



Munificence

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The Question of the Civil War in South Sudan

By: Himani Someshwar

South Sudan became a country, independent of Sudan, on July 9th in 2011. Soon after, however, initial political differences between President Salva Kiir and ex-Vice President Riek Machar, escalated into ethnic conflict and then became a civil war consuming the military and impacting the entire country. The delegates in the Security Council gathered to discuss and agree to find ways to resolve the civil war in South Sudan.

The Security Council debate

focused on several clauses such as calls for development of South Sudan's economy and increased security, including measures to prevent the direct and indirect transfer of arms to the country. Offered up by several member states, the clauses engendered lively and animated dialogue. Halfway through an early session the discussion veered to the numbers of votes required to pass a clause (found to be nine following an examination of the relevant document).

This finding caused a degree of chaos, with several delegates demanding a reexamination of the clauses already passed. The chairs swiftly established order, with the delegates agreeing to move forward and use this information on the remainder of the clauses. In the debate the delegates were extremely outspoken and enthusiastically defended their country, thus allowing for a competitive and engaging debate.



Photo By: Eloise Seager

Interview With An Environmental Committee Chair

By: Shouq Al-Tamimi

Ahmed Al Naimi is an outstanding student from Qatar Academy who has traveled to be a PAMUN chair. Ahmed is a chair who possess leadership traits and works hard to provide delegates with a chance to experience educational and effective debates.

Why do you feel your topic is pertinent?

In order to become a more sustainable and developed world we need work towards finding solutions of aiding developing countries in moving towards green production methods. These new technology methods developed to improve energy, buildings, green products. Some green technologies are designed to create green methods of production. The issue with this is that many developing countries are unable to take action due to a lack of the proper resources and technology. Sustainable technology is expensive for developing countries and we need to come up with solutions in order to make progress and work towards a sustainable world and ways to aiding developing nations to go green.

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

One of the topics that will be debated in the environmental commission relates back to the main issue of the importance of moving towards green production methods. By coming up with solutions we are able to work to pave a path to a better future. Due to how expensive

these new technology methods are, it discourages many governments from adopting new green policies.

This topic is one of the main aspects that we should look to resolve in order to come closer to world order and sustainable development within countries.

How does the lack of tools and technical assistance make countries unable to move towards green production methods? and what can we do to change that?

Countries simply cannot afford green production methods and new developed technology. This does take away the ability to implement green production methods and puts limits to what they are able to do. We should look at ways to provide developing countries with

safe, clean, reliable and affordable energy.

What are your views on the tourism bring fragile and sensitive to environmental and social changes?

I personally see that tourism has been impacted by the rapid changes in the environment and society. First of all the environment has changed from what it was previously and this has caused the tourism industry to adapt. In addition, society has impacted the industry. This indicates that the industry is fragile and sensitive to these changes, which are for the most part negative and need to be avoided.

As the chair of the EC how do you make sure delegates are active throughout the debate?

As the chair, I always maintain a welcoming mood. It's all about the delegates confidence and the content of the debate that keeps the fluidity and the participation going. In terms, of confidence I tend to encourage the nervous delegates and provide them with suggestions. For activity I maintain a constructive debate and keep it flowing, giving a chance for every delegate to speak.



Photo By: Eloïse Seager

The Question of Cyber Terrorism

By: Ahmed Dadabai

Gordon Moore predicted that the power of the computing world would double every 18 months in 1965. From 1995 to 2010 the number of people who used the internet in the world increased from 16 million to an astonishing 1 billion. Technology has allowed us to interact with each other on the global scale, paving the way for opportunity and growth. But with that, comes the prospect of crossing paths with dangerous individuals, some of whom that have the intentions of destabilizing nations. In the years between 2009 and 2015, state sponsored cyber attacks have grown by 38%. Centuries ago, nations used to send in armed mercenaries to destabilize other nation and gain riches, but once they realized that targeting digital systems was much simpler, the nations started developing their own cyber softwares for both defensive and offensive uses. Before, we were separated from various other countries and groups with destructive ideologies but now we are connected as a single community with no geographical boundaries to separate us. Cyber attacks are the breaching of computer systems with the intent of disrupting a large network. Two major scandals related to cyber terrorism includes the Edward Snowden Leaks (2013) and the Sony Pictures Leaks

