

APLMUN TRIBUNE

Issue No. 5

17th & 18th July 2018

FOREWORD



It is with the utmost pride and privilege that we, the Organising Committee, welcome you to the 5th edition of APLMUN. Participation has always been the driving force behind APLMUN, and without it, APLMUN would not be able to thrive in the way that it has. Every member of the Organising Committee as well as the teacher coordinators, have put their hearts and souls into the conference and we sincerely hope that the effort is evident.

The purpose of the APLMUN Tribune has always been to ensure a liberal flow of information, humorous or otherwise, from committee to committee. You will be able to find yourself engrossed in these articles that depict various events captured by the reporters of prestigious news agencies, such as Al Jazeera, Channel News Asia as well as the Reuters. In addition, this year's issue consists of a compilation of intense debate, hilarious

illustrations that encapsulate the witty humour of the committee and bewitching photographs that perfectly represent the enthusiasm of those involved, courtesy of the brilliant IPC Team.

We wholeheartedly hope that this proves to be a beacon of joy to all those who find yourself reading this culmination of thoughts and wish you the best in all of your MUN endeavours to come.

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Photographer: G.K. Pranav



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Opening Ceremony



With vibrant dancers, talented singers, and excited murmurs, the opening ceremony set the tone for the 5th edition of APLMUN.

As the crowd of delegates flocked into the auditorium, there was a palpable air of anticipation thriving in the atmosphere. The room soon settled down as Mrs. Gita Jaganathan took to the stage to light the auspicious lamp which signifies new beginnings. Delivering an impassioned speech to inspire the hearts of the individuals gathered in the area, her wise words of wisdom resonated with those present as she spoke of the importance of one's perspective in relation to the lessons imparted by the MUN circuit.

Our esteemed principal, Mrs. Kiran Merchant, is someone who is deeply aligned with the age-old adage of our school. In charge of delivering the much-awaited keynote address, she did not disappoint, presenting a moving diction about the young achievers of our generation. She did not hesitate to bring up various examples of exemplary individuals such as Malala Yousafzai and one of APL's very own alumni, Taha Fatima. Her speech was met with reverberant applause and cheers from the affected audience.

This was followed by a mesmerising performance by several talented students from grades ten to twelve, presenting to the audience a beautiful piece of classical dance. It was clear that those watching were enraptured, the show truly a sight to behold.

After the introduction of the esteemed members of this year's esteemed Organising Committee, our very own Cyndia Bharath, the venerable Secretary General of APLMUN 2018, took to the podium. Cutting a composed figure with her collected disposition, Cyndia fondly reminisced about her first time as a delegate, recalling her fear of public speaking and reluctance to speak in committee. She credits MUN as the institution that helped her overcome her trepidation and become the person she is today, sharing her hope that MUN will do for others what it did for her.

The opening ceremony soon came to a close, with Cyndia declaring the 5th edition of APLMUN open, a statement met with a rumble of thunderous applause.

*Written by: Aishwarya Alla, Tanushah Ramadass
Photographer: Dhanush Jayakrishnan*

Human Rights Committee



After a lengthy introduction to the standard procedures of committee, each delegate presented their stance on the agenda. The delegate of Palestine began with the message that they understand the numerous human rights violations that the Rohingya Muslims have undergone and that they also support Bangladesh and other international bodies to form a peaceful resolution. The delegate of Malaysia felt that it was imperative that the leaders of Myanmar and Malaysia sign a memorandum to support the refugees by introducing a scheme to provide employment. The delegate also proposed a registration system and a biometric verification system for non-Malaysian citizens. In response to this point, the delegate of Saudi Arabia inquired if such a scheme was in place because there are stateless Rohingya Muslims in Malaysia without job opportunities and education and the resources to gain stability. The delegate of Malaysia responded that the scheme is still in 'planning' and that the government of Malaysia is trying their best to provide job opportunities to the refugees but the immigrants who enter the country illegally are denied citizenship.



The delegate of Myanmar made the distinct point that Myanmar's citizens' safety is their first priority. Another point was that the armed Rohingya rebels were the ones to attack first. The delegate of Bosnia raised an important question when he asked if it was necessary to kill unarmed civilians and sexually harass women as part of "retaliation". The delegate of Myanmar replied that it is hard to distinguish between civilians and militants and that nothing could be left to chance. Considering the fact that the residents of Rakhine state are officially not citizens of Myanmar it does not necessarily mean that they can return to and reside in Myanmar. Irrespective of the crimes committed by the militants of Myanmar, the Rohingya community has no rights to live in Myanmar as they are non-citizens. Bangladesh has played a vital role in the survival of the refugees by welcoming them into two existing refugee camps. The government of Bang-

ladesh provides shelters, food and medical aid and are eager to help the refugees as best as they can. The delegate of South Africa suggested that only countries with low population and financial stability take in refugees. The delegate of The Republic of Congo suggested that rich nations could provide financial aid to third world countries to house refugees. Both these solutions are by far the best because Myanmar is reluctant to accept Rohingyas as a part of their country.



