

MUNIFICENCE

Issue 2



In this Issue:

A Letter from the MUN Director

Page 2

Politics & Paris (Part II)

Page 2

What did the Chairs do during their pre-conference workshop?

Page 3

Opening Ceremony of PAMUN 2018

Page 3

12 types of people you'll definitely meet at an MUN conference!

Page 4

The Yemenis' New Hope in Asia

Page 6

Environmentally Displaced People: Refuse or Refuge?

Page 7

MUN-inspired Pick-up lines!

Page 8

A Letter from the MUN Director

Dear delegates,

Eighteen years ago, six schools from Paris and the Paris area and 80 students gathered in the Performing Art Center of the American School of Paris for a one-day debate in preparation for THIMUN. Eighteen years later, ten times more: 60 schools and 800 students are gathered for a regular three-day conference. Looking back on this exhilarating journey, it is energizing to think that in 18 years, more than 12 000 students have participated in PAMUN. To think that I could, through PAMUN impact so many students is both exciting and humbling.

But even more meaningful is the thought that, over the years, close to 200 students have been part, in one way or another, of the PAMUN organization, through being members of our Executive Team. What they have acquired through PAMUN has been a part of their lives for a few months and for some of them for a few years, and has shaped who they have become.

I sought to make PAMUN a very special conference. First and foremost, I endeavored to seek issues on the agenda that were on the frontline, issues which would be the talk of every MUN a few years later but were still hidden from the inattentive observer. This is how we were the very first to debate drones, before it became a hot and "sexy" topic. And this is how, this year, our GA will attend to a Migration Compact, which will be a mere week later on the agenda of an important UN conference in Marrakech. In this way, PAMUN is truly a much respected beacon on the MUN circuit, often imitated but never really equaled.

For all those years, PAMUN has been an unending source of pride for me, and an unending source of wonder: seeing all these young adolescents so committed, so passionate, and so enthusiastic, has kept me optimistic about the future, confident in the knowledge that it is in good hands, and that the rising generation will set right the mess we left behind us. If this comes to pass, and if I can think that I have, even modestly, contributed to its advent – there can be no more rewarding and satisfying thought.

Cordially,
Mr Reshef



Politics & Paris (Part II)

Following the Enlightenment, came the **French Revolution**, one of the most significant events in world history. The consequences of this upheaval spread throughout Europe and beyond, completely remoulding international relations, politics, trade and the cultural roots of Western civilization. The French Revolution began in 1789. Louis XVI's expenditures used to satisfy his extravagant lifestyle, his decision to get involved in the American Revolution along with the widespread dissatisfaction with the Third Estate System, the monarch's enforced incarcerations without due trial and the impossibility to attain a decent standard of living, all contributed to the uprising of the revolution.

France in the 18th century was indeed a ticking time-bomb ready to explode. The enlightenment ideas that arose thanks to the French Philosophes in the throughout the 17th century definitely fueled the radical ideas of the rioters. Many also attribute the beginning of the uprising to the policies of Louis XVI and his decision to send the French army to aid the English colonists in the American Revolution. The slogan of "no taxation without representation" directed towards the lack of American representatives in the English parliament, caused the French to realize that they too, have never been truly represented in parliament.

Another primary cause of the Revolution was the Third Estate System; the hierar-

chy of France. It consisted of the clergy on top, followed by the nobility and the commoners. The system allowed no mobility at all, which created frustration amongst the commoners, especially the wealthy merchants and the rising middle class, who felt out of place.

All of these factors, along with many others lead to an outburst of violence and revolts. This all began with the "Storming to Bastille", a mob that manifested itself in front of the Bastille prison in Paris (symbol of the monarchy's totalitarianism), and ended with the decapitation at the guillotine of Louis XVI and his wife Marie-Antoinette, followed by the ascent of Napoleon Bonaparte.

Irene Colombo

PAMUN PRESS TEAM

Head of Press

Max Jakobsen

Deputy Heads of Press

Poetica Wang

Ryley Menges

Press Members

Can Batu İzmiroğlu

Anna Kuznetsova

Irene Colombo

Yunrong Chen

Xueting Meng

Lucas Lippman

Neil Francis

Aishwarya Sinha

Nicole Kramer

What did the Chairs do during their pre-conference workshop?