(2014). Edward Snowden is a former CIA agent who leaked NSA files about the U.S. attacking various nations digitally. The Sony Pictures Leak was perpetuated by a hacker group called the Guardians of Peace, leaking employees' personal information, unreleased footages, and other sensitive information which paralyzed the company's growth for a due course of time. These are just some examples of corporate espionage and cyber crime that have the ability to dismantle entire economies and networks. Similar to the nuclear arms race, there exists a cyber arms race, where all nations want to spike their cyber capabilities. This next arms race is dangerous, especially as technology is getting more sophisticated. While cyber espionage and terrorism is an issue, there are possible solutions for rectification. The most effective one being cooperation, namely between nations and private/public sector. Many corporate firms which are not government funded can still be cybernetically dismantled and have catastrophic impacts. Becoming allies and sharing vital research and vulnerabilities in technology can lead to increased cyber infrastructure and defense. Can we join forces and combat the threat of cyber terrorism or are we one click away from global cybernetic destruction?

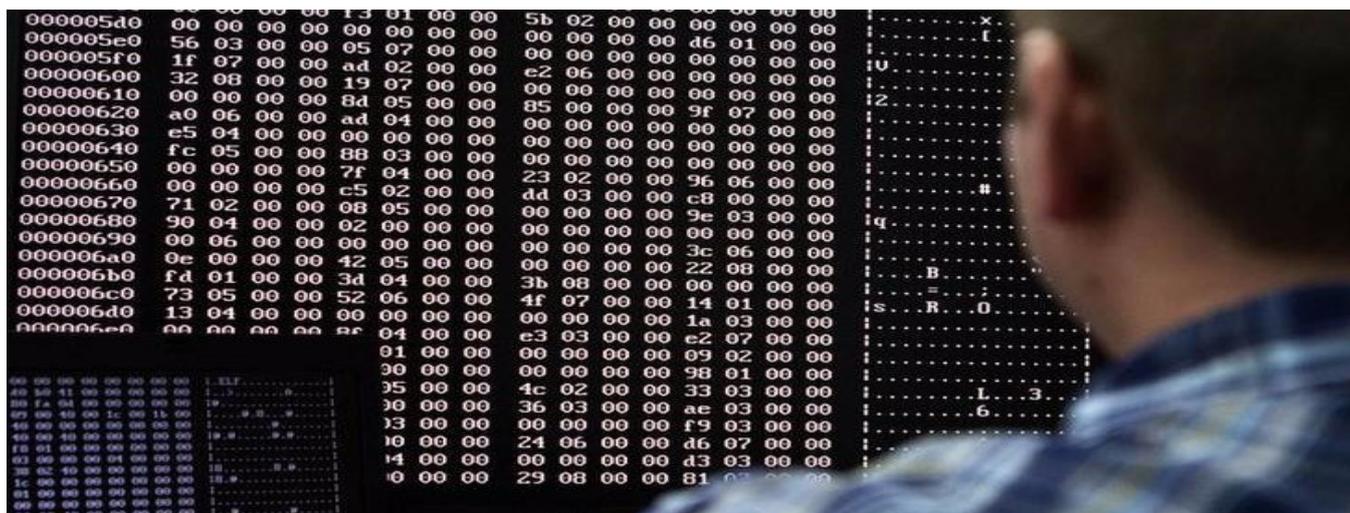


Image By: Business Insider

Interview With Deputy Secretary General: Mia Kwon

By: Hugo Ward

Mia Kwon is a junior at the American School of Paris. Having been a member of MUN for six years, she is now acting as Deputy Secretary General committee at PAMUN. Munificence reporter Hugo Ward sat down with her to ask her some questions during the chair workshop.

Prior to being a DSG, what positions have you held within MUN?

I started out like everyone else, as a delegate. My first conference was actually in Nanjing. I went with the delegation of the Shanghai American School, but afterwards I started climbing. I was actually a chair once in a middle school conference. In middle school, I had a huge ego because I was thinking “Oh wow, I’m the chair of [middle school] EcoSoc!” but then I went to highschool [at ASP] and things got a lot different; the level of debate was much higher than it was in middle school, but I kept working my way up. The first conference I went to with ASP was Model European Parliament, which I attended as a delegate. I also held a position of ICJ judge in PAMUN two years ago, and

last year I acted as a chair in one of the conferences and the president of ICJ. This year, I have the honor to serve as a DSG, but I don’t think it’s the position that matters the most rather the experience that you derive from these conferences. Being a delegate and being a chair, or vice-president or president of something offers very different experiences. For example, as a delegate you acquire skills of compromise and argument, while being a chair requires flexibility and communication.

How would you say your experience has been as DSG this PAMUN?

