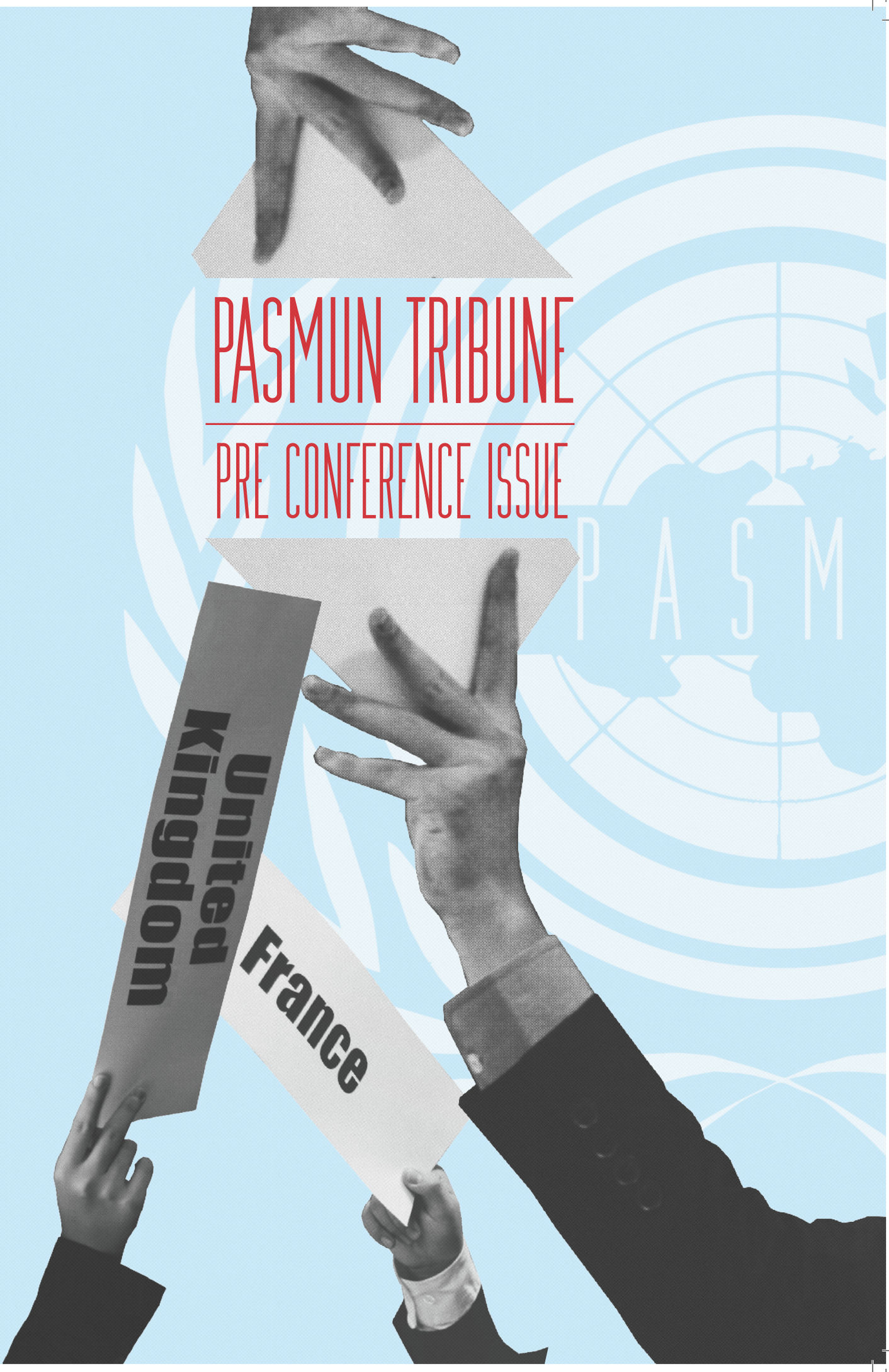
PASMUN TRIBUNE

PRE CONFERENCE ISSUE



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WHO ARE THE SG AND DSG?

BY CINDY KIM

This year, for PASMUN VII, Wesley Chen and Steven Tsay is the **dynamic duo** in charge — the Secretary General and the Deputy Secretary General who are ready to lead PASMUN.