In order to minimize the civilian casualties and disruption in economies of other countries, Rohingyas can be accommodated in neighboring countries. The delegate of Vietnam suggested that the Rohingyas be given special refugee visas so that they can benefit from the laws that provide the minority with basic necessities like food, drinking water, accommodation and basic health care.

The Rohingyas are people without an identity, people without basic human rights. Nations like UAE and Saudi Arabia are already contributing more than six figure sums of money to provide relief to the Rohingyas. If wealthier, more stable nations assist the Rohingyas by providing means of transportation, food supplies, shelter materials and financial aid then the burden of assistance will be more evenly spread between countries rather than two or three. We must also understand the plight of the Rohingyas. They are in no position to negotiate with the Myanmar government and resort to armed conflicts out of dire need. In conclusion, we as an international committee must take action to ensure no more bloodshed takes place and the Rohingyas can start to live fuller lives again.

Written by: Hani Sami Anish

Photographers: G.K. Pranav, Afrah Safiya

Human Rights Committee



With their minds set on escaping the horrors that they faced in Myanmar, the movement of the Rohingya people is called to be 'the world's fastest growing refugee crisis.' The Rohingya are one of the numerous ethnic groups present in the country, Myanmar. Nearly one million Rohingya have escaped Myanmar since the 1970's due to the discrimination that led to their villages being burned down and the troops attacking and killing civilians. The worst fact is that they are no longer granted citizenship. This caused several refugee camps to open up near the border of Bangladesh and some in Malaysia while others fled to nations such as Saudi Arabia, UAE, etc.

With the Rohingya crisis being the Human Rights Council's agenda, the committee has what is considered to be one of the most interesting topics. Yet, it was quite surprising to find the committee considerably inactive. Initially, it was about each country's stance on the topic and anything that adds on to their speeches. While it would seem logical to start that way, it got pretty repetitive. Almost each country had donated in some aspect, mainly monetary funds. They also individually urged Myanmar to rethink their stance on the topic, despite not knowing what exactly Myanmar's stance was. Countries that shelter Rohingya refugees, mainly Bangladesh, were offered support and financial aid.

The first and only moderated caucus's topic, 'securing the well-being of Rohingya refugees', was proposed by the representative of MSF. "They [the Rohingya] usually settle in other countries in slums and have no employment, money, or healthcare." The MSF representative stated in his opening statement. "This makes them prone to poverty and causes epidemic outbreaks."

It is valid to say that the health of the refugees is far more important than the dispute between the Myanmar government and the Rohingya, mainly because their health impacts others' health. Without proper healthcare for the Rohingya, the chances of an outbreak increase and will affect not only affect the refugees, but the people of the host country as well. It is reasonable to spend money on improving the health of the Rohingya since it is cheaper compared to the money it would take to help a whole country in the wake of an epidemic.

The ways in which poverty and low health can be combated is by seeing that the living conditions for the Rohingya are satisfactory. This would mean proper housing, sanitation, clothing, food and water, healthcare, and

transportation. Policies and schemes related to health and any of the points mentioned above should be adopted in order to improve the living standards for the Rohingya.

However, for all of this to be possible, there must be enough money to fund the countries to take these initiatives. While countries such as the UAE plan to help, other nations should also help in any way possible.



When it comes to the dispute between the Myanmar government and the Rohingya, certain actions must be taken against the Myanmar government since they are going against Article XV from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The article states that 'no one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his nationality nor denied the right to change his nationality.' Sanctions and military enforcement will not work since it would only cause more problems to arise within Myanmar.

While the delegates do have another day to pass a resolution, the point that must be kept in mind is the well-being of the Rohingya. It is suggested that their health is considered to be the most important aspect, as it will improve living standards for all, while maintaining peace.

Written by: Nandika Murugavel

Photographers: Afrah Safiya

Human Rights Committee



Whether it's your first MUN or your twentieth MUN, excitement and anxiety linger in every committee. Certainly they do so in varying proportions but they make themselves apparent in the form of the hushed chatter and discussion that takes place between delegates whether they know one another or whether committee is the first time they've seen the other.

Delegates exchanging points, clearing doubts and reading through their organised notes repeatedly is a sure sight prior to the commencement of any committee since they all want to be at the top of their game, have correct information at hand and the ability to eloquently answer any possible questions thrown their way by their fellow delegates. For many delegates, especially the ones to whom MUN is not a stranger but a friend they keep coming back to, the excitement trumps fear. Regardless, we were all on our toes to see what APL MUN would bring us this year.

Committee started off with the HRC chair giving a long and quite detailed explanation on what MUN is and how it works. In a way this was helpful because, as mentioned previously, a large number of first timers were present in committee and this gave them a chance to ask any questions a lot of them had about how MUN is carried out which they may have been too afraid and embarrassed to ask before and the open, knowledgeable and patient chair provided answers with depth although the ones who needed no explanations found the hour and a half of explanation quite unnecessary and draining.



Not too long after, our first instance of a delegate being under fire took place. Malaysia looked like he wanted to take back the strong claims he had thrown out after stating that he "firmly believes that Malaysia is the strongest voice for the Rohingya crisis." As there are a significant number of Rohingya refugees in Malaysia. The currently

non-existent solution Malaysia proposed is to procure an instant comprehensible registration system for undocumented refugees.

