



WHAT'S APP WITH THIMUN?

BY DAVID WOLFE BENDER

something that Holly Rogers (Delegate of El Salvador, Economic and Social Council) found to be critical for a successful conference.

"We use the program to monitor... the schedule of events," Rogers said.

"It's definitely kept me more organized. It's not always announced what the end-time is, and it keeps me on track when in session."

There are others, however, who hold different views about the web-app's merits. Some delegates stated that the web-app was a good idea, but it is not working as intended.

"A lot of my fellow delegates and myself have had issues getting the app to work,"

Deffs said. "There were some connection issues, and I discovered it was not working well on computers."

Others echoed these concerns, underscoring that issues with wireless connection hinder the web-app experience.

"I think they just need to find a way to do this with so many students being on the network," Ryan Datillo (Delegate of Poland, General Assembly 1) said. "Earlier this week, we were getting

server errors."

With that said, even delegates concerned with the web-app's functionality applauded THIMUN for their sustainability efforts.

"I like how they are [using] the app instead of paper," Henry Luo (Delegate of El Salvador, General Assembly 1) said. "Obviously that will save a lot of trees and paper."

Other delegates agreed. "Of course, I do think it is great that THIMUN is going paperless," Victor Hoppe (Delegate of Pakistan, General Assembly 6) said after mentioning some technological issues with the platform. "There [were] hundreds of thousands of papers that were printed every time."

As for what delegates are looking for in future editions of this new program, Rogers stated that she would "love to see this as an app on my iPhone."

Artwork by Valentine Leroux
Layout by Melody Tai
Photograph by Tamar Kreitman

THIMUN has set a goal to host a more sustainable conference this year, and in doing so, desires to use less paper. An example of THIMUN's commitment toward sustainability is a web-based application called the "THIMUN conference app."

The new system provides a way of viewing debate material.

"Through the [web] app, we have been looking at resolutions and viewing the MUNITY newspaper," Daniel Delfs (Delegate of Pakistan, General Assembly 2) said.

Other delegates, such as Kara Clouse (Delegate of El Salvador, Sustainable Development Commission Sub-Commission 1) noted the importance of being able to view the resolution on their own screen rather than on the committee's projection screen.

"It's helpful because I am sort of a slow reader," Clouse said. "Being able to read the resolution as it is being debated is important to me. At other conferences I've been to, they just put it on a screen and scroll through it quickly."

The web-app also solves a visibility issue for many delegates at conferences, as not every seat in a room may provide for good viewing of the projector screen.

"For my second day, I was assigned to sit in a place not necessarily in great viewing of the TV," Harry Zhou (Delegate of Poland, Human Rights Commission Sub-Commission 1). "Reading and listening to something holds far greater value than just listening to someone speak."

In addition to viewing resolutions, delegates can view the conference's schedule,

Time to move to an app!



CHINA'S CONQUEST OF THE WEST



BUILD UP TO MOVIE NIGHT BY YUNRONG CHEN GENEROSITY OR CONSPIRACY?

Have you ever shopped in a supermarket and were amazed by the number of labels on the products that say "Made in China?" As China is expanding its global influence, the movie *China's Conquest of the West* will be presented on Thursday night. Come to broaden your perspective on an ongoing project in China that has its roots in world history.

The Silk Road was an ancient trade route which aimed to develop China's trade with the Western world. In 2013, China started the modern Belt and Road Initiative (B&R) to develop economic cooperation partnerships with countries along this "road."

The Eastern media praises B&R for aiding less developed countries. However, the Western media criticizes B&R for causing "debt traps" and underscoring the imperialistic nature of this project. As the Western and Eastern propaganda clash, controversy emerges.