Wesley Chen, a self-declared "enthusiastic, [slightly] authoritative, and impeccable" student, has been devoted to MUN pretty much all his high school life. He has attended numerous conferences including TAIMUN XI, BEIMUN XXI, and THIMUN Singapore X, all of which have clearly added to his vast knowledge of MUN. This will be the second time he is serving as the Secretary General at a conference; his previous experience will surely have a positive influence on the upcoming PASMUN VII. Although he has attended more than ten conferences, he picked out his most memorable and favorite conference with ease: THIMUN the Hague. "I had the amazing opportunity to chair Disarmament Commission Plenary," he remarked. "Chairing at THIMUN the Hague was by far the best chairing experience I've had throughout my MUN career. The quality of debate and the chairs' and secretariat's professionalism is incomparable to any other MUN conferences." Hopefully, with Chen's leadership, PASMUN VII will have the same kind of effect on the attending delegates.

As for **Steven Tsay**, a self-proclaimed "Great Man" who would like to hear "The Imperial March [from Star Wars] on [his] every entrance," he will be serving as the Deputy Secretary General of this year's PASMUN. When asked about his favorite aspect of MUN, he answered with great enthusiasm: "Encountering different viewpoints and meeting eccentric people." Motivated by his passion for MUN, Tsay said that his goal for PASMUN VII was to "help the delegates debate issues at a deeper or a more creative level" rather than have them debate on "the fundamentals and the general." With his humor and spontaneity, Tsay is sure to brighten up the delegates at this year's PASMUN and along with Chen, lead the conferences in ways that no one has ever encountered before.

MEET YOUR CHAIRS

BY TEENY CHEN

SECURITY COUNCIL

The President of SC **Howard Yin** started MUN knowing very little about it, but his curiosity has was what brought him to where he is now. He has chaired six times in the past, and PASMUN would be his seventh time chairing. For this year's conference Howard said, "Apart from the usual air of professionalism and enthusiasm, I'm particularly looking forward to hearing delegates' unique perspectives and passion on these pressing issues." He also wants the delegates to not worry or to be hesitante and to justin putting themselves out there throughout the conference.

A Deputy President, **Alice Hu** started MUN back in the 8th grade because it was a mandatory class. However, she has become more engaged and has grown to love this activity. As an extrovert, Alice cannot wait to meet more new people coming from overseas to PASMUN. She is also very excited to see the outcome of the addition of new committees.

Also a Deputy President, **Arvin Wu** is only a freshman but resolving world issues has become one of his biggest interests since he started reading online news articles. PASMUN will be his very first chairing experience and he expects the conference to reach an international level and increase in diversity. Arvin advises the delegates "to research deeply to help support your arguments with evidence" in order to speak with more confidence on the podium.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (ECOSOC)

The President of ECOSOC **Alex Tai** stated that his involvement with MUN stemmed from his desire to lead delegates and resolve world issues. PASMUN would be Alex's second chairing experience, and he will be chairing at TAIMUN in April. As this is the first international PASMUN, he expects the debates to be both intellectual and challenging. Due to the relatively small size of the conference, Alex encourages the delegates to "take this opportunity to hone your skills in cooperating and in public speaking."

Although the deputy chair **Jamie Wu** barely knew anything about MUN when she first joined, her passion for debate was ignited when she watched upperclassmen come back from conferences chatting endlessly about them. Jamie has already chaired five conferences, and in PASMUN, she looks forward to high quality, engaging discussions and hopes that everyone will learn and grow from this experience. Jamie is aware that holding up your placard and speaking out takes a lot of courage but she can assure you that once you take the first step, you will no longer be afraid!

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Born and raised in Israel, the President of HRC **Chloe Deng** has grown up with a natural inquisitiveness towards her surroundings and most importantly towards how conflicts are resolved on the international level. She hopes MUN will guide her towards being "somebody who gets to work in the ICJ or ICC in the near future." Like many other MUNers, she encourages everyone to actively try to participate and speak up because "Who knows? It might just turn out that MUN is your thing!"

MUN has truly been an eye-opener for **Salina Kuo**. She was inspired to continue because she "had an urge to learn more about the world" around her and "to take steps towards improving global issues." PASMUN would be Salina's first chairing experience, and she is excited to see "new friendships be forged, diplomatic resolutions be passed, and a fruitful conference!" Salina would like to remind the delegates that going to a conference is not only about coming up with comprehensive resolutions but having fun as well.



GA1

The President of GA1 **Jessie Wu** started MUN as a class and has since discovered that it has taught her more about the world through debate. PASMUN would be her second time chairing and she will also chair at the TAIMUN conference taking place in April. Jessie would like the delegates to enjoy the conference but she also expects the delegates to come prepared and understand the context thoroughly for the debate to be constructive. Most importantly, she advises all delegates to engage themselves!