I would say it was very eclectic. Being a DSG really entails a lot of responsibility but the responsibilities are very different. For example, we started by deciding which topics to be debated in the committees, and then moved on to writing research reports, and finally planning the student officer workshop. This was all my first experience; as an eleventh grader I’ve watched the seniors work as DSGs before and it was always something I wanted to do. I think the best part has been working along-

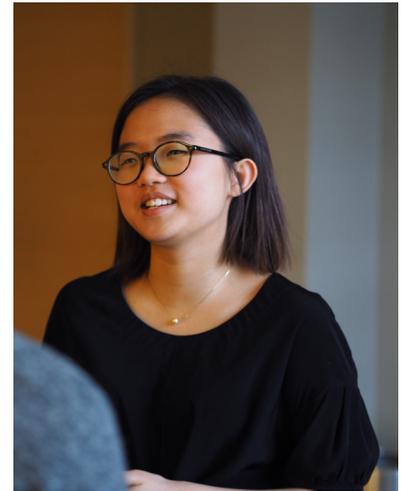


Photo By: Eloise Seager

side my fellow DSGs because I knew them all from school and I feel we made a very good team.

As a DSG, have you found that you have to approach dealing with problems differently than you have in your previous positions?

Definitely! As I was saying, most of the work we do for DSG is done before the conference. It’s very different from being ICJ judge or chair because most of their work is done during the conference. Essentially what the DSGs do is prepare the conference to make sure that this process is facilitated for those who actually run the conference for us.

So when problems come up, as they inevitably do in conferences of this size and scope, how have you had to deal with them as DSG?

Well, first we would try to prepare the best we could in advance to avoid any problems at all. For example, we worked hard to make sure that the student officer meeting ran smoothly so that every chair would know PAMUN procedure, how to chair, interact with one another, etc. I admit, it's inevitable that we will face some difficulties during the actual conference. For example, there were some issues in ICJ earlier this week which led to stipulations, but this

was partly my mistake for not having been thorough enough prior to the actual conference. I discussed it with the president and the vice-president and we decided that the problem did not go to the extent to which it should affect the court session. In most cases, you really have to be flexible in how you deal with it.

If you were to go back to a time right before you became DSG, is there any advice you would give yourself?

Don't do it (laughs). I'm kidding, if I were given the opportunity to give the opportunity to give advice to my previous self I would

tell myself to explore the aspects of MUN that I haven't experienced yet. As a DSG, you're supposed to have a well-rounded experience at MUN but I personally haven't in the Environment Committee, which is obviously very important. The fun part about being DSG is that you get to look at the conference more holistically instead of just having to focus on your one area. This year I tried, to the best of my ability, to dive into those different committees. Ultimately, if I were to go back and give advice to myself it would be to try and become involved in the other committees.

The Question of the Future of the EU

By: Lenoy Christy and Guest Writer Lexi Sacci

In terms of recent news reports, what's been most evident as a constant headliner is the topic of climate change. This has undeniably been the result of human activities that have taken place in the last fifty years. These human activities (most notably: the burning of fossil fuels) lead to the ever increasing global temperature. According to NASA, this has gone up by 0.99 °C (1.7 °F) since 1880, and is projected to continue to rise each year. If humanity really are the homo sapiens of the world (homo sapiens is the Latin for wise man), then the measures that have been put in place to mitigate what humanity has done to the world will prove to be effective.

Major organizations involved in global warming worldwide are the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Both involve the policies

revolving around climate change, where the IPCC has the primary purpose of examining existing texts that already exist on the environment and then bringing their findings to policymakers. In the UNFCCC, they have the primary goal of steadying the greenhouse gases in the atmosphere as well as stopping future human impact on the climate. Three large countries that are also major in terms of climate talks are the United States of America, the United Kingdom, and China. In the United States, the recent presidential administration has proved to be unstable on the position of climate change. The United States has, under President Trump, announced plans to withdraw from the Paris Agreement, which would add them to the other countries that did not sign on the Paris Agreement: Syria and Nicaragua. The Paris Agreement had the primary goal of keeping global temperatures at the maximum of 2 °C (3.6

° F) of the pre-industrial era. This is not expected to be reached until at least 2050, and can be reached as far away as 2100. The United Kingdom approach on global warming was that of a pioneer status, as the United Kingdom was the first country to have a legislation to battle global warming in their Climate Change Act of 2008. The primary purposes of the act was to reduce the UK net carbon by 2050, minimize their emissions by 80% of the levels that were held in 1990, and also requires



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legally-binding carbon budgets. The last of these major countries, China, has held the title of largest greenhouse gas emitter since 2008. This is being remedied through China ratifying the Kyoto Protocol, and the government making notable alterations to maximize renewable energy sources to 20% of China's total energy by 2030.

