%) felt that the cost of Model UN kept the program from growing and expanding, but only 28% of participants found MUN to be elitist. Support for programs in foreign languages (70%), free online platforms like THIMUN Online (48%), and an expansion of Model UN programs into middle schools (60%), and a move to make Model United Nations more like the real United Nations (61%) were all areas where respondents thought the program could expand.

I'll be publishing some of the raw data in the next week or so and let people judge for themselves. The survey will reopen in late January and run through the end of February 2015. We hope that more post-graduate responses can be gathered. In the meantime, the evidence speaks loudly that Model United Nations impacts lives, career choice, and engagement in global affairs, promotes confidence in public speaking, and encourages appreciation of the importance of collaborative work. All of which sounds exactly like what education should be doing for all of our students.

- Lisa Martin

Let's Meet Up: O-MUN Reunions



When I first started working with O-MUN over two years ago, I would have never imagined the places O-MUN could and would take me. I can honestly and proudly say that the two times I've travelled outside of North America were as a result of O-MUN. Furthermore, I could not have possibly imagined how O-MUN would spawn so many lasting friendships, both online and in the real world. This has been the experience of many O-MUNers, delegates and leadership team members alike.

Since the start of the school year, I've had the pleasure of meeting up with three of my fellow O-MUNers: Omar Naguib, AD for Global Debates; Audrey Cabral, AD for Community Outreach; and Head of Administration Maryam Al-Ammari.

It so happened that I saw Omar three times in my first two weeks of school. The first time, he was making his way from Rhode Island to Toronto for tennis and made a stop in Vermont for a night to visit me at school. I tried to show him all my quaint little university town had to offer. That weekend, which was the first weekend of school and the Labour Day long weekend, I drove home to collect some things that I had forgotten to bring with me to school. It was during this weekend that I met up with Omar once again in Toronto. We caught a professional soccer game between the New England Revolution and Toronto FC. Unfortunately for me (though fortunately for Omar), the Revolution took this match 3-0. We also visited the Hockey Hall of Fame, as part of my plan to get Omar into hockey (it worked). After the weekend was over, I drove back to school for another week of classes, only to return to Toronto the very next weekend for my brother's wedding. This time, our meeting was rather brief, as we met up for a late-night snack at Hero Burger in downtown Toronto after I had left the wedding. Even though we hadn't seen each other for nearly two years before these chance meetings, it felt as though no time had passed at all.

In October, the University of Vermont sent a small delegation of three delegates to BarMUN in Boston. This was exciting to me a few reasons: it would be the first time since the first O-MUN THIMUN trip in January of 2013 that I would participate in face-to-face Model UN; it was my first time visiting Boston, or anywhere in Massachusetts for that matter; and it would result in more O-MUN meetups. The conference went fairly well, though it took me a committee session to get my bearings back. All was well in the end though, as 1970s Iran became communist and built a Death Star (historical crises are fun, eh?). Boston was amazing, easily one of my favourite cities, partially because my trip allowed me to meet up with Audrey and Maryam. Unfortunately, as we were all pretty busy, we could not meet for long. However, we were able to find time to meet Friday night during my dinner break. Once again, despite not seeing either of them for a very long time, it felt as though no time was lost at all.

Not only does O-MUN allow students from different backgrounds, cultures, and nationalities to cooperate and befriend each other in an online environment, it also allows students to become friends in real life through O-MUN travel teams to face-to-face conferences.

- Russel Evans

Student Profiles: Around the Region



Name: Abdullah Naji

Grade: Grade 11 (Year 12)

School: Doha British School

Favorite MUN Conference: THIMUN Qatar - surely!

Dream Vacation: I've always wanted to travel all over the world really, from the wonderful culture of ancient Europe to the landmarks of America, but the Bahamas is definitely somewhere on the top of the list! What better way to relax than sit by the clear waters of its seas and enjoy exotic fruits?

What you like to do when you are not doing homework: Port custom ROMs to my Android phone or, most of the time, I'm found debating and discussing recent political news with my peers.

Personal Goal for MUN: To be an executive member for a conference.

Where would you like to see MUN in the next 10 years: I wish that one day, MUN is implemented in educational curricula, as a compulsory component of students' education. As international citizens, I believe it is very important to have awareness of what's going on around the world and to have international-mindedness, including being tolerant to all cultures, which is a great tenet of MUN too, as I've met tons of students from around the world and of various backgrounds and cultures in conferences. It really is an amazing feeling to know that there are some people that share your interests and live on the other side of the world.



Name: Sandev Ferdinando

Grade: Grade 10

School: Park House English School, Doha (originally from Sri Lanka)

How MUN has benefited you personally: Model United Nations has opened a door of endless opportunities for me to do what I love to do; to do things that I could have never imagined.

Favorite MUN memory: Undoubtedly my favourite, and rather hilarious, MUN memory was when delegates were allowed to rap their speeches, with the help of a beatboxing admin – and if I may say so, the delegate of Argentina killed it! Everyone unanimously agreed to this as we had all endured tedious and endless hours of debating the same issues.

Favorite Comfort Food: Pizza is my go-to comfort food, and chocolate is my way of life!

Personal hope for MUN: My personal hope for MUN around the world is that it will be accessible to everyone, regardless of where they live, their race, whether they are rich or poor or the standard of education provided to them. After all, everyone has the right to take part in debates on global issues; it doesn't just impact the lives of specific groups of people.

Name: Mariam Hassaballah

Grade: Grade 11

School: Hayah International Academy, Cairo

Greatest MUN Ambition: Become Secretary-General and pass a resolution that would actually be effective while battling crisis or demanding issues in our world today.

Best MUN Conference you have attended: HIAMUN

Favorite Comfort Food: Ice cream

Dream Vacation: Diving trip in the Great Barrier Reef (Australia) to see sharks and study ecosystems.

Biggest hope/dream for MUN: For it not to turn into a trend or social gathering and see the UN actually try to implement the resolutions that we pass.

