



APLMUN GAZETTE

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FOREWORD



Greetings from the Organising Committee for the **9th edition** of the APL MUN. We welcome you to this momentous occasion that our school has worked extensively to host. I hope your experience here was an extraordinary one as we sure had a great time organising this event!

With **nine committees and 410 delegates**, we hope this APL MUN proves to be a memorable success. We are proud to present a vast range of committees, namely US Congress, International Press Corps, Human Rights Council, Office on Drugs and Crimes, Economic and Financial Committee, Security Council, World Health Organisation, G20 and Tokyo Trials. Having twenty external chairs, putting together this show was definitely no breeze but it was all possible due to the constant engagement of our relentless Secretariat, Organising Committee and the heads of senior school.

It is indeed a commendable environment created here today with numerous delegates displaying their debating abilities and global awareness. We hope this opportunity was unique and engaging, especially with the Special Committee introduced.

What makes the APL MUN stand out is its encouraging attitude towards the first-time delegates. Our conference has an applaudable number of first timers throughout the nine committees. Although this may have been an unnerving experience for the new delegates, the constant support and motivation from our Executive Board played an important role in shaping them into successful debaters.

This year's APL Gazette covers this event with its unique touch from the Gazette reporters, photographers and illustrators. So take your time to browse through our very own APL reporters' articles on the happenings in each committee, the candid yet vivid photos from our photographers, and the vibrant sketches from our illustrators. We hope you enjoy the Gazette.

*Written by Jefina Ajaikumar, Sandhya Girish
Photography by Aditi Keshav*

Opening Ceremony



The opening ceremony started off with a compelling yet exuberant welcome by our anchors. The grand dawn of the 9th edition of the APL Model United Nations Conference, witnessed by over 400 delegates from 40 schools, marked a strong commencement to the event. This was followed by the auspicious lighting of the lamp by our Principal, Ms. Sarija Santhosh and Ms. Fiza Abubacker, Head of Senior School (CAIE). The flames of the lamp signified the unwavering spirit of the APL MUN.

Our young and talented APL dancers arrived in style with their graceful performance. Their moves exuded the skilful mastery of classical Indian dance with a dynamic fusion of stylish western dance. Sarija ma'am's inspiring welcome speech propelled a wave of eagerness and anticipation for the conference, which truly bolstered the ceremony.

The anchors then proceeded to invite and introduce the members of the Executive Board. This year's EB was enterprisingly diverse, with members whose experience spoke volumes of their position. Every individual emanated their expertise through their numerous accolades in former MUNs and other platforms of debate. Arpana Shankar, Head of the Organising Committee, and Tanika Kapa, the Secretary General, expressed their welcome to all the delegates and chairs as well as highlighted the importance of diligence, commitment and opportunity - the pillars of this APL MUN. There was also a mention of a Special Committee and a new award for this category, which instilled excitement within the delegates.

With that, the Secretary General declared the APL MUN conference open with the symbolic striking of the gavel.

Written by: Jefina Ajaikumar, Sandhya Girish
Photos by: Rhea Deepak, Tia Batra, Aditi Keshav
Collage by: Jefina Ajaikumar



Day 1

The ECOFIN committee room was filled with a plethora of enthusiastic delegates, most of whom happened to be the first timers. The eager anticipation radiated throughout the sessions and the delegates' demeanour. The session began with an icebreaker to ease the delegates into the process and the executive chairs carried themselves with dignity, humour and played the role of an inspiring mentor.

As a member of the EB, Deepi herself states, "MUN is a beautiful process involving the aspects of real world diplomacy and debate. I think, as chair, my responsibility is making this process as smooth as possible and encouraging delegates to contribute to the process through my mentorship." The delegates' confidence had been built up and the feedback provided was constructive. Nearly all the delegates in the committee were seizing opportunities and indulged in fiery debates discussing the agenda, "Housing Crisis in the United States with Special Emphasis on Financial Institutions and the EURO Market Crash."

Following the roll call, a GSL order was established and the first 10 speakers in the session took to the floor. All of them made some very critical points regarding their stance on the agenda. The participation and liveliness took its peak during the first part of session one. The delegates were consistently raising points of information and interacting with utmost formality and knowledge. Questions, answers and retaliations were present as they all established their skill and stance. Notably, the delegate of Finland, raised several points of information and created a lot of flow in the discussions going on in the session.

The Co Chair said, "Curiosity is intrinsic in us all. I think MUN - more specifically, ECOFIN - values the depth of questions asked out of curiosity. You ask the right questions, you get the process right. And my job here is to help the delegates dig deep down to search for that curiosity and meld their thought process in a way in which they ask the right questions."

Followed by a quick break, delegates returned back to session two, and the next lot of them began their

speeches. This time, there was a consistency in participation and even more points of information were raised, mostly questioning the government and their lack of regulations. Upon establishing their stances, the chairs prompted delegates to raise motions and there were two motions raised, out of which, the Deutsche Bank raised the motion to discuss on how to mitigate the social and economic consequences of the subprime mortgage crisis on employment. In a moderated caucus, after a quick vote to approve the motion, the motion proceeded.



Delegates collectively discussed the several government intervention schemes which can be taken in forms of speeches. They touched on the many methods to implement government schemes, mainly regarding training for employment resources, price controls like subsidies and expansionary measures to improve the overall state of the economy to maintain stable rates of employment. The discussion also emphasised on the effects and outcomes stated by the delegate. The Vice Chair expressed their notion, "The ability to participate, learn and be inquisitive leads to the creation of some of the best delegates." The Executive Board constantly encouraged participation and fostered a carefully curated environment fit for the session.

The Economic Finance committee boasted enthusiastic delegates, experienced Chairs and an impressive flow of events, filled with laughter, learning and memories. The sessions emulated qualities of future leaders.

*Written by Anoushkaa Jagan
Photography by Tia Batra*



Day 2

Day two of the ECOFIN committee marked the research work of the delegates preparing themselves to go through another round of GSL speeches. The delegate of Finland raised a motion to open the speakers list which was approved and the delegates began. There was a rising rate of controversial parliamentary debates on illegitimate banks and repayment of international debts. The chairs aided delegates in moderating and crafting questions that helped the delegates get an edge. Despite the short time frame between yesterday and today, delegates are visibly learning and improving their research and debate skills. The confidence in the room visibly doubled overnight.

initiative led to a large amount of positive evaluation. The EB members asked the two delegates several questions and they were quick on their feet to come up with valuable solutions and responses. Throughout sessions three and four, there was an immense exchange of knowledge, agreements and great ideas, all of which set the foundation for the final resolution.