Soon after, a motion for the moderated caucus to be on the secure well being of Rohingya refugees proposed by MSF was finally passed and discussion could ensue.

The moderated caucus consisted of various countries such as Palestine, Philippines, UAE, Switzerland, Nigeria, The Republic of Congo (who even proposed changing UN articles 7, 14, 15 and 18), Laos, Tunisia and obviously Myanmar, all making excellent points on varying topics and giving solutions left and right.



After this there was an air of uncertainty and anticipation on what will come next as the committee by default moved back into formal debate.

In short, Nepal and Saudi Arabia went back and forth about Human Rights violation and economy, MSF shed light on the health conditions and trends found in the Rohingya people such as HIV due to forced prostitution and blaming religion as the main reason as to why the Rohingya face discrimination. Saudi Arabia fired at Myanmar but retaliates when the EB asks the delegate is aware of the Jews being expelled from Saudi Arabia. Bosnia, South Korea and Laos also add stances before moving onto the next unmoderated Caucus.

Overall, HRC was quite an interesting committee with activity always going on. Dull moments occur with every committee and the second and final day of APL MUN holds boundless promise and potential.

*Written by: Shridula Gopinath
Photographers: Afrah Safiya*



DISEC



The Disarmament and International Security Committee was certainly the committee of nightmares for at least a couple delegates. Day one of APL MUN 2018 began with a GSL. As always, there were multiple delegates who gave valid arguments regarding the agenda and their country's stance on it. Then there were those delegates- the ones who made sitting in committee all day worthwhile- who made rather controversial statements that led to several starts from the committee members.



Almost immediately, the delegate of the United States of America became an apparent target for all the other delegates. His speech started off well as he plainly stated his country's stance on the agenda. The problem started after he finished his speech. A point of information was raised by Russia about why so many school shootings take place in the U.S.A despite the "extensive gun laws." To this the delegate of the U.S. replied by saying that "if only 7% (of the population) were school shooters, they could be killed by the remaining 93%." This response was greeted with more than a few confused glances and giggles from both the EB and the other delegates. Following this, the U.S. was constantly criticized for its school shootings and domestic violence in multiple speeches.

After hours of "biting the bullet" (pun fully intended) and powering through the enormous GSL, the delegate of Japan's motion for a moderated caucus about methods to check on the transfer of small arms and light weapons (SALW) to non-state actors was finally passed. Most of the countries, including Japan, Turkey, the UAE and Belgium, proposed the "better surveillance of trade" to help solve this problem. The delegates also agreed that improved border control and maintaining accurate records would all eventually lead to the decline of the illicit trade of SALWs.

There were three other moderated caucuses held in the committee of DISEC in day one. One of them focused on

the loopholes of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). The consensus was almost unanimous as the delegates all believed that the conditions outlined in the treaty were not specific and, quite frankly, fairly subjective.

Another moderated caucus focused on stockpile management. Most delegates agreed that if a country cannot afford to destroy their stockpiles, they must take an effort to monitor it and establish a tight security to safeguard it (to avoid theft). They also agreed that thorough records should be maintained and that the location of the stockpiles should remain confidential.

The delegate of Russia then proposed a motion for a moderated caucus that focused on the dark web and the root causes of the black market. The main problem with the dark web, as mentioned by multiple delegates, is how vast the dark web is- all of it simply cannot be monitored. Most delegates stated that the most obvious solution is related to the tightening of cyber security. It is this reporter's belief that since it is extremely difficult to trace the perpetrators, the drive behind a citizen's need to use the dark web should be understood. The needs of a citizen could vary depending on the security of their country, the amount of poverty in their country and the lack of education in that particular area. These are all areas that the international committee must keep in mind while formulating possible solutions for this problem.



Although fictional, the discussion on the regulation of SALWs is an important one that all countries must consider, especially in light of recent catastrophic events. This is an important world issue and it is quite alarming that no effective agreement has been made, even in developed countries, to guarantee the safety of citizens.

Written by: Nethra Koushik

Photographers: B. Nikkitha, Surekha Krishnamoorthy

DISEC



Day 1 of APLMUN 2018 in DISEC started as expected; a silent mix of nervous tension and eager anticipation emitted by everyone as they thought of the events to come. From the roll call at the beginning, to the un-moderated caucus that the committee decided to finish with, the proceedings of the day had no particular pace. There were delegates with an air of confidence; the most active speakers, who had arrived with the clear intention of powering through. Then of course, there were the delegates everyone looks forward to at an MUN, the under-prepared and overconfident, who boosted certain moments with their controversial statements.

The session began with the delegate of China almost immediately proposing a motion for GSL. UK had some different suggestions than those of the majority, stating that strict control of possession - rather than a complete ban - would be more effective. She added that the UK currently has a strict gun control policy, and exports from recognized companies. Some of the more active speakers were Turkey, Russia, Switzerland, and USA, who raised POIs at almost every GSL, attempting to throw off the speaking delegate. USA, however, soon became the metaphorical target for the day. All was well, until he claimed that the country has "extremely extensive gun laws". Russia took this up as a POI, and asked USA how he could say so, with recent school shootings, students possessing firearms, and high homicide rates. USA replied that since the shooters are only around 7% of the population, the remaining 93% could simply kill them. This entirely blasphemous statement was met with many confused looks and chuckles from everyone in the room, and set off a chain of USA taking metaphorical bullets as delegates repeatedly brought up the shootings. To a question about Syria by Japan to DPRK, the latter replied, "Firstly, the delegate believes that the source of such... um, false allegations, seems to be from a country like the US which supports western imperialism and doesn't go towards the working rules of DPRK", before moving on.

