



Munificence

December 1st

The Opening Ceremony: A Recap

By: Ahmed Dadabai, Shouq Al Tamimi, and Himani Someshwar

The Opening Ceremony began at 9:30 in the blue-lit auditorium of the Maison de la Mutualité. The opening ceremony began with a soulful classical performance by a trio, composed of a pianist, cellist, and a violinist, followed by an uplifting speech by Mr. Ulfers, the head of school at ASP, on the history of PAMUN and the heights it has reached today. He discussed MUN as a whole and the importance that it holds. Giving examples of topics that are to be debated in this PAMUN 2017, such as automation (Fourth Industrial Revolution), he further emphasized the impact of MUN on our generation and finally concluded by instilling hope in the audience by reminding them of their ability to pave the path for a peaceful future. The mic was then given to Nicolas Julian, the Secretary General, who

spoke in great detail of technology, tolerance, global interdependence and the importance of the current generation's efforts in taking action. He too stressed the significance of our generation and spoke of MUN beyond the limits of the auditorium. The audience was especially empowered since they were the subject of the speech. He briefly touched topics such as the discrimination faced by people of color and the LGBTQ+ community as well as sexual assault victims. In today's day, these topics are extremely relevant to society and for this reason the examples were especially impactful. The Keynote Speaker, Laura Abadia, took the floor and talked about the three main lessons she learned working at the Poverty Action Lab. These lessons all revolved around problems and the way in which solutions are achieved. She

spoke of the importance of using 'how' rather than 'what'. Using real life examples, her statements were convincing and left the audience with a new perspective. A final performance, the Mock Debate, was played by the chairs. The show was informative and used satire and comical techniques to portray the expectations that needs to be met by the delegates. Since the rules and regulations were portrayed in a humorous light, it appealed to the audience and was an event to remember.



Photos By: Eloïse Seager

Wise Words From the Director of PAMUN 2017

By: Himani Someshwar

Ouriel Reshef, a teacher for 45 years, is currently a Theory of Knowledge teacher at the American School of Paris and the PAMUN conference manager. In his inspiring speech at the Chairs' Workshop, he discussed leadership qualities with a focus on session chairs.

In his speech he analyzed three theories of leadership: a natural leader is one who is born with leadership qualities, a great event leader is one who rises to the occasion, and a transformational leader is one who consciously acquires leadership qualities. Mr. Reshef reminded his young audience that 'leadership can evolve into each and everyone of us', and that 'knowing and being are the two conditions for doing'.

He discussed in detail eleven principles of leadership. These principles he listed were self-awareness, technical proficiency, seeking responsibility, timely decision making, setting an example, knowing others (in one's group), keeping everyone informed, developing a sense of responsibility in others, ensuring the tasks are understood, training as a team, and taking advantage of the capabilities of the organization. By waving a gavel, he reminded the audience, "the chair implies that they can't keep the quiet without it."

He also repeatedly reminded the audience that they too had been delegates once. He asked the chairs to think back to WHY they wanted to be chairs, and to remember and be inspired by those who chaired when they were once delegates.

Lastly, Mr. Reshef reminded the audience of some of the most important phrases of successful chairs, from those lifting people up ('you did a great job', 'what is your opinion', for example), to those that create a sense of a community through civility ('if you please', and 'thank you'). Mr. Reshef ended his observations on successful chairs with a flourish, reminding everyone that "It's never about I, and it's always about we. It's about a team!"



Photo By: Eloïse Seager

Interview With the Chair of Security Council

By: Hugo Ward

Svenya Braich is a senior at the American School of Paris. Having taken part in MUN conferences with ASP for three years, she is now acting as the chair for the Security Council committee at PAMUN. Munificence reporter Hugo Ward sat down with her to ask her some questions during the chair workshop.

Why do you feel the topics covered by the Security Council are particularly pertinent for this conference?

The theme that was given to us by the secretaries is such that we should be working towards a new world order. I feel as though the topics that were chosen in the Security Council, specifically concerning the civil war in South Sudan and also the negotiations we hope will go on between North and South Korea, are problems that really influence everyone and set the precedent for the international community with the conflicts our world is facing. In the case of South Sudan, the civil war there is not something that is being covered much by the western media and it's something that we feel is very important and needs to be brought to the forefront of people's minds. This is something that's been going on for a long time and it's still affecting our international community and we want to represent the entirety of that community and not just the countries in the Security Council and the P5 countries.

As I believe you mentioned, the Council will be covering the question of peace in the Korean peninsula. Do you feel like the current aggression or display of power from the DPRK (in the form of missile launches and nuclear arms testing) might be overshadowing the human rights violations currently present in the Korean peninsula?

