



# Munificence

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Issue 1

## Getting To Know PAMUN 2017's Secretary General: Nicolas Julian

By: Lenoy Christy

*To returning and novice participants alike, Nicolas Julian, the Secretary General of PAMUN 2017, is truly a sight to behold in terms of the commitment and passion he brings to a conference. Organizing a conference like PAMUN is no easy feat, but fortunately, Nicolas was able to take some time to answer some of our questions.*

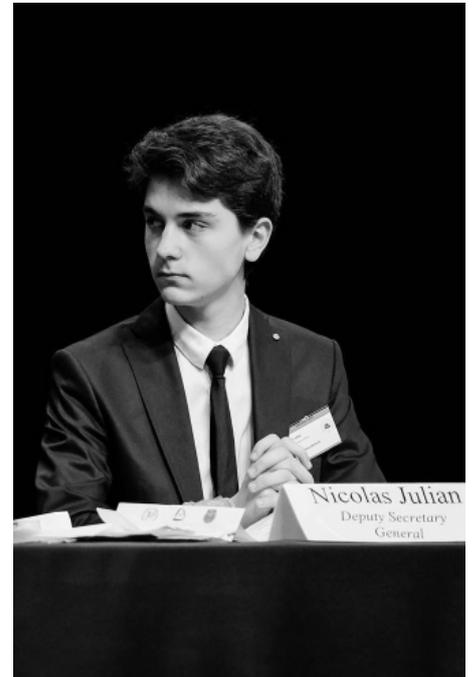
*For most participants, the position of Secretary General is considered the pinnacle achievement in the world of MUN. How do you feel now that you hold this position at one of the largest conferences in Europe?*

The concept of achievement is relative to our own relationship with Model United Nations, and for that matter any activity we take part in. While granted I am overjoyed to take on this role this year and I realise both its importance and the sentiment that it represents the "pinnacle", as you describe it, of achievement in MUN in the eyes of some, to me it mostly represents a fortunate outcome or conclusion to my "MUN career". I have been involved in this activity for more than six years. I have experienced nearly everything one will come across during a conference. I have embarrassed myself in front of a crowd of people, while also being able to convince them to rally for my cause. I have spoken out of turn, and found myself confused by the intricacies of the ever-daunting parliamentary procedure, but have also been given the chance to learn from these to "perform"; whether it be as chair, DSG, or SG. I have found comparable fulfillment in all the jobs I have taken on over the years, as I

have with my current job of SG. The notion of achievement in my opinion finds itself indeed very closely tied to our own perception of fulfillment. As a first time delegate this summarized itself into making a speech in front of people; as a chair it summarized itself into helping delegates learn how to debate; as SG it summarizes itself into the ability to organize a successful conference. Therefore, I would go as far to say that, while it does propose a different form of achievement or fulfillment, the role of SG-specifically at a conference like PAMUN- does not contain the same prestige that some may deem it to have. Quite paradoxically, if I do my job well, the delegates rarely have to see me. While to some this may translate itself into this idea of mystified prestige, it simply speaks to the nature of the job. So while indeed I am thrilled to take on this role, I still find myself to be just as vulnerable as a new delegate or a new chair, trying to find themselves into their new position, and hopefully creating the best result possible.

*How did your MUN career begin and how has it developed? Are there any moments that stand out to you?*

I like to think of an MUN career as one built up by specific moments, that form you both as a person and an MUNer. I first started MUN in 6th grade per the recommendation of my older brother, himself having acted as SG of PAMUN quite some time ago. My first conference, granted was not nearly the size of one like PAMUN, but proved to be one of the most formative experiences of my life. Mainly observing, seeing as I didn't even have the



courage to make a single statement, I learned how to debate, how to lobby, and how to hold myself in front of a crowd. With that understanding in mind came its application, specifically during my first years in high school, where with time I learned how to construct an argument, defend it, and ultimately how to amend it. Yet aside from, that one moment that stands out to me particularly is that of hardship. In 10th grade I was appointed DSG of PAMUN 15. I was thus on the team that had to work to reschedule our conference following the attacks in Paris in November. While this definitely proved to be difficult, it mainly clarified in my mind the importance of MUN, and a conference like PAMUN. Born and raised in Paris, I consider that time to be a great source of confusion and frustration for me, and MUN opened itself for me as a way to let some of these feelings out. Debating