Students from Experimental HS Beijing, China, talked about their expectations of the movie after learning of the name and the theme. Haoqin Yang (Delegate of Greenpeace, Environment Commission Sub-Commission 1) said that he was glad to see that this movie was about China and its policy: "It shows that we are actually having a greater influence on the world," said Yang. Yang believes that

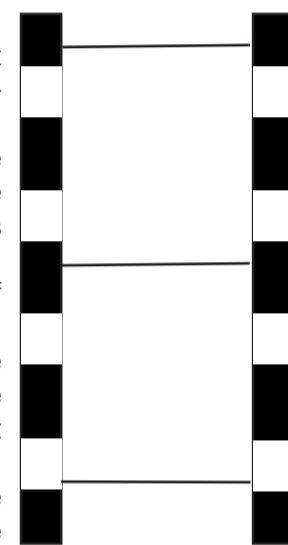
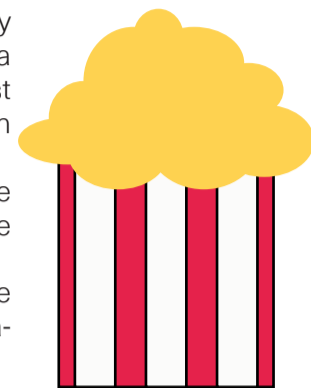
B&R shows China's multi-sided international diplomacy, which can provide more preferential policies to underdeveloped countries and increase economic cooperation with neighboring countries.

Haoshi Ma (Delegate of Greenpeace, Environment Commission Sub-Commission 2) expects the movie to be about the effect of China's economic unions with other countries on the world economy. "I think [B&R] is very valuable because it improves the Chinese relationship with other countries. China is becoming a leader in Eastern Asia and is helping other countries. It's good," Ma said.

A handful of delegates from the West are doubtful of the B&R, but some of them also echoed the positive reception of the Chinese delegates and expressed their excitement about the movie night.

If you are unfamiliar with Asian foreign affairs, this movie would be a suitable introduction for you. If you are Chinese, this movie may present the Western perspective on a topic that you constantly see and hear about. While this movie may not take a stance on the rigorous debate of whether B&R causes more harm than good, it still provides an opportunity for a peaceful conversation between East and West.

The movie will be available on the 30th of January at 19:30 in the World Forum Theatre. Nicolas Sridi and Pierre Tiessen, who are co-founders of Asia Focus Productions — which published *China's Conquest of the West* — will be present at the screening to talk about the movie and answer any questions.



Photograph provided by Alain Meidinger

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION SUB-COMMISSION 1

BY ELLA WESTLAND

TACKLES THE MARGINALIZATION OF DISABLED PEOPLE



The Human Rights Sub-Commission 1 is debating initiatives addressing five key issues: community-based alternatives for imprisonment with more use of early release, force-feeding of girls in West Africa, discrimination in Roma and on the marginalization of the disabled.

The marginalization of disabled persons is a significant issue across the world, even in some of the most developed countries. 26% of a group surveyed by National Health Service England said they often avoided conversations with disabled persons. The UN estimates that having a severe disability

also increases the cost of living by 40% of the average income, and in Spain this increases to 70%.

Out of 130 million in need of humanitarian aid, 15% are affected by the stigma surrounding disability. Moreover, prejudice and inaccessible learning facilities also prevent many children from having access to education. This means that the Sustainable Development Goal 4 — education for all — cannot be met.

Delegates debated a resolution on the issue of discrimination against 1.5 billion disabled persons across the world. Maiah Oyekanmi (Delegate of the Republic of Somalia, Human Rights Commission Sub-Commission 1) spoke in favor of the resolution, pointing at the fact that "The basic rights of those with disabilities are violated every day. "This resolution promotes, protects and creates opportunities and raises awareness of those with disabilities. This resolution is a step forward to ending this marginalization and (...) the cycle of disability-related discrimination."

Elizabeth Przybyla (Delegate of Italy, Human Rights Commission Sub-Commission 1) questioned Oyekanmi's words, expressing concerns that the resolution only focused on education, therefore focusing on children and not adults as well. Nevertheless, Oyekanmi remained adamant that everyone would be entitled to new educational opportunities.

Ahan Sinhe (Delegate of



Guatemala, Human Rights Commission Sub-Commission 1) also spoke against the resolution, highlighting that it seemed unrealistic since many countries were already experiencing a shortage of teachers and were unable to offer suitable educational opportunities, such as special training in sign language. Despite Sinhe's objection, the resolution passed by 94 to 36. Although there was disagreement within the committee, it was, for the most part, the technicalities of the resolution that caused conflict not the morality of the issue being discussed.



Photographs by Selina Demaré

Layout by Yuzine Yi

HOW TO WIN THIMUN? STOP COMPETING!