Definitely. The western media really fixates on [the missile launches] because it's more interesting for them to report on but it's also really difficult because the regime in North Korea will never admit to any of the human rights violations, especially since although they have signed the UN charter and they technically do have to adhere to the Universal Declaration of



Photo By: Eloïse Seager

Human Rights, but the way the United Nations enforces these rights is by saying that each nation is going to do their best to uphold them. If the regime never admits to any kind of fault, then they never have to do anything about it under the UN. This is something that's very difficult for us because there's only so much we can do until these things come to light, and because of the travel laws it's very difficult for us to expose what's happening in their country.

Going off of the same idea but perhaps in a more broad sense, how do you, as the Security Council chair, find moderating debates that can become quite heated over polemic issues?

I think that, especially in the Security Council because it is such a small committee, the more heated a debate is the better because that means that everyone is personally invested in the topic as if it was something that directly affected them. I feel like that's one of the biggest pitfalls of MUN; the delegates will get into this mindset where they think "This is just a simulation. Why do I care about the starving kids in Libya? That's not my problem, I'm just going to go on my phone or flirt with these other delegates." In the security council when we have these really polarizing issues and people are getting involved, yes we don't want it to be disrespectful, but we feel like it's a really good opportunity for people to really engage in these opportunities and that's why the Security Council is so different.

Interview With an ICJ Judge

By: Himani Someshwar

Tommaso Israely is a senior at the International School of Paris. Having taken part in MUN conferences with ISP for four years, he is now acting as an International Court of Justice Judge at PAMUN. Munificence reporter Himani Someshwar sat down with him to ask some him questions.

Before being an ICJ Judge what were your positions in previous MUNs?

I was a delegate twice at the PAMUN Conference. Then, once at PIMUN and once at the conference in Madrid.

Can you briefly say a few words about ICJ for our readers? How does it work? When was it founded? What are noteworthy success and failures if any?

ICJ is the International Court of Justice. It is in the Hague but it was originally founded in San Francisco in 1945, I believe. It's basically about solving disputes between countries regarding the legality of certain specific cases and conflicts that they had as well as historical war crimes. Since World War II, it has constantly been persecuting war crimes. It was very recently in the news (last week), that a Bosnian war criminal drank poison in court and died. This caused a lot of chaos and discord with regards to the final judgement.

Can you describe the case at hand? How did it come about?

This case is between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United States. More specifically, the freezing of Iranian assets by the United States under the accusation of Iran's involvement in terrorism, and the increase of American sanctions due to the allegation of

breaking the Treaty of Nonproliferation and funding terrorism.

How does this issue fit with the theme "Working towards a new world order?"

It fits with the theme in the fight against terrorism and bringing a safer world. Through agreements such as the Treaty of Nonproliferation, the threat of war is reduced, and through global partnership economies can be built in a safer and more prosperous environment.

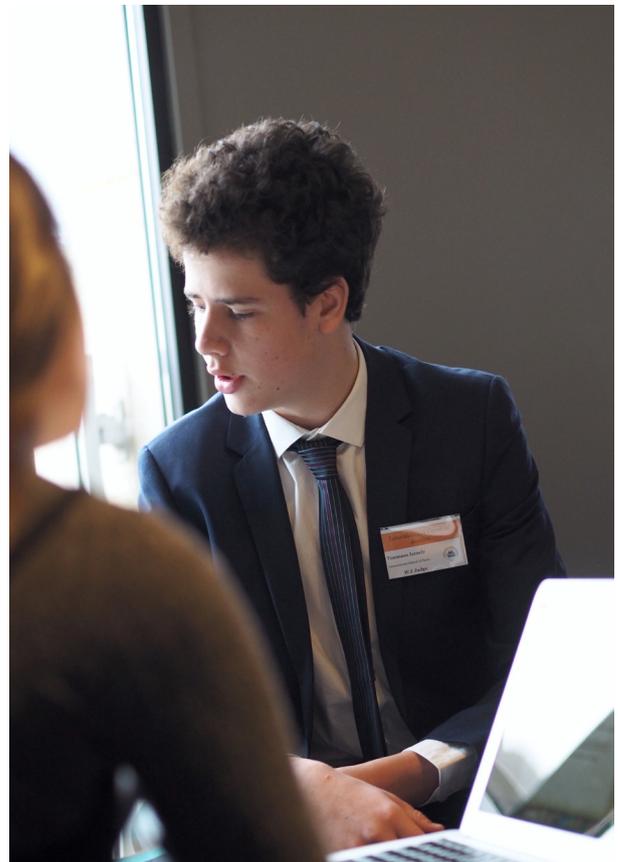


Photo By: Eloïse Seager

The Question of the Future of the EU

By: Lenoy Christy

The topic of the future of the EU is one of extreme relevance in our current political climate; one that is projected to have consequences beyond the scope of the European Continent. Vignesh Sreedhar, Chair of the Special Conference Committee that will be discussing this issue extensively over the PAMUN weekend, was kind enough to take some time to answer a few questions, and impart some of his knowledge in order to strengthen the understanding of those who may want to learn more about the issue.