These countries all have one goal in mind: to minimize environmental impact. Some of the most pressing issues in today's world regarding global warming are the impact on ice, oceans, and the impact that's been made on extreme weather patterns. The purpose of ice in the environment is to reflect sunlight back into the atmosphere, keeping the temperature of the Earth cool, as well as the major bodies of water. With about 15% of the oceans being covered by ice year-round, the disturbing issue of the Arctic, Antarctica, and Greenland losing massive amounts of ice

could cause this number to go down. And because of this decrease in ice percentage, the oceans have been effected as well. With a massive melting of ice comes and increase in ocean levels. Lastly, the extreme weather has been a result of temperatures that continue to rise, making the circle of global warming come full circle.

Overall, there will be more impacts past the environmental effect. Not only will there be these drastic environmental effects, but there will also be social impacts seen on a global scale. These constantly rising sea levels will wipe out small islands and major low-lying cities will be flooded. As well as this, there is the continuing decrease of air quality which leads to the increase of allergies, asthma, as well as a plethora of other respiratory diseases. And with an increase in polluted areas, infectious disease rate increase as well due to complimentary conditions for

pathogens - especially those like malaria, transmitted by insects.

Should the world continue at its current rate, the population of 9 billion that is expected to be reached by 2050 will be achieved earlier than projected, the previous attempts to solve this issue of global warming will prove to be useless. The Kyoto Protocol, the Paris Agreement, to name a few, will be rendered useless. If new possible solutions are not made swiftly, this increasingly relevant issue will continue to increase until it becomes uncontrollable for humanity to answer.

Laura Abadia: Finding the “How’s” for Global Issues

By: Lenoy Christy and Hugo Ward

Laura Abadia is this year's keynote speaker at PAMUN. She is the Senior Policy manager at The Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (or J-PAL), an organization purposed with improving health systems in over 80 countries. Her position involves communicating with policymakers, publishing reports on policy, analyzing J-PAL research, and more. Lenoy Christy and Hugo Ward interviewed Ms. Abadia to get more information on her work with J-PAL and its implication for the larger world.

In her moving speech to the House, Laura Abadia addressed the subjects she and her organization feel are important for the transition towards a new world order. Using a

wide array of statistics to support her argument, she proposed a variety of methods of solving the issues that are prevalent in our world, as opposed to simply identifying the problem.

“I think what J-Pal has taught me is to first of all make sure to take into account all the options and details, and secondly, the importance of actually analyzing with evidence the different alternatives you have in a situation. So it's a matter of really going beyond the objectives and actually thinking about the ‘hows.’”

She emphasized three main points when addressing the PAMUN General Assembly on Friday. The first of these was to not overlook obvious or simple solutions to problems. In

doing so, she challenged delegates and chairs alike to search for simple compromises that will help form resolutions in PAMUN and come to greater solutions for global issues. “Overall, institutions such as J-PAL and conferences such as PAMUN are very complementary. One consists of high level decision making where we’re working towards fulfilling a certain agenda or objective. The second one is looking more into the options and considering which is the best alternative to achieve the objectives.”

Furthering this point, Ms. Abadia went on to her second point: very simple solutions can have great impacts. She used the example of immunization, particularly Nigeria and India. Prior to her organization’s efforts, 23 million children did not receive any immunization- a large portion of whom resided in the countries she mentioned. After doing further research, her team came up with the idea to give small gifts as an incentive for families to immunize their children. After this was implemented, the immunization rate increased sixfold.

“Besides scientific studies, larger society as a

whole plays a very important role in producing the knowledge to answer these ‘how’s.’” Her final point was to outline the importance of challenging conventional wisdom. Using the example of poverty-linked violence in the United States, Ms. Abadia outlined some facts to support her point. Stating that conventional solutions are not inherently the most effective or ethical answers to global issues, the speaker cited her organizations work with Cognitive Behavioral Therapy in poverty-stricken African American communities over prison sentences to move the Assembly and motivate them to find new solutions to old problems.

Ms. Abadia made a powerful end speech by challenging the assembly to keep dreaming big, planning small, and acting patiently. “I think that these conferences are full of young and very talented people who will most definitely go on to have steady careers and become professionals, and if they engage with these topics of how to improve humanity, then they will absolutely be able to contribute.”



Photo By: Eloise Seager