BY CHRISTINA BRUSCO

Although it has not been awarded in the last 15 years, the Best Delegate award still lingers in the shadows of THIMUN. Many participants believe that the award should make a comeback, while others believe that the THIMUN environment is better off without it.

“Merit has to be recognized,” said Santiago Forster (Deputy President of the Human Rights Commission, Sub-Commission 2), when asked how he felt about the Best Delegate award. Forster is not alone. Many delegates believe that the prestigious award encourages people to not only submit strong resolutions, but to also actively debate. From their perspective, the award pushes people to perform to the best of their ability.

In addition, for many delegates, the MUN program is part of the curriculum, and the Best Delegate award gives them higher chances of a good score. Plus, it is a great addition to their resume.

Because the award has not been given out in many years, various delegates are not aware of its existence. Alain Meidinger, the chair of the THIMUN board, explains that the Best Delegate award spreads a message that THIMUN does not support. Meidinger explained that it created a competitive environment, which is not the goal of THIMUN. This is an issue for delegates who are scored by their school on how well they participate. He adds that as a result of pressure, many students attempt to push their limits to be the best and end up not performing well.

Nick Chulick (Deputy Head of the Human Rights Commission Sub-Commission 2) believes that the award is not the right choice because it is not inclusive or fair. He believes that those who try to win the award do not always let others participate.

The award should be granted to those who have knowledge of their issue and have the ability to respond effectively, but many delegates have experienced the competitive environment and encountered overachieving delegates. Andrew Newman, the MUN director from John Burroughs School, stated, “Too often during lobbying, I see students who are fighting to be the main submitter who really shouldn’t be.” Situations like these can take away from others trying to contribute.

The mission of THIMUN states that the goal of the conference is education. It aims to teach participants “to practice tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbors,” which is set by the founders of the United Nations in the Preamble to the United Nations Charter. Does a competitive environment promote tolerance and cooperation?

The Best Delegate award glorifies the delegate who has put in the most work and effort, but it ignores the message that THIMUN tries to pursue. While crowning Best Delegate would recognize participants for their hard work, it would also create a competitive environment that ultimately goes against THIMUN’s mission.