On Thursday, November 29th, the Secretary General, Mia Kwon, and the Deputy Secretary Generals emphasized the importance of clause features and debate procedures to the Chairs during the Pre-Conference Chair Workshop. In the morning, the Chairs had an ice-breaking introduction. The Chairs were given names of objects and their goal was to find their corresponding match. For example, one of the Chairs, Zihan, was given the name “peanut butter”, and she was supposed to find her match -- “jelly”. To increase the difficulty level, the Chairs could only ask “yes” or “no” questions. She started with the question: “Are you a food?” Mostly all of the Chairs responded “no” until the very last moment when a chair said “yes”. She was delighted when she found out the match. Later she said to us: “If you are on the road of searching, you will eventually find the answer no matter how hard the journey is.”

One thing that surprised all the chairs was the unexpected jeopardy on the procedure details and PAMUN specific features. To do so, the Chairs split up into 4 teams and competed against each

other. It was a good opportunity for the Chairs to interact with each other, which strengthened the friendship amongst the young leaders. The jeopardy questions covered the topics on amendments, debate procedures, and potential situations. The Chairs were very energetic throughout the game and the amusing answers often caused laughter in the room. An example given by the Secretary General was a clause about setting up a conference. She asked the chairs to give amendments to polish the clause. One of the teams, “UNSCJ&T”, incorporated the specification of “where” and “when”, improving the clause as best as they could. At the end, team “Poupels’ Champs” won by over 2000 points. The chairs’ professional attitude and hard work made the workshop an enjoyable experience. We hope they can use their skills to help the delegates gain valuable knowledge in the next few days!

Yunrong Chen
& Xueting Meng



The winners of the Suprise Jeopardy during the Pre-Conference Workshop - the “Poupels’ Champs”. Photo by Can Batu Izmiroglu.

“... and so it begins!” Opening Ceremony of PAMUN 2018!



As of this morning, the 2018 session of PAMUN is officially open. The morning kicked off with two musical renditions of Bach and Frank Sinatra, and a speech from the American School of Paris’s Head of School, Jane Thompson.

Next, we heard from Vincent Defourny, the Head of the Division of Public Information at UNESCO. Monsieur Defourny discussed the history of the UN and how far it has come, yet how far it still must go. He then emphasized the importance of solving the issue of climate change and how “we need to save the treasure on which we are living”. He concluded his speech by urging us to do better and fulfill our duty as global citizens, reminding us that we “have the responsibility to build the bridges and not the walls.”

After Mr. Defourny’s speech, our Secretary General, Mia Kwon, spoke to us about widening our perspectives and the challenges that the world is struggling to reach a solution on how to make that change. As she said, “everything is easier said than done”. However, she urged us to be that change- to be better.

We were then honored to hear the words of our keynote speaker, Eleanor Beardsley. Ms. Beardsley, a journalist from NPR, gave an engaging account of her experi-

ences and the stories she has learned and then shared. She ended her speech by reminding us of the importance of seizing our opportunities as youth and making the most of them. She urged us to “never stop learning, [we’re] never done”, to never be afraid of failure because it’s bound to happen, and to take every opportunity we are given because “it might not work, but it might put you on a better track.”

“I expect you to be better. I need you to be better.”

- Mia Kwon, the Secretary General.

So, as the first day of PAMUN is brought to a close, we must all keep in mind to take risks, seize any opportunity that is handed to us, and never forget our role as global citizens.

Poetica Wang

12 types of people you'll definitely meet at an MUN conference!

Even before you attend an MUN Conference, you know you're going to see all these types of people before the end of the first day. Disclaimer: all people portrayed in the following pictures are actors and these are not representations of their actual personalities.

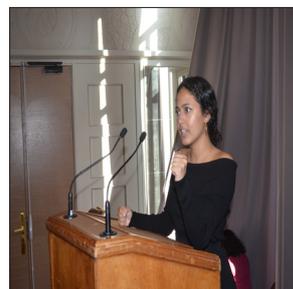
The Party Animal:

The only two ways you'll see them is either hungover, or chugging a water bottle with a suspicious-looking "water" in it. They go to conferences for the socials and they were very disappointed when they found out PAMUN didn't have one, but too late; their parents had already completed the payment.



