PASMUN TRIBUNE

ONLINE ISSUE



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'TIL NEXT TIME PASMUN

BY CINDY KIM

By the time the third issue is well-polished and published for everyone to see, PASMUN VII would be coming to a bittersweet end. Delegates would be making their last amendments, Chairs would be proudly smiling at the delegates—their delegates, administrators would be making their final tour around the school, and press members would be congratulating each other for all the hard work they have put into the issues. The sad thoughts of leaving all the newly-made friends, mixed with the relief that you can finally — finally! — go home and rest, will inevitably dominate the minds of every student who have participated in the conference. Like every other MUN conference, the seventh annual PASMUN has created a plethora of friendships and equipped students with valuable skills. However, like every other MUN conference, it has come to an end...and it's time for us to say our goodbyes.

Some of the most memorable moments for participants are the unique situations encountered by either chairs or delegates during debate. In the committee room of General Assembly 4, Jessica Kim (Deputy Chair, IBSH) shared her most memorable experience during the conference with a laugh: "[My most memorable experience was] when Sean Hu (Chair, PAS) called the trashcan a silver cylinder instrument." Similarly, in Security Council, Akira Williams-Rao (Delegate of China, Harrow International School Hong Kong) said that the one thing he couldn't forget about the conference was when he "convinced all the P5 [members] to come to a compromise on the Iraq and Syria." As for Kenny Gyu Ho Jeong (Delegate of United Kingdom, CIS), he claimed that "Having low-key banter with the chairs and other delegates" was something that he would remember for a long time.



BY VIVIAN CHEN

"Goodbyes are not forever. Goodbyes are not the end. They simply mean I'll miss you until we meet again." Like this rather commonly seen quote suggests, the final amendment passed, the last article written, or even the Closing Ceremony held at 4:30pm does not mean that we should forget about PASMUN just because it is officially announced to be over. Goodbyes are often temporary, and it is a temporary one that we shall say to PASMUN VII. Until the eighth annual conference held at Pacific American School comes around, the memories made (and selfies taken) from this year's PASMUN will forever live and breathe in our hearts (and our phones). Delegates, chairs, admins, and press members — feel free to shed a tear or two over the fact that you can't see your friends again for the time being, but remember: this is not the end.



DIRECTORS EVALUATIONS

BY MICHELLE LIU

As the first ever international PASMUN came to an end, the members of the Secretariat team and the beloved MUN director of PAS, Mr. Buscher, were pleased to see all their hard work come to life in the short but memorable span of two days. Mr. Buscher had been working hard to make PASMUN VII the most successful conference the school has ever held, and was especially proud to see all the participants of this year's PASMUN enjoying their time. Throughout the weekend, the feedback from the delegates, the experts, the chairs, and especially the directors had been almost nothing but positive, greatly satisfying the Secretariat team and Mr. Buscher.

Mr. Buscher was delighted with how PASMUN proceeded, specifically mentioning the exceptional job of the chairs. "The chairs were tasked to set the tone for debate, seeing as they run the committee and are to help it really flow. I think our chairs did that well," he remarked. "I've even received compliments from other schools on how good the chairs are [at their job]." Sure enough, when Ms. Carol Chen of Kang Chiao International School in New Taipei City was asked about the conference, she complimented the chairs greatly. "The chairs are well trained and really know how to keep things in order," she commented.

The praises only continued. "The students are bilingual, so it's a good chance for them to practice their English," said Mr. Carson, the director from Chinese International School in Hong Kong. "The delegates all said that they gained a lot from this conference. I've also been reading the paper [PASMUN Tribune], and I really enjoy it." Mr. Buscher was also very proud of the delegates, not only those from Pacific American School, but also delegates from other schools as well.



"Not only did the visiting delegates take the opportunity to speak frequently and substantially, [but] the PAS delegates [have] also stepped up to the occasion, and participated actively in debate," Mr. Buscher observed. The admin staff, who ran around the rooms during the conference to make sure everything was under control, was another group of people who was recognized. Their dedication to making PASMUN run as smooth as possible caught Mr. Buscher's eye, who stated that "Just like in any conference, it could not have been done without the admin staff, and they [the admins at PASMUN] were all exceptional."

