

NEWSLETTER

THE 17TH MAURITIUS MODEL UNITED NATION CONFERENCE 2013



Republic of Mauritius



EDITORIAL

Hello everyone,

It is my utmost pleasure, to serve as the Secretary General of this 17th Model United Nations Conference. I am humbled by the prospect of bringing together over 800 students throughout the nation in order to engage in enlightening debate over the most pressing issues that face the international community today. The team has been working tirelessly over many months to create a conference that will promote constructive dialogue and exchange. As delegates engage in discussion and diplomacy on behalf of the countries they represent, their skills in researching, writing, negotiating, and public speaking will be put to test.

Our vision for this year is "Working for Cause, not for applause" with pure quality, hoping to fortify it in the ambits of MUN tradition. Conferences, today, are viewed in an individual light promoting self-growth and development in specific personal skill sets. Rarely do we appreciate the efforts of a leader who expands the scope of this activity to include collectivism and promotes different categories and their respective abilities to make the Society a proper holistic functional unit. I encourage participants to express their visions of the world in regards to the challenging political, economic and social contexts in which they develop as citizens, social actors and/or leaders.

These institutions – are student-led, in varying capacities - Delegate, Press and Executive Board – a platform to showcase their collective strength and prove their mettle as a MUN Society par excellence.

Young people will lead by example and will be part of the global family by promoting the UN values and principles. On this note, I wish you all, a fruitful MUN.

SATYAVEER .K. GOPYCHAND
Secretary General
17th MUN

THE UNITED NATIONS

The United Nations is an international organization founded in 1945 after the Second World War by 51 countries committed to maintaining international peace and security, developing friendly relations among nations and promoting social progress, better living standards and human rights.

4 MAIN PURPOSES OF UN

- To keep peace throughout the world;
- To develop friendly relations among nations;
- To help nations work together to improve the lives of poor people, to conquer hunger, disease and illiteracy, and to encourage respect for each other's rights and freedoms;
- To be a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations to achieve these goals.

Due to its unique international character, and the powers vested in its founding Charter, the Organization can take action on a wide range of issues, and provide a forum for its 193 Member States to express their views, through the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council and other bodies and committees.

The work of the United Nations reaches every corner of the globe. Although best known for peacekeeping, peacebuilding, conflict prevention and humanitarian assistance, there are many other ways the United Nations and its System (specialized agencies, funds and programmes) affect our lives and make the world a better place. The Organization works on a broad range of fundamental issues, from sustainable development, environment and refugees protection, disaster relief, counter terrorism, disarmament and non-proliferation, to promoting democracy, human rights, gender equality and the advancement of women, governance, economic and social development and international health, clearing landmines, expanding food production, and more, in order to achieve its goals and coordinate efforts for a safer world for this and future generations.

THE UNITED NATIONS: A SUCCESS OR A FAILURE?

When we look at the situation prevailing in the world today, we are likely to conclude that the UNO has been a failure; it has not been successful in accomplishing its objectives. To begin with, the UNO has not been able to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction which represent a threat to the security of mankind. Moreover, there exists today an arms race, not only among the big powers but also among the smaller nations such as Israel, Iran, Pakistan and North Korea. The UNO has not been effective in putting an end to all kinds of conflicts which have broken out in different parts of the world.

Another objective of the UNO was to eradicate famine and poverty from the world. Here again, it has been a failure. For example, in Africa alone, 15 million children die every year of hunger and poverty-related diseases. It means about 40 to 50 thousand children die daily. Additionally, even if a non-nuclear proliferation treaty was signed in

1970, the nuclear stockpiles remain high and there is even an increase in the amount of countries which develop those devastating weapons. The 1994, Rwandan genocide also showed how the UNO failed in its duty as nearly twenty percent of the population was killed consequently due to the inability of the UNO to do its job.

On the other hand, it can be argued that the situation would have been much worse, had it not been for the intervention of the UNO. The very fact that since 1945, another world war has not taken place is itself evidence that the UNO has justified its existence. The UNO has negotiated several peaceful settlements that have put an end to regional conflicts. The UNO has also enabled people in many countries to participate in free and fair elections, thus promoting human rights and democracy. Not to forget that apartheid in South Africa was brought to its end by the UNO.

