



APLMUN GAZETTE

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FOREWORD



On behalf of the organising committee of this year's conference, we would like to extend a warm welcome to all those participating in APLMUN 2019. With this being our 6th edition, we have worked hard to procure 6 committees with relevant and riveting agendas. The APLMUN Organising Committee has worked tirelessly to make this conference possible. Having experienced the journey of APLMUN since its inception, many of us have been privy to the steady growth of our beloved conference. Over 300 delegates, and six committees, is no small feat, particularly in comparison to the small meeting room of just about twenty delegates and two externals. As our esteemed Secretary General stated in his compelling speech, we are proud of where our Model UN stands today.

A compilation of our dedication. The APLMUN Gazette showcases the proceedings of the IPC Committee. Consisting of the newsworthy events of the past two days, we have collated articles, photos and illustrations of the confer-

ence, in order to commemorate the efforts of our adept IPC delegates and designers who we hold close to our hearts. We hope you enjoy this edition as much as we do.

*Written by Aishwarya Alla, Harini Padamanaban and Taranya Bala
Photography by Neha Venugopal*

“While valiant and noble,
is forsaking economic
development financially
prudent? I think not.”
-Raghavan Narasimhan

“This is the standard of
debate that is being
observed within
committee at the moment,
and will continue to be so,
with contradictions
following contradictions,
and blame being thrown
back and forth under the
guise of bittersweet
diplomacy.”
-Kevin Mutta

“Who is the president?”
-Nandika Murugavel

“No state organ, public
organization or individual
may compel citizens to
believe in, or not believe
in, any religion”
-Kadambri Catherine

“If the world wishes to
survive, they must bow
down to forceful
conditions imposed by
DPRK that in no way
benefit them.”
-Shraddha Balaji

Opening Ceremony



APLMUN 2019 started off with a bang, as the opening ceremony captivated us all with its incredible performances and engaging speeches. As participants walked into the auditorium, anticipation and enthusiasm filled the room. As many first-timers took their seats, the welcome address was delivered, followed by the lighting of the auspicious lamp by one of our most experienced faculty members, Mrs. Athilakshmi Annadurai,. Despite Our much-loved managing director Mrs. Gita Jaganathan's absence at the inaugural function, her kind message was conveyed and would have surely resonated with the delegates. Our beloved Principal Mrs. Kiran Merchant also addressed the participants with her invigourating speech, as she regaled the crowd with her fascinating recount of the invaluable influence that MUN can have on young students. Her inspiring words were followed by an astounding performance by APL's talented junior school band which, needless to say, left everyone in awe. Subsequent to the performance was an introduction to the members of the APL MUN organising committee, recognising their achievements and qualities. The final event of the inauguration ceremony was a rousing speech from our secretary general Udit Samant who offered encouraging words of advice to both first timers and experienced delegates. He concluded the ceremony by declaring APLMUN 2019 open, marking the beginning of two incredible days to come.

*Written by: Aishwarya Alla, Harini Padamanaban and Taranya Bala
Collage by Dhanush Jayakrishnan*

UNDP



The UNDP was surely an engaging and lively committee – from the resourceful chairs, to the outspoken and confident delegates, who never shied away from a good debate. This year's agenda addressed a significant issue that many overlook: "The protection and the preservation of biodiversity with the emphasis on the endangered species, of the Amazon."

The Amazon, being the main source of producing tons of oxygen for the entire world, which has also mitigated climate change for many years, is now under threat. In a study conducted on the annual cover tree loss from 2001-2017, it was reported that the losses have increased significantly from around 200,000 (2001) to a whopping figure of more than 500,000 trees (2016). Brazil alone has an annual cover tree loss of a little less than 450,000.

In addition, the Amazon is also home to 33 million people and 420 indigenous communities that entirely depend on it for their basic livelihood such as food and water. A key feature of the Amazon is the interdependence relationship developed between species. A disruption in the relationship can cause a loss of keystone species – those that serve as a link between other species and change the functioning of the ecosystem. The mammoth canopy trees, are dependent on agouti – a type of rodent that is the only species, capable of breaking open the hard-shelled seed pods. Some of the seeds are consumed, while others are scattered across the forest, and will eventually become the next generation of trees.

A significant loss in this will thus cause an imbalance in the ecosystem as well as cut short on one of the main contributions of the Amazon to the world – removing the carbon from the air and replacing it with clean oxygen. It also purifies the quality of water, which is another issue to be combatted.

With urbanisation on the rise, it risks the existence of the bio species that struggle to live in our polluted world. In the United Kingdom, it was found that an increase in the development of urban cities, caused 35% of the rarest plant species to become extinct.

The session started with a GSL (General Speakers List) and most delegates provided relevant and objective information to support their arguments. Others produced opinions that were repetitive and could have provided more facts which were necessary to make their stance on the issue, effective.

Some points of information were raised by the Delegates of Mexico and France to Brazil, which were handled very well on Brazil's end.

During the Moderated Caucus, solutions of tackling habitat loss with a special emphasis on deforestation

were discussed. Delegates actively participated, each of them providing their opinionated solutions on combatting these issues. Factors such as deforestation, climate change, illegal hunting, and urbanisation were highlighted as the main cause for such losses.

A number of considerable solutions were provided such as: countries adopting to use renewable energy, preserving and planting more trees in place of trees that have been cut previously, establishing sea banks and encouraging the birth of NGOs by providing them with funds



for taking steps to work towards solutions. However, some delegates were unable to provide examples to substantially show their stance on providing effective solutions. This further weakened the debate. Overall, there was a collective consensus on the fact that the issue at hand, was recognized by their countries and effective measures were needed to be taken to solve them.

Soon after, the committee carried on with the GSL and more delegates came forward with their stance on the problem of the preservation and protection of biodiversity. The countries only managed to successfully talk about solutions to fight against the loss, but did not discuss how each country would carry out the procedure of implementing such measures. There were mentions about establishing policies and a unified action to be taken to combat the issue, especially regarding the loss in the region of Amazon, but none of these points were elaborated as main arguments during speeches.

A crisis emerged within the committee, the chair confirmed that a valid news agency – BBC has reported that there are forest fires on the plot of the Amazon, and were pursuing to prevent the situation from worsening. It was also reported that the cause was unknown and that the UNEP suspects that it could be due to human interference. No further information was provided, which caused a chaos to erupt within the committee.

Overall, Delegates wasted no time and successfully managed to address the issue.