The conference, organized by the hearts and souls of our Secretariats and the MUN director, is nothing short of remarkable. Ms. Chen emphasized how well the entire conference was organized. Similarly, Mr. Carson noted that, "I am very impressed with how it [the conference] is going, and this [the conference] has met our expectations for sure." Mr. Buscher was quick to give most of the credit to the Secretariat, stressing that it was very student-led. "Basically, I just gave them ideas, and they worked out the details by themselves. They're all very experienced [in MUN], and have been to many conferences, so they knew exactly what they wanted," Mr. Buscher said. "From the beginning, the [Secretariat] team collaborated and were enthusiastic in all they had to do. They built [the conference] up from how things were done last year, but this year, it is also much bigger. That means more challenges for them, more schools - even international schools - and so they also had to start a lot of planning from scratch."

Mr. Buscher went on to expand on his thoughts about the conference as a whole, including traveling and accommodation for overseas schools and schools traveling a longer distance. "I've asked the other schools, and their travel arrangements are all satisfactory. They've also mentioned that they like their hotels." With all these compliments on every aspect of the conference, the question of what could have been improved arose. "Nothing jumped out that was horrible or couldn't be simply fixed. When there were issues with the food, Ms. Pamela jumped into action and brought tons of food for the break," Mr. Buscher recalled. "Like any other conference, it needed some tweaking and polishing, but overall, I am very pleased with the conference."



THE ONE

BY STEVEN LU

An $11 trillion economy. The largest population in the world.

China.

The one word that has been echoing through chaotic trading floors, the conference rooms of luxurious office buildings, and the hushed lips of nervous investors and politicians alike.

As 2016 began, China's 13th 5-year plan was approved and announced by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). The 5-year plans, which started in 1953, are a systematic series of political, social, and economic plans to guide the country's growth and direction in the second half of this decade. The latest one included 4 key themes: First, a specific economic growth target of 6.5%, which would double the nation's GDP; second, the CCP's hopes to shift their country's economic emphasis from foreign investments and exports, a strategy that had previously made them known as "the world's factory," to a domestic-consumption based economy. Along with these economic plans comes a need for social and political reform: the current CCP's goals include improving social welfare and healthcare provisions, as well as large reform policies in tax regulation, financial and foreign investment regulation, and de-monopolization.

What the delegates have to say:

Economic and Social Council- Ralph Summers (Delegate of China, Harrow International School)
This delegate noted the importance of addressing the health issues that the economy, particularly the rapid development of megacities, has caused.

"We need to focus on the health issues brought about by our growing economy, and more specifically, the rapid development of megacities in our nation and its negative social impacts. In the future, we plan on launching widespread education programs, and focus on low-income households and lessen the wealthy gap between the rich and the poor."

It is also important to note China's massive role in the Asian economy. Its economic role has increased significantly in the past decades; trade with Hong Kong has been growing more





than 12 times from $5 billion in 1980 to $65 billion in 1991. Their free trade agreements played a large role in this; China has over 12 free trade agreements (FTAs) currently in operation with countries such as Taiwan, Thailand, Singapore, Canada, and Australia. 20 more agreements are currently in negotiation. However, free trade agreements, or the lack of, often implies political struggles and imbalances. A major FTA currently in operation in Asia is the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), signed by 12 countries including the U.S., Japan, Australia, and Canada. It is one of the most powerful economic agreements across the Pacific, and notably, China has been excluded from it. However, U.S. trade negotiators have stated that so long as China is "capable of meeting the high standards that we're negotiating," the US would welcome them into their trade partnership.

What the delegates have to say:

Advisory Panel- Jasmine Su (Delegate of United States of America, PAS)
The delegate of the United States was confident in the ideas and vision of free trade agreements, and stressed on the benefits of the Trans- Pacific Partnership (TPP).

"The United States of America will play a large role in Asia's economic policies through the Trans- Pacific Partnership (TPP). This agreement will increase cooperation and fair trade across the Pacific. Talks within our committee have led to mutual agreements with numerous Asian countries on holding regular regional trade talks to reduce aggression and promote economic cooperation."