Another major contribution of the UNO is the improvement of education in many developing countries. Over 60% of adults in these countries can now read and write and 90% of children attend school. The UNO has also improved the lives of women and empowered them causing the emancipation of women in more than 100 countries. In addition, the United Nations Relief and Work Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, established in 1949, is the main provider of basic necessities – education, health, relief and social services- to more than 4.5 million Palestine refugees in the Middle East..

In the light of the arguments mentioned above, one can safely say that the UNO has been successful in justifying its existence despite its numerous weaknesses.



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Pledge MUN 2013

"Working for Cause, not for Applause"

GENERAL ATMOSPHERE DURING THE MERGING SESSION...

There was no doubt that every single delegate, press member and chairperson was waiting for this merging session. Before the opening of the session, myriad kinds of expression could be seen on the participants' faces, ranging from complete and utter happiness, to anticipation and anxiety. Most delegates were very excited and motivated to meet other delegates and most essentially to merge their resolutions on which they had worked hard for months.

However, some delegates seemed very stressed. Nevertheless, once the delegates watched the video on MUN, they gained back their confidence. On the other hand, the press team itself had to go through another selection exercise to ensure efficiency of the whole team. Luckily, the spirit of the press team did not weaken and all of us, including delegates, chairpersons, and press members, joined together to make this year's MUN a successful and fruitful one.



REMEMBERING MUN 2012

The Model United Nations 2012 was marked by the lively and exciting atmosphere which prevailed in the General Assembly while the delegates were praised for their active participation and enthusiasm. Good debating skills were noted, especially those in the Gender and Human Rights and the Population commissions. In the Political commission, the delegates focused particularly on terrorism and drug trafficking, which are indeed global issues. Furthermore, the Security Council session unfolded with much zeal and zest. The measures imposed on Syria to thwart the cataclysmic events that are having a dramatic domino effect on the Syrian economy, were discussed by the permanent and non-permanent members. The massacre is still ongoing in 2013 despite the attempts of the United Nations to stop this civil war. Weapons and arms are being continuously supplied to Syria's government by countries like Russia.

CHAIRPERSONS, YOU HAVE THE FLOOR

Chairpersons of different commissions expressed their opinions and feelings on this much awaited merging session. The atmosphere seemed very convivial with delegates of different commissions interacting with each other and discussing their "question-of".

The chairperson in charge of the Trade and Development Commission conveyed his aims to the delegates, the purpose of which was firstly to guide them in order for them to express their points of view in a diplomatic way. He said, "The work is going smoothly without any clashes".

The auditorium was brimming with excitement as the chairpersons motivated their respective

delegates. The team spirit was just "wow" in the Health Commission. Delegates seemed at ease and were assuredly well-versed in the parliamentary procedures.

"MUN cannot be described in just a few words", said the chairperson in charge of the Economy Commission, advancing that MUN was a life-changing experience and that he was delighted to see his delegates' confidence and spontaneous reactions.

Both delegates and chairpersons are looking forward to this three-day MUN conference, which they are convinced, will forever leave its mark on their lives.

Sarjua Chaya Simran
Seeballuck Ashna
Seebaruth Bhamini



MODEL UNITED NATIONS A SIMULATION OF UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE

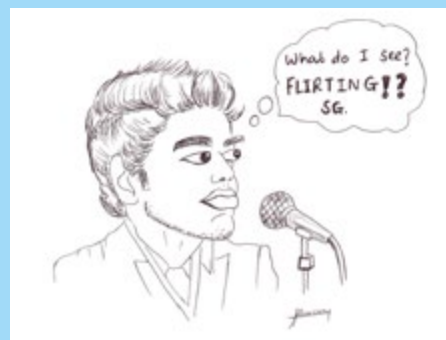
The Model United Nations conference, a simulation of the United Nations, is a prestigious platform offered to Form six students. This 3-day conference brings together about 800 participants across the whole island in which they will act as delegates representing the 167 United Nations member states.

During the conference, the delegates have the opportunity to develop personal and interpersonal skills such as public speaking, group communication, active listening and diplomatic behaviour. Furthermore, the different commissions, in which real world issues are dealt with, can prove to be very challenging for the delegates who are expected to handle crisis situations which may actually happen. Thus, they are given the chance to roll up their sleeves and meet up the challenges that would be entrusted upon them.

For instance, delegates in the Environment Commission have to gather knowledge of the current alarming issue of water scarcity which partially contributes to global warming. They are then expected to come up with solutions.