The Future Ambassador:

All you wanna do is take them to the side and explain that, contrary to what they might believe, this isn't actually a UN conference.



The Wannabe:

That delegate representing some obscure island nation who speaks with the authority of a P5. Everyone else just sit there and genuinely wonder why the chairs keep on calling on them.



The Model:

They walk into the conference and all eyes are on them. They'll sit there mysteriously, receiving countless notes - but the only time they're gonna be involved in the debate is when the love confessions are read from the gossip box.



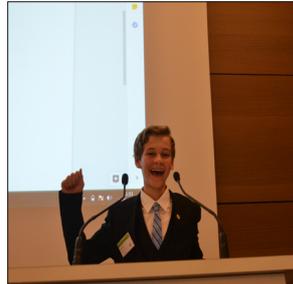
The Freshman:

They have a folder with the entire UN Charter printed out. They memorized every president their country's had in the last century. They wrote at least half a dozen clauses for their committee. Will they raise their placard even once throughout the conference? Nope. To be fair, most of them were probably forced to do all that work by their MUN advisors.



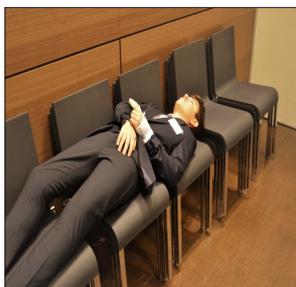
The Freshman Pt. 2:

The one who experiences one small achievement, then proceeds to create an Instagram account dedicated to MUN and thanking their parents, neighbor's dog, and primary school drama teacher for giving them their first public speaking opportunity.



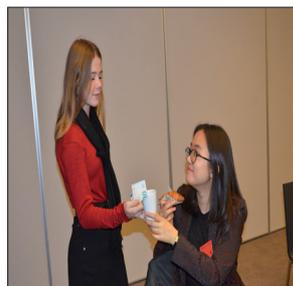
The Backup:

Someone from their school got sick, so they had to send a replacement. They will probably be that delegate who goes to the bathroom and comes back two and a half clauses later.



The Suck-Up:

They'll be bringing their Chairs coffee at breaks, complimenting their "exemplary organization", and asking if maybe, perhaps, they could present their third clause after lunch.



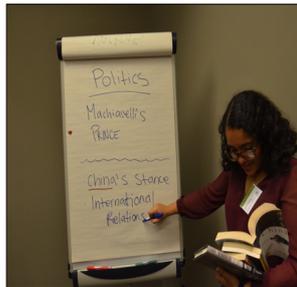
The Post Office:

The ones who are surrounded by admins 24/7. Whenever you see them, they're furiously writing notes and receiving country-themed pickup lines.



The Encyclopedia:

They will call you out on every detail. Point of Order is their favourite motion. And yes, they will feel personally offended if the United Nations Security Council Resolution you are quoting was adopted in 1946 and not 1945.



The Best Delegate:

They have a shelf in their room dedicated to MUN Best Delegate awards collected throughout the years. They've been pretty much all of the people above at least once (not the party animal of course, that could've gotten on their record).

A project by:
Irene Colombo,
Anna Kuznetsova,
Neil Francis,
Aishwarya Sinha
& Can Batu Izmiroglu

Pictures from the Chair Workshop



Chairs working hard during the workshop. Photo by Can Batu Izmiroglu.



The Secretary General and Mr. Reshef. Photo by Can Batu Izmiroglu.



Gabriella Poupel giving tips to the Chairs. Photo by Can Batu Izmiroglu.

The Yemenis' New Hope in Asia

According to the United Nations, there are around 60 million people who have been displaced, and the figure is expected to grow due to factors such as population growth, globalization, trade, rising inequality, demographic imbalances and climate



Path that leads up to Jeju Island, South Korea. Photo by National Geographic.