and interacting with other delegates is what allowed me to make sense of what happened, and make peace with the general state of the world. Since then, I have never looked at MUN under the same light. It will always be something very personal to me; that in my opinion shapes people in different ways, but ultimately forces, if done right, a bond (or a “virus” as Mr. Reshef would describe it) that simply is impossible to get rid of.

*Every SG begins a conference with the hope of improving upon the last. In what ways do you feel PAMUN 2017 differs from its predecessors?*

Well most obviously we have tried to change our debating procedure ever so slightly to include “Bloc Politics”. In order to simulate the UN to the best of our ability and as accurately as possible, we decided to include this

new feature and ask countries that tend to work together in the UN, to work together during PAMUN. This adds an element of realism that just makes debate so much more interesting and frankly coherent. We are also trying to push the narrative behind our theme, “Working Towards the New World Order”. Despite its rather Orwellian connotations, the team and I, really wanted to focus on the future. Whether these relate to improvements in technology with the automatization of the workforce to the growing implications and struggles of e-commerce, to even issues of global ramifications that will define the state of our world, notably the conflict on the Korean Peninsula and the growing threat of Global Warming. Also apparent in our theme and our selection of topics are some of the greatest issues revolving tolerance that

challenge our daily lives, leading us to question the very declaration defining basic human rights and determine whether or not it needs reforming to fit the social needs of the 21st century.



*Having been in the shoes of those attending a major conference for the first time, what words of advice can you offer to novice delegates?*

Don't be scared to fail, fail again, and fail a third time. Having experienced MUN both in Middle and High School and having consequently attended conference of very different sizes and calibres, I implore you to fail, as only from failure will you learn to love the process of MUN.

## A Peek Into the Special Conference: The Question of the Future of the European Union

By: Shouq Al-Tamimi

This December students from all around the world will be traveling to France in order to attend the enriching three day Paris Model United Nations conference (PAMUN). This conference is a way to present different issues and global concerns to delegates representing countries from all around the world. The delegates will then work to explore different resolutions to resolve these issues while taking into consideration their country interests and goals.

There are many commit-



tees which the delegates will be apart of, one of which is the special conference. The special conference this year will be discussing and debating on issues surrounding the European Union.

A range of scenarios are

presented that could be put in place by 2025 that drive Europe to change in the future. Delegates will look at main points which describe the state of the EU at the moment, and at the euro currency and how vital the currency in deciding the future of the EU.

Also, another main point is the fact that countries are isolated and not cooperating with each other. If cooperation amongst these countries can be assured, then the EU will become much stronger.

In addition to that, the EU's

defence spending is not satisfactory, and the fact remains that they have been the targets of multiple terrorist attacks in the past.

The final point is that the EU has lots of inequality when it comes to standard of living and employment rates. This has all led the EU to not being as significant as they once were in terms of economic and military power.

While taking into consideration the current state of the EU the committee will be able to form accurate resolutions to solve the main issues that are presented to them. Some of the main issues that

will be debated in the special conference are the use of emerging technologies. As new technologies are developed, we find technology and automation's impact on the European Union's single market and job economy, as 54% of European jobs are at risk from computerisation. Other issues include the structure of the EU and the differences between countries. Climate change, migration, security threats at the eastern boarder, a shrinking population, declining economic power, legal of the economic crisis, outdated social

welfare systems and the rise of populist and nationalist rhetoric are also points worth bringing up. Through this debate countries will explore more on what future they want for themselves, their children and for the Union as a whole as delegates come up with solutions to help Europe evolve in the coming years.