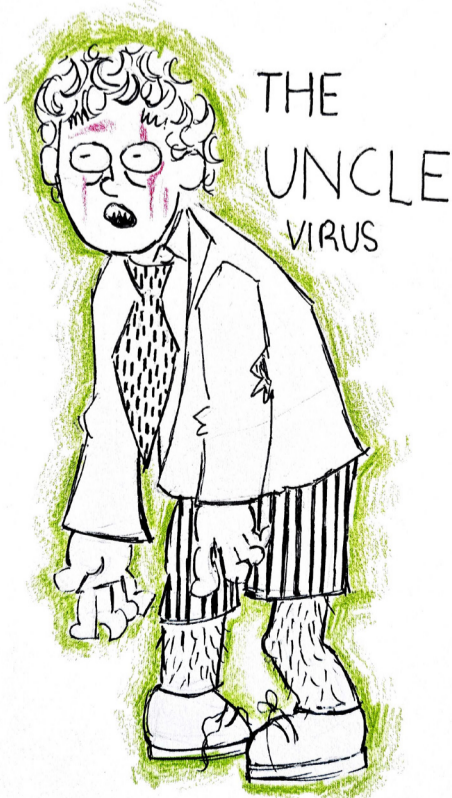
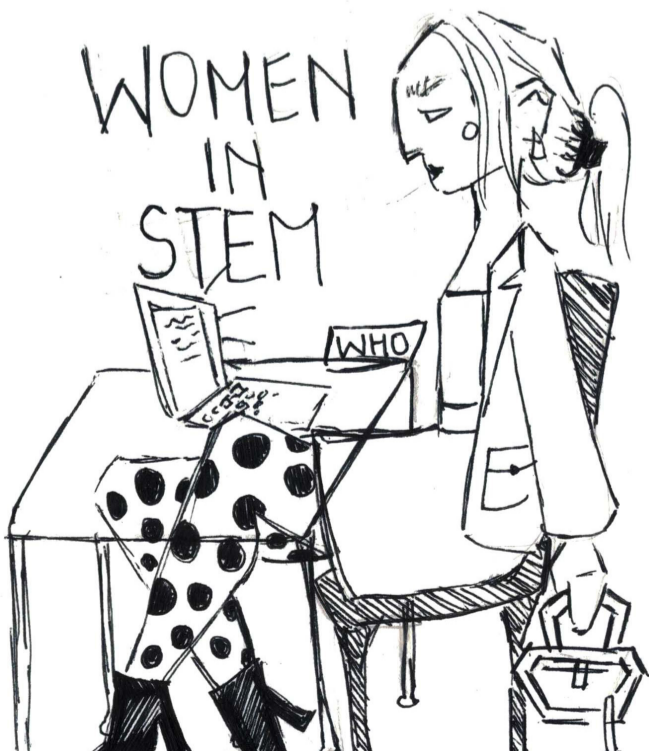
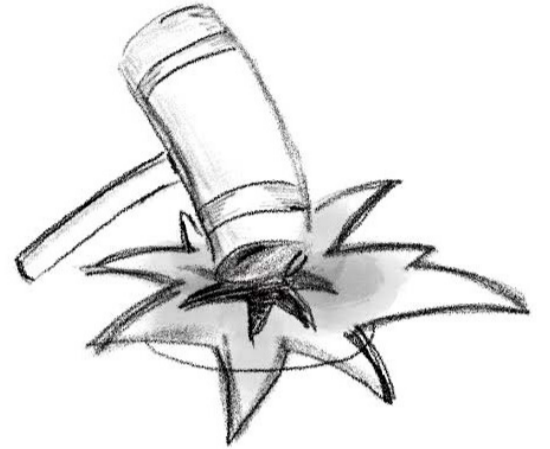
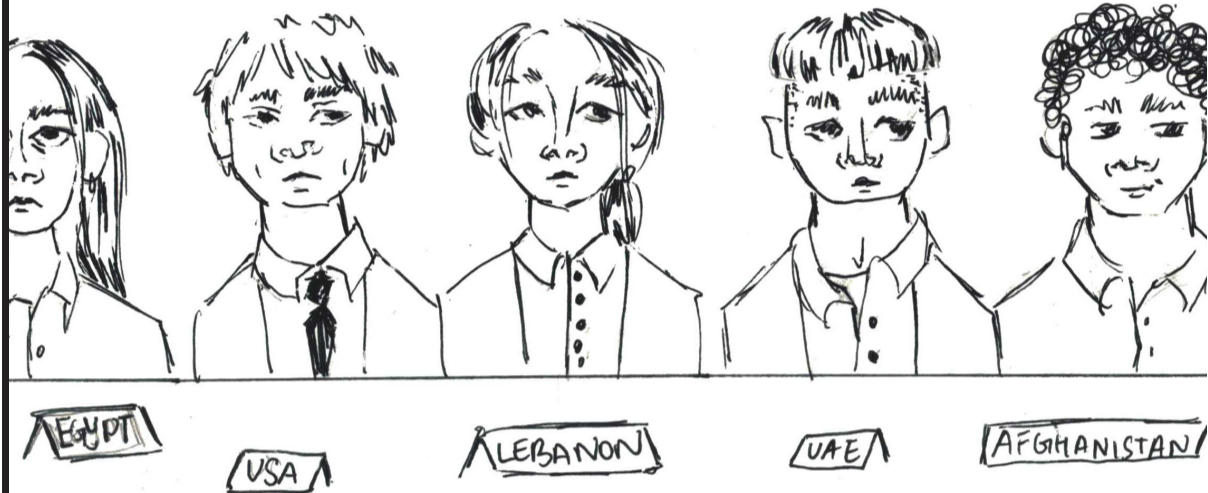
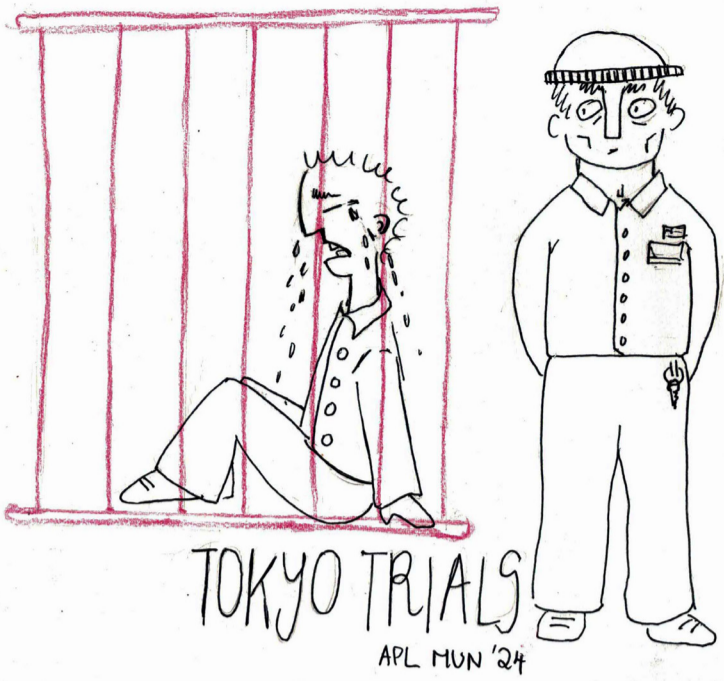
*Written by Anoushkaa Jagan
Photography by Tia Batra*



Throughout the GSL speeches, participation predominantly stemmed from the delegate of South Korea and the Deutsche Bank. The delegate representing the Deutsche bank took a step forward and dissected the delegate of Cyprus' speech. There was a heavy emphasis on economic policy specifically on how to fill up the federal reserves and still uphold expansionary policies. Following this, the delegates brought up the implementation of AI into the banking industry. However, they were quick to be shut down as the banking sector is far too important for this extent of dependency. The delegate of South Korea then raised a motion to suspend formal debate and get into a 15 minute unmoderated caucus which was passed.