Astonished by all the great things her elder sister told her about MUN, the Deputy President **Jessica Wu** decided to take part in this activity and became an avid debater. PASMUN would be her very first time chairing and she expects it to be really "awesome and diverse." She recommends delegates to focus on the quality of the resolution and whether it benefits your country rather than focusing on the times you speak.

GA4

According to the President of GA4 **Sean Hu**, he was somewhat "shepherded" into MUN because of the emphasis of the club at school and in his family. However, through his experiences, he has grown to "love every portion of it: in the debate, in the research, and in the ability to sound smart." Although the expansion of PASMUN will make things more chaotic for the leadership team, Sean looks forward to seeing a diverse conference in his own school. He strongly suggests the delegates to do your research because "if you are well-prepped, you can participate in MUN as the interactive program it embodies."

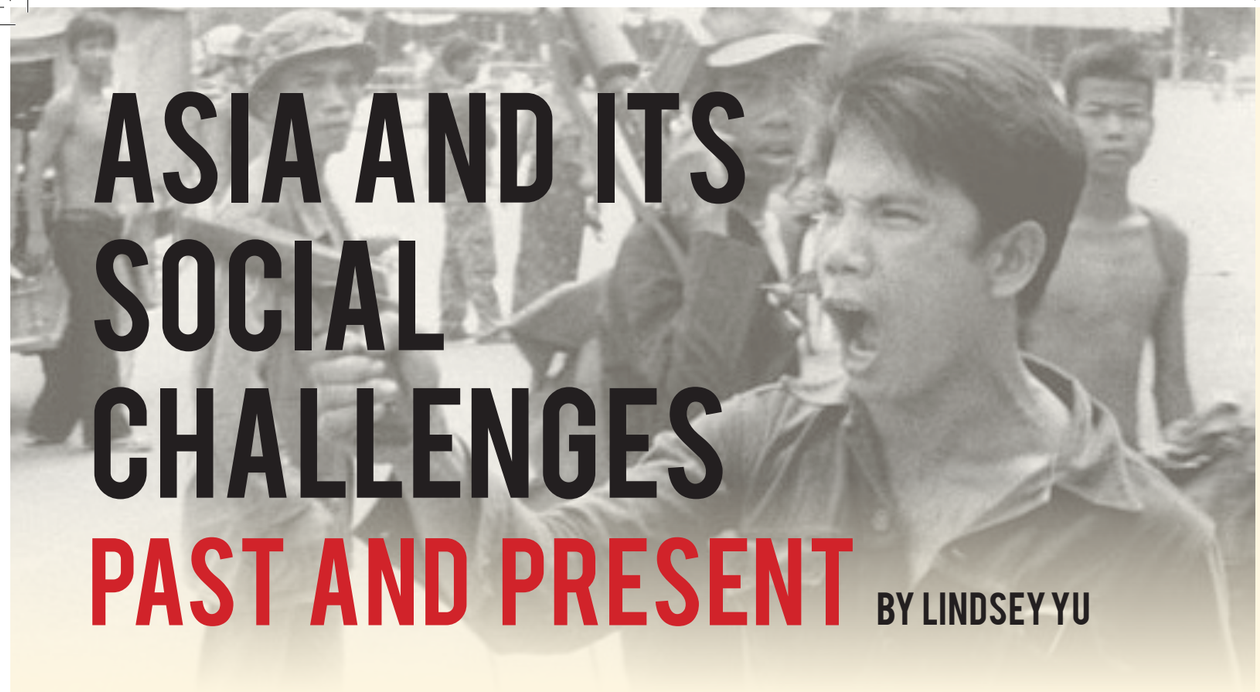
With an active MUN participant as a sister, the Deputy President **Jessica Kim** has the necessary drive to excel at MUN. Having previously chaired in CENTMUN, Jessica would be chairing at PASMUN as her second chairing experience. An avid debater, Jessica hopes that "the debate can be efficient and down to the point so that a feasible solution can be established." In addition to this, she encourages the delegates to work as a team and remember "MUN is all about understanding oneself by understanding others."

ADVISORY PANEL ON THE QUESTION OF ASIA-PACIFIC

The President of the Advisory Panel **Hank Chau** was inspired to join MUN by his former upperclassmen's ability to speak naturally in front of a large audience. Having chaired six times in the past, Hank will be the President of the Advisory Panel for PASMUN this year. He expects the delegates of this committee to "do a great deal of research and come as real 'experts' on the issues" in order to make themselves as professional as possible. Hank advises the delegates to come prepared and of course, to enjoy the avenues that discussing these issues allow you to explore.