In this way, the conference will undoubtedly bring about a complete transformation in the delegates. At the end of the conference, they will step out as diplomats and look upon themselves as more mature and enlightened individuals.

Abdool Yasiirah Aunhadhee Narvada Baichoo Lushita IMPRESSIONS OF THE DELEGATES



The 17th MUN Conference: impressions on this forthcoming event.

Delegate: TSE RAI WAI
Carleen Song Mei
Country: Hungary
Commission: Health

"This thrilling three-day adventure is going to be a platform where we will learn a lot from each delegate present. I expect this journey to be amazing and filled with good things such as making new friendship bonds."

Delegate: MOSAHEB Humairaa Bibi Zaakiyah
Country: Hungary
Commission: Social

"When I heard of the MUN conference, nervousness ran through my veins! But happiness filled my heart because it is a dream coming true to attend this conference as a delegate. The connection we have with each delegate is the foundation for changes, that is, to work hand in hand to bring forward worldwide issues to be tackled so as to reinforce the UN Agenda. The conference is very enriching and helps us to have more charisma. Hence, we can say that the MUN conference somehow assists us through the transition of our teenage life to the adult world."

Delegate: Hossenbaccus Aasiyah
Country: Hungary
Commission: Science and Technology

"Being a delegate of MUN has always been my dream which is going to be materialised in a few days. My preparation is still going on and I am happy to be a part of this year's Model United Nation Conference. I am sure that it is going to be an amazing experience but most of all, an enriching one."





HOW CAN MUN THINK OF SOLVING GLOBAL PROBLEMS?

MUN allows young people to experience the complexities of international relations, keeping in mind current events. These conferences serve as an insight to the politicised nature of international predicaments and the bureaucratic functioning of the various organisations that try to solve these problems. A MUN usually has several different committees from various international organisations including for example the United Nations, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the European Union. Each committee then discusses a couple of pressing issues decided upon by the secretariat. Students prepare by accumulating knowledge about their specific country, NGO, or corporation, based on the specific viewpoints or history that these stakeholders might have with the issues that are discussed during the days of the conference.

During the conference participants are asked to actively engage in debate in order to make the simulation as realistic as possible. This involves extensive public speaking and debate, problem-solving, and comprehensive negotiations. The goal of MUN is to gain and improve these skills in a setting that is both respectful and challenging. Participants are able to reflect on the realities of the international system. Furthermore, the participants have a responsibility to represent the respective interests of the assigned country in their specific committee. For example, the Disarmament Commission will address the situation in North Korea concerning the nuclear threats, the delegates from the Human Rights Commission, Food Security Commission and Population Commission will confer on the poverty-related diseases worldwide.

In addition to this, delegates have the opportunity to join in dialogue across different cultures and nationalities, developing their skills not only professionally but also socially, making connections that will outlive the conference. Despite the fact that MUN simulates mostly the political arena, the skills that a MUN strives to teach young professionals can be applied in all fields from business, to law, and even natural and physical sciences.

Our cultures mirror our different histories. It is through the resilience of our differences and the acceptance of unique cultures that we, as global citizens, can forge diplomatic relations in volatile times. Despite the idiosyncrasies of our cultures, an important part of Cultural Diplomacy is the recognition of values transcending boundaries.

In many ways, MUN serves as a platform to allow next generations of leaders to understand the intricacies of world affairs. Such conferences lay stress on cooperation among states and organisations within the global village.



UN CHALLENGES

The United Nations (UN), amongst other international stakeholders, finds itself at the forefront of the international scene as it continues to tackle the problems plaguing several countries. Amongst those problems requiring the attention of the UN are the ongoing conflict in Syria, the global economic recession, the threat of nuclear armament of North Korea and the insecurity reigning in South Sudan.

The problems mentioned above are of such gravity that if not confronted swiftly, rationally and sustainably, the lives of millions of people would be endangered. Both the Syrian conflict and the global economic meltdown have already made numerous victims –over 100,000 and counting– while the threat of nuclear armament of North Korea is a menace hovering over the world and keeping it on its toes. Additionally, even two years after its independence, South Sudan is still facing notable challenges such as addressing human rights violations and strengthening public institutions.