*written by Nivedha
Photography by Neha*

UNDP



The recent meeting of the UNDP has shown the willingness to sacrifice economic development at the altar of the environment. This is the wrong move. The lack of focus on the economic effects, even in the name of the agenda, speaks volumes.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) met today to discuss the agenda of "Protection and preservation of biodiversity with emphasis on the endangered species of the Amazon". The meeting began with the General Speaker's List (GSL), a platform for delegates of a country to express their country's stance on the agenda.

The General Speaker's List began with the delegate of Burkina Faso stating the need to "preserve biodiversity". All the delegates had their speeches in similar veins of thought, affirming the need to protect the environment and biodiversity, even at the expense of industry, with the delegate of Saudi Arabia going so far as to say that economic progress should not come in the way of protecting the environment. This is a noble thought, yet are we really forsaking the goal of the committee by not standing up for what's right, and simply following the herd?

The economy is the most important factor concerning a country. For a country, the only way to improve itself is by improving the economy. Therefore, a country must focus primarily on its economy, but also taking into account other issues like the environment. However, disrupting the economy for the environment is not plausible, and doing so will destroy the country from the inside out. Preservation of the environment should not be the main concern, rather it should be making sure a country can preserve the environment in a non-harmful way to its economy.

The agenda at the UNDP summit is biased due to the simple reason that it makes preservation seem like the only option. While valiant and noble, is forsaking economic development financially prudent? I think not. Millions of people are suffering due to a slowdown in the economy yet all these delegates are sacrificing economic development at the altar of the environment. Think about the single mother who cannot afford to put dinner on the table because the coal plant where she worked was deemed bad for the environment. Think about the old man, who was a week away from retiring with a pension, but was sent away because his work damaged the bal-

ance of biodiversity, and now could not afford to send his grandchildren to college. Is it really worth destroying these people's lives for the environment? I think not.

The day continued with a moderated caucus on solutions for tackling habitat loss, with a special emphasis on deforestation. Delegates presented solutions for the issue of deforestation, without any debate if it was even needed. These solutions ranged from replacing paper currency with plastic notes to better enforcement of current environmental laws. A few solutions were logical, as they achieved the dual purpose of economic development and environmental protection, but other solutions like replacing all wooden pencils with mechanical pencils were bizarre at best.



The UNDP summit will be a success if the delegates keep in mind the economic consequences of the solutions they propose in the committee. The delegates must strive to propose plausible solutions, such as increased enforcement of environmental laws through clear-cut steps. These solutions would achieve the dual purposes of furthering the economy as well as protecting the environment. This is also the only way to prove the delegates do care about all walks of life and can be a method to show how the UNDP can be a force for good and positive social change. This would show that the UNDP does care about economic development.

*written by Raghavan
Photography by Rhia*

DISEC

The Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC), has been a long standing pillar of global peace and aims to tackle threats on a world wide scale. The agenda for DISEC is one that is extremely pertinent and relevant to current global safety: The denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

DISEC commenced with the GSL with most of the stances established by each of the countries correlating to form one definitive viewpoint. North Korea should not be in possession of nuclear weapons. Even countries that do not support the Global Zero movement have condemned North Korea's nuclear program. In addition, the Delegate of DPRK also stated that their interests lie in denuclearization, but proceeded to blame the failure of previously attempted summits. This statement was met with indignation, and rightly so. Just 2 days prior, the government of North Korea had declared that they were not open to discussions. The accusations the Delegate of DPRK delivered were an indicator of either disconcerting inconsistency or brazen hypocrisy.



The Delegate of South Korea adopted a relatively hostile stance, which seemed erratic given the current reconciliation between the 2 countries. South Korea also addressed the biggest concern regarding entering any diplomatic treaty or agreement with DPRK, which is trust. Since the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty in 1985, DPRK has violated or pulled out of numerous accords, and continued with nuclear development.

Another popular regulation, the concept of "sanctions", was extensively discussed and promoted by various countries in the GSL, alongside implementation of treaties and political talks. However, the ideas were unoriginal, ineffective and mundane, illustrated through multiple, failed, prior attempts at implementation.

Being an economically crippled state, North Korea is extremely susceptible to sanctions and it has played a large role in controlling DPRK'S dangerous behavior. North Korea has become bolder, shown in recent events, such as the communication closure, and the failed Vietnam summit, wherein North Korea agreed to dismantle nuclear facilities only if they are provided complete sanction relief. Sanctions are clearly a source

of enmity for DPRK, and may ultimately spur their nuclear advancement.

The Delegate of China took on the uncommon stance in which they supported the rights to own nuclear weapons, but condemned DPRK'S nuclear arsenal. China and North Korea have always had a harmonious relationship, despite China's presence in various policies and summits regarding DPRK's nuclear possession. However, in a riveting turn of events, the Delegate of China inadvertently implied that China has been funding North Korea's nuclear development. This action violates 4 Security Council resolutions that China has been involved in. A motion to move into moderated caucus discussing China's violation of Security Council policies was immediately passed. Most of the participating countries expressed their disappointment in China, and suggested applying international pressure and sanctions. However, sanctions are primarily effective on financially unstable nations, and China is an economic giant. Enforcing sanctions on China will not only prove to be fruitless, but may also affect the global economy. In the end, China apologized and retracted their previous statements, claiming it was a miscommunication. DPRK also denied any of the allegations directed at China's supposed funding of their nuclear program.

After lunch, the GSL resumed, and was followed by another moderated caucus discussing the legitimacy of DPRK's claims of denuclearization. The afternoon session was comparatively placid, and committee proceeded slowly, until the crisis began.

An earthquake in Yongbyon, North Korea had resulted in the death of 12 civilians and injured more than 100. The IAEA believes the earthquake to be the result of nuclear testing, and expresses the need to conduct radioactivity testing. Furthermore, research by Tokyo University indicates the earthquake's origin was most likely a failed nuclear test. The most conclusive contribution was the suggestion of immediate care and relocation of affected civilians. A resolution was not reached and the true origin of the earthquake was not revealed, although DPRK rigorously denied nuclear involvement. Overall, Day one of DISEC was largely successful in establishing the political stances the world on the agenda, while discussing related topics. However, while potent and viable solutions were not reached yet, DISEC has laid the groundwork for the passing of an excellent resolution.

*Written by Janani
Photography by Varsha*

DISEC

If anyone stepped into DISEC a couple of moments prior to the beginning of the committee's proceedings, the buzz of anticipation and debate of around fifty eager delegates was noticeable in the air. At first glance, it seemed as though DISEC was doomed. The Delegates of the USA, DPRK, and Representative of IAEA were a no show. After upgrading two delegates to the positions of utmost important, the proceedings of DISEC went remarkably well. The agenda of this year's DISEC was to work towards the Total Denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula.