The Deputy President **Frank Tseng** joined MUN not only to travel to new places and meet new friends, but also learn about global issues, debate, and socialize. He has served in student officer teams of seven conferences, including THIMUN Singapore. Frank would like to remind all delegates that "MUN is not about winning or losing; it's about coming up with a viable solution to a problem as a team." He hopes that at PASMUN, everyone will share same experience of camaraderie as he will.





ASIA AND ITS SOCIAL CHALLENGES PAST AND PRESENT

BY LINDSEY YU

Asia, the world's largest and most populated continent, is not only notable for its massive land and population, but also for its outstanding performance in terms of economic development and cultural prosperity. Even with its apparent achievements, significant long-term social problems still confront Asia every single day, as in any other continents. Asia's social unrest in the both the past and the present surrounded essentially these three main issues: ethnic and religious conflicts, access to justice and human rights, and persistent poverty and rising income inequality. Every day, at every second, the people, the government, and the nations cooperate to overcome these challenges in as a united front despite the cost—to reach the desired harmony that is most beneficial to the entire continent.

Throughout the history of Asia, ethnic and religious conflicts have consistently been a key contributing factor for national turmoil kindled by the different groups of people who share common ancestral, cultural, and clerical experience. For instance, the Cambodian genocide which was carried out by the Khmer Rouge (KR) regime to "reconstruct" Cambodia base on the Maoist-Communist model. The KR envisioned a population where all were made to work as laborers in one huge federation of collective farms with all Western innovations removed. The genocide lasted 4 years, resulting in an estimate of three million deaths. Besides the aforementioned event, an example of religious conflict in modern times would be the Hindu-Muslim conflict between India and Pakistan in 2002. India, where most believe in Hinduism, and Pakistan, which mostly consists of Muslims, fought over the region of Kashmir. Violent outbreaks took thousands of lives and disrupted the two countries' harmony and prosperity.

Human rights are considered to be the inalienable fundamental rights of every person, yet various countries in Asia refuse to recognize that and as a result, people's journeys to seek justice had never stopped along Asia's trail of development. In 1947, colonial Burma declared that the Myanmar was now an independent nation free from the colonization of Great Britain. It was General Aung San's belief—belief that making Myanmar a sovereignty should be their paramount, rudimentary rights—that prompted the creation of his immediate political-justice-fighting campaigns.

On the other hand, in modern times, Bangladeshi women are subjected to domestic abuse and they face barriers and disadvantages in nearly every aspect of their lives—including access to health services, economic opportunity, and political participation. However, these women in Bangladesh refused to give in and persisted in the fight for justice along with United State Agency for International Development (USAID) that assisted them with the promotion of women empowerment. Thus, women's participation and influence in political area increased substantially. The presidential election of 2008 resulted in the victory of Sheikh Hasina, the nation's first female prime minister.

The questions of income inequality and poverty are more limited to modern society since living conditions in the past were comparatively equal in their low standards of living. As most nations devoted their resources to economic reforms after World War II, perpetual poverty and widening income gaps gradually started to become a real headache for Asia. The key factors of poverty are: food insecurity, lack of infrastructure, global economic shock, risks of natural disasters, and the dearth of education. These are all extremely complicated problems that cannot be dealt with within days because they require the



involvement of every sector in a country and an abundance of finance. Apart from that, Asia's rapid economic growth also led to a wider gap between the wealthy and the poor. Taking China as an example, rural-urban gap already emerged during the Cultural Revolution in the late 1960s and 1970s, but the issue got much more serious and obvious after the reforms and the open-door policies in 1978 and its period of openness and global integration in the late 1990s. However, why was such a drastic change exhibited during the two decades? The urban-biased policies established by the Chinese governments to boost their economy—the favoritism for heavy-industry developments in urban area—were the topic reason. This favoritism eventually led to the stagnation of rural areas and the gigantic income gap between rural dwellers and urban citizens.

If you analyze these three social problems carefully, you could see that they are actually interconnected. The issues of ethnic/religious conflict, of justice/human rights, and of poverty/income inequality are associated with one another. Using the Cambodian Genocide as an example, all citizens at that time deserved basic human rights, yet those put into forced-labor were in poverty. Relating back to the issue presented at PASMUN 2016, APQ delegates who are evaluating the economic stagnation in Asia-Pacific, ECOSOC delegates who are debating income inequality and development of megacities should not only keep the issue of poverty and income gap in mind, but also the other two aforementioned issues so that the resolution can be more creative and complete. Delegates can always refer back to these three points for a deeper understanding of the issues or to look for possible solutions (for example, these three difficulties that Asia faces might be the root causes for the issues!) Now that you have such profound knowledge regarding Asia and its social challenges in the past and present, all you really have to do now is to fully utilize this knowledge and hope for a successful debate!