Artwork by Tep Khemarin Chan
Layout by Doris Huang

C



O



M

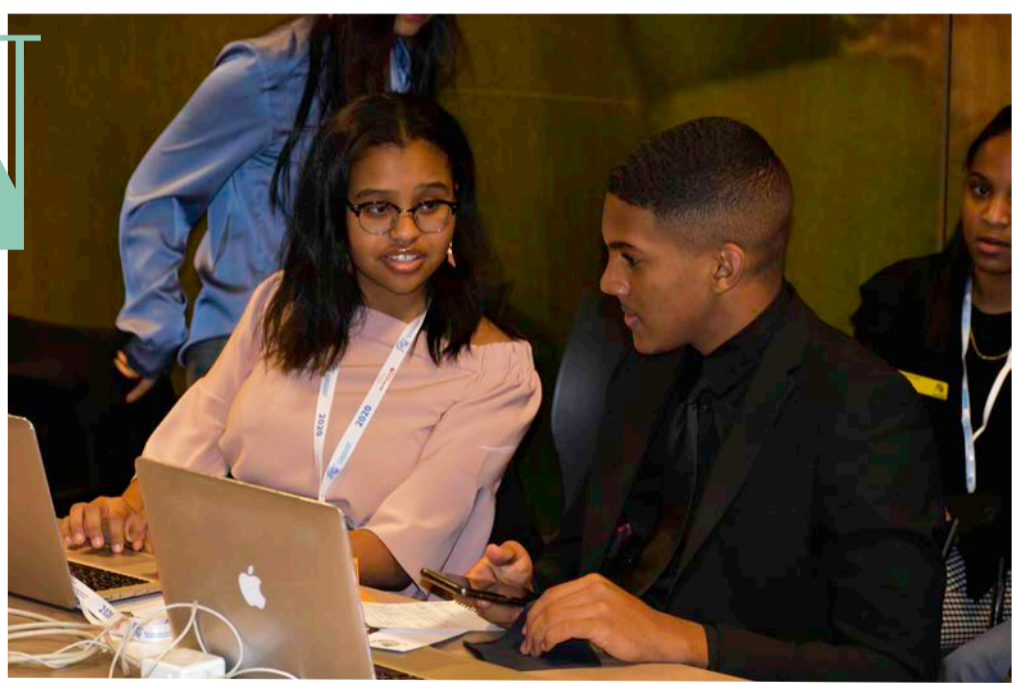


M



U

N

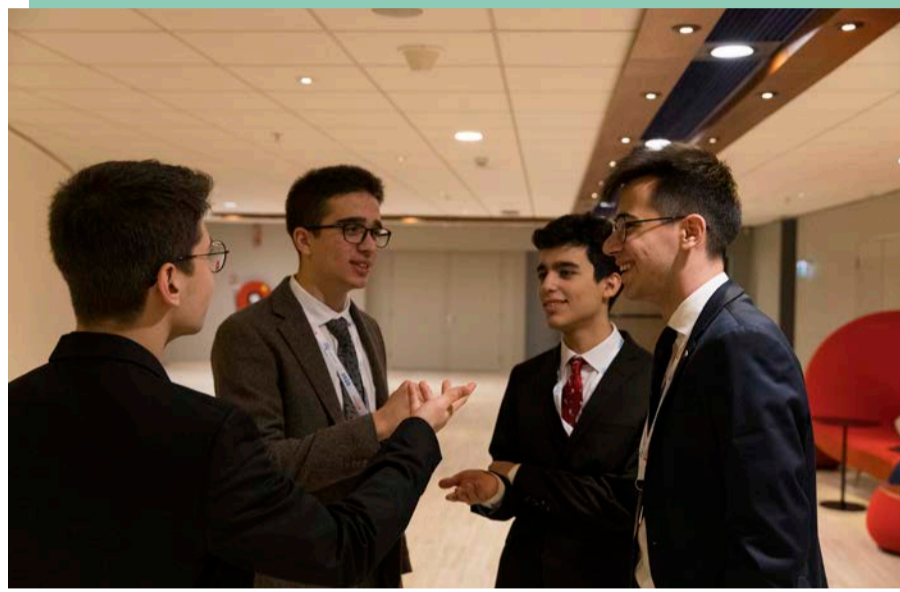


T



Y





Photographs by
Julie Andersen
Selina Demaré
Emre Erçakır
Tamar Kreitman
Layout by Melody Tai

WHERE ARE THEY TODAY?

LOOKING BACK AT O-MUN

BY GABE FLEISHER

Most students travel to THIMUN as part of teams from their schools or regions after spending months meeting and preparing with classmates for the conference. But in 2013, history was made when the first-ever Online Model United Nations (O-MUN) delegation embarked on a trip to The Hague.

Composed of students from all corners of the world, the O-MUN delegates prepared for the 2013 conference just as furiously as more traditional delegations, holding regular online sessions to gird themselves for the in-person debates to come. In doing so, the delegates were able to forge lasting, border-busting connections well before they had even touched down in the Netherlands.

“Running a program like O-MUN, with so many students and officers around the globe, all communicating via Skype or e-mail or Messenger, proved to be an interesting challenge,” former O-MUN Director Nick Yeh said in an interview reflecting on his work with the group. “Especially when you consider nuance, tone and attitude don’t translate well via written form, and thus we often had to communicate very explicit instructions to our officers only to see a great amount of miscommunication happen.” Yeh observed that working past these miscommunications

helped breed many of the “leadership skills” he now boasts.

Former O-MUN delegate and chaperone Russel Evans, who is now an organizer with a Canadian labor union, echoed his one-time colleague. “My participation in O-MUN... helped turn me from a shy teenager who lamented at the idea of speaking to an audience... into a young adult who, while still quiet and reserved generally, is no longer afraid of public speaking or speaking to large groups,” he said.

For many of the students involved in O-MUN, it was the first Model UN conference they had ever attended; previous guidelines had required delegations to come from the same schools, preventing home-schooled or geographically-stranded students from attending. “By the end of the week[-long] trip, I was hooked... O-MUN became my gateway to MUN,” another inaugural participant, Omar Naguib, added.