*Image: World Atlas*

# Is Peace in the Korean Peninsula A Possibility For the Future?

By: Hugo Ward

Despite countless non-aggression treaties, sanctions, and supposed resolutions the question of peace in the Korean peninsula has loomed over both the East and West for over 60 years. Since the signing of the 1953 armistice and the ceasing of conflict of the Korean War, the United Nations has played a direct role in keeping the peace between the quarreling neighbors. Despite the creation of a Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) at the 38th parallel, the signing of the Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and countless other attempts to keep the peace, the Korean peninsula is no closer to peace than it was a decade ago.

So is there an answer? Other countries have managed to exist literally side-by-side despite their previous conflicts and contemporary disagreements. As an example, the border between the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland has remained open and unguarded since the independence of the former, and has remained this way despite periods of intense violence. Would opening the border between North and South Korea potentially create a foundation for lasting peace? In brief, no. The border between Northern Ireland and the Republic remained open as a result of necessity mixed with the mutual benefits



*A meeting between North and South Korean Officials, regarding the possibility of peace.*

*Image: Express UK*



*The 2016 Women's Walk for Peace*

*Image: Women Cross DMZ*

in doing so. It is difficult to imagine a situation in which either side of the Korean peninsula will accept those as justification for opening the DMZ. Any other solutions?

In continuing to look at history, one example of a country that came in from the cold comes to mind: the People's Republic of China. When examining this case, however, it is hard not be reminded of US President Richard Nixon's 1972 visit to the country, which ended 25 years of silence between the two countries; they are now each other's largest trading partners.

Nixon's visit not only marked the beginning of diplomatic relations between the West and China, but it started an era of relative mutual trust between the nations. So, one solution to the tension on the Korean peninsula, the only hope must lie in building trust. It could start with a joint-operated sports event, or international conference. Soon, shared institutions could be built. A few decades later, the relationship between the two nations would be rebuilt from the ground up.

# ILO: The Impact of Automation

By: Himani Someshwar



*Image: PurposeBuiltSoftware*

Automation is the process by which jobs that have been performed by human beings in the past, are programmed and completed by computers and machines. Automation may perform a task completely, thereby replacing a person who used to perform the task. The primary motivation for automation is that it relieves humans from repetitive and labour intensive tasks, freeing them to perform those that require technological skill, creativity, and judgement.

However, in reality, the employees who lose their jobs to automation, rarely have the opportunities or the finances to learn new skills adapted to new technologies to seek higher level jobs. This raises the question of whether technology will result in economic disenfranchisement or if the labour will be able to adapt to these new changes in technology.

Many experts have argued that technology leads to economic disenfranchisement due to skill instability. This is because the skills learned today in the education system are extremely specific and do not equip workers to adapt easily. If automation is introduced, the skill set required for certain jobs will change.

Women and those with low education

and low wage are highly targeted. Women, because they are underrepresented in the fields of STEM which are the jobs that will be newly created as a result of automation. Those with low wage and low income suffer the most job losses because they can be easily replaced by automation due to the low skill set requirement for their jobs.

Other experts recall the experience of previous Industrial Revolutions. Three previous revolutions involved the development and introduction of water and steam machinery, car and electricity, and the computer. They argue that labour will adapt to these new changes in technology, just like they did in the previous industrial revolutions. By adapting, the labour force will then be able to meet the new demands required of them. However, the current fourth industrial revolution is evolving at a rapid pace that the labour and the education system simply cannot keep up with. The previous revolutions evolved over decades, giving more time to adapt.

The economic disenfranchisement resulting from automation needs to be addressed proactively with parallel policies. Currently, there have been little to no attempts to solve this issue of automation leading to economic disenfranchisement. For example, the United States has stated their commitment to making changes in their policies, yet no real action has been taken. One of the main possible solutions to this problem is Basic Income, where each month, those who are technologically unemployed receive money from the government that fills their basic needs and requirements. Other solutions include encouraging women into the STEM field and reforming the education system to teach the adaptation of skills rather than specialized ones.

# ECOSOC: The Cancellation of Debts

By: Ahmed Dadabai

The cancellation of debts. Do they truly aid in the growth and development of an economy? The cancellation of debts (COD) occurs when a creditor forgives an amount of debt to a debtor, without requiring compensation in return.