A BRIEFING ON THE U.S. ELECTIONS

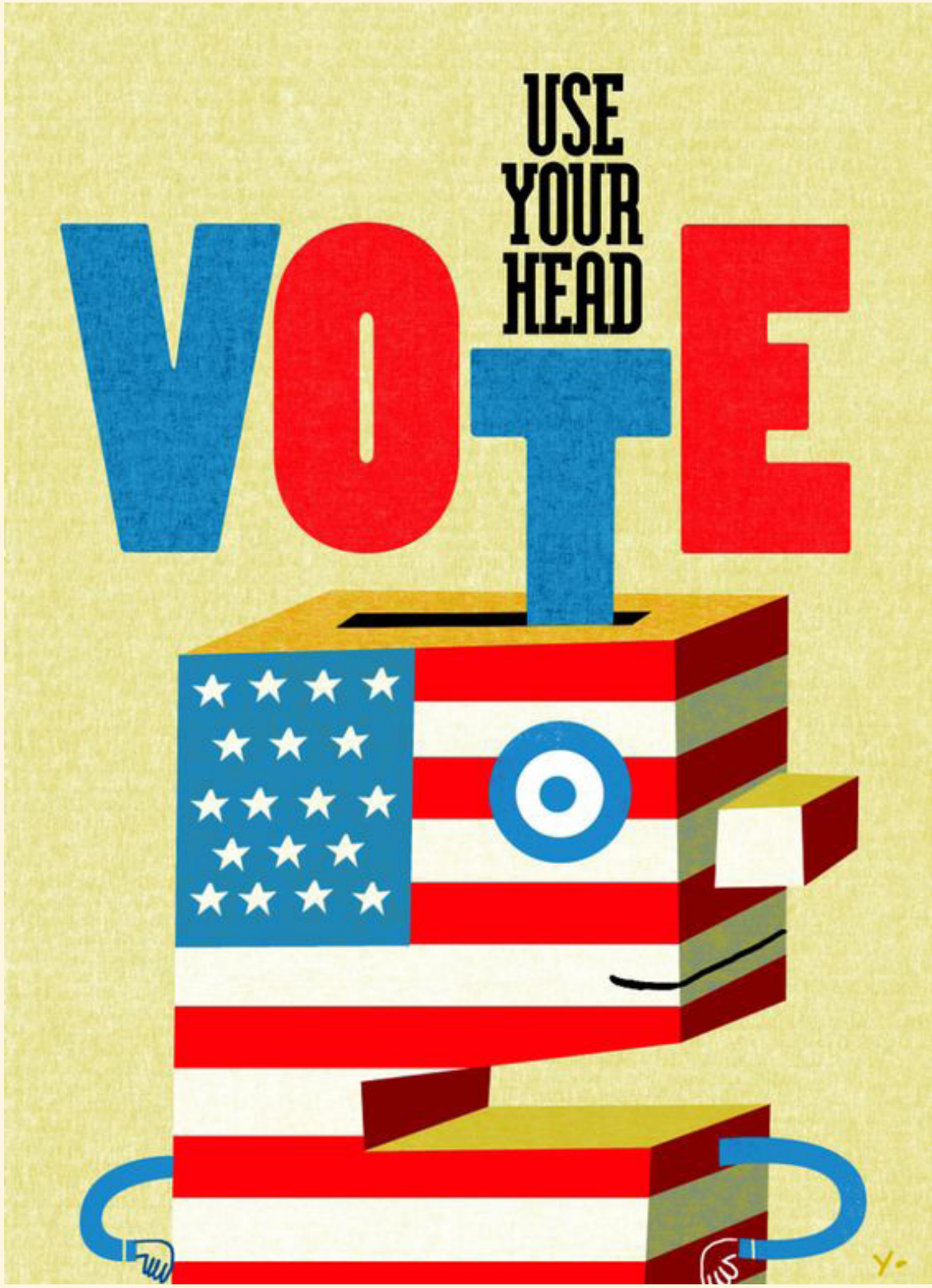
BY STEVEN LU

As the 2016 United States presidential elections draw closer and closer, the main election battlegrounds lie between the Democratic Party contenders: former senator and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders, whereas Donald Trump leads far ahead in the polls within the Republican Party.

