



PAMUN Newsletter

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Welcome to PAMUN XV !

NEW VENUE: Palais de la Mutualité & Bernardins Monastery

NEW DATES: November 21-23

Due to the Climate Change Conference COP21, taking place in Paris, November 30 – December 11, UNESCO premises have been requisitioned/mobilized. As a result, PAMUN conference couldn't take place at UNESCO as planned, and needed to find a new haven! And a new venue implied a new date!

Dear Friends,

This is the Newsletter you have all been eagerly waiting for!

It seems like only yesterday, and indeed less than six months have elapsed since the last PAMUN conference, and here we are launching the 2015 edition!

All details on the 2015 conference, which is scheduled for Saturday to Monday,

November 21-23, 2015, will be available on our web-site: <http://asp-edu.net/pamun/> from **Friday, May 15** onwards.



register before May 15 (it is unnecessary to hasten), as your data may be lost during the trials! If you plan to come back, as we hope you will, please be sure to complete **FORM I** online before June 6, to ensure a spot for your school.

Please **DO NOT** access it earlier, since it will be still in its testing stages.

Early registration for returning schools will open on May 15 as planned (cross your fingers), before we invite a few interested schools on the waiting list to join on **June 5**.

Please **DO NOT** attempt to

When completing registration online on **FORM I**, you will be asked to generate a password. This password will be your key to access **FORM II** in the fall. **Please tuck it away safely and do not lose it !**

You should expect separate instruction to complete **FORM II** in the fall.



Completing Form I



Human Rights Panel

Please pay attention that, when completing **FORM I**, you will also need to download **two** documents:

A **Participation Agreement** form, which you will need to complete and send back within **3 days**, which will confirm your online registration and your commitment to procedures, as well as to payment of fees.

Failure to do so diligently will

void your registration!

An **Invoice** (which must be downloaded when submitting the online registration), to be paid no later than **September 15**.

Failure to do so will void your registration!

Important note: the invoice concerns only the number of delegates you plan to bring to PAMUN and only one MUN

Director. Adjustments to these numbers (additional Chairs or Press Officers, ICJ appointments, additional Directors/Chaperones/Observers) will be made when your nominal detailed registration in Form II (in October) generates an updated invoice.

PLEASE—when completing the form online, check carefully all spelling. Capitalize first letters only, and spell French and Turkish names without accents!

Conference Fees

School Fee:
275 Euros

Individual Fee for
all Participants:
210 Euros

ICJ Applications due June 5

International Court of Justice (ICJ) is a very special committee within MUN conferences. Both the type of issues dealt with (involving legal problems) and the procedures followed, are setting the committee aside as prestigious.

Two **advocate teams** of two students each will be appointed in June, to allow them

to start preparing their cases. Applications are due **June 6!**

The **President** and **Vice-President** of ICJ, as well as the **Registrar**, will also be appointed in June and their application is also due **June 6!**

These appointments are not part of the delegation and are coming as it is “on top” of the

delegation “cap” at 15 delegates.

Applicants for Judge position will be considered in the fall, together with all other applications. Appointed judges are part of the delegation.

Please help attract to ICJ some of the best and most ambitious delegates.

Search for ICJ Advocates !

A panel of serious judges; an experienced Officers’ team; and yet the ICJ stands or falls on the quality of its two Advocate teams! It is the quality of their research, the solidity and subtlety of their arguments, their capacity to use their sources judiciously, their preparations of the “witnesses”, their familiarity with the legal intricacies, and their rhetoric, which carries the day and holds the Court spellbound. Advocates need to be endowed with enthusiasm, passion and sheer grit! Their preparation is long and extensive. They also need to be able to “think on their feet”, respond meaningfully to challenges thrown their way by the adverse party, and to formulate pertinent questions in cross-examination.

This is why Advocates need to be appointed in June, to afford a stretch of time to ready themselves for this key role. The success of this committee rests on their shoulders.

The Admin
Hub—a
week
before
the
conference





Palais de la Mutualité

24 rue de Pontoise & 13 rue Saint Victor, Paris 5e

The Mutualité building was inaugurated by President Paul Doumer in 1931. Its main hall was built symbolically to a capacity of 1789 seats, in order to link it more firmly to the revolutionary ideal, and has been a political and cultural landmark in Paris: all main labor unions have held their meetings within its walls, both the Socialist party and the UMP have held rallies in its main hall, and major French singers such as Jacques Brel and Leo Ferré have triumphed on its stage.