The GSL speeches continued after the caucus and the delegates were questioned thoroughly, as they were expected to be sharp and informed throughout the process. During these events, the delegate of South Korea and the Deutsche bank formed a press release on their stance toward this agenda. This







Day 1

UNODC was bustling with vitality antecedent to the commencement of the first session. The committee's agenda is to combat illicit drugs, crimes and terrorism and work towards global peace and security.

Today's objective was to promote ethical and responsible use of artificial intelligence in crime prevention and criminal justice with an emphasis on lowering drug-related cases. AI algorithms can assess a variety of data sources, including healthcare records, social media activity, and behavioural patterns, in order to identify those who are at risk of substance use.

The UNODC assembly began with the GSL where several countries made their stance on the given agenda. The session commenced with France explaining their zero tolerance policy towards drugs, which had been shown to be ineffective, although the country has been planning on providing education to their people about drug abuse. It followed China's stance which emphasised on the privacy of their people and their operation "Aurora" with Australia. The United States of America opened their statement with how their country is the largest contributor to the opioid epidemic. They also added on their implementations of new AI which helps to educate the public on new and emerging threats. Following the delegate of the USA, the delegate of Mexico expressed their views about racial bias but was quickly shut down by the delegate of the USA by addressing that racial bias depends on what information they receive.

Moving forward, the delegate of Pakistan stated that their country had high rates of addiction, especially amongst upper class youth. They also mentioned that their country aided in the sourcing and transit of illicit drugs and added that they do not have adequate resources to implement AI into their systems. On the contrary, Russia has integrated AI into their surveillance and military aid systems.

The main problems identified by the majority of countries were lack of awareness, limited infrastructure, racial bias, discrimination and political instability. However, the chairs were persistent in avoiding the problems and instead promoted potential solutions on how the countries can work together to help diminish the use of AI in aiding technological systems.

The executive board expressed that despite the majority of delegates being freshers, they possess significant potential to exceed expectations. They believe that if these freshers adhere to the guidance and advice provided by the EB, they

can achieve greater success in their endeavours. The EB also insinuated that Mexico had the upper-hand during the sessions.

The committee then commenced into a 20 minute unmoderated caucus where the delegates had a chance to communicate with each other and form alliances.



*Written by Roshana Raghunandan,
Vedantha Vikram
Photography by Aditi Keshav*





Day 2

Day two of the UNODC committee opened with the GSL, allowing the delegates who did not speak on Day 1 to join the discussion. The delegate of Peru made a significant statement. They noted that Peru ranks as the second highest global producer of cocaine and acknowledged the potential prowess of AI, although they are yet to integrate it into their systems. They further expressed readiness to begin implementing AI and encouraged other countries to follow the suit. However, Peru also stated their intention to maintain neutrality on the current topic while offering assistance to other nations. This statement sparked debate among delegates, with many highlighting what they perceived as irony in Peru's stance.

The United Kingdom then presented their position, noting the integration of AI into their law enforcement systems. They proposed the use of drones equipped to scan the entire country for substances like cannabis and cocaine to combat drug usage. However, the delegate from Albania countered by pointing out that cannabis is legalised in the UK, which undermines the effectiveness of their proposal. Malaysia's delegate also questioned the cost-effectiveness of the drones, but the UK delegate clarified that the technology is still in development and discussions on cost-effectiveness will follow post its completion.

The delegate from Saudi Arabia began by highlighting the detrimental effects of drug abuse and expressed their intention to raise awareness and educate those affected. However, the delegate of the USA countered by pointing out that Saudi Arabia employs drastic measures like deporting drug offenders, suggesting a contradiction in their stance. In response, the Saudi Arabia delegate remarked, "That's their responsibility," leaving the room surprised and unsettled by their statement.

The Executive Board stated that they faced numerous challenges both, with the delegates and within themselves that included communication issues, misinformation and subtle misconduct. These issues were overcome with patience and perseverance allowing them to smoothly conduct the committee. The board expressed that they had an array of memorable experiences which included the entire country of the UK being "high off cannabis" suggesting a "Green Week" for the country. This made both the delegates and the EB laugh, sparking friendly banter between the delegates.

The committee was deeply satisfied with the leadership of the EB and the EB were equally content with the performance of the delegates. A total of three blocs were made with all the countries present which sparked controversy and excitement between the delegates. It's easy to say that the UNODC committee was a great success.

*Written by Roshana Raghunandan,
Vedantha Vikram
Photography by Aditi Keshav*





Day 1

The agenda for the APL MUN of 2024 for the WHO committee was the establishment of a commission to prevent and combat Antimicrobial-Resistant (AMR) Disease Outbreaks. AMR diseases are known for their extremely resistant nature against pre-existing measures. The WHO predicts that without the early intervention, AMR diseases could cause more than 10 million deaths per year by 2050. This makes AMR pathogens and diseases a drastic concern for the public welfare. Due to the rapid awareness of the dangers of AMRs, significant moves have been taken towards an AMR disease-free future. Matters of discussion would include what resolutions to this AMR disease-free future would look like and how they could proceed.

At the start of the session, the Executive Board (EB) briefed the delegates on how the session will be conducted and led it into a roll call. The atmosphere of the room was admittedly tense, considering the fact that majority of the delegates participating were freshers. Day 1 officially commenced promptly, as the EB then announced the agenda of the committee which was followed by the Germany delegate motioning a resolution to the resistance of Antimicrobial diseases. The EB put forward a proposal to hold a formal debate with a General speaker List.



China led the GSL by emphasising the measures they had established via their national action plan (2016-20 and 2022-25), including development of surveillance systems, implementation of public education, integration of data about AMR trends from different sources, adopting an approach that recognizes that the health of people is closely connected to the health of animals and our shared environment (one health approach), and regulating the

clinical use of antimicrobials by creating laws to ban their use otherwise.

Other countries followed by highlighting the statistics that prove that AMR is an acute threat and shared their similar plans including spreading awareness through the digital world and public surveys, creating a more people oriented healthcare system, stricter laws pertaining to the use of antimicrobial drugs, better risk management and increased financial support for research on the disease. France enthusiastically compared their healthcare system to a “huge football team kicking AMR around” and the United Kingdom shined the spotlight on their early prevention program through their five year national action plan. As the GSL progressed, the executive board continued to encourage the delegates to ask more questions and state their oppositions if any, due to the comfortably predictable routine of the session.

The United States of America rhapsodically expressed their regulations of drug use and how they plan on having full control via their FDA approved drug system. Australia questioned the transparency of the United States’ drug use and supported this by stating the country’s known illegal drug use history. The USA responded to the allegation by denying the claims made with no evidence to support the statement. Somalia questioned what El Salvador’s president had done to improve the situation to which El Salvador replied by underlining their president’s attempts at regulating antibiotics and having the digital world play a major role.

After the break, The GSL continued with Egypt speaking on their collaborative efforts, integrative system and engagement of the locals and NGOs. Following a few more similar speeches was a motion made by India, that entailed examining the root causes of the AMR spread which was dismissed due to minimal votes.

Overall, the WHO committee, much like its freshers, has the potential to become an increasingly engaging committee.