DISEC followed suit with a few moderated caucus topics put forth by the delegates. Methods to check on the transfer of SALW to NSAs, the dark web and the root causes of black markets, and stockpile management were 3 out of 4, and the 4th was proposed by Japan about the loopholes in the ATT. The ATT establishes common standards for the international trade of conventional weapons and seeks to reduce the illicit arms trade. The delegates made extremely valid points, which this editorial agrees with. Turkey stated that the ATT doesn't cover all types

of agreements or have an international body to regulate, and pointed out the lack of legal sanctions for violations. UK said that large exporters such as the USA and NATO countries have more power over regulations, and can decide the details of trade. The rules are also deliberately formulated in a way that leaves plenty of room for interpretation. It ultimately just depends on the foreign policy of the exporting nation. Furthermore, countries such as Russia and China (with the US and EU responsible for most of the world's arms export) didn't support the treaty, making it easier to blame the human rights violations on them, to please the western public opinion.



The ATT has a higher chance of helping smaller countries set up a control system, or set up international funds for a control system. The hope was that the ATT would help fight the illicit trade. However, it should be remembered that a lot of illicit trade started with legitimate trade from big exporting countries, something the ATT most likely won't change.

Written by: Priyanka Chandramouli

Photographer: Riddhema Gangaputra

DISEC



The day started off crisp and jubilant with all the countries settling down in their allotted seats, waiting for the chair to address the assembly. This year DISEC addressed the agenda; “regulating the use and trade of small arms and light weapons keeping in mind the growth of illicit trade”. The committee began with the GSL. All countries proposed valid notions with UK delegating favorable points. USA on the other hand had impassive points and a weak rebuttal stating; “if a 100 people were present and out of those 100 only 5 were bad then the remaining 95 people could kill the rest”, which is a bit far-fetched. Croatia also provided worthy statements, but had a flimsy reply to UAE’s point of information on Croatia’s speech pointing out how civilians were allowed to report and carry ammunition, if they believed that they would not get caught.

All in all, the countries had fare and august points and ended the GSL on a high note. They then began addressing new motions and commenced the moderated caucus, of which surprisingly GSL passed anew, voted by Switzerland. Countries like South Sudan, Russia and DPR came forth to deliver their points. The Chair then requested, yet another, moderated caucus. Finally, to all of our satisfaction, a motion had passed. Proposed by Japan, the motion stated the methods to check on the transfers of arms to state or non-state organizations (terrorist groups). All delegates were well informed about this moderated caucus and delivered strong and substantial points.

they would eventually be allowed accesses into the dark web.” They then entered the wide topic of loopholes which gradually picked up pace, following this with a discussion about reducing ammunition and discarding parts that could possibly be used in the future to create small arms, as well as documenting weapons and registering them for the government. The stock pile management also produced strong yet subtle points. Yemen made a poor point on the government to confiscate all guns and ammunition. After this was the unmoderated caucus, which led to a fury of chattering and negotiating among the delegates.



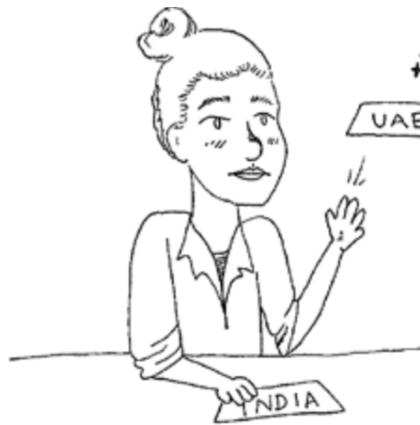
Day one of the committee, despite certainly having its own hurdles to deal with, was a wonderful display of intense debate punctuated with a good helping of humour.

Written by: Shreya Raghavan

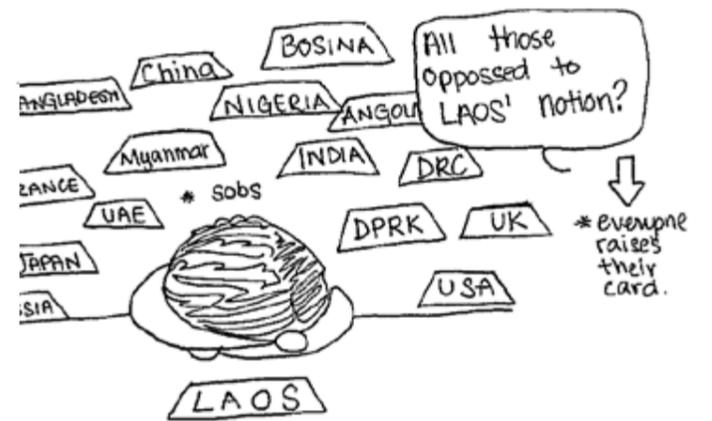
Photography: G.K. Pranav



We then moved on to the second topic which addresses the black web. Switzerland failed to deliver and spoke on erasing, locating and legally prosecuting individuals who indulge in the dark web and black market, which to say is rather ambiguous. On the other hand Belgium’s solution was also allusive and repetitive. Germany also posed nebulous pieces of information stating “If the individuals get prior permission from the government then



Del. of the UAE became Del.