The esteemed DPRK's dignity and reputation was, as expected from the western world, immediately attacked from almost all angles. The GSL began with the delegate of Belarus' flippant claim that the DPRK is "unstable" yet, proceeded to request the removal of US troops from South Korea.

The GSL is followed by appalling hypocrisy from South Korea whom has been reported to have both Short Range Ballistic Missiles and Middle Range Ballistic Missiles and, as pointed out by the delegate of Japan, has been conducting military tests. The South Korean delegate has also claimed that the United States is not a threat which is further evidence of his impractical claims as the President Donald Trump has made threats to DPRK previously and has deployed bombs on Syria.

The delegate of Australia's contrasting advice claims DPRK should be "pressured" into complying, yet supports anything which would "peacefully" make the DPRK comply with the UN. This is, as mentioned by the DPRK delegate, what the DPRK feels about the United States of America who has not yet agreed to freeze the nuclear state.

Soon after, things began to take a turn for DISEC when the delegate of China gave their GSL, during which they admitted to giving DPRK financial aid. The delegate of Japan put the delegate of China under fire as he proposed a moderate caucus to discuss China's violation of four UNSC's resolutions. The delegate of China apologised for his past statement and stated that the only way in which they were funding DPRK was through trade which helped DPRK's GDP.

Once the committee reverted back to the GSL, India and Pakistan seemed to be the only two remotely understanding of North Korea's situation. The delegate of India understood the need for nuclear weapons as a line of basic defence while Pakistan was the only country

apart from China which acknowledged the unfair nature of harsh trade sanctions and their consequences on the lives of people in Korea. The other delegates of the GSL- Philippines, Canada and IAEA were naive enough to believe everything could be solved with "peace talks" with the USA without realising that if that was all it would take, the proceedings of this committee would not be taking place.



Just as the committee was reverting back to the GSL, day one's proceedings ended with reports of a "crises" which rang in the committee. An invalid Japanese news source had been spreading rumours and false news about a recent earthquake which hit DPRK, claiming its origin to be from nuclear testing. As described by the delegate of Belarus, DPRK truly cares about the livelihood of its citizens and would never test it on a non-nuclear test land, especially not with a nuclear reactor which has been a source for electricity.

DISEC reverted back to the GSL to end the first day of proceedings. One can only hope the spirit of DISEC can be preserved once the delegates see the agenda through the eyes of DPRK, through which a coherent resolution will be bound to emerge from the eccentric and chaotic committee which is DISEC.

*Written by Shridula
Photography by Varsha*

DISEC



SEOUL, August 29 (YONHAP): The Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC) convened for a two-day conference to discuss the current situation in the Korean Peninsula and worked towards achieving total de-nuclearisation in the same

The situation mainly surrounds the DPRK, which has been increasing their nuclear capacity rapidly & dangerously, especially following their withdrawal from the Nuclear Proliferation Treaty (NPT) in 2003. The entire Asian continent has been threatened because of this. For such illicit behaviour, the international community has imposed heavy sanctions on North Korea.

Ever since North Korea tested its first nuclear device in 2006, the United Nations has authorized nearly a dozen international sanctions targeting North Korea's access to any equipment that could be used for the development of its nuclear and ballistic missile programs. Moreover, North Korea's leadership, under successive Kim's, considers nuclear weapons the sole means to guarantee its survival.

When we talk about the cons of such sanctions, our minds almost immediately think about the people of North Korea as this has certainly affected the welfare of some parts of the country's population. Sanctions have hampered the activities of humanitarian agencies and foundations; according to a report conducted by the Human Rights Watch in 2018, U.S.-based humanitarian agencies have faced additional difficulties following the United States' ban on travel to North Korea. As a result, large areas of the country face increased food insecurity and a shortage of vital medicines. In general, sanctions have the probability of bringing about instability and can cause chaos.

As for the DISEC conference, the session definitely witnessed a clear split between nations regarding the denuclearization of the region. Although, it is to be noted that an overwhelming majority extended its support to the country of South Korea and its allies. The Delegate of DPRK did not succeed in reassuring the committee about their actions and was not able to garner support. DPRK chose to be quiet for the most part, even when many nations blatantly made several accusations against them. On a more efficient note, the Delegate of Japan took the lead and played an instrumental role in steering the committee in the right direction; the committee addressed several pertinent issues. "DPRK cannot be trusted. They have violated four resolutions of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC)" claimed the Delegate of Germany.

China made a statement that was quite controversial; so debatable that even a moderated caucus took place on

the same. They talked about how the government was a regular funder to North Korea in order to 'help the economy.' Whereas in reality, China was well aware of the fact that most of these funds were used to increase the production of nuclear weapons; a very small proportion of the aid was utilized to help the people. The Delegate of China boldly admitted to violating UNSC resolutions. They were condemned by almost every nation present with the exception of the DPRK.

The very reliable nation of South Korea raised a very pertinent point to the international committee



regarding this statement – China is technically helping the Kim Jong-Un government in nuclear testing, as that is where most of their funds go anyway. The committee expressed the need for punishing China; many were for imposing sanctions on the country while many were not.

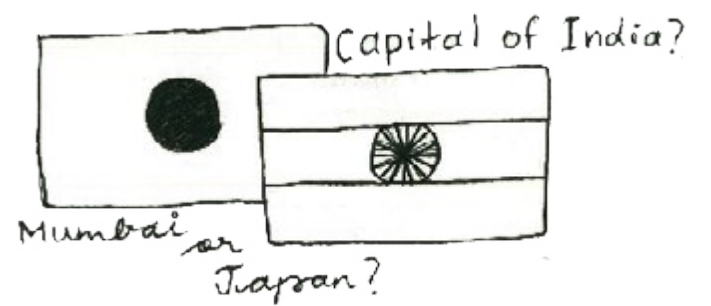
In light of recent events, NHK World-Japan reported that an earthquake was detected in Yongbyon, with about 100 citizens and almost a dozen killed. Moreover, the report also stated that North Korea wishes to develop the city of Wonsan as a tourist spot. "Earthquake Research Institute of Tokyo University declares that closer study of the seismograph indicates high possibilities of a nuclear test" the article mentioned.

It is clear that over the course of the intense session of dialogue and debate, the international committee has failed to make North Korea and their allies cooperate. If the world wishes to survive, they must bow down to forceful conditions imposed by DPRK that in no way benefit them.