Developing countries have spent years trying to repay billions of dollars in loans, with some governments even taking up new loans to repay the old ones. It was recorded that countries allocated more money to debts and loans than health and education, and as a result, governments have decided to relieve debts owed by developing countries.

Countries in severe debt, who qualified as part of the HIPC and MDRI, have agreed to channel the money saved into poverty reduction activities. This allows for better living for residents and better

education for a larger percentage of the population. For example, in Tanzania, primary school fees were abolished following COD, resulting in the increase of enrollment of students from 49% (1999) to 98% (2008).

In general, the idea is that this allows the country to develop more, seeing as more of the population is enabled for work, the literacy rate is increased and so are labor mobility and productivity. As a result, the country has the opportunity to become an active player in the global trading system.

COD also allows for goals intended for bettering the economy, such as: Gender Equality and equal pay, reduced child mortality, and combating HIV/AIDS, Malaria, and other diseases. Tax policies are also introduced, allowing for typical workers in a country to ser-

vice less of their income to external debt.

But debt relief also has its fallbacks. It is argued that debt relief may be a “blank Cheque” to governments, and savings may be plagued by corruption. Others argue that countries will contract more debts under the belief that they will be forgiven in the due course of time. Cancelling debt may additionally result in creditors looking for an increase in expected return on new lending. This will have a negative effect on borrowers.

Though these arguments are valid, it cannot be presumed that every country will abuse debt cancellation as that would be unreasonable to the developing countries who would have used this as an opportunity to strive rather than abuse.

## The Home of PAMUN 2017: Maison de la Mutualité

Standing tall over Rue Saint-Victor in the heart of Paris 5<sup>ème</sup> arrondissement, the Maison de la Mutualité is home to dozens of yearly conferences, from the Paris Model UN to shareholder meetings to assemblies of French political parties. An art-déco style building constructed in 1930, its extensive conference halls are rented out for use in private and public events.

When travelling to la Mutualité for PAMUN, make sure to take advantage of Paris’ convenient (and affordable) metro system. The nearest stop, Maubert-Mutualité, is the fourth-to-last stop when travelling towards Gare d’Austerlitz on metro line 10. The metro stop itself lies a five minute walk down Rue Monge from the conference center, and is located on the famous Boulevard Saint-Germain.

Mutualité rests in the 5<sup>ème</sup> arrondissement of Paris, an area known for its youthful energy. A quick walk down the Rue Saint Victor will lead you to an eclectic variety of shops and bistros; too many to explore some would say. The arrondissement is also home to the Latin Quarter, considered by many to be the quintessential nightlife district in Paris, and is in close proximity to some of the most revered historical sites in Paris, such as the Notre Dame Cathedral, and the Pantheon.



As far as eating options go, the area surrounding Mutualité is chock full of delicious options. Right across the street lies the famous Hamler’s, a burgerery known for their amazing smashed burgers that have fed hungry and tired delegates ever since PAMUN’s move to the Maison de la Mutualité. Their fries are no joke either. If you like long waits in lines with a delicious reward at the end, then you also have the option of popping into Breakfast in America, an American diner style restaurant also frequently visited by delegates during lunchtime.



# The PAMUN Philosophy

PAMUN is designed to provide a joyful and meaningful experience of negotiation, compromise and consensus building, on issues of concern to the global community. Students are confronted with the challenge of defending and furthering the interests and goals of the countries they represent, while seeking to accept with due respect and consideration other countries' goals and interests, and strike an appropriate balance.

While PAMUN offers students the opportunity to acquire knowledge and understanding the issues debated as well as the complex processes in an international body such as the United Nations, it is aimed first and foremost as an educational experience for the students, in which they are invited to develop two important human skills: listening for comprehension and not for controversy, and keeping an open mind. Our hope is that students participating in PAMUN will experience the thrill of debating and the joy of finding solutions, while experiencing first hand the power and the limitations of a multilateral organization like the United Nations, and that they will come away with a better grasp of its purpose and potential both today and in the future.



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