Although the future of the massive, growing, and perhaps turbulent Chinese economy is uncertain, one thing is for sure. Cooperation and diplomacy is necessary for economic, social, and political prosperity in Asia and across the Pacific.



BEHIND THE SCENES
THE PRESS TEAM

BY KRISTEN PENG









BY VIVIAN CHEN

This year's conference is unique to me because this was my first time as a reporter. I started my MUN career when I was in eighth grade and had since discovered that it has taught me more about the world through debate. This was my third year of doing MUN; this year, I realized that I wanted to do something different because I wanted to experience a whole new aspect of MUN. That led me to accept the invitation email readily when I got the email from the PASMUN press team. Needless to say, I was more than excited to learn how to be a competent reporter.

"It's different from writing the school newspaper, because for a school newspaper, you have a longer deadline. However, [if you are] a reporter [for] an MUN conference, you only have [a few hours in the morning] to complete your work. It [is] a problem for me because I usually [cannot] produce good articles in a short time. [Nevertheless,] I really like being a reporter because it is different from what I usually do," said Teeny Chen, another reporter on the PASMUN Tribune who is currently a junior at PAS. I had the same experience, and I completely agree that this was a whole new experience and it has taught me how to produce good work efficiently.

My experience in the press room had been nothing but delightful, thanked to the room's atmosphere and the people who I worked with. In the room, I could always see everyone working hard on something, be it writing articles, creating beautiful layouts, or editing photos; it truly gave me the motivation to put my best effort into every article I write. However, being in the press team did not mean that it was all work, all the time. After everything had been handed in and checked by the directors, the reporters were basically done for the day. We lounged around in different chairs and talk to one another, thoroughly enjoying each other's company. I guessed you could say that it's more than pleasant being in PASMUN's press team.

Although this was my first time participating as a reporter, I had already grown to love my job. I understand I have flaws; however, in the outstanding organization of the PASMUN press team, I was able to improve a lot. I would especially like to thank our editors, Cindy Kim and Janet Lin, for helping me with my writing in the past two days. In addition, I would also like to thank the entire press team for being so fun to work with. Last but not least, I would like to thank the school's MUN program for providing me an opportunity to be a reporter. After all, I wouldn't have been able to write good articles if it wasn't for the rigorous program of PAS's mun program. I was not surprised that I was already looking forward to PASMUN VIII — I could only hope that time went by faster.

ODE TO ADMINS

BY TEENY CHEN

There is a famous line in an equally famous Shakespearean sonnet, Sonnet 18, that reads, "Shall I compare thee to a summer's day? Thou art more lovely and more temperate." In PASMUN VII, we can compare our admin staff to a group of busy bees working in their hives. Although many might think that our admins are simply sitting around in different committee rooms, occasionally getting up once or twice to pass notes between delegates and chairs, that is simply not the case, as admins do so much more than that. In fact, they never stopped working throughout this conference.

Two months prior to the conference, the Head and Deputy Head of Admins, Stephanie Chen and Carly Wen, along with the MUN director and others in the secretariat team, had already started to plan for PASMUN. Not only did they have to outline where the ceremonies and committees will be held, but they also had to order lunch for the participants on the days of event. As this year's PASMUN is Pacific American School's biggest conference in the past seven years, more admin staff had to be recruited in order to make the whole conference run as smoothly and efficiently as possible. Since most of the admin staff were either completely new to MUN or had very little prior knowledge of it, the Heads had to gather them for several meetings prior the conference to teach them about the procedures and train them to become better admins at the eventual event.

On the two days before conference, the admin staff had to stay after school to arrange the placards and badges by schools, put the printed items into 240 participants' folders, clean the gavels, and transform the school campus into a place appropriate for holding a MUN conference. Things were even more chaotic in the morning of the first day. With a sudden influx of the participants arriving on campus at 7:45, the admin staff had to carefully distribute the items to the right people. During the Opening Ceremony, while the delegates were sitting in the auditorium in their best outfits chatting with their fellow friends, the admins were running around the back of the room trying to sort out the lighting and the microphones.