*Written by Nithila Vimalan
Photography by Tia Batra*



World Health Organization

Day 2

Day two of the WHO committee began with the atmosphere seeming to have gotten much lighter amongst the delegates. As the session commenced, the floor was made open to a selected number of speakers to come forward and give their draft resolutions for AMR diseases to the room.

Myanmar led the discussion by stressing on the effects that AMR diseases had towards the underprivileged areas and how urgent the matter was. They proposed that machine learning could improve the efficiency for research but it wouldn't be effective enough, unless these matters are frequently discussed with the public in full transparency. Mexico put forward a multi-dimensional approach with more innovative technologies and the use of mobile health to educate the general public on the proper usage of antibiotics. Austria followed up with an insightful talk upon their research pertaining to phage therapy and how it can be used in the prevention of AMR diseases, which was appreciated by the UN correspondent.



Guatemala followed by underlining the importance of proper communication with the general public and how language could be a barrier to the common man. They proposed holding step-by-step sanitation guidelines for public awareness.

The co-chair then brought to light on how everyone seemed to be advocating for the same thing and that there's a lack of questioning amongst the delegates. The EB encouraged the delegates to do further research on each country's laws and differ in their ideologies. This led into a discussion of the blocs being separated and the EB requested the blocs to identify themselves.

The first representative that stepped forward was the delegate of Russia, whose bloc's general principles were highlighting their dependency on the One Health approach and aimed for fraternity. The second bloc, Health For All (HFA) represented by Australia, proposed their ideologies pertaining that most of their bloc countries were indigenous and used traditional and local medicine. The third bloc,

represented by the USA, shared their aims of having a fund and technology-oriented approach to combat the disease. As the delegates took their seats, the UN correspondent encouraged each bloc to have ample and descriptive research on their set principles aligning their research with their aims.

A moderate caucus was then agreed upon for the delegates to state their One Health approach and other innovative technologies involved in the combat of the AMR diseases. Australia led by summarising on how having a uniform surveillance system would help analyse patterns of the disease and aid in early preventions. They also mentioned their use of traditional medicine. Australia was then followed by other countries that shared very similar aims and goals for the prevention. El Salvador even suggested that climate change could be a contributing factor to this alarming issue.

The EB stated, "The committee started off at a slow pace but after we explained a little more in detail on what they're expected to do, they seemed to pick up the pace. They have the enthusiasm but they're just a little inexperienced." The EB also expressed their expectations for the resolutions, "The delegates have been separated into three blocs to create their draft legislatures and after reviewing their WhatsApp discussion groups, we can expect different ideologies regarding traditional medicine, nanotechnology, phage therapy and more innovative technologies."

In conclusion, it's safe to say that this committee has had and will continue to have insightful discussions and the delegates leave this event far more confident and uplifted.

*Written by Nithila Vimalan
Photography by Tia Batra*

TOKYO TRIALS

Day 1

The main goal of the Tokyo Trials committee was to have the prosecutors firmly address and call out Japan, and for Japan to defend itself as a country. Japan was charged for three types of crimes: Crimes against peace, crimes against humanity and war crimes. There were a total of three trials where each trial began with the advocates giving their opening statements. The session commenced with the executive board giving a clear and helpful briefing of the procedure for the day's sessions. The committee followed a rebounding contention, where they went from the prosecutors to the defendants.

The prosecutors made strong confident remarks against Hideki Tojo. As a response to the remarks made by the prosecutors, Shigetaro Shimada, stated that the Imperial Japanese Navy used geo-political pressures, colonisation and westernisation by foreigners as reasons for their actions, except the pearl harbour incident which was carried out as a broader set of strategic calculations.



The prosecution asked to expand on the strategic calculations, to which the defendants replied, "Those are internal affairs, and we cannot mention anything further." Without being fazed by this, the prosecution immediately retaliated by pointing out the brutal crimes that Tojo has committed such as waging wars of aggression, which goes against international justice. Pedro T. Lopez, representing The Republic of Philippines, confidently mentioned that the main agenda of the prosecution's side was to promote global peace and ensure that justice is served.

Hirota questions, "On what grounds was Tojo held accountable? Tojo has violated throughout history, and that the attack on pearl harbour was not completely orchestrated by Tojo." To which prosecution made a witty remark asserting that Tojo was also mentally unfit

to serve as Prime Minister, with the evidence that he has attempted suicide. In a matter of seconds, Hirota replied that he was not in office when the attempt was made.

Towards the end of session three, the Secretary General along with the Executive Board came bearing the news of a crisis. The news of the crisis- the emperor had told Tojo to conduct and follow through with the attack on Pearl Harbour and Tojo clearly expressed his discomfort towards the emperor's instructions. However, when he voiced this discomfort, the emperor threatened to take action against Tojo. The defendants' appeared to be confident and ready to argue as they took their places.

When asked about the progress of the delegates, the EB replied, "The committee is headed in the right direction on how the defendants are defending Tojo and how the prosecutors are against him." When asked about how they felt about the delegates, they replied, "They exceeded our expectations and showed a genuine interest in the committee. They also seemed like they would use this knowledge in other aspects of their life."

*Written by Maya Damodaran
Photography by Aditi Keshav*

TOKYO TRIALS

Day 2

Day two began with all of the delegates decked up in their traditional clothes. The trial commenced almost immediately since everyone knew the drill. There were two sets of trials on Day two where General Kenji Doihara, the chief of intelligence service in Manchukuo was tried. Shigenori Togo led with a powerful statement. Doihara showed compassion and dedication with the actions he executed and that the tribunal should, “Look at his acts from a wider frame of perspectives.” He also requested the tribunal to look at the true intentions of Doihara which were only to protect his nation. On the other hand, John P. Higgins had a very different perception of Doihara’s intentions, where he said that Doihara in the “so-called” process of “protecting his nation” also sponsored drug addictions, terrorism, assassination and opium trafficking. After the occupation of Manchuria by the Japanese Secret Service, under Doihara’s supervision soon turned Manchukuo into a vast criminal enterprise.

However, defendant Shigetaro Shimada took a rather emotional stance where he stated that Doihara was a man wrongfully accused of the crimes he did not commit and that the prosecutors failed to view the situation from a geo-political context. However, this statement was incongruous. Shimada also confidently claimed that there was no concrete evidence to support the accusations of Doihara being involved with drugs. In response, the Prosecutor Keenan replied by stating the guidelines of article 814 of the International Military Tribunal, proving the claim to be false.

During the following session, the prosecution brought up the Japanese opium trade in Manchuria in which Kenji Doihara was involved. The defence argued that Kenji could not have been directly involved. The prosecution reinstated that he wasn’t directly involved. However, he was still the Director for the entire Council of Medicine, and Opium Management, thus making him responsible for overseeing the opium trading. This led to a heated debate between the prosecution and the defendants, where prosecution argued that even if Kenji had no first hand involvement, it still established that there was knowledge of the crime and all the authority to stop the crime. However no action was taken and it eventually led to aiding and abetting the crime.

Defence stated how it is completely unfair to blame Kenji who has no relationship to the problem and should instead prosecute the financial head who orchestrated the entire trade. Prosecution retaliated by saying, “Legally speaking against your subordinate will still mean you are considered an agent, because they are still operating under your authority.” This statement points out that any crime committed by an agent still breaches international law and that Kenji is responsible and should be prosecuted as such.