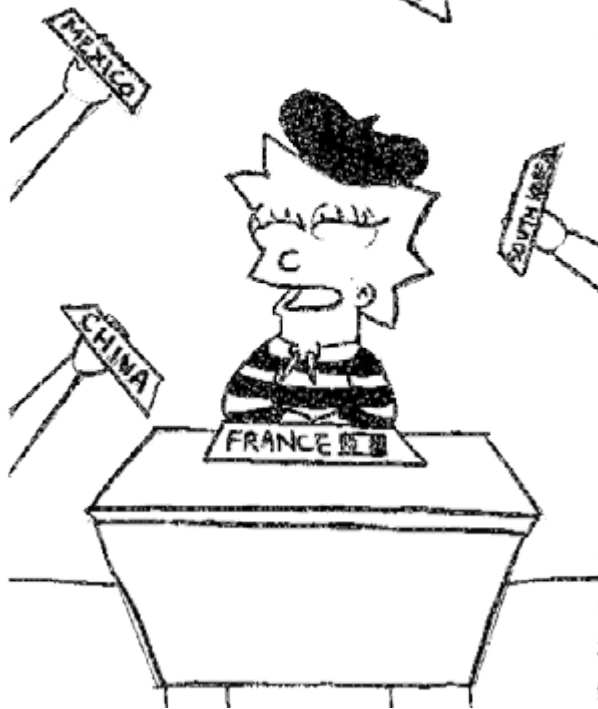
*Written by Shraddha
Photography by Varsha*



MUN



DISEC - CHINA



DISEC - DPRK



U N
D P



Talk louder please

we want proof

slow down

UNHRC



China has always been an impending decision to make, be it 5G or Muslims. But China has held a strong attitude on the latter. In 2015, being an atheist country, China decided to restrict Uighur Muslim students, teachers and so on, from observing the fast, during the month of



Ramadan. It is logically simple: if someone tries to threaten your private space and property, you would try to take them out, not serve them food. The Delegate of China made it distinct that they are not the hosts of the so-called "concentration camps".

As quoted by the Delegate of China, the 'Separatism by Uighur Muslims' can be removed by the re-education camps. With ample facilities including vocational training, it was of a parading issue for China and rightly so. "Rightly so" is not something one uses to describe the Delegate of Italy. Ironies of ironies, a country that does not even recognize Islam as a religion, decides to offer full-fledged support to Buddhism and denies recognition of human rights violations in their country. The delegate had stated that Islam is not in conformity with their constitution. It should be clear that this same country, was subjected to racial violence during February. And we thought Zeus was hypocritical!

Allegations protrude the seeds of thought and further contaminate the roots of our minds. A simple saying can have a long way to go. Even though the committee believed themselves that the time was spent wisely, it is important to note the name of this committee: Human Rights Council. Human rights.

Well, it should be made clear before someone forgets it. The quantity of time trumped over its quality. Allegations and unmoderated caucuses are one thing, but having to experience them over and over is mentally exhausting. The committee was indulged in decision-making before even discussing the actual problems.

Switching over to reality and away from France (who frankly was indifferent to all the things happening around him as most might know) Falun Gong has been

an age-old spiritual practice to which people continue to profess and practice till now. Even though China was widely criticised for its untimely actions, China continues to deflect any accusation or insult towards them.

Let's lighten the mood and excuse ourselves for a joke. What's unrelenting and off-topic?

Saudi Arabia.

Regardless of the hard-hitting options given by the delegate of Saudi Arabia to the community, the delegate went on to discuss about the laws constraining Muslims and Human Rights violations.

Moving on to moderated caucuses, the delegate of Russian federation seemed to be the only one proposing and instigating. The number of people that made their stance today were only a handful albeit the committee had an overwhelming attendance. Sudan on the other hand, had decided to stay out of this issue since the delegate had believed that they had no right to have a say on the matter.

Because of the dull presence of aura in the room, the moderated caucuses were fortunately enough to bring the focus back. Hate crimes is a major issue and the Delegate of Russia was applauded for bringing this matter to the notice. The delegate laid down the foundations for this topic by briefly explaining the three categories that come under this: religious, sexual and sometimes a mixture of both. The delegates, not making their allegations clear, discussed on the various solutions regarding this. Amidst this tension of resolving, the Delegate of Egypt declared that they are doing their best to lower the crime and poverty rates in their country before making their direct claims that Uighur Muslims are terrorists. This can be viewed as a safe tactic, to escape the displeasing looks of judgments from Qatar and Italy. With Pakistan and Czech Republic coming up with new solutions and the international community demeaning them, it no longer makes a clear path of how the proceedings would be directed.

With a request, a human declares,

A safer path for better digests

All we need is a better world

And no more protests.

And with these lines, the reporter concludes with no fore vision of tomorrow's result, but sure of the fact that this decision will forever change the making of a person's life.

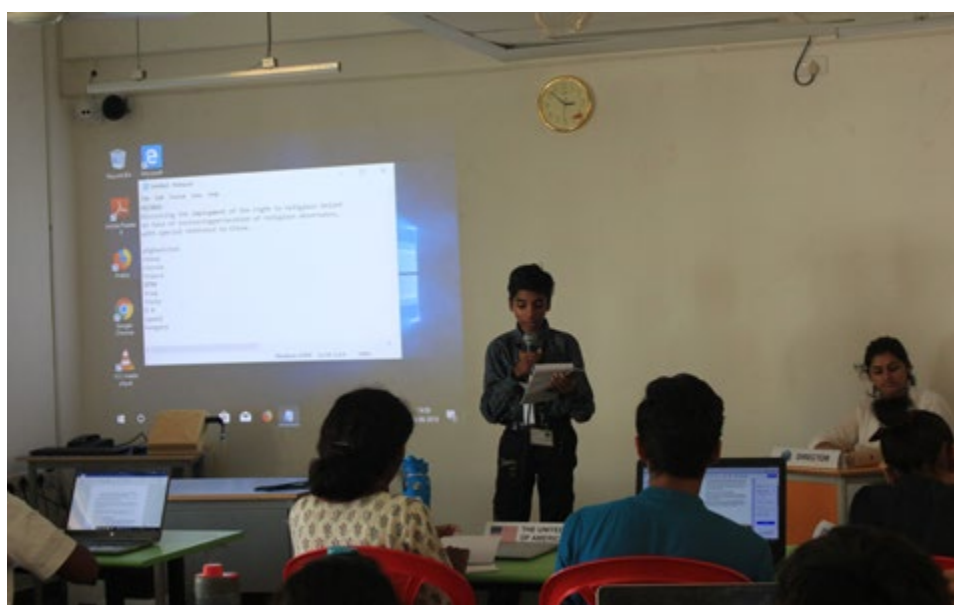
*written by Radha
Photography by Manasi*

UNHRC



Around sixty exuberant, pulsating young minds gathered in the HRC looking forward to exchanging a great deal of invaluable knowledge and gaining an enriching experience. Their confident demeanour spoke of the ample preparation they had done.