Just as the delegates were finally all sitting in their committees and lobbying with others, the admin staff was about to relax a little before the debate actually began. However, they were unexpectedly notified that they had to plan for something new: a snack time. Admins hauled themselves back onto their feet, and moved around and talked to the secretariats about arranging a break for the delegates during the debate in the afternoon. Although their time was incredibly limited, the admins managed to successfully organize a fulfilling snack time for all.

The admin staff's support for the student officer team in organizing this conference has made PASMUN VII successful and has enabled it to reach the degree of professionalism PAS has strived for. So let us acknowledge the admin staff for their precious time and the hard work they have dedicated to this important event.







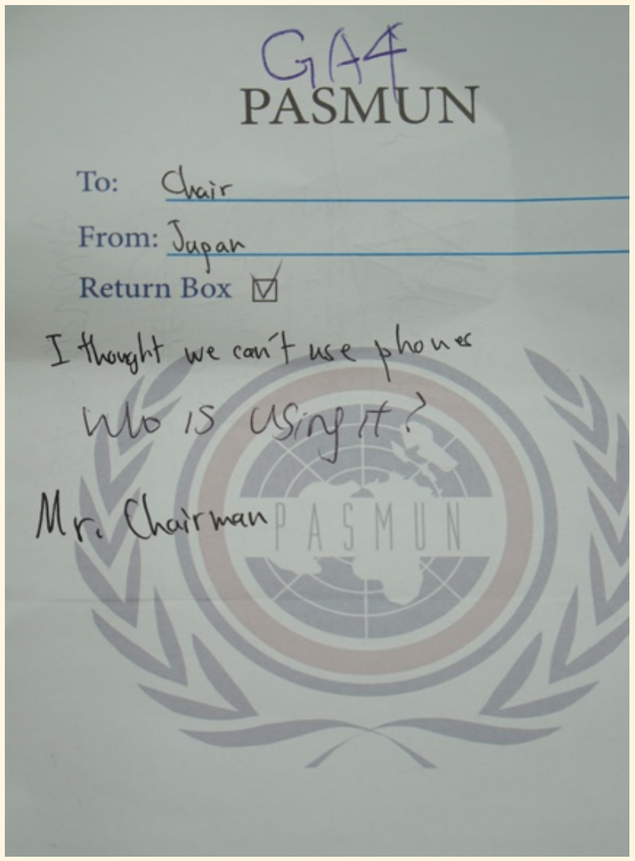


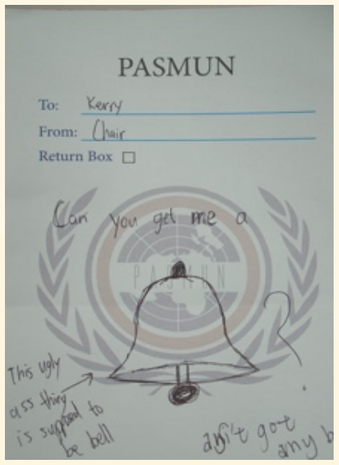
BY CATHERINELU

FUNNY NOTES

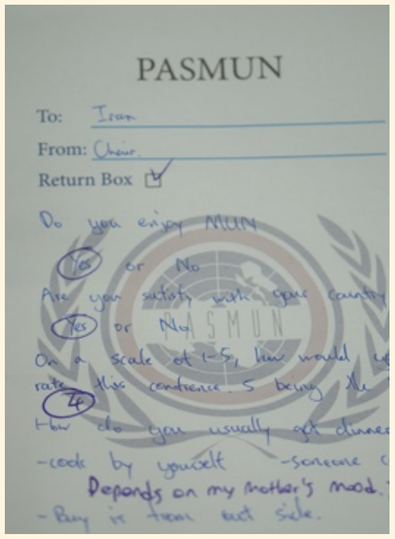
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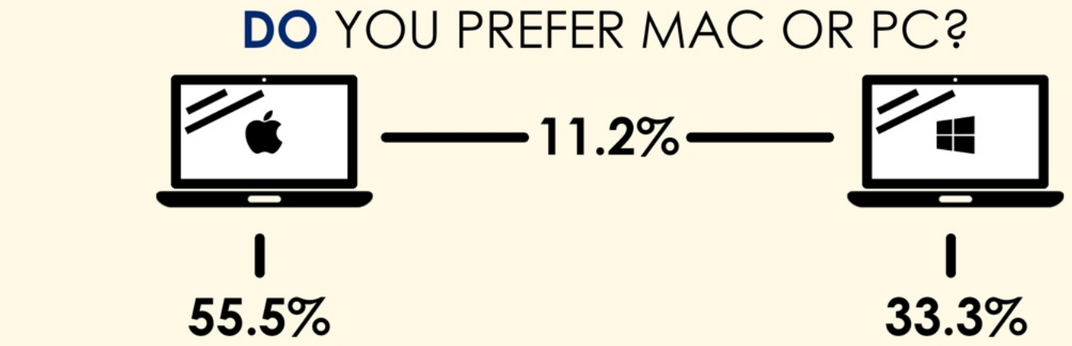