The media portrays the conflict in Yemen as a civil war, but the actual situation is more complicated than that. For three years, Yemen, the poorest Arab country, has been wracked by a bloody war between the Houthi rebels and supporters of the Yemeni government. These groups have battled on and off since 2004, but much of the fighting has been kept within close range of the Houthis' stronghold. The Houthis took control of Sanaa, the capital of Yemen, and moved the fighting to the second most populated city, Aden. In response, a coalition of Arab states launched a military campaign in 2015 to defeat the Houthis and restore Yemen's government.

Since 2015, those living in Yemen have been living in deplorable conditions, with no clean water, shortages of fuel, electricity and medical supplies, and destroyed infrastructure. A Yemeni refugee stated that while living there, "you may be killed by airstrikes that do not differentiate between military and civilian locations, or be forced to join the fight." Even if you survive the violence, it's extremely likely that you will die from famine. Thus, many peo-

ple try to leave Yemen whenever the chance arises.

Kris Jeong, a recent graduate from the International School of Kuala Lumpur, conducted interviews with three Yemeni refugees and has generously allowed us to read them. The interviews give an honest and personal explanation of the entire situation:

The three men all fled to Jeju Island, a tourist island in the Republic of Korea, where many Yemeni refugees have gone. The journey to Malaysia takes at least 18 to 24 hours and crosses multiple countries, yet one of the men said that he "faced the most problems in Yemen." Houthi or pro-government militias would stop them as they attempted to flee the country, and they would have to come up with believable reasons. Once they've arrived in Malaysia, the men try to find a way to Jeju Island. There are many detours the men are forced to take, finding other places to live for extended periods of time. Families cannot travel together due to expenses, so these young men

have to get out on their own.

They could research extensively, but it wouldn't be enough to let them know what they would encounter as they escaped.

After all of this, they begin life in an unfamiliar country with an unfamiliar culture. The UN has a sector dedicated to helping refugees: the UNHCR, but the refugees have yet to receive any assistance from international organizations. The Naomi Center, which belongs to the Catholic Church in Jeju, has given one refugee "a house, food, a job, free Korean language classes, and everything else." Another mentions that "some Yemenis have faced cultural shock," and the help offered by the Naomi center allows them a safer space as they try to succeed within this extremely new environment. An issue within the country is that the general opinion of refugees in Korea is relatively low, due to misleading media resulting in "increased Islamophobia," restricting their ability to integrate into Korean culture. Overcoming the language barrier, however, will allow them

to succeed within society.

In the future, these men would like to stay in Korea if the situation in Yemen does not get better, if they are allowed to stay. The improvement that most of the men suggested was to "speed up the screening process," since the stress is high when they do not know whether they can stay or not.

Ryley Menges



Yemeni refugees in a temporary shelter. Photo by UNICEF

Environmentally Displaced People: Refuse or Refuge?

Hurricanes, floods, droughts, fires- all these and more force millions of people to flee their homes every year. However, they are still not granted protection as refugees and the question of how to handle them remains unanswered.

Upon hearing the word “migrants” the first image to come to mind is usually of immigrants fleeing oppression or danger in their native countries. However, there are multiple other groups of migrants, including environmentally displaced people. Environmentally displaced people are defined as people forced to migrate from their homes due to danger from natural disasters.

Environmentally displaced refugees span a variety of categories. There are internally displaced people who are forced to relocate, but still remain within the borders of their country. In 2017 alone, 18.8 million people were internally displaced by flooding or other forms of natural disasters. This number is only expected to continue to grow as rising tides and other climate related crises force people to seek refuge in further inland areas of their counties.

Refugees who are unable to find such asylum within their borders are forced to turn to foreign nations. These nations are then confronted with the challenge of determining how these migrants should be taken care of and to what extent aid should be provided. Within this branch of environmentally displaced people, there exist various circumstances for displacement as well. According to Essam el-Hinnawi, a member of the UN Environmental Program, there are three possible situations for migrants. First, there are those that flee their homes out of necessity, but intend to return as soon as the threat is reduced. These migrants thus only seek short term refuge, but later require aid to recover their damaged homes. Second, there are mi-

grants also forced out of their homes, but who do not intend on returning. As they intend to take up permanent residency in the nations they seek refuge in, this group is more difficult for nations to deal with. Finally, there are migrants who are not in imminent danger, but migrate out of choice rather than absolute necessity because their homes are unable to sufficiently provide for them. This is often the case in the events of droughts or the aftermath of disasters that result in a dearth of supplies.