Organizing the 2013 O-MUN trip was akin to a logistical nightmare, participants recalled, but months of video calls soon paid off. “To think a team could come together, practice, prepare and debate online and then succeed at a face to face conference, was unimaginable and yet it happened,” Yeh remarked.

Indeed — as improbable



PHOTOGRAPHS SOURCED FROM O-MUN ARCHIVES

as it may sound — the O-MUN team celebrated a string of triumphs at the 2013 conference: most of the group’s members became the main submitters of their resolutions, a prestigious MUN honor. “I think O-MUN, perhaps more so than traditional physical MUN, has a real power to make concrete, and more importantly, positive changes through the actions and knowledge of the youth because of the [program’s] ability to bring students from so many nationalities and backgrounds into one virtual room at the same time,” Evans concluded.

Many of the students from that original delegation have remained involved with the MUN world, ensuring future generations of students can attend conferences, whether or not they are affiliated with an established school or group. Yeh is now a leader of an NGO that is dedicated to expanding the footprint of Model United Nations beyond the conferences themselves. Likewise, Naguib remains involved with O-MUN as Assistant Director of Global Debates, while

also working as an intern in the office of U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand. Another 2013 participant, Salam Nowar, has since founded the Salam Centre for Peace, an organization in Israel that works to educate students about the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and MUN.

“I believe that MUN has a powerful role in inspiring students to be change-makers. The ideas and solutions we come up with in committee rooms, hotel rooms, back of the bus, walking to conferences, are all ideas that need to be heard,” Yeh shared. “MUN teaches students how to be dissatisfied with the state of the world and to do something about it. It develops strong problem solvers who are also able to articulate and share and debate and discuss and compromise with each other.

“It gives youth a chance to make their voices heard, and not just in protest, but with solutions.”

LAYOUT BY CHARLOTTE WIDMAIER

PROFILE:

JAMALA OSMAN

“Some would say I was spiraling out of control... but I look back at that period so differently and I like to call it spiraling into control.”
- Jamala Osman TEDxLondon

BY LÉA HENAUX



Photograph by THIMUN QLC

On Thursday morning at 11:30, a young social entrepreneur from London will be sharing her story in the World Forum Theater and making herself available for a Q&A session.

The speaker is Jamala Osman, whose mission is to help struggling individuals connect with top corporations and reach their full potential. In her TEDxLondon speech ‘From the Block to the Bank,’ Osman explained her struggles with mental illness and how she turned her life around to overcome her challenging circumstances.

By the age of 21, she worked for Barclays and became one of the youngest bank managers in the United Kingdom. She also recounted her struggles with ‘imposter syndrome,’ when her appearance and background were often held against her, and explained how she fought to work past those insecurities and anxieties.

Carol Berenbaum, Secretary of the Board of Directors, met Osman last year at the 2019 Qatar Leadership Conference and was immediately awed by her inspiring presentation. Berenbaum asked Osman if she was willing to speak at the THIMUN 2020 conference.

“I hope that she inspires each of us to realize that we are the ones who can change our story and circumstances; a lot of us tend to blame external factors rather than looking at how we can change the situation,” stated Berenbaum.

Her story embodies the essence of this year’s theme, as it invites all of us to use the voice we have to decide our futures. Berenbaum added that “the theme is democracy, the theme is freedom, the theme is that we each have a voice, and I think that by deciding our story we are having a voice.”

CHANGING THE SOCIOPOLITICAL LANDSCAPE

BY NICOLAS GHANDOUR

One Panel at a Time

THIMUN welcomed the world-famous cartoonist Tjeerd Royaards to the conference on Tuesday. The delegates had the chance to attend his presentation and take a look at a few of his most famous cartoons, building their understanding of the press and freedom of speech.

Royaards, who works in the Netherlands, came to THIMUN to present his occupation and the world of cartoons to the delegates. By displaying examples of his artworks, he showed that an image

can be simple yet powerful. Fiona Binder (Delegate of the Russian Federation, Special Conference Sub-Commission 1) said that the “most striking is that, despite the simplicity of his cartoons, Royaards delivers a strong, nearly revolting image of actual events.”