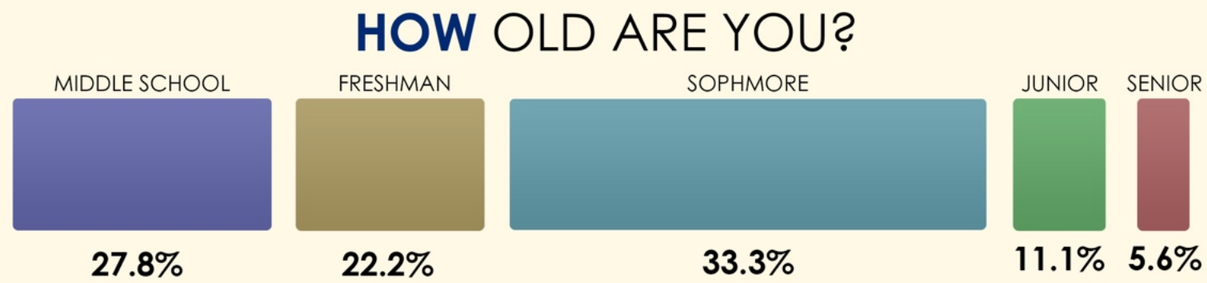


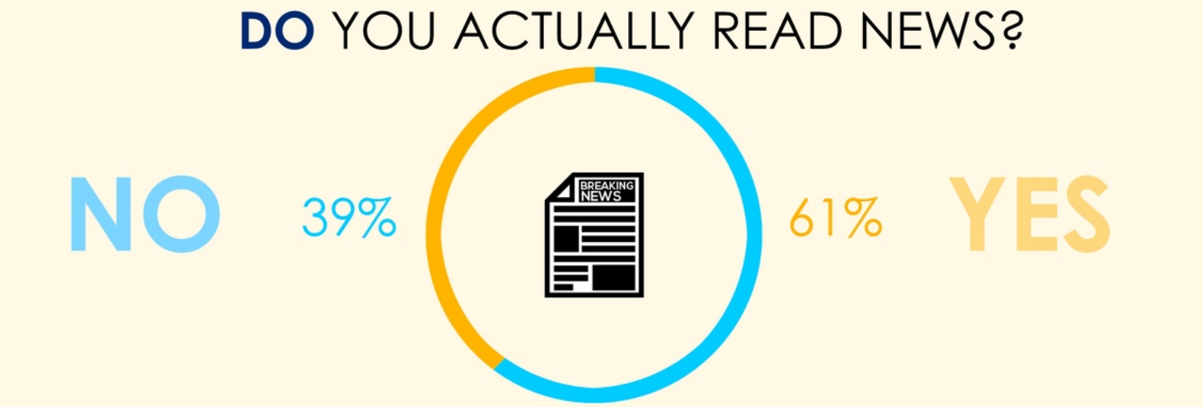
ARE YOU AVERAGE

BY JEREMY CHANG

PART 2





























WHAT'S UP?

Advisory Panel On the Question of Asia Pacific (APQ) by Steven Lu

On the second day, the Advisory Panel moved onto the second topic, "Measures to prevent potential regional arms race." Hank Chau (APQ president, Pacific American School) gave a detailed description and analysis on the topic and its potential solutions. He first addressed the various blocks of the conflict. "China is a key player involved, as it has recently been involved in the South China Sea disputes, while Russia, although not directly related to conflict, has close ties to Asian- Pacific nations and possesses military developments in the area," he stated. "USA, of course, as a key political player in the international community, plays a major role," Hank continued. At the time of the interview, he remarked that the panel's delegates were in the process of formulating resolutions involving a decrease in the international and regional arms trade, peace talks/ agreements, and regional military codes of conduct.

Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) by Teeny Chen

This morning, ECOSOC was debating upon the issue of "Measures to contain and ameliorate growing level of income inequality." The main submitter, Austin Lo (Delegate of International Monetary Fund, PAS), submitted a resolution to address problems regarding free trade, tariffs, and opportunities in competitions. In his resolution, he called for many organizations and funding programs, such as UNESCO, to empower undeveloped communities and provide funds to improve public services as well as infrastructure. In addition to that, the Lo also encouraged member states to reform tax systems so as to be less aggressive and more fair to all. With this resolution, he hoped to minimize the gap of income inequality and allow employees in the marginalized communities to have similar jobs and benefits.

General Assembly First Committee (GA1)
by Michelle Liu

The atmosphere in GA1 was full of energy, with occasional laughter among the delegates. However, resolutions have been difficult to pass due to extremely polarized country policies, resulting in two failed resolutions. Nonetheless, because of the opposing views on both issues, the delegates engaged in a much more active debate on both militarization in South China Sea and the role of media in international security. "Even though we have yet to pass any resolutions, the delegates are still pretty motivated. Many amendments were submitted to us, and they have been able to keep the debate constructive for the most part," said Deputy Chair Jessica Wu (PAS). Spencer Tao (Delegate of Vietnam, Hsinchu American School) had mixed feelings about the debate, and after giving a passionate speech, noted that, "Somewhat… 'interesting' points [were] raised, but [an] intriguing [debate] overall."

General Assembly Fourth Committee (GA4) by Janet Lin

In GA4, the debate was largely constructive and the experience seemed to have been generally positive for most. The Deputy Chair, Jessica Kim (IBSH) stated, "instead of just striking everything, everyone has been submitting amendments, so that's really nice to see." However, the amiable atmosphere within the committee has also concerned her, she commented "I would love it if… the amendments were more crucial."

Cheng-Hao Shen (Delegate of Ukraine, National Tainan First Senior High School) was especially impressed by the quality of debate but lamented, "My performance isn't good enough, [because] I wasn't well-prepared. The second issue is strongly related to the country I represent, but [my involvement] was not enough." On the other hand, Powei Tsao (Delegate of Poland, PAS), one of the most active speakers in GA4, noted, "I think, overall, the participation has gone up quite a bit from yesterday." He added that most people are on policy, resulting in "pretty good" debates.

Human Rights Council (HRC)
by Kristen Peng

On the second day, the Human Rights Council opened with a very heated debate on the issue of combatting modern slavery after a short fifteen-minute caucus.. The delegates in HRC also expressed their comments on the debate. Cici Chen (Delegate of Philippines, PAS) thought that "there were lots of interesting points brought up by the delegate of Iran and Pakistan on women's rights. I am enjoying the debate so far." However, Kevin Luke Chan (Delegate of China, Harrow International School Hong Kong) had a different point of view. "The debate in HRC has been rather respectful despite being heated. Personally I have witnessed resolutions and arguments presented by delegates of exceptionally high quality." Chloe Deng (Head chair, Harrow International School Hong Kong) stated that "[The debate] was livelier on the first day. I think delegates are tired, [therefore], not many people want to speak. But overall, a lot of interesting points are made especially about economics." She added that most delegates were active very diplomatic, claiming that debate was "starting off slow, but picking up momento debates."

Security Council (SC)
by Cindy Kim

Security Council has always been one of the fiercest committees in Model United Nations, and PASMUN VII's very own SC definitely did not fall below expectations. With fierce debates that seemed to never cease, and delegates who were more than eager to share their country's stance on the issue, Security Council proved to be one of the most hardworking committees in this year's PASMUN. Howard Yin (President of SC, PAS) stated in a tired yet proud tone, "Only 2/8 clauses passed...we have 11 clauses." Alice Hu (Deputy President, PAS), seated next to Yin, piped up in a more optimistic tone, "[We're debating on the issue of] Mediterranean refugees [right now], [but the issue about the] Syria-Iraq conflict passed!" Many of the delegates claimed that they learned a lot from the debates in the committee. "[I think I have gained] better diplomatic skills," Kenny Gyu Ho Jeong (Delegate of United Kingdom, CIS), one of the more outspoken delegates in the room stated. Akira Williams-Rao (Delegate of China, Harrow International School Hong Kong) agreed with him, saying, "[I have definitely gained] confidence and [more] public speaking [skills]. [I've also learned] how to compromise [better]."