How to be confident 101.



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|----------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|-------|
| China | USA | Turkey | Croatia | Syria |
| Czech Republic | DPRK | Russia | Hungary | |
| France | SWITZERLAND | Yemen | | |
| Netherlands | Switzerland | South Sudan | | |
| Congo | Uganda | UAE | Qatar | Spain |
| Japan | Mexico | Finland | South Africa | |



Economic and Social Council



Venezuela, a country which is in an economic turmoil, is having a ripple effect on the numerous nations around it. A country once booming due to its petroleum trade has now come to a standstill due to the various policy changes implemented by the then Prime Minister Hugo Chavez. Although Venezuela as a country saw its economy peak due to these changes, it has failed to hold the country together in the long run. This was the issue being addressed in the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in the 2018 APL Model United Nations.

The committee started off with Germany and China going head to head however as time progressed, the fire dwindled. Delegates then focused more on blaming the "failing government" of Venezuela rather than tackling the real issue at hand. Other than Columbia and Russia, no other country was really focused on finding a solution regarding the crisis.



USA proposed military interventions as a solution. Referring to the previous instances where it has intervened, USA assured that it would be peaceful. However, implementing martial law on a country like Venezuela would worsen its economy as it would discourage other countries from having trade relations with Venezuela. Germany, who accused the "corrupt government of Venezuela" to be the cause of the crisis, failed to provide substantial proof to validate accusations. Yet, this did not prevent other countries from following suit. Delegates focused their attention once again on blaming Venezuelan government, essentially losing focus on what was important.

In a surprising turn of events, Mexico supported USA in implementing martial law over Venezuela. Considering the military oppression Mexico received over the last century, it is jarring to see the delegate willing to enforce this on a different country, especially one with a crumbling economy. Another solution that surfaced was in-

creasing sanctions implemented to "stabilise" the sinking economy. It is shocking to see that the past events seem to have no effect on the delegate's speech. A sanction would choke the various affected sectors and the revenue earned by each one of them. Imposing trade sanctions on Venezuela would cause its currency to fall catastrophically.



For example, Russia, a major importer of oil from Venezuela is affected by the constant battle between the demand and supply of oils. Surprisingly, Russia is still willing to provide furnished aid to Venezuela. Brazil claims to be getting 700 immigrants a day. This cannot be possible as this would destroy the country of Brazil (which is clearly not the case).

Columbia was clearly thinking cohesively when it came up with the idea of devaluing the currency of Venezuela, using Brazil as an example. Brazil was a completely different story when compared to Venezuela. Brazil was going through a rate of inflation where a cart filled with its currency valued less than the cart itself. Here the reason for Venezuela's failing economy is its dependence on oil.

If this continues Venezuela will not be the only country which will be affected. All countries dependent on Venezuelan oil will face trepidation and this in the long run can cause a butterfly effect destabilising half of the world's economy. The solution does not lie in making Venezuela into Nazi Germany. External intervention into this situation is going to worsen the dilemma and the only logical solution seems to be for a change in trade policies within the government which could divert focus to other income sources present in the country.

Written by: A. Arjun

Photography: Janaki Nair, Dhanush Jayakrishnan

Economic and Social Council



This year's economic and social council was presented with the agenda: "Combating Venezuela's increasingly worsening economic crisis and providing aid for its suffering population." The ironic part throughout the proceedings was that the Delegate of Venezuela barely even spoke, while most other delegates did not really come up with methods to help the suffering citizens of Venezuela.



Overall committee was rather slow-paced, consisting only of the GSL, with one unmoderated caucus taking place in between but that did not mean that the delegates didn't propose motions. In fact, several delegates posed motions for unmoderated and moderated caucus, but when the votes had to be given, more than half the room raised their placards in opposition. It was a rare occurrence wherein not even a single motion proposed was passed. It was almost as if no one even wanted a moderated caucus.

Even though most countries on the GSL managed to finish their opening speech, it should be noted that almost every delegate said the exact same thing. Most countries said they were willing to provide aid for the people in Venezuela, but except a few, no one said how they wished to help the people, which was rather funny considering that was a huge aspect of the agenda.

One humorous incident was when the delegate of India said they wished to contribute to helping Venezuela whole heartedly and the delegate of Canada asked him since he hasn't provided aid in the past, if there was any proof he will in the future, instigating a few smiles as the delegate of India replied saying 'How am I supposed to give proof for the future?'

Despite the severe monotony of committee, there was one delegate who immediately made the room laugh. The delegate of China was an over enthusiastic and loud delegate who kept interrupting the chair several times to

get a word in, which provoked the chair who repeatedly and exasperatedly ask him to stop. He also got himself in a knot while over eagerly trying to argue a point that the Delegate of New Zealand had stated about Petro, a crypto currency, and he found himself stumped when asked the basic question of what cryptocurrency even was, initiating a bout of laughter again.