Why do you feel your topic is pertinent or relevant to this conference?

The question of the future of the EU is pertinent to the conference and the world in general, simply due to the fact that the EU as a whole, plays a major part in global politics and the global trade; every part of the global processes right now really. Therefore, debating on the topic of the future of a key player in world matters is extremely important, especially when the key player is facing issues.

How does your topic fit with the theme “Working towards a new world order?”

As I mentioned earlier, because of the fact that the EU plays a major role in global relations, it is extremely important to talk about the future of the EU, given the fact that there are a lot of eurosceptic movements, economic problems, ideas of secession, and problems with cooperation within the EU. Since the EU is extremely important as of now, we need to make sure its future is ensured and that its future is positive. Overall, we need to ensure that the EU is a beacon of stability in the process of helping establish a new world order.

What possible debates or conflicts could spring up that are of interest?

Since this topic is pretty vast, there are a lot of aspects that the EU can and must improve on. Because of the various eurosceptic movements and general sentiments that are rising, it is important to make the public feel that the EU is a beacon of stability. As of now, 2/3rds of EU residents see the EU as a beacon of stability. 80% support the EU's

founding freedoms, and only 70% support the euro as a universal currency. Ideally, we want this percentage to move to a 100%, so that everyone is happy with the EU. There are also other problems, such as with the Euro, economic problems with some member nations such as Greece, the issue of making the EU as a whole more appealing to current members and prospective members, the issue of granting countries more sovereignty and freedom, etc. These are all important grounds where improvements can be made.

Do you expect the topic of Brexit to have a ripple effect throughout the discussions in your committee?

Definitely. Brexit is one the main reasons that we landed on this topic for the Special Conference debate. Britain, has been one of the most important and prominent countries in the Union, and its departure has caused a lot of controversy and problems in general. The exit has had a ripple effect throughout the EU in the sense that it has caused a lot of people in other countries to start thinking about secession, and this is something that we urgently need to address. We need to look at Brexit, and gather from it ways to improve upon the situation, and hopefully prevent another such situation.

What steps do you as chair take to moderate the often heated conflicts that can arise during the discussion of a topic such as this?

I believe the delegates coming to the Special Conference Committee Room will do their best to be diplomatic, as the conference asks of them. However, if a situation arises where a heated conflict did come up, I think that I would just encourage them to be diplomatic. The key is to not accuse delegates or cast judgement on certain delegations that may be thinking about secession for example, but to understand their reasoning behind why they believe what they believe and to think of ways to encourage cooperation.

Chairs Are the Invisible Hands to Successful Debates

By: Shouq Al-Tamimi

Here at PAMUN, we are a diverse group joined together to debate worldwide issues. The chairs at PAMUN are expected to attend a chair training workshop before the conference which helps them prepare to be good chairs and leaders.

Serena Capilla Murphy is a 12th grade student at the American School of Paris and Her speech during the chair training started with reassuring words, congratulations to chairs on being chosen for this position, and an introduction on what is expected from them as chairs to ensure a smooth and successful conference.

She started off by explaining that the aim of this conference is to introduce the main theme of the new world order to the delegates throughout the different debates in each committee. Through debates, delegates are expected to be able to come up with ways to resolve worldwide issues for a better future and world order. To ensure that, chairs should work towards having a productive debate.

She also stressed the importance of chairs possessing leadership qualities and good “chairing” traits that help keep the debate active and exciting for the delegates. According to Serena, Chairs are the “invisible hands” which guide the debate into what it should be. Serena also encourages the chairs that they should be awake and on their feet throughout the conference as “being lazy

will not fly”. A successful debate should be productive, fluid, active, and self-stimulating.

During the speech Serena mentioned that a good chair facilitates, mediates, intervenes when necessary, upholds decorum to a responsible degree, keeps up with proceedings and makes sure that the spotlight is on the delegates and not them. These traits are useful as they give the chair the capability of intervening in a dispute and taking charge when needed as well as keeping a stable environment within the committees, all the while ensuring a fun and wholesome debate.



Photo By: Eloise Seager

Paris Through the Grapevine

Pictures by: Eloise Seager