The building has been recently (2012) renovated by Jean-Michel Wilmotte, one of the foremost French architects, who has preserved the spirit of this Art Nouveau jewel in the heart of the Latin Quarter. It is now a thriving conference center and will be PAMUN main haven this year. Opening and closing ceremonies, as well as the General Assembly, will take place in its main hall, and all committees but one will take place in its meeting rooms.



Collège des Bernardins

20, rue de Poissy, Paris 5e

150 meters around the corner from the Mutualité, the Bernardins are a little medieval gem. Founded in 1245 by Cistercian monks as a major center of learning, the monastery thrived for five hundred years, until its collapse during the French Revolution. During the next two hundred years, it served various purposes, housing a fire station, serving as a boarding house for policemen, its grounds being reduced by the tracing of streets and the building of houses. Renovated since 2008, the building is now serving as a thriving cultural center offering courses on various aspects of inter-religious dialogue and contemporary ethical issues.

The special configuration of the Bernardins will allow us to house the Special Conference on Climate Change COP21 in its main hall, whose renovation, curiously, is also due to Jean-Michel Wilmotte! This committee will be able to convene its constituting country-groupings in smaller halls, and pave the way for a new MUN procedure within it.

New Features:

As if coping with a new venue and an accelerated schedule due to an earlier date of the conference wasn't enough, PAMUN XV will undertake new challenges this year.

SPECIAL CONFERENCE: CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE – COP21

This commission is going to alternate work between a plenary and a split into three constituent “stake holders” groups, which will work more informally to discuss their objectives and strategies, and to determine their potential “line of compromise”. This will allow for a more authentic “modeling” of the actual UN work style.

The three groups are based-off the actual country groupings which are currently active within the COP21 negotiations:

- Least Developed Countries (LDC) as defined by the United Nations & Developing Countries (DC)
- Small Island Developing States (SIDS)
- A third group loosely termed “more” developed countries, comprised of OECD + European Union +Umbrella Group & Environmental Integrity Group (EIG) – basically all countries not part of the first two groups.

It is still unclear if there will be both time and space for additional groupings (for instance OPEC) to coordinate their policies separately.

Specific rules and schedules will be published in due course, but we are very excited to explore this new model structure.

QUALITY FEEDBACK

This has been tried last year with some success, and we will seek to reinforce and strengthen the experience.

Students often wonder how they are doing and how they can improve their “performance”. They have of course a “subjective” impression but they can seldom confront it with a more “objective” appraisal. Sometimes, their MUN director may be in the room and witness them in action, but this is often due to luck.

Mindful of making the MUN experience a worthwhile educational experience, we will experiment in at least two committees a “quality feedback” system. Chairs will be directed to give immediate feedback to delegates after they have taken the floor, or asked a point of information, or submitted a clause. The idea being that such immediate feedback can contribute to a positive learning curve during the conference itself, and increase the overall quality and meaning of the PAMUN experience.

STRICT PARTICIPATION TALLY

The difficulty experienced by some delegates to obtain the floor or even ask points of information is often mentioned as one of the “issues” which delegates have to wrestle with, especially in bigger committees. Up to now, even though the complaint is recurrent, it is based-off impressions and has little factual basis. Yet it would be so easy to obtain precise accurate information.

This is the goal of implementing a strict participation tally, which will be kept by an Admin appointed to this task. This tally will, on the one hand, eventually allow for some redirection between day 1 and day 2, and on the other will provide us with invaluable information on the basis of which important decisions may be made to tackle this challenging issue. At least two of the larger committees will be involved in this experiment.

Last year, the results of this tally were conclusive: in both big committees involved, a quarter of students had a lot of action, about half had “some action” but not as much as the first group, and about a quarter had no action at all – and we don't know if this is because they didn't raise their placards, or if they did but were ignored by the chairs. We will share this result at the Chairs' Workshop, and seek ways to improve the percentages of active participation.