The defence declared that the prosecution were making absurd, baseless statements and that if prosecuting someone above your position for something you are responsible for is valid, then prosecuting the emperor for the opium trade should also be valid since he is above Kenji.

Overall, the Tokyo Trials was a tremendously intellectual committee with an intriguing process that brilliantly replicated the events that took place in 1946, with commendable perspectives from the young minds of the delegates.



*Written by Maya Damodaran
Photography by Aditi Keshav*



Day 1

The UNSC was one of the many committees that idolised the phrase, “With controversial topics come heated discussions”. Its agenda, the 2003 invasion of Iraq, aimed to eliminate WMDs and topple Saddam Hussein, yet faced public backlash as Weapons of mass destruction were not found and insurgency grew. Post invasion efforts focused on reconstruction amidst widespread violence, sectarian tensions, and political challenges. The conflict highlighted international divisions and the complexities of nation-building in Iraq.

As an icebreaker, the chairs proposed that the delegates introduce themselves and worked into a rhythm, easing them into the session. In this committee, the more experienced delegates took the initiative and the first-timers followed their lead. After roll call, the chairs briefed the delegates about the UNSC being a crisis committee and emphasised on the importance of having intuitive and instinctive decision making skills.



Shortly after the briefing, the General Speakers List began. Firstly, the delegate of Iran talked about various resolutions that had been made in the UNSC, condemning Iraq for their alleged actions and putting them on sanctions and district tight leashes. Next, the delegate of Russia expressed their concern for the people of Iraq, followed by the delegate of the USA, whose words wreaked havoc amongst the committee. The speech outlined Iraq’s non-compliance with the UN’s inspections post-1998, causing the USA and the UK to accuse Saddam Hussein of developing weapons of mass destruction and supporting terrorism post 9/11. Resolution 1441 demanded Iraq’s full cooperation and disclosure of unauthorised weapons.

Iraq’s failure to comply within the specified deadline prompted the military intervention led by the USA, to enforce disarmament obligations and address perceived security threats, justifying the invasion as necessary for regional and global stability.

After the conclusion of formal debate, an unmoderated caucus commenced. Iraq jumped into action trying to ascertain dominance and take control of the floor, and shortly after, the USA tried to gain its own troupe, their dynamics dominating the session.

During the break, in an interview, the Vice Chairperson stated, “All candidates have potential but slightly fear the delegate of Iraq for their dominance. Once they all get over the fear, I think this council will steer in a different direction.” When asked if the candidates were meeting the expectations of the EB, she answered, “Considering that most of the delegates are newcomers, especially in a committee like UNSC, they are definitely doing better than the set expectations.” She responded to the questions on the research done by the delegates, stating that the EB was not satisfied with the quality of research as some of the speeches were found plagiarised or AI written, causing the delegates to lose points. However, she appreciated their attempts to improve. The interview further validated the precise yet powerful experience of the chairs and how AI integration is rather counter-intuitive.

The UNSC consisted of various individuals ranging from assertive to calculative personalities, with an Executive Board that guided them with insightful observation and practical advice.

*Written by Samprita Swaminathan,
Shreyathi Sai Shivakumar
Photography by Aditi Keshav*



Day 2

Day two commenced with setting the motion to roll call. Most delegates chose to be present and voting, showing that the committee was ready to show its calibre in intense decision-making.

The UNSC committee is one with a spontaneous crisis. The first crisis tackled by the delegates is as follows: On October 17, 2003, farmers reported a satellite that was found to be an Israeli satellite. France offered to provide 40% asylum for the Iraqi refugees which caused a massive surge in labour costs and living prices. Iraq, with the help of China, had taken over Egypt. Iraq had threatened to kill civilians unless Egypt's Head of State obeys their commands. Chaos ensued as delegates had to navigate through this tremendously intricate situation.



The Special Speakers List (SSL) followed with the delegate of France offering support and urging their own people to handle any conflict that came their way with humanitarian values in mind. Chile stood with France on the matter, supporting disarmament. On the contrary, when asked about Iraq's motives for the invasion, the delegate of Iraq's reasoning was that they were simply fulfilling the stereotype that they were thrust upon. They persisted that they weren't always first to start wars and that they've never explicitly been the first to retaliate. This statement caused a thundering riot amongst the delegates.

The next session began with a press release by the delegate of Russia who had changed their initial stance, now supporting Iraq but not the invasion of Egypt.

Furthermore, on the next SSL, the delegate of Poland requested the committee for a call-for-action to take back Egypt with military force. However, due to miscommunication, Poland had publicly voiced Germany's covert directive without consent, which was inevitably dismissed by the EB. Poland also stated that Iraq's words

truly were the personification of hypocrisy, as the delegate of Iraq criticised the USA for its attempts on invading the Soviet Union but proceeded to invade Egypt.

On the other hand, Australia strongly condemned the behaviour of Iraq. The delegate of Australia's statement, "Saddam Hussain is an unfit and dictator-like leader," had been pursued as offensive and was reprimanded through a public apology to the delegate of Iraq in Arabic. Iraq in return stated that Australia's leader too, was unfit, due to the many questionable policies and treaties that they have collated and signed.

As for potential resolutions, the delegate of Iraq wanted to place sanctions on the USA, go through a disarmament process where countries can only keep weapons needed for self-defence and basic amenities, and also call for a UNSC reform council session to question the country's veto power. In opposition, the resolutions included bringing to attention the potential threats that Iraq possesses to the world whilst keeping in mind that there are Iraqi people to protect and putting a stop to Saddam Hussain's atrocities.

To conclude, the delegate of Iraq stated, "It's always about the little guy until it isn't in the favour of those in power." The statement embodied the crisis and its volatile appeal. The UNSC committee, guided by its versatile yet meritoriously praiseworthy EB, flourished into a body of delegates whose decision-making prowess would match no other.

*Written by Jefina Ajaikumar
Photography by Aditi Keshav*



Day 1

One cannot fathom the immense suffering and loss experienced by Syrian citizens. By 2020, the conflict has claimed lives equal to nearly 15 fully occupied stadiums. More than half of Syria's 22 million pre-war population have been forced to flee their homes, with 6.8 million internally displaced. For over 2 million civilians in tented camps, basic necessities like television, internet, and food are luxuries. The conflict originated from simple protests against the government over high unemployment, corruption, and lack of political freedom.

The Human Rights Committee had a brief and informative session with their helpful Executive Board. The committee centred on the Syrian refugee crisis that was dominantly taken to head by the delegate of Israel and the delegate of the USA.

Crisis meetings called for special sessions, addressed serious human rights issues, with 36 convened to date. The Council reviewed the human rights records of all UN Member States through the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and appointed independent experts to monitor specific situations. The Council also appointed Special Procedures, independent Human Rights Experts, to monitor specific countries or themes, and authorised commissions of inquiry and fact-finding missions to gather evidence on war crimes and crimes against humanity.

The Turkish forces entered northern Syria in 2016 as part of a broader campaign against the PKK, which Turkey views as a terrorist threat linked to Kurdish groups like the YPG. Despite the USA backing the YPG through the SDF, Turkey occupies several areas in northern Syria and is unlikely to withdraw until its security concerns are resolved.