BY VIVIAN CHEN

THE BIGGEST YET. AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

BY CINDY KIM

Editor's Note: ***We would like to apologize for the missing segment of this article. This is a reprint of the full article.***

PASMUN VII has been noted by many for its expansion in many forms: acceptance of students from oversea schools, more diverse committees, and the upgrade in professionalism of the debates and the conference as a whole. Although largely unseen, Ms. Pamela Chu, PAS's principal, has been of great importance in making this year's PASMUN possible. Eagerly agreeing to an interview, she has shared with the press team — and now, you, the reader — her innermost thoughts about Pacific American School's seventh MUN conference.

Ms. Pamela, it has been noted that the second PASMUN to be hosted to outside schools is already double the size of the first one. What are your comments on this impressive expansion?

Actually, you know...MUN [for PAS] has always been kind of a club, [somewhere] students could exercise their skills needed for MUN. Several years [ago], our delegates tried to open [PASMUN] to the public, but we hesitated to do so because we wanted to make sure we had the best quality [of conference] possible. Actually, [I feel like PASMUN VII] is not a very comfortable [conference] this year, because of the [lack of] hospitality. However, this is the first trial that we have invited delegates from other schools [...] It's been always our hope and our students' hope to work with outside schools and make our MUN more challenging.

What hopes did you have for this year's conference? What kind of vision did you have in mind?

I hope that this year's PASMUN turns out to be a successful pilot run [...] I still want to [make] this conference a student-led conference, and try not to [offer] so much help from our [school's] admins. Twenty-first century is a student-oriented century, and I want the students to learn how they can make [PASMUN] better next year from all this process. My vision is for the students to have this kind of experience. Also, it's important that our conferences every year are bigger and more diverse, but the one thing I don't want to sacrifice is the conference's quality. I don't want our conference to be so big that we lose the quality our old conferences used to have. I want to give every student an opportunity to have his/her voice heard in his/her respective committees.

Of course. I think that's a really important aspect of MUN that we sometimes tend to forget. Bigger isn't always better, but we're often blinded by the numbers of participants in a MUN conference. Your idea of quality over quantity is, in my opinion, relevant and important. Then, Ms. Pamela, what role would you say you played in this year's PASMUN?

In the beginning, PASMUN was led by me. [However,] ever since the third year, I have put all the responsibilities to our students. They have started organizing everything for MUN by themselves, and although at first, they lacked experience and the quality [of the conferences] weren't the best, now I see my students capable of doing great things. Of course, now, I regret [letting things go completely].

If the school could have been involved more with [the process of] PASMUN, I think the school's admin staff could have helped bring more hospitality for the non-PAS students and directors. However . . . my role is only to support the students, to let them do their way and watch them as they come up with topics of discussion. [...] I think our school is a school that wants to give the students as many opportunities as it is possible; after all, that is the purpose of education. Although it may not be perfect, I still want to give [freedom] to our students. After all is done, we can review what could have been better together, and what ways we could improve next year.

Were there any noteworthy students who helped with the success of PASMUN VII?

I think this is a collaboration. I definitely think that everyone involved plays a pretty important role—and not just the Secretary General. [...] I don't want to [point out] a hero here, but rather a collaborative team, which is the most important thing to me.

Like Ms. Pamela stated, collaboration is an essential element of MUN that is one of the biggest determinants of a conference's success. It is due to the cooperation and hard work of everyone that PASMUN has finally gotten out of its "comfort zone" by expanding its magnitude and inviting students from all over Taiwan and abroad. PASMUN VII is the biggest one yet, and it is entirely due to every delegate, chair, press member, admin staff, and director's efforts.



VII