Regardless of the terms of their displacement, however, these people pose the difficult question of to what extent acceptor nations should provide aid to refugees. The ongoing crisis of how to handle the obtrusive influx of displaced people, environmental or not, is a critical issue that many nations are struggling to resolve, mostly without prevail.

“According to the University of Oxford’s Refugee Studies Centre, it is estimated that as many as 50-200 million people will be displaced due to climate change by 2050.”

However, the UN has not permitted environmentally displaced people to be given the status of “climate refugee”, so they therefore possess none of the rights discussed in the 1951 Geneva Convention which laid the terms for the rights of migrants seeking refuge from persecution.



Environmentally displaced people carrying their belongings after their shelter was flooded. Photo by UNHCR.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), an organization designed to provide aid to refugees, does have a few programs in place for environmentally displaced refugees. For example, efforts are being made to reduce environmental damage as well as supplying displaced persons and their host countries with resources. However, these efforts are not enough, as the issue of environmentally displaced people is growing rapidly. According to the University of Oxford’s Refugee Studies Centre, it is estimated that as many as 50-200 million people will be displaced due to climate change by 2050.

This question of environmentally displaced people is being discussed in the Environmental Committee at PAMUN, and it is important for all delegates to understand the arduous

problem that nations and their people are grappling with. In a rapidly changing planet, further destruction and displacement by natural causes is unavoidable. This issue will only continue to grow, so it is crucial that a proper solution is found before the problem is further exacerbated.

Poetica Wang

Pickup lines!

Asia & Oceania Edition

You all loved the pick-up lines from the last Issue. Here are some more. Remember not to use them on your Chairs!

Bhutan?

Because you're bhut-iful

Australia?

Because I wanna spend some koala-ty time together

China?

Because I want to make you my bae-jing

New Zealand?

Because cri-Kiwi belong together.

India?

Because you make me Dehli-rious

Fiji?

Because you're Suva fine.

Iran?

Because when I heard my soulmate was here, I-ran.

Japan?

Because you sure Tok-yo time coming into my life, but it was worth the wait.

The UAE?

Because I'd love Dubai you a drink.

Kazakhstan?

Because I might not be Kazakh, but I sure Stan you.

Kuwait?

Because I've Kuwaited all my life for you.

Laos?

Because I'd be Laost without you

Lebanon?

Because you've got me on my Leba-knees.

Indonesia?

Because I Indo-need-ya

Mongolia?

Because getting with you is my Mon-goal-ia

North Korea?

Because send nukes.

Oman?

Because I don't believe in fate, but meeting you was a good oman.

The Philippines?

Because I want to Tag-alog with you.

Singapore?

Because I'd like to Singa-pour you a drink.

South Korea?

Because you look like my seoul mate.

Syria?

Because you're syri-ously gor-geous.

Russia?

Because I'd Mos-go anywhere with you.

The Marshall Islands?

Because you've managed to march-all over my heart.

MUN Wordsearch!

S X L E F N H I M W U T P P U
 P P W Z U J Z S W Q N I E E V
 R L E M L Z M R J E B J C B D
 N N A A H C B Y M E E T J U C
 Y P Y O K J W D E L E G A T E
 N E O E Q E N E T A B E D X D
 O S R R L E R V T E V A I G M
 I U K S M K R G B C A C W D Y
 T O D A J D R I A A W L U U V
 U H D X T A P U A R I A D E N
 L C B Q R L C T T H W U J U K
 O A C M D U N K C S C S R R M
 S H D V S P I A S W I E W O C
 E I F C G A A H B S T W D E L
 R W F W Z N O I B C Y B P N L

Find:

- AMENDMENT
- CAUCUS
- CHAIR
- CLAUSE
- DEBATE
- DELEGATE
- HOUSE
- PAMUN
- RESOLUTION
- SPEAKER

Answers will be in Issue 3.

Poetica Wang

Answers from Issue 1

Country Name Unscramble

- 1. France 2. Italy 3. Germany 4. China 5. Japan 6. Mexico 7. Vietnam

Country Outlines

- 1. Argentina 2. Greece 3. South Africa 4. Australia

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