In 2015, Russia intervened militarily to support the Assad regime and prevent its collapse, following vetoes of UN resolutions and sanctions aimed at pressuring Assad. Russian support has mainly involved air and naval assistance and the Wagner Group, while Iranian and Assad forces have handled most ground operations.

Iran and Syria have maintained a strategic alliance since the 1980s, driven by mutual opposition to Iraq, the US, and Israel. Despite differing religious affiliations Syria's Sunni majority and Iran's Shia government the alliance persists, with Iran providing substantial financial, military, and logistical support to Assad and pro-Iran militias in Syria. This support, including estimated \$6 billion annually and military training, helps

sustain Assad's regime and extend Iran's influence in the region



Since 2015, U.S. troops in Syria have worked with the Syrian Democratic Forces to counter ISIS and secure detention facilities. Despite declaring ISIS defeated in 2019, remnants remain a threat. The U.S. faces challenges from other foreign powers and criticism for inconsistent policies, while Russia and Iran have expanded their influence.

Syrian-Israeli relations are marked by the unresolved legacy of the Arab-Israeli conflicts. Israel's occupation and annexation of the Golan Heights in 1967 and 1981, respectively, remain unrecognised by most states. Since 2013, Israel has focused its airstrikes on limiting the influence of Iran and its allies, such as Hezbollah, in Syria, as part of a broader policy to contain Iranian influence and prevent attacks from Lebanon.

Overall, the UNHRC began as a committee that seemed monotonous however, as sessions progressed, turned out to become a flourishing team of delegates.

*Written by Michelle John
eepak*





Day 2

Day two of the UNHRC started off with the delegate of Egypt talking about the humanitarian crisis that is going on in Syria. The humanitarian crisis in Syria has persisted for over a decade, marked by widespread displacement, food insecurity, and the dire need for medical assistance. As the delegates convene in moderated caucus sessions, they delve into the multifaceted dimensions of the crisis, considering the impact on millions of civilians caught in the crossfire of the conflict.

During the first session of said conflict, the delegation of the USA advocated support for the Syrian people while conducting targeted counter-terrorism operations based on intelligence gathering. However, due to misinformation received, the USA launched air strike missiles on Syrian army troops. Finland stressed on the need to find solutions to prevent Finnish citizens from joining extremist groups in Syria.



India prioritised humanitarian aid for Syrians while maintaining a stance of non-support towards the Syrian military, but during the press conference, India breached its foreign policy of Non-Alignment by recognizing the Assad government. India also explicitly mentioned the oil trade as unimportant.

On the other hand, Sweden focused on addressing humanitarian issues such as sexual abuse within conflict zones, highlighting its commitment to protecting vulnerable populations. China supported the Syrian crisis through humanitarian and diplomatic channels, refraining from military involvement in line with its policy of Non-Interference. France also acknowledged challenges of aid corruption in Syria and proposed reforms to enhance transparency in humanitarian

assistance. The Syrian delegate committed to peace with non-state actors but faced criticism for insufficiently addressing UN resolution violations, indicating ongoing challenges in international consensus-building and compliance efforts.

China offered humanitarian and diplomatic support, but not military aid. France acknowledged the aid corruption issues and continues to work on the solutions, to be proposed in the final agreement. The Syrian delegate committed to peace with non-state actors but did not properly address the UN resolution violations.

The delegate of Qatar argued for the arrest of Syrian President Bashar Al Assad due to his alleged violations of international humanitarian law, asserting that while specific ICC articles cannot currently be cited, his actions warrant arrest under international standards. Delegates questioned the lack of specific legal citations for the arrest, to which Qatar's representative responded that further research is required but maintained that international law violations justify arrest. Additionally, Qatar's stance on Russian involvement in Syria was clarified; the delegate condemned Russia's support for the Syrian regime and suggested that Russia should be suspended from the Human Rights Council for its humanitarian violations. Questions were also raised about Qatar's role in proposing alternatives for governance in Syria post-arrest, to which the delegate replied that it is the council's responsibility to provide such solutions. Lastly, concerns were addressed about Qatar's human rights practices, particularly in relation to World Cup construction, which the delegate defended by asserting that proper working conditions were provided and denying any violations.

In conclusion, the UNHRC was far from reserved and composed. Both days ensued with thrilling debates and engaging discussions.

*Written by Michelle John
Photography by Rhea Deepak*



Day 1

The G20 summit committee was filled with a variety of enthusiastic first-time delegates who were keen on learning more about the rules and the procedure as well as how they contribute towards the functioning of the committee. The committee's main agenda was to address and discuss the socio-economic factors of immigration.

The session then commenced with the speeches of different countries in the GSL list which included predominant countries like the European Union, Saudi Arabia, India, Turkey and Russia. The delegate of the European Union began stating few of the policies like the common European asylum system. This was allowed by the delegate of Mexico making a statement on the positive factors of immigration, like immigrants taking up repetitive and menial jobs which otherwise would not be taken up by the local citizens, contributing towards the country's development.

The delegate of China offered a different perspective, mentioning the humanitarian aspect of immigration that included killing of refugees and immigrants who tried to enter the country. Furthermore, they raised their concerns on the labour market and cultural aspect of the immigrants. In contradiction, few delegates had points on how bringing in different cultures can fuel cultural enrichment and increase diversity. This was followed by a speech from the delegate of Saudi Arabia, where the delegate mentioned how the country would like to collaborate with other nations and come up with solutions to help the refugees. After the seemingly pacifist speech of Saudi Arabia, the EB questioned the delegate on the unethical killings of Ethiopian civilians at the border of the nation to which the delegate confirmed these happenings.

One of the major worries raised by a lot of countries was the involvement of immigrants in illegal activities and how it led to an increase in the crime rate. Following the statement, was an unmoderated caucus which lasted for about 10 minutes where the delegates collaborated with each other and came up with a topic to be discussed after. It was clearly visible that everyone wanted to contribute as much as possible to the upcoming discussions, making the committee very lively.

The next session was on the present delegates'

discussion of the upcoming proceedings of Day 1 and Day 2. The discussion was followed by a moderated caucus in which delegates of Syria, the UAE and Turkey made important statements as to how they can help the immigrants and improve their living conditions. The delegate of the UAE made a few important statements highlighting how they can mitigate the stigma of refugees and how they can help the immigrants with the immense amount of wealth they have. The delegate of Turkey went on to mention the Swedish gang wars



Conversing with the Vice Chairperson of the committee, Saahil Ali, gave a perspective on how the committee started out and his opinions on the delegates. He stated that the committee started on a good note, "The delegates started off on a very productive note, mentioning key initiatives on foreign policies regarding the agenda." Overall, it was a day filled with eager enthusiasm and diligent decision-making from the delegates.

*Written by Ananya Sarath
Photography by Rhea Deepak*



Day 2

Day two commenced with more enthusiastic and lively debates. All the delegates embraced their cultural side with their dazzling traditional attire. The upcoming sessions of the committee had a crisis but in the form of updates. The first update is as follows: “699 Ethiopians were killed on Saudi Arabia’s border. Additional updates such as “a large influx of 34,000 Ukrainian refugees have been accepted into Turkey” and “27 Mexicans have been caught trying to flee violence from Mexican gangs and drug cartels” were added as the session proceeded. One of the statements made by the delegate of Syria about how Joe Biden was stuttering during his speech, showing signs of dementia, caught the attention of other delegates.