With the committee's agenda for the conference being "Discussing the impingement of the right to religious belief in China in the face of increasing persecution of



religious observance", the delegate of the People's Republic of China was acknowledged as the first speaker for the GSL. The delegate of China stated that Article 36 of the country's constitution on Freedom of Religious Belief. He added that China is a communist state and prefers if citizens did not practice any religion. He went on to clarify all speculations on persecution of human rights in China; "Uyghur Muslims used Islam as a tool of separatism and extremism. Anything that disrupts social harmony will be eradicated." He also said that the Tibetan community was posing a threat to national security and the Falun Gong is an anti social cult hence the country's actions against these sects are justified as they were implemented in the interest of the country's welfare.

Many countries such as Somalia, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Italy supported China's way of tackling religious extremism, some of who seemed to be taking this stance for their own benefit. For example because Egypt receives financial aid from China or in the case of Italy, in order to not disrupt trade relations with China.

Some countries such as Sudan took a neutral stance saying, external countries have no rights to interfere with the issue. These countries being dormant in committee discussion thereafter because of stances leaning towards either side, appeared to defeat the whole purpose of committee which is, Fostering cooperation between nations in order to solve international problems through discussion and participation of different countries. With increased globalization, the world has become one integrated community, wherein most countries are economically, socially, and politically interdependent on each

other.

On the other hand some countries stood against China's policies of sending Uyghur Muslims to "concentration camps", giving people "shock treatments" and forcing them to denounce their religion, resulting in the violation of Human Rights and persecution. The delegate of China refused to accept any statements made by various sources, particularly "Western news agencies" as stated by the delegate in the press meet, accusing the agencies of falsely reporting information and being unreliable.

The delegate of China denied any Human Rights violations and repeatedly stated that the camps were not "concentration camps" but rather "management centres" providing sports such as basketball and vocational training, as well as counseling.

A motion to suspend the GSL and enter an unmoderated caucus was passed. During this time, delegates were seen actively discussing in groups. It is worth mentioning that the delegate of Russia appeared to dominate the session, seizing the majority's attention, followed by the delegate of China. While some delegates used the time given effectively, a few remained seated and inactive. Through the first few hours of committee, delegates seemed enthusiastic to pose statistics and facts but their stances as time proceeded in committee, grew increasingly monotonous and uneventful. Delegates began tirelessly repeating themselves. Interest in committee began to fade.

A press conference was held in the post-lunch session of the committee. Reporters shot questions at delegates, demanding justification for the various statements they had made throughout committee.

The chairperson and vice-chairperson undoubtedly did justice to the power that was given to them. The felicitous duo ensured committee maintained decorum, followed all committee rules and regulations and an uninterrupted cascade of events.

Although the delegates grew increasingly restless towards the end of the Day 1 committee session, we hope that under the guidance of the proficient executive board and competent delegates, day two of APLMUN 2019 holds productive committee sessions and that the committee is successful in devising resolutions.

*Written by Safia
Photography by Manasi*

UNHRC

The concept of Religion is a complicated and ambiguous modern western concept. Article 36 of the Constitution of the People's Republic of China (PRC) of 1982 specifies that: "Citizens of the People's Republic of China enjoy the freedom of religious belief. No state organ, public organization or individual may compel citizens to believe in, or not believe in, any religion; nor may they discriminate against citizens who believe in, or do not believe in, any religion." This complex topic was addressed and debated throughout today's session.

The session began by the Delegate of China's GSL, sparking a healthy debate and setting the mood for an eventful day. The delegate of China spoke about article 36 and how the PRC protects religious freedom and has actively promoted religious pluralism.

The delegate of Somalia then proposed to suspend formal debate and move into a brief unmoderated caucus with a total time of 15 minutes. The floor was abuzz with a frenzy of debates between delegates of the various countries till the GSL was resumed. While most countries agreed, there were a select few whose views were different. Many countries also chose to remain neutral reinforcing the excellent bilateral trade agreements PRC has with them. A frivolous question about whether the countries who were neutral put trade before human rights was raised towards the esteemed delegate of Italy, who replied with tact that the fact mentioned was clearly that: being neutral did not put human rights before trade but it was also not to merely focus on the repercussions of declaring the delegate's stance that would affect the delegate's country.

Soon after the GSL, the delegates voted upon different moderated caucus topics. The majority of the committee voted on the topic of discussing different hate crimes around the world and a baseless accusation towards the PRC. Hate crimes occur when a person is targeted based on their association to a specific race or religious group. All around the world hate crimes continue to happen today be it the United States of America or many countries in the European Union. The PRC has imposed several laws that condemn anyone who supports or executes any hate crimes. These laws are truly just and should be introduced in countries all around the world.

With the conclusion of the moderated caucus, the GSL once again continued. Delegates put forth motions to yet again hold a moderated caucus. The motion voted

for by the committee was to discuss the possible solutions to Islamophobia and terrorism. There have been countless measures taken by the PRC to make sure that Islamophobia is prevented as far as possible. The Islamic Association of China (IAC) oversees the practice of Islam. The PRC banned a book titled "Xing Fengsu" which translates to "Sexual Customs" in 1989 which insulted



Islam and placed its authors under arrest. The PRC also organized public burnings of the book. In 2007, with the coming of the Year of the Pig in the Chinese calendar, the portrayal of pigs was banned to avoid conflicts with ethnic minorities. This refers to the PRC's population of 20 million Muslims, to whom pigs are considered "unclean". Also, since the 1980s, Islamic private schools have been supported and permitted to operate in predominantly Muslim areas. Only the province of Xinjiang has been specifically prevented from allowing these schools but that has been because historically it has had separatist sentiment.

A motion was then passed to move into an unmoderated caucus, after which the Press Conference began. The delegates of IPC asked a few other countries such as Pakistan, Malaysia and Italy about the countries acceptance of a minority and what policies they implemented to protect them.

Overall Day one of APL MUN 2019 was a complete success as well as being productive where a broad range of topics was debated on and insightful information was exchanged.