His habit of talking a mile a minute finally got him in trouble when he managed to annoy the vice chair by talking to the delegate of Russia when asked to keep quiet. Both him and the delegate of Russia were suspended and were also seen hilariously observing the proceedings from outside, desperately waiting to be called back in.

One aspect on how Venezuela could be helped that was being debated often, was by having sanctions placed on them.

While certain delegates like the delegates of USA and Mexico believed that sanctions were beneficial for the citizens of Venezuela because they would force a change politically, a higher number of delegates believed they wouldn't. They believed that placing sanctions upon them would only worsen the crisis because it would pressurise them.

One could argue that sanctions aren't the best solution because they also reduce trade opportunities and one of the major ways Venezuela could increase its revenue is by increasing exports. There is also that these sanctions will reduce Venezuela's access to the foreign market, where basic necessities like food and health care are present.

In conclusion, the committee, while not too productive, had a lot of memorable moments, intelligent debates, and a large amount of delegates being first timers making many questionable statements. There was a lot to take away and one can hope for even better debates and discussions to come as the years go by.

Written by: Mansi Madhavan

Photography: Dhanush Jayakrishnan

Economic and Social Council



If Day 1 of the ECOSOC proceeding could be summarised with two words there would be no question as to it being described as nothing less than a 'GSL domination'. True to those words, the entirety of the conference was characterised by the plethora of foreign policy statements voiced by the delegates, each offering insight into how their respective countries contributed to the agenda at hand: combatting Venezuela's worsening economic crisis and providing aid for its population.



With each speaker limited to only ninety seconds during the GSL, the delegates nevertheless had much to say regarding the matter. The most common topics that were observed as a trend in the vast majority of the FPS's were one, what the respective country previously did/are doing to provide aid for Venezuela, and two, the plausible solutions that could be implemented by Venezuela to solve the crisis. Many of the delegates were also clear on the idea that imposing sanctions was definitely not the best way to ensure Venezuela's cooperation; this important point especially emphasised by the delegates of Malaysia, and Venezuela themselves. What was most notable, however, was the commendable crisis solutions offered by a number of the countries represented at ECOSOC— some great examples being, the delegate of Columbia's proposition to devalue Venezuela's currency, and an idea to diversify the market economy, suggested by the delegates of France and China. This editorial wholeheartedly supports the latter.

It is no unknown fact that the country of Venezuela is virtually synonymous with the term, 'oil-rich'; while the existence of its vast oil reserves has benefitted the region tremendously in the past; it is now one of the country's major economic hindrances. Over 98% of its export earnings are generated from its oil revenues, and this is already proving to be more and more of an unstable practice as oil prices reduce at an alarming rate. To give

a scope as to how much of an effect this has had, a Venezuelan oil company, PDVSA, has had a baffling 34% reduction from the previous year's sales, to presently, 40.8 billion dollars. As a result of such a huge reliance on this industry, the income generated is dropping rapidly, leading to billions of dollars in debt, crime, poverty, and a crumbling economy. In addition, the added disadvantage of the economic sanctions imposed upon Venezuela will harm not only its growth, but its ability to recover from its current dilemma— a point which was brought up by the delegate of Malaysia during the proceeding.



The necessity to diversify the market products is now more important than ever— Venezuela absolutely has to find a way to increase economic yields in order to overcome debt and get on the path to recovery. By using the financial aid which countries such as Germany and Russia are willing to offer, Venezuela can invest in the making of other products and expand its market. In this way, Venezuela will have the double-advantage of not only more credible economic data, but also the freedom from dependence on a single source of export revenue, which will undoubtedly account for a larger support system in case one of the market products fail. Thus, the primary goal for Venezuela is to focus on the market economy, in combination with aid from foreign entities, which upon achieving, will surely bring Venezuela out of its intricate spiral of debt and economic failure.

Written by: Veda Ramakrishnan

Photographers: Janaki Nair, Dhanush Jayakrishnan



UN Development Programme



UNDP, of this year's MUN, was filled with enthusiastic delegates, efficient chairs and a satisfactory debate. With points of information and order flung around, the committee was very engaging overall.

The committee started off with the GSL, following usual MUN procedure. A few points of information we raised by delegates such as USA, China, Russia and Australia. Each Moderated Caucus focused on the different elements of development such as healthcare, infrastructure and Women's rights. With references to hydroelectric power, providing financial aid and the spreading of diseases such as AIDS through sex workers, delegates were adept at covering the overall agenda regarding the MENA region.



Certain delegates raised adequate points, while others provided basic statistics regarding subjects such as life expectancy, or diverted entirely from their Foreign policy. The debate covered the measures that countries were ready to take regarding the providing of allowances, resources and basic health care to underdeveloped countries in the MENA region. There were also arguments raised against developing countries such as India when they offered to provide aid when they do not have enough funding to sustain by themselves.