The UN is subject to criticism for the way it is handling these problems. The Syrian conflict is perhaps where the UN has been most criticised. The stalemate of the Security Council has worsened the conflict. Millions of innocent lives have been lost in tragic situations. Delegates of the Human Rights Commission will confer on the situation in South Sudan, Refugees and International Migration Commission, and Political Commission are among those which will confer on the Syrian conflict and try to find solutions. Whilst the Disarmament Commission will hopefully discuss the North Korean nuclear threat, the global economic crisis will be the prime item on the agenda of the Economy Commission during the MUN 2013 Conference.

INTERVIEW OF RODRIGUES DELEGATION

ALGERIA REPRESENTED BY MONT LUBIN COLLEGE

How are you feeling, being the first delegation participating in MUN from Mont Lubin College?

We are very proud to represent not only our secondary school but also our homeland, Rodrigues.

What is the essence of the merging session according to you?

It gave us the opportunity to learn a lot about Algeria, to build new friendships and we already feel like diplomats.

This is the first time that the Rodrigues delegations are present for the merging session. What are your views about this innovation?

This is a very good initiative which should be repeated every year.





CHAIRPERSON SOCIAL COMMISSION - JESSEN SAMY

What did MUN give to you?

I do reckon that MUN was a spearhead for me, to extol my own deftness. I was bound to become, through this platform: a person of even better self-esteem, who at one go, developed an extraordinary keenness in the noble aim of the United Nations. Well, not to forget, the mighty task of allowing me to come across with awesome people during my journey.

What is your Favorite part of MUN?

Without any hesitation, I will affirm: It is day 2. "Debating time during Day 2 to be precise" Albeit needing to face all the bombs which took the form of Point of Information which then, were torpedoed in, by the other delegates in my commission, it was a hell of an experience. You can't get enough of it.

What makes a Good Munner?

A good munner is someone imprinted with diplomatic values, who knows what is to be humble, to respect others and who shows keenness for what is MUN as a whole. Hopefully a good Munner shall be very well versed with the regulations of MUN and surely on what it stipulates.



CHAIRPERSON OF FOOD AND SECURITY - MELISSA WU SAK WING

MUN enabled me to enhance open-mindedness and broadened my knowledge for global matters. Working with the MUN family also increased my team spirit.

Day 3 is the most prestigious, because all the stakeholders are gathered to celebrate our achievement throughout this life-time experience. It is essential to have a good confidence and great diplomacy, a Munner should be prepared to all situations and keep a positive mindset.



CO CHAIR SECURITY COUNCIL - KAPISH GAYA

-What did MUN give to you?

MUN in fact, gave me the unveiling opportunity to develop my potential in policy-making, in peace resolving issues, all in maintaining diplomacy. For myself, being best delegate from the Security Council,

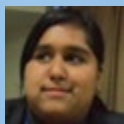
it was not an easy task. I still have a sense of symbiotic linkage towards the UN Goals in the aim to make this world a better one.

-What is your Favorite part of MUN?

Besides Networking with delegates, MUN helped me to develop my inner potential and to focus on the resolutions of issues. The 3 days spent in my commission (Security Council) were the flawless ones. The Award winning time was the most fascinating part of this adventure.

-What makes a Good Munner?

A good munner firstly, should be well versed to diplomatic behavior, be able to sustain to make a sparkle in this conference. Moreover, the ability to respond on the spot and adapt to real-life situations makes him a better one and lastly, a good Munner is really a blessed one if he concludes MUN on that part: "Mun, more than a 3-Day Simulation Conference, it is a true love story."



AMITY INTERNATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE (AIMUN) 2012

AIMUN..THE DREAM THAT LASTED THREE DAYS!

After the enriching experience of MUN 2012, I had the chance to live again these 3 magic days in india! AIMUN -filled with every single emotion that exists!.. Tears, Laughter, Happiness, Bliss, Ecstasy, Pain...to sum up, it was a love story! There, I felt that pride of not only being part of the Lithuania delegation but also of being MAURITIAN! Writing of position papers, Defending and voting of resolutions was indeed an honour at such a rose-tinted age! True, we, delegates of AIMUN 2012, have pledged to Pave the way for a better tomorrow. But distinguished reader, don't you think that it is your responsibility as well to do something for your world, for YOUR WORLD? I believe it is high time to 'roll your sleeves up and get started!' Moreover, the people you are going to meet are not ordinary; they are the leaders of tomorrow...no less!

P.S.SOBUN
BEST DELEGATE OF ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION 2012
DELEGATE OF AIMUN 2012
CHAIRPERSON OF ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION 2013

LIST OF UN COUNTRIES AND THEIR FLAGS