Following this, a debate took place between the delegate of the UAE and the delegate of India. The delegate of India stated that the UAE had banned entry for Indian immigrants and refugees into their country leading to the mass deportation of the Indian nationals back to their country. Offended by this decision made by the UAE, India barred all trade with the UAE. The delegate of the UAE responded to this statement by mentioning how this decision was made, keeping in mind the best interests of their own citizens as well as to increase their productivity by offering them more job opportunities. Several delegates engaged in this discussion and came in support of the UAE in this matter, as the decision made by India caused a global stock market crash whereas the country’s decision was only temporary. The session concluded with the delegates working on their solutions for the agenda to be submitted to the Executive Board.

and “making migration easier so that the immigrants don’t resort to illegal methods to enter the country.”

Subsequently, a press conference was conducted by the reporters of IPC in which quite a few thought-provoking questions were asked. The session consisted of questions regarding the mass killings of Ethiopians at the Saudi Arabian border, to which the delegate responded that it was a cross-fire that took place due to security reasons to protect their citizens. The delegate followed up by mentioning that the country is constantly evolving in the case of handling foreign affairs.

Discussing with the EB regarding the progression of the committee, it can be said that Day two proved to be more productive. The consultations were going much better with rigorous involvement from the delegates. They also appreciated the points of orders that were being raised by the delegate of India.

*Written by Ananya Sarath
Photography by Tia Batra*



The next session began with the GSL list being continued. The following speeches included key points such as “coordinated effort from the government is necessary for the betterment of immigration facilities”, “Wealthy nations should increase aid for frontline states”



Day 1

The United States Congress, established in 1787, is the legislative branch of the federal government, consisting of the House of Representatives and the Senate. It was created to embody federalism and separation of powers, ensuring a balanced government. In this conference, the committee did an admirable work on replicating this body.

The committee was teeming with vibrant freshers whose enthusiasm made the committee engaging and impactful. The delegates were incredibly attentive and they bolstered it with factual evidence. Their logical yet critical take on the ongoing war further promoted their speeches, making it coherent and effective. The sessions were timeless, with fast-paced altercations and compelling anecdotes.

The Senator of Arkansas gave well-grounded points against the attack on Gaza, suggesting that the conflict can only be countered by eliminating terrorists and rebels. They believed that the money provided should be raised from USD 3.3 billion to USD 3.5 billion. Furthermore, the Senator of Kansas supported the aid of Israel, stating that this will not end in a peaceful resolution. The delegate also stated that Israel is an ally of the USA, and that Israel is the eyes and ears for the USA in the Middle East. Moreover, the delegate firmly asserted that the USA will not tolerate further harm to an ally. The Senator of California also supported the provision of aid to Israel, stressing on the need to help the civilians between the fighting forces instead of prolonging the war.

The Senator of Oregon expressed that the retaliation of the attacked country is a greater tragedy. The delegate suggested ending the war instead of aggravating the scenario. However, the Senator of Pennsylvania stated that there is no need for a ceasefire, but instead proposed the neutralisation of Hamas. On the other hand, the Senator of Minnesota stated that the government of the USA also proposed a ceasefire, but suggested aid for Israel under the condition of ending the war whilst the Senator of Massachusetts further strengthened this idea. The Senator of New York deliberated that it was imperative to aid the Israel support system in the current context.

Subsequently, the Senators discussed solutions for potential misuse of military aid and the financial and economic impact of the aid to Israel from the USA. The Senator of Texas expressed their view that the war was merely a fight between “good” and “evil”, giving quite a monochromatic view on the situation. Meanwhile, the Senator of Hawaii believed that the military support

provided was necessary, and further aid should be provided due to the famished civilians suffering in ambush amidst the war.



To conclude, the Vice Chair stated the following, “The Senator of Pennsylvania is getting active with her points. Delegates raised points on the death counts of civilians and innocent lives. Many senators, including the Senator of Pennsylvania, held an Anti-Hamas view. Furthermore, several delegates brought up the protests on college campuses. The delegate representing New York brought an emotional view towards casualties by displaying images of dead Gaza children and raising awareness on the severity of the situation.”

*Written by Vikramarya Narahari
Photography by Aditi Keshav*





Day 2

As day two commenced, the Senators had decided on a new motion. In recent discussions on military aid to Israel, states had presented a range of positions. The Senator of Vermont advocated for reducing military aid, while Washington and Ohio supported conditional aid, each emphasising specific requirements for its continuation. Both the Senator Pennsylvania and Kansas critiqued the current agenda as flawed. New Hampshire insisted on full transparency and asserted that they hold a stance on the Israeli government's actions, whereas the Senator of Oregon called for holding both military and humanitarian aid to Israel.

The Senator of Michigan focused on promoting peace while safeguarding military aid due to potential exploitation, and Illinois deliberated on the matter. Minnesota also stressed that aid should not be misused. On the other hand, the Senator of New York, along with Maine, supported aid to Israel as a valuable ally without restrictive conditions. Arkansas suggested increasing the aid and ensuring the protection of innocent lives, while New Jersey confirmed that said aid will be provided. West Virginia proposed conditional aid that upheld humanitarian rights, and Hawaii urged for transparency to prevent misuse. Finally, the Senator of Massachusetts also advocated for conditional aid, emphasising the need for efforts towards a two-state solution.

Overall, these 20 states reached the denouement that it is cardinal to provide aid to Israel under the condition that said aid is used in a defensive manner, for humanitarian purposes, instead of dissipating the aid of the USA in an exploitive incursion that targets innocent civilians on both sides.

The Senator of New York has concerns over the faltering Two State solution, due to Hamas' reluctance to compromise with Israel, since Hamas initiated the bloodshed whereas Israel just retaliated. Furthermore, the Senator of New York also felt that his collaboration with the Senator of Vermont has potential possibilities to solve the issue. Similarly, the Senators of Pennsylvania and Arkansas supported condemning the retaliation of Hamas against Israel. The Senator of West Virginia advocated for conditional aid-sending American resources for defensive purposes without further aggravating the war-which was corroborated by several other Senators. The Senator of Oregon, who viewed the

actions of Hamas as unacceptable, but believed Israel's retaliation was even more concerning as they broke numerous humanitarian laws and took the lives of countless innocent civilians. To conclude, several Senators proposed conditional aid, keeping in mind the fact of Israel being an important ally.



Photography by Anil Keshav



Day 1

The International Press Corps for the APL MUN 2024 has an anticlimactic start to their budding committee, with the Op-ed not reaching the set standards. With an unfortunate AI recurrence in the original work and a disappointed Executive Board - what do these reporters have to offer? Let's find out.

The day embarked with an interesting feedback session to the reporters from our esteemed Chair. She explained that the committee aims to improve the reporters' comprehension of how real-life journalism takes place. The reporters then moved to their committees for observation. The Vice Chair said, "The process of observation helps build patience and observational skills in the reporters." The reporters were tasked with submitting a beat paper, consisting of the key moments of their observing committees and a feature paper allowing them to tap into their creative side.