*Written by Kadambari
Photography by Manasi*

UNSC



NEW YORK (SNTP) - Once the richest country in the continent, the rise and fall of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela is perhaps one of the worst isolated economic crises ever documented, and a cautionary tale for any recently formed petro state. Currently, the country is facing extreme levels of over inflation paired with possibilities of humanitarian and political breakdown, and if not checked, is bound to crumble into ruin. However, if the South American nation were to fall, the repercussions would not be limited to its boundaries alone, and would reverberate throughout the entire world. More than four million Venezuelan citizens have already migrated from the country as refugees. Venezuelans export a major portion of the world's oil, and so Venezuela is an important member of the international community, to avoid catastrophe, the UNSC, headquartered in New York, gathers today to discuss this very issue.

The committee, which is composed of 15 members, saw an attendance of a much larger number, including the Representatives of both the Maduro and the Guaido presidencies, the two sides of the political issue. The initial stages of committee saw a series of General Speakers' Lists (GSLs) which were just the various member nations present coming forward and reiterating stances they have already made clear multiple times in official statements, some of which very clearly defied logic. The Delegate of the People's Republic of China spoke about how both parties have made legitimate claims on the government, invoking certain articles of the Venezuelan constitution, and that their stance remains neutral, following their "policy of non-interference", which is a blatant contradiction because of their constant support of the Maduro government, financial or otherwise. On the other hand, India clarified their stance as neutral, while going on to say that the Maduro government had rigged the previous presidential elections, as can be inferred from multiple reports by news agencies like Reuters and the BBC. The only possible inference that can be made is that countries, for the sake of appearing unbiased, find it necessary to contradict every step they have ever taken, forgetting that actions speak louder than words.

The Representatives of the Maduro and Guaido governments were called for the sole purpose of resolving the issue amicably, but their usage of the platform provided formed no direction in or impact on committee, giving statements for the furthering of their personal agenda or clarification of their stance, and no further for the collective good of their country. While the Guaido govern-

ment restrained themselves to criticism, the only things the Maduro government tried to do were defend themselves and pretend that the situation wasn't as dire as it looked, going so far as to completely deny the ongoing humanitarian crisis. Currently, more than a tenth of the Venezuelan population has fled the country, and besides, multitudes of women and children suffer from previously eradicated diseases like measles and are starving, and a majority of the country is facing unemployment. However, the Maduro government has the audacity to say that there is "no humanitarian crisis" and



that apart from Red Cross; their government has not taken the aid offered by various organisations and nations around and beyond.

This is the standard of debate that is being observed within committee at the moment, and will continue to be so, with contradictions following contradictions, and blame being thrown back and forth under the guise of bittersweet diplomacy. The Venezuelan crisis is one that requires immediate reconciliation, as more than 90% of the population has been gravely affected, and the games that diplomats play in self-satisfying conferences helps them no more than rain helps a raging flood. It is clear that the Maduro government is in the wrong, but when action is sacrificed for the pleasing of all parties, that is when democracy loses to the influence of corrupt governments. Thus is the situation, and it lies completely upon external bodies now to have any chance of relieving Venezuela from its political plague.

*Written by Kevin
Photography by Dhanush*

UNSC



Who is the president? While that question might sound unusual for people to ask within their own countries, the citizens of Venezuela and other affected countries have been asking themselves that question ever since Juan Guaidó declared himself to be the acting president of Venezuela. The political dispute is one of the many problems the South American country suffers from, with other extreme ones being hyperinflation, an increase in poverty, and the sudden outbreak of diseases. As more than 4 million Venezuelans have left the country in recent years, the crisis in Venezuela is turning from an economic and political crisis to a potential humanitarian crisis.

With the Venezuelan crisis being the Security 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. The session began with countries stating their stance on the topic, specifically who they believed to be the acting president of Venezuela. Countries kept offering their support to Venezuela, the support mainly being monetary aid, despite the repeated reminder from the representative of Maduro that Venezuela would not accept any aids. "Maduro stated that Venezuela is not a country of beggars," the delegate said.

The first moderated caucus, "addressing the humanitarian crisis in Venezuela" was proposed by the delegate of China. Venezuelans are struggling to buy necessities such as food and toiletries due to increase in inflation rates. Hyperinflation has also been a cause of poverty.



Venezuela is currently experiencing the re-emergence of several diseases that were eliminated in the past, such as measles and diphtheria. The country has also experienced an increase in cases of previously controlled diseases, including malaria and HIV. "Hospitals are only taking in near-death patients." The delegate of Peru stated in her speech. "The lack of medicines, medical supplies

and deterioration of humanitarian infrastructure does not make the situation any better." Even though the Maduro regime will not accept any aids from other countries, they are aware of the blossoming humanitarian problem. Their method of combatting this is by allowing Red Cross workers to help.

While the rising medical issues seem to be a relatively easy problem to solve, there are certain restrictions. President Maduro has not explicitly stated that Venezuela is suffering from a humanitarian crisis and, as said many times before like the delegates in UNSC, will not accept any aid.

However, this should not stop the delegates from finding a solution. One way of solving the problem in Venezuela is by helping the country become financially stable since that is one of the reasons for so much of the unrest in the country. President Maduro has agreed that Venezuela is suffering from an economic crisis due to an economic war with foreign businessmen. If Venezuela is helped bring down inflation rates, the cost of living may decrease in the country and would solve the growing humanitarian problem. One possible way is by adopting a new currency since it would be beneficial in the long run. Investing in another sector is also diversifying Venezuela's markets and can hopefully open up new trade opportunities. The money can then be used to strengthen the healthcare system and prevent the spreading of diseases. For all of this to be possible, countries should avoid placing sanctions against Venezuela and to stop offering military support to force President Maduro to change his view on the problem. Both options will just lead the country to a greater loss with many lives being taken in the process.

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 Venezuelans. Hopefully, the delegates can come up with more solutions that will help stabilize the South American country,

*Written by Nandika
Photography by Dhanush*

ECOSOC



Global economic slowdown; political instability; social unrest. From Ireland to Russia to Zimbabwe, every nation will face backlash if the United Kingdom leaves the European Union without agreeing on a deal.