The agenda this year was "developing measures to aid in the reconstruction and recovery of post-conflict regions with special reference to the MENA region (the Middle East and North Africa)." The committee focused only on existing points and ultimately did not succeed in providing their own opinion in resolving the agenda. Countries offered to provide aid with barely any reference to the specifics in the procedure they would be taking to do so. There was also minimal reference to their own financial and economic statuses. The MENA region has been facing a lack of growth for over 30 years due to going through various stages of economic development and having a

discrepant array of cultures. Initially depending highly on the oil- business, the economy of the region surged in growth, yet plummeted during the 1980s. There had not been sufficient points given towards the region's investment in the oil fields and debate seemed to be restricted only to the fundamentals of development. Fiscal stimulation was not even discussed, regarding the economic development, and there were minimal points towards countries helping the MENA regions to have a less dependable economy.



The committee did a respectable job of discussing the agenda, despite failing to provide a broader scope on the various factors that affect and instill development. Though occasionally trite and depleting, it still had its moments of frantic arguments and humorous quotes.

Written by : Harini Padmanaban

Photographers: G.K. Pranav, Dhanush Jayakrishnan

UN Development Programme



Kailash, the Vice Chair, Krithaniya, the Chair and Pranav, the Moderator, began day one by stating the rules of procedure. Once the delegates had introduced themselves, the committee started with the GSL.

The first country to make its speech was Canada, followed by nine other delegates, including France, Russia and China. China was accused by Canada for spreading terrorism by poisoning its people.

Soon after, a moderated caucus on healthcare with special regards to the agenda was passed. Numerous countries talked about how sanitation and basic healthcare was essential for the growth of the MENA region. Delegates expressed their concerns about maternal health and proper child birth care and facilities. Egypt proposed that by ensuring the water provided for the citizens in the area of conflict was clean and safe, they could prevent multiple diseases from being spread.

Chad also brought up a relevant detail, on mental health. Affected mental health will prove to be a barrier for development and globalization, and this is common for these citizens.



The GSL proceeded, where USA suggested that a sub-committee must be formed to ensure that all the funds for the MENA region are being used in effective ways.

In the formal session after the break, DPRK in her GSL speech said that the MENA countries were "opening themselves to exploitation by USA and China" by accepting their funds. It was DPRK's strong belief that the affected countries should become self-sufficient. USA did accuse DPRK of selling illicit weapons to terrorists prevalent in those countries, which was denied - simply and strongly by the delegate.

A second moderated caucus then conceded, where the topic was development of infrastructure in the region of conflict. What most countries seemed to agree was that education played a key role in improving infrastructure in the MENA countries. It was their conviction that an increase in education will lead to higher employment rates which will in turn help the countries' economy. It was also agreed that basic infrastructure (water, sewage, transport and communication systems) was an absolute necessity for the countries to become self-sustainable. Chad also suggested that security measures must be taken to prevent damage to new infrastructure, which was seconded by both France and Egypt. The IMF agreed to fund reliable countries.

The moderated caucus was concluded and the GSL commenced. The day ended with yet another unmoderated caucus.

An important point, mentioned by a delegate, was that all the countries must set aside differences and must unite to provide the necessary requirements for the afflicted countries. This does make sense, and would make much more efficient use of funds to construct the basic infrastructure needed for self-sustainability as mentioned earlier. Once all the systems required for a country to function are in place, growth can be taken into account. This can be solved by education, as proposed by the majority of delegates, as it will create more job opportunities. However, gender barriers must be broken and women should be encouraged to go to work for this to happen. Studies have shown that although girls outshine boys in academics, many of them do not proceed to pursue a career. The large gap between the rich and the poor must also be bridged.

Finally, ensuring security for the newly executed systems must be considered, as it could be prone to damage caused by terrorists.

*Written by: Nusaibah Mohamed Anas
Photographers: Chaitalee Shankeshwar*

UN Development Programme



UNDP is an extremely relevant committee in today's world, where multiple nations go through conflict and post-conflict situations, with special reference to the MENA region. These countries, although rich in natural resources, or perhaps due to the very same fact, are subjected to various conflicts, regardless of whether they are internal or external battles. The aim of the committee was to discuss the issues and possible solutions.

Committee started with the introductions of the delegates, and it quickly took a humorous turn when several delegates began philandering with the co-chair, Kailash, claiming to be 'interested' in him. Soon after, when the roll call was read out, it was noticed that ironically, several countries from the MENA region were absent – the countries to which this agenda applied the most to. They included the Islamic republic of Iran, State of Palestine, Syrian Arab Republic, and another most important nation – Israel.

The aim being developing measures to aid in the reconstruction and recovery of post-conflict regions with special reference to the MENA region, committee was very successful. The two topics that were discussed during the moderated caucuses, development of infrastructure and development of healthcare, yielded to several innovative ideas and solutions, each completely different from the other.