Achieving a Balance Between Development and Sustainability



It is a tradition at MUN and at PAMUN to formulate a general theme for the conference. When crafting this year’s theme, the PAMUN XV Executive Team wanted to express the need for our econo-

Security Council in session

mic, political and social development to be balanced with the maintenance of cultural respect and the ultimate sustainability of our practices. Our endeavor of “Achieving a balance between development and sustainability” is one that leaves room for interpretation while presenting numerous unique challenges of its own. Our hope is that delegates leave PAMUN XV with a firm understanding

of how our society is both ideologically and physically developing and why that development needs to be mindful of local contexts, cultural values and norms, and specific aspirations. While development may improve economic wellbeing and encourage a progressive state of mind, it comes very often with a price.

Chloe Olsen, Secretary General

The Dalai Lama said:

“If a mosquito and a man are together in a room—who then prevents the other from sleeping?”

Chairs’ Applications

The date due for applications has been set for **September 28**. Appointments will be made on **Saturday October 3** for all Officers (Chairs and Press, and ICJ Judges).

All returning schools are strongly urged to consider sending in applications for positions.

Part of the quality of the conference rests on the individual worth

and skills of the Chairs, which in turn hinges on the quantity and quality of applicants. It is also a fabulous opportunity for some of the stronger and more experienced students to experience a conference from another perspective, and be among the leaders and tone-setters of their respective committees. Serving as Chairs will tax their ingenuity and contribute to their

growth. Their letters of Application and your recommendations will be read carefully and it is important to make them as strong as possible.

The **Chairs’ Workshop** is scheduled for **Friday, November 20, 2015**. All applicants for this positions undertake, if they are appointed, to travel to Paris ahead of their delegation if need be and participate in the Workshop.

Press Applications

We will also hold a **Pre-Conference Workshop for the Press team!**

This workshop, which will run in parallel to the Chairs’ Workshop and will also be held at UNESCO, will take place on **Friday, November 20, 2015**.

All applicants to the Press team undertake, if they are appointed, to

travel ahead of their delegation to Paris if need be and participate in the workshop.

Schools should seriously consider offering to their local journalists the opportunity to apply for Press positions, which offer a magnificent training ground for aspiring writers, photographers & lay-out editors.

This should be seen as a rare op-

portunity to “learn the ropes” for aspiring journalists, set them a challenge of meeting stringent deadlines and producing 4 issues of the conference newspaper, and thus acquiring the equivalent of a first “professional” experience.



Disarmament Committee is Voting



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PAMUN at Mutualité & Bernardins
Your Parisian Rendez-Vous

Mark Your Calendars:

PAMUN 2016—back to UNESCO!
December 2-4, 2016

PAMUN 2017
December 1-3, 2017

Preparation Tips:

MUN 101: <http://itun.es/i6Jc6Fz>

Other useful links:

<http://bestdelegate.com/>

<http://www.un.org/cyberschoolbus/modelun/prep.html>

<http://www.unausa.org/global-classrooms-model-un/>



Miscellaneous

The issue for the **General Assembly**, as well as one issue for the **Security Council**, have not yet been determined: as we seek to be as close as possible to current events, the topics will be published in **September**.

Returning schools with good standing may request a seat in **SC** by ticking the appropriate box on the registration form, and will be informed in mid-June on the nominations. Schools applying for a SC seat undertake to send one of their best delegate to the SC, which, because of its very small size (15 delegates), is offering a lot of “action” but requires from each a great measure of commit-

ment and willingness for total involvement: there is no space in the SC for reserved and unprepared students.

You should expect to find our detailed **Research Reports** on our website by **September 15**. They are meant to direct your students to what is meant by the Issues on the Agenda as they are formulated, and help them to start their research and formulate a few draft clauses.

Too often, “facetious” students prepare conference **Note Paper** which might be deemed inappropriate. MUN Directors will be

required to hand-in at registration an exemplar of Note Paper used by the delegations of their school. Hopefully, this will dissuade most “prankish” Note Paper and will add to the appropriate decorum of the conference. [You will be reminded of this closer to the conference].

The conference takes place in the heart of the Latin Quarter, a stone’s throw away from Notre-Dame cathedral and from scenic and touristic Ile-Saint Louis. An opportunity to immerse in Parisian life and taste its distinctive gastronomy at affordable prices!

SEE YOU IN NOVEMBER !