'Preparing for the effects of a complete exit of the UK from the EU, with special reference to the Irish border and the Good Friday Agreement'

Formal session commenced with the delegate of the Russian Federation presenting their stance on the agenda, expressing concern about the impacts of Brexit on world trade. Most General Speakers List speakers had similar stances. The delegate of the United Kingdom claimed that England, Ireland and the EU have the same aim - safeguarding the Belfast Treaty. The stance that the delegate adopted is in stark contrast to the approach of UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson, who wants a complete exit from the EU by 31st October, deal or no deal. The suspension of the UK Parliament was no doubt a ploy to prevent the House of Commons from passing any laws to prevent a no deal Brexit. But the delegate, though subjected to multiple Points of Information, remained firm in their stance that the suspension only prevented a no deal exit.



When formal session resumed, Ireland took the stage, for the first time making a reference to the Irish backstop. The implications of a no deal Brexit were cited and seconded by Switzerland. The delegate of Ireland also accused the UK of being undemocratic by suspending parliament.

Nevertheless, the committee was not progressing desirably. Several motions to discuss a topic pertaining to the agenda were raised, but all were surprisingly voted against by a majority.

Luxembourg claimed that a hard border agreement would be most likely, eliciting many Points of Informa-

tion. A hard border will mean a clear division between northern and southern Ireland, hindering trade and creating political unrest.

The delegates of France and Uruguay proposed making changes to the Belfast Treaty to facilitate the exit of the UK following an agreement that benefits all nations involved. However, all other nations of the EU are against amending the Belfast treaty. The delegate of the UK themselves claimed that the UK intends to prevent a hard border, as mentioned previously. Moreover, the efficiency of this move is questionable, considering the suspension of the UK Parliament. The EU will have to comply to the demands of the UK or risk facing a no deal Brexit. Towards the end of the day, several other motions to move into informal debate were raised. Delegates finally voted on a moderated caucus to discuss the Irish Border Crisis. This is when the agenda was properly discussed for the first time.

France argued that the backstop is in conflict with the sovereignty of the UK. The UK will be invariably tied to the EU if a soft border remains between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. In any case, claiming a breach of sovereignty is a bold statement to make.

But before even 3 speakers could speak, Crisis erupted. The Secretary General burst into the room and displayed an Al Jazeera report on screen. In the history of the MUNS, this was probably the first time a crisis was met with uncontrollable laughter and applause. 'Donald Trump to be voted sexiest man alive' - who could be asked to maintain a straight face in response to that!

Of course, there were other crises the committee had to discuss pertaining to the OBOR Pakistan corridor, Hurricane Cumberbatch and an anonymous transaction of 2 million euros into a Danish shell company by an unnamed Chinese firm. The committee, however, had to be adjourned before discussion on this matter could begin, delaying a solution to the matter. The results are yet to be seen.

Though initially unproductive, the committee eventually moved on to propose solutions to the problem at hand. There are high hopes for Day 2 to be packed with intense debate and conclude with a resolution satisfactory for all nations.

*Written by Kirtana
Photography by Spandhana*

ECOSOC



The ECOSOC committee resembled a pressure cooker in the sense that with the exception of the flourishing chaos created by the delegates while deciding which agenda to debate upon, the day went from an organized, formal and disciplined environment to a loud, vehement, ferocious one. As a small reminder...the United Kingdom is announced to be exiting the European Union this October 31st. Otherwise known as 'Brexit', this decision has caused uproar and panic amongst countries especially those in trade with the UK. Failure to reach a decent agreement between the two [UK and EU] and the prevailing problems of the Irish border issue has found uncertainty and fear amongst the involved parties.

While the delegate of Ireland fought for the safe-guarding and protection of the Belfast agreement, the delegate of UK justified the Prime Minister's decision to use the 'No-Deal' agreement as incentive to get the EU in corporation with their exit, written in their terms. Other than this, countries like Germany and France clearly demonstrated their position and voiced their future in accordance to their relations. However, after sitting through one GSL and one moderated caucus, a pattern

to be disappointing as the entire premise of Ireland's interference into the Brexit is based on this.

To gain more clarity, due to the previous stabilized participation of the UK in the EU, the shared border between the North and South has not created problems. Both regions' alliance with the same organization was a compelling reason for the absence of the implementation of a hard border between them. This allowed easy immigration movement, quick transport of goods and much more. However, once Brexit occurs, it is difficult to establish the future of this effective arrangement which is one of the prominent problems the UK is facing as a consequence to their action. Unfortunately, the session held today was not convincing within the brackets of these criteria. A motion passed on discussing this agenda however was successfully voted on and opportunities to fix this gaping hole in the proceedings were in movement. Moments after the discussion began, a crisis was declared, and all attention was driven towards it thus effectively ending the debate for today. The crisis itself was divided into four sub-plots with the major headline being an anonymous tip suggesting the transaction of 2 million Euros from an unnamed Chinese firm to a Danish Shell Company. To be honest, this was interesting as no prior information was given on it. Hence, it was open to interpretation by the delegates who found themselves questioning every minuscule detail aligned with the text. Lack of time ended any appeals and opinions on the said crisis but as an individual program set to challenge and questions the minds of delegates, it was successful in its function.

To provide final thoughts, the individual representatives were impressive in their research and oration of its results. Diplomatic yet intense, they stood in confidence of their work and their country. However, the degree of the discussed content can be questioned, and its partial provision of important perspectives was insufficient and unfulfilling.

*Written by Meenakshi
Photography by Spandana*



began to bear fruit to the impending negative critiques found on the overall debate. Each country while vehement with their words, spoke primarily on the relationship between the UK and EU and its predicted economic downfall due to the Brexit. The expected addition of the border crisis ensued by the position of the Republic of Ireland in the EU was not deeply indulged upon. As previously stated, the delegate of Ireland did capture its essence and although satisfactory, the issue's dominant existence as a catalyst of arousing violence as reflected in the country's history as the period of the 'Troubles' demanded more attention and discussion. The UK's stance on its subsidiary- Northern Ireland sharing a border with the Republic of Ireland was not magnified. This was found

DISEC - RUSSIA



"DOES BELARUS EVEN CARE ABOUT THEIR CITIZENS!?"



"session is on August 20th"

* U P R O A R *

"So that means we cannot talk about the Amazon forest fires?"

"I don't know what that is."

* MORE UPROAR *

The rain of chits

ECOSOC



YEAH DELEGATE! WE ARE WAY BETTER!



IRELAND



GERMANY

WE ARE KILLING THIS!!!