This editorial focuses on analysing the solutions put forth by the delegates, evaluating the relevance of the aforementioned development programs, infrastructure and healthcare, and which is more important. The delegates of China, Vietnam, and DPRK spoke about the importance of HIV/AIDS, and its increase in today's world. They called for the ban of prostitution, focusing on the healthcare and rights of women and children, who were left alone due to the deaths or separation of the men as an

aftereffect of war. Other nations, the UK, the USA, India, Iraq and several others focused only upon their 'generosity', and how others must follow their noble example. The next moderated caucus, development of infrastructure, saw all delegates bringing up unique problems such as the education systems, gender rights, transport and sewer systems, and once again healthcare issues. One such valid point made was by the delegate of France, when he pointed out that focus on the development of infrastructure would leave the nation unsafe, viable to attacks. The representative of IMF agreed to funding countries who are reliable, who can utilise the funds in a responsible manner.



The delegate of USA brought up a valid issue when he argued that focus was necessary not only on the civil infrastructure, but also the political and economic infrastructure, a point that was given no further thought. Ironically, this particular statement rings very true as the formation and execution of politics and the proper utilisation of the economy in a country can be the solution to all problems. A nation depends almost entirely upon its form of government and economy – for everything – from physical to psychological needs.

In conclusion, both the issues discussed in committee, healthcare and infrastructure development can be categorised under one single topic – political and economic infrastructure. A well-judged execution of a country's resolutions and utilisation of its resources can make any country, regardless of if it is going through conflict or is in the after stage, absolutely self-reliant. This will also enable them to ensure a speedy recovery from any possible situation they are forced to undergo.

Written by: Sumaiyya Hairu Anas

Photographers: Janaki Nair, Dhanush Jayakrishnan

REACTION OF DELEGATE OF CHINA



Distrust and caution are the Parents of security.

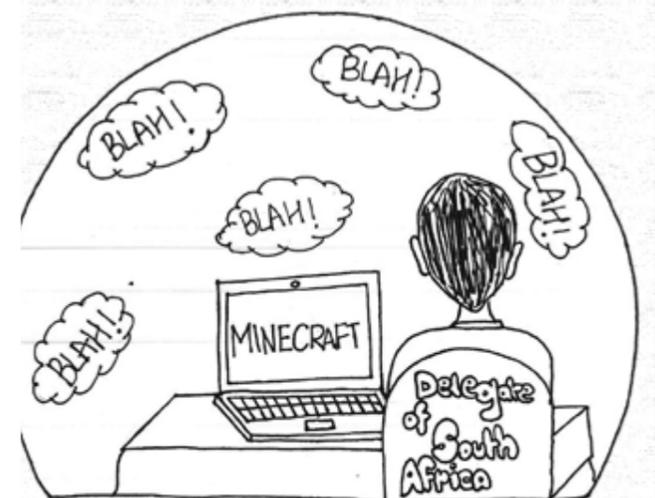
Only the insecure strive for security. That is all of US.



Really?!?



Del. of Myanmar



What to do when you are bored...



Can one of the nations kindly donate a glass of water to help Myanmar?



Del. of Myanmar

Congratulations



Best Delegate: Ananya Sreekanth - UAE
Best FPS: Anish Seeniraj - Pakistan
High Commendations: Ashish B S - MSF,
 Varun Narayanan - Myanmar



Best Delegate: Nishka Srivastava - UK
Best FPS: Niranjana Rajesh - DPRK
High Commendations: Gopalan - Japan,
 Ashish Srinivastava - Turkey



Best Delegate: N. Kessav - China
Best FPS: Aditya Shankar - Paraguay
High Commendations: Pranav Prabhakaran - Russia,
 Shreya Sharma - New Zealand



Best Delegate: Mukundan Alexander - USA
Best FPS: Arjunvir Prasanna - Germany
High Commendations: Sragvi Varanasi - France,
 Sarath Varadarajan - China



Best Reporter: Nandika Murgavel
Best Illustrator: Seo Young
Best Photographer: Dhanush Jayakrishnan
Best Press Interviewer: Nethra K.
Best News Agency: Al Jazeera - Harini Padmanaban,
 Arjun Arun, Hani Sami Anish, Nethra

From The Editors



The last two months have been absolutely hectic for all of us as we scrambled frantically to ensure the success of our committee. One of the main elements that signify the works of IPC is the APLMUN Tribune, which we had a blast creating. Although it was undoubtedly difficult to incorporate everyone's desires, we are glad to have worked on this initiative with the countless others that we have collaborated with.

It was a delight to work with the wonderful reporters, the talented illustrators and the amazing photographers who have poured their heart and soul into the fifth issue of the APL MUN Tribune. The list of people that require our gratitude in scores is endless but we would like to at least attempt to scratch the surface.

First off, our wonderful team; the dedicated reporters, illustrators and photographers that worked tirelessly to produce this year's edition of the APLMUN Tribune. Our incredible Heads of Design, Sanil and Manjary, who were with us every step of the way during the formation of the template. Shirley ma'am, without whom this very copy that you are holding or reading would be rather non-existent.

These were a few of the people who we very much consider invaluable to the continued progression and development of IPC, without whom our committee would have been left in the dust quite a while ago.

Finally- to us. IPC is no walk in the park and with the surmounting responsibility also came a fair bit of vexation and trepidation. However, as most things are, it was all worth it in the end, and in all honesty, putting our jubilation into words is borderline impossible.

-Tanushah Ramadass: Head of the International Press Corps 2018

-Aishwarya Alla: Deputy Head of the International Press Corps 2018