The second closed room briefing started with the reporters of G20 and ECOFIN interviewing the former and arguably the most controversial President of America, Donald Trump. Reporters fell short at the line of questioning, failing to question Trump's integrity for commenting on Biden's system when he failed to get elected. Trump dominantly answered, "Ask your president why," simply avoiding being questioned himself. However, a reporter managed to show Trump's outright disliking towards Islamic states, mentioning that these states "stem terrorism" and are "violent." A much anticipated briefing ended disappointingly, albeit a rapid fire round. The last and final closed room briefing, with reporters from UNHRC, UNSC and US Congress, interviewed the current president of the USA. However, all the reporters were unable to ask the right questions.

*Written by Maryam Taher
Photography by Rhea Deepak*



Around noon, a closed room briefing took place, where 10 reporters from WHO, Tokyo Trials and UNODC worked to investigate the truth behind their given manuscripts. The reporters investigated what was behind these facades. The first brief was about Elon Musk, the founder and creator of X, regarding the unusual symptoms of his created vaccine, his controversial statements and profiling AI. Elon's collaboration with CureVac is under intense interrogation since reporters took a stand on CureVac's racial profiling AI. Furthermore, Elon's controversial statement, "Good Samaritans have a higher life expectancy than those with criminal records. It would be a waste of all the medicine," supports the AI's racial profiling algorithm. The AI used police criminal records to profile races that had committed crimes more frequently, by running background checks on the customers, only after which the medicines were distributed. The real question is whether this is racial profiling or not.



Day 2

There are two kinds of reporters, the first being those who hear what they are told, and the second being those who read between the lines and dig deeper. Today we find out which of these categories our young IPC reporters belong to. The day two begins with what is considerably the most awaited event for all young reporters - the Press Conference.

Day two is in motion with conspiracy theories spiralling and enthusiastic faces ready for their press conference. With heavy input from the Executive Board, the reporters thrive to make the second day a great success. The Executive Board was committed to pushing these freshers to their maximum potential. Each and every delegate took their own route to it - some through direct and controversial paths while the others cornered the delegates into fumbling through their statements.



The first press conference was of the G20 Summit. It was followed by an interesting twist that came into play right after the reporters finished their questioning. The Executive Board of the G20 Summit were brought in as alternate reporters. They drilled the delegates on their answers to previous questions regarding Israel and their attack on Palestine. Then, they moved on to India, interrogating their reasoning for being closed off against Muslim refugees under the Citizenship Amendment Act. The UNHRC press conference reinstated the Executive Board's belief in their reporters. A reporter with their interrogative questions deserved every clap they received, as they targeted every country's weaknesses, making the answers from the delegates contradict their country's foreign policy and causing controversy. One highly practical question asked was, "Why was there a coordination problem between Syria and the USA costing the lives of Syrian troops?" The delegates were left at a loss for words time and again, due to the extensively

researched and carefully curated questions from the reporters.

UNSC was a tricky committee to interview but the reporters did a perfectly splendid job at cracking each delegate. There were incredible exchanges between the delegate of the USA (UNSC) and the reporter of the USA (IPC). The reporters' lack of performance on Day 1 was compensated by their exciting questions on Day 2. It is safe to say that this MUN was a learning process for all these freshers. However, the Executive Board still believes that there is more potential to be unleashed by these reporters.

It is unfortunate to say that between these wonderful brains, very few were ready to work hard and stay consistently dedicated. We started today with 26 reporters, and ended it with 17 due to the repeated use of AI, regardless of the Executive Board's multiple attempts to warn them of the consequences. Nevertheless, it can be concluded that these press conferences were an imposing success, and made noteworthy contributions to every committee.

*Written by Maryam Taher
Photography by Rhea Deepak*

FEEDBACK

“It has been an amazing experience having the various interdisciplinary solutions suggested by the WHO delegates.”

- WHO

“It’s nice to see so many first timers live up to our expectations and bring in great solutions - something we don’t see in MUNs these days.”

- UNODC

“We had brilliant chairs and inquisitive delegates. Definitely a lot of freshers but glad to give them a first experience of MUN. There were many up and downs but it was all worth it!”

- Secretary General

“Committee has been extremely active, with delegates actively participating through all sessions. Though our committee is dominated by freshers, I’m extremely proud of their ability to actively engage in debate. It was an insightful experience chairing this committee of 50. ”

- US Congress

“We’ve been having alot of consultations and the Delegates have been participating more through this. Its given us a forum to understand the quality of the Delegates.”

- G20

“The committee was a beginner friendly one. They were cooperating and doing their best. May have been better if the experienced delegates and first timers were spread out. Overall, very well organised.”

- ECOFIN

“This year’s MUN was great. The entire conference was a smooth sailing ship. This OC and chairs worked together well for this event.”

- OC Head

“This has been one of the most productive committee I have chaired. Delegates maintained their decorum all the way. Apl did a great job in organising this comm on a short notice. Kudos to the management and the oc team.”

-TOKYO TRIALS

Best Awards

UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS_COUNCIL

Best Delegate: Ishaan sathyakumar, Afghanistan

Best Debutant: Akshara Gopi, Lithuania

UNITED NATIONS OFFICE OF DRUGS AND CRIME

Best Delegate: Eshaan Ramakrishnan, Albania

Best Debutant: Rishi Kumar, Netherlands

ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL COMMITTEE

Best Delegate: Siddharth, Morgan Stanley

Best Debutant: Pranav Chandrasekhar, Portugal

WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION

Best Debutant: Shiva Ganesh, Bangladesh

UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL

Best Delegate: Adhwaiy Prassanth, Iraq

Best Debutant: Akshara Neason, Netherlands

G20 SUMMIT

Best Debutant: Shri Raghav, Netherlands

US CONGRESS

Best Delegate: Prisha Prem, Senator of Pennsylvania

Best Debutant: Adity Agrawal, Senator of Hawaii

TOKYO TRIALS

Best Delegate: Rinee Roy, Sadao Araki

From the Editors



“If everyone is moving forward together, then success takes care of itself.” This saying by Henry Ford was the epitome of this year’s *APL MUN Gazette 2024*.

It is with great honour and privilege, that we present to you, the wonderful exhibition of this year’s APL MUN Gazette. A team of diligent, industrious and punctilious individuals whose exceptional skills in reporting and editing, had helped in capturing the grand success of this event. Furthermore, our adept and dedicated photographers and illustrators captured this commanding occasion with their artistic prowess.

It goes without saying that we faced difficulties- moments when hesitation and uncertainty bested us- however, our persistent and consistent endeavours constructed the strong foundation and pillars of this gazette.

We would like to personally extend a token of our gratitude to the management and teachers of APL for their unflinching support through invaluable expertise in drafting and developing the articles and providing the necessary infrastructure to produce such optimal results. We also thank the students who’ve worked beyond school hours to make this event as promising as anticipated, the staff without whom our delegates would not have enjoyed the luxury of uninterrupted sessions, and our visionary leaders- head of the Organising Committee, Secretary General and Deputy Secretary General- whose charismatic ideas and resilient approach inspired everyone.

Thank you, all.

- Jefina Ajaikumar

- Sandhya Girish

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