ECOSOC

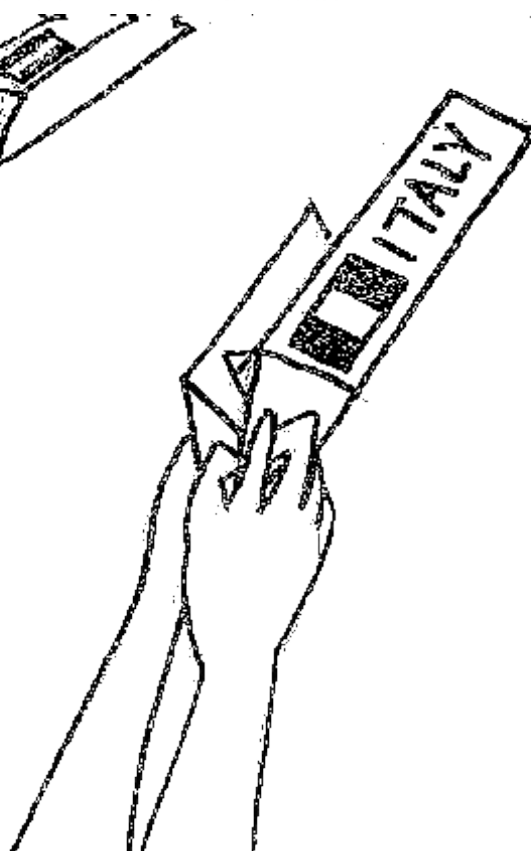
DISEC - GHANA

... blah ...
Wah ... RADIOACTIVE !! FISH !!



Saint Vincent

and the green-adines



E.C.O.S.O.C

DELEGATE OF DENMARK



Chair! Chair! Chair! Chair!!!



CHAIR

ECOSOC ECOSOC

CHAIR

Delegate! please repeat after me, with the prior permission of the Executive board



HE IS SO SCARY

Umm... permission? executive? umm... uhh...



DELEGATE OF CHAD

DELEGATE OF USA



Is the head of state dead because his placard is held upside down?!?



Chair! Chair! Chair!



What is his problem?!!?

FEEDBACK

“While being a beginner’s committee, it was one with active participation when necessary which led it to being a positive and fun experience for the Executive Board.

- *UNHRC*

This has been the most successful and well organised APLMUN I have ever been too. The OC has been great and the sheer number of delegates who have attended has been really appreciable. I’m proud to say I’ve done justice to both of my roles as Vice-Chair and Head of OC.

- *Head of OC*

‘Diligent’ would be an understatement to describe the vibrancy and dynamics of UNDP. Excessive chits, POIs and enthusiasm are what made the committee so memorable. But remember: If you want to save the Amazon, WRITE LESS CHITS.

- *UNDP*

The committee started off pretty slowly but once we initiated the crisis, the delegates jolted back to life. There were a number of first-timers and I am certain that DISEC has been a good learning experience

- *DISEC*

I can say with certainty that the Security Council was the most productive committee in this edition of APLMUN and the delegates definitely possess great potential.

- *UNSC*

APLMUN 2019 has been quite intense in terms of organising. Udit and I started planning and organising the event for 3 months now. Even though it was quite hectic at the time, as I walk around from committee to committee, I can’t help but feel proud of this wonderfully enriching experience we have created.

- *Director General*

The delegates of ECOSOC were extremely eager to speak, raising their placards and presenting points. It was wonderful to have such an enthusiastic committee.

- *ECOSOC*

I’ve been part of APLMUN for the past 5 years. I have watched APLMUN grow bigger and bigger every year and I’m proud to have been Head of Admin this year. It had its own ups and downs but at the end of it all, we made sure that it was successful.

- *Head of Admin*

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Udit Samant



Head of OC
Pranav Ponnivalavan



Director General
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Director of the ECOSOC - Shreya Raghavan

Chair of the HRC - Vrinda Gopal

Vice-Chair of the HRC - Nishka Srivastava

Director of the HRC - Anish

Best Awards

UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Best Delegate: Arunachalam Rahrahman-Russia

Best FPS: Ktacya.H -Czech Republic

Special Mentions:

Sahith Puthireddy-Vietnam

Smriti.S-Slovakia

Tara Awashti- Fiji

High Commendations:

Anand B- China

Arnav Sairam- Somalia

DISARMAMENT AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY COMMITTEE

Best Delegate: Nishant Kumar- Japan

Best FPS: Eshita Kumar- Belarus

Special Mention: Dwijan Hari-Philippines

High Commendations:

Jagannath-Germany

Aswath Manu- Republic of Korea

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Best Delegate: Gautam Parekh -Brazil

Best FPS: R.V.Pranav-Colombia

Special Mentions:

S.Vishal-Cuba

Manas Shankar-France

Adithya Vishwanathan-South Africa

High Commendations:

Manjari Dayalan-Mexico

Hussain.M.Topiwala-Canada

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Best Delegate: Austi Murali-Saudi Arabia

Best FPS: Anirydhan.K-Russia

Special Mentions:

Nalan Pandian-Luxembourg

Rakshitha-United Kingdom

Gokul-Denmark

High Commendations:

Abhiram Dasika-Ireland

Adithya Neeraje-France

UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL

Best Delegate: Aadi-China

Best FPS: Adithya P.V- Argentina

High Commendations: Adithya-USA

Special Mention: Bhuvan- Russia

IPC

Best Reporter: Raghavan

Best Photographer: Dhanush Jayakrishnan

Best Illustrator: Seo Young

High Commendation:

Kevin Mutta, Chettinad Vidyashram

Best Conference Staff:

Yaehak Seo,

Runner up-Ananth

BEST SCHOOL

CHETTINAD VIDYASHRAM

From the Editors



Behind the copy that you are currently reading is a team of conscientious and devoted individuals who have worked diligently to produce this edition of the APLMUN gazette. And we would like to make a special mention and acknowledge their efforts without which, this magazine would not have been possible.

For weeks on end the IPC team has worked ardently to ensure that this edition was the best it could be, and for that we would like to express our appreciation to the people who contributed to the success of our committee. Undoubtedly, we would like to thank our brilliant team of reporters, photographers and illustrators who worked tirelessly over these past two days to provide the enriching content that this magazine encompasses. Next we would like to express our gratitude to our marvelous heads of design Jun and Nittin who have poured their heart and souls into creating this template. We would also like to thank all the teachers and management who assisted us along the way.

Lastly us- although the work put into creating this copy was demanding, we enjoyed every moment of it. We are proud to say that our immense commitment has definitely paid off. Ultimately, it was worth all the effort. We hope you enjoyed the APLMUN gazette

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- Harini Padmanaban (Deputy Head of IPC)
- Taranya Bala (Rapporteur of IPC)

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