Indeed, Royaard’s essential technique is to “take an everyday scene in a not so everyday context,” he said. He would take a normal scene and include different elements

that provoke readers and force them to reflect on the world around them. For example, he would draw a girl playing in the street as the sky behind her is obscured by falling bombs.

This cartoon, which might seem somewhat incongruous at first, raises awareness about the dangerous situations happening around the world.

Royaards also insisted on how lucky he was to work in a country where freedom of speech was respected, but that his situation was rare. “Being a journalist is dangerous,” he said. “But you cannot have a democracy if people are uninformed.”

The cartoons’ messages often aim to criticize someone or an institution and aspire to show the truth about the political world, forming the essence of democracy.



Photographs by Julie Andersen

“His talk made me look at the cartoon world through a totally different perspective,” said Marc Chu (Delegate of Brunei Darussalam Delegate, SPC1). “His powerful messages allow us to re-examine our position in the political world. It was definitely very inspiring.”

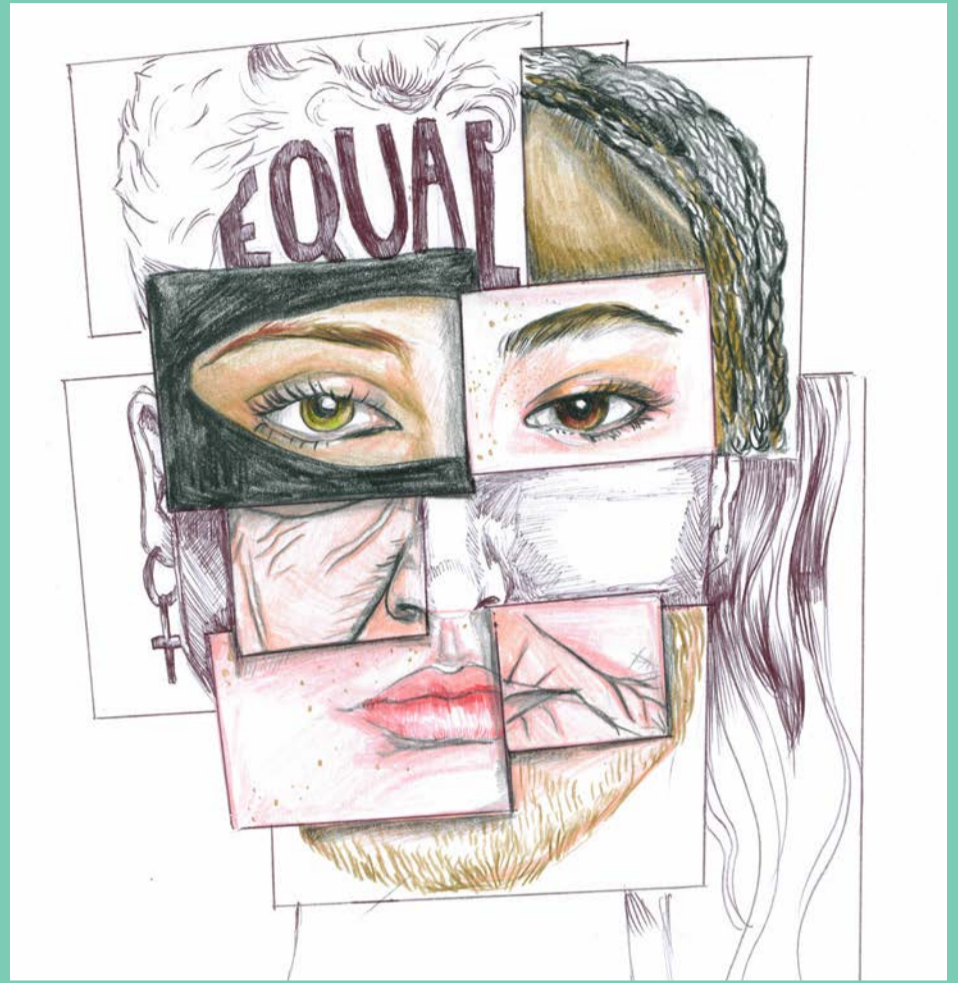
Layout by Selma Choden



CARTOON COLLECTION



Artwork by Martina Rodriguez



Artwork by Charlotte Widmaier



Artwork by Daria Panasencko

Layout by Samantha Edwards