In Democratic polls, Hillary Clinton leads in most national polls, averaging around 50% of the surveyed votes, while Bernie Sanders stands at a close second at 38% of surveyed votes. Although both candidates are democrats – they stand together on the left-wing, libertarian side of things and support ideas such as gay rights, government-mandated health care, anti-gun legislation, and immigration reform – their political personas displayed on the campaign runs differ significantly. While Clinton has often been criticized as "wishy-washy," someone who changes her stance on issues according to whichever side is popular, Sanders is the polar opposite. Since his first mayoral run in Burlington, Vermont, over 40 years ago, his political ideologies have rarely changed. Back then, he supported the city's first ever Pride Parade, and he continues, to this day, to vouch for bills that prohibits discrimination against LGBTQ+ people, as stated on his official campaign website. Other issues, such as his belief in using military force as a last resort, have remained firm throughout the past decade. This is further exemplified when he voted against the war in Iraq in 2002, and continues to advocate peace to this day. The two candidates differing political images may very well be subtle strategies to influence voters and gain support.

In Republican polls, real-estate investor and entrepreneur Donald Trump's meteoric rise to the overwhelming 31% of national polls astounded the public, media, and rival candidates alike. His controversial viewpoints and stances on issues such as immigration and foreign policy have also garnered the attention of not only by the public, but also the moderates of his own party. He has stated that there must be a "total and complete shutdown of Muslims entering the United States," a statement that surely horrified moderates of both parties across the country and Muslims across the world. Another one of his proposed plans, to build a Mexico-funded Mexico-U.S. wall to prevent illegal immigration, has gained much attention as well. During his campaign, he announced that he will "build a great, great wall on … the southern border… and make Mexico pay for that wall." Many critics have harshly reprimanded him for these words, deeming them as impossible and futile plans that will bring America's downfall. In contrast, candidates with more moderate republican policies, such as Marco Rubio, Jeb Bush, and John Kasich, fall far behind Mr. Trump in polls.

The 2016 U.S. election will definitely be an interesting one. With an independent, self-proclaimed Democrat-Socialist Bernie Sanders battling it out with veteran Secretary Clinton on the Democrat side, and controversial outsider Donald Trump leading far ahead in the republican polls, delegates of the United States for this conference should tread carefully when choosing their perspectives on any controversial issues.



MORE THAN JUST THE INJUSTICES OF A POP STAR #STANDBYYU

BY MICHELLE LIU

All over social media, this hashtag, along with the video, rapidly spread on the eve of the Taiwanese election day. Chou Tzu-yu, a 16-year old Taiwanese K-pop star, was drawn into an age old political debate over cross-strait relations between Taiwan (also known as the Republic of China, ROC) and China after introducing herself as a Taiwanese and holding up a Taiwan flag alongside a South Korean flag on Chinese Television. This caused anger and resentment in China, resulting in accusations of her being a Taiwanese activist from a Taiwanese-born Chinese singer, Huang An. She was then requested to apologize through a publicly released video, in which Ms. Chou said in part, "There is only one China, the two sides of the strait are one."

Her apology was faced with shock and anger from Taiwanese citizens, who believed she was coerced into recording the video by her company, JYP Entertainment. In addition, all three of the presidential candidates released statements that supported her, condemning the actions of JYP Entertainment and Huang An. The video was believed to have played a key role in the elections, with surveys showing that it swayed 1.3 million youths in Taiwan to either vote or to vote for the Democratic Progressive Party's (DPP) candidate, Tsai Ing-Wen. However, Ms. Tsai would have won with or without the release of the video, as she had been leading in polls for the past months.
This incident was believed to have further strained the already delicate cross-strait relations. Granted, the meeting at the Summit last fall between PRC President Xi-Jinping and ROC President Ma Ying-Jeou, the first meeting between leaders of both sides of the strait since 1949, was intended to temporarily soothed tensions, though it was met with suspicion from the ROC citizens, worried that President Ma would get too "cuddly" with Beijing.

Throughout the early years following the Chinese Civil War in 1949, both the ROC and the PRC have competed to be the "legitimate government of China." More recently, it has become a question of whether there will be political unification with China or the full independence of Taiwan. Many citizens of the newer generation, along with the new president Tsai Ing-Wen (also chairwoman of the Democratic Progressive Party, DPP) stand closer with the concept of "One China, One Taiwan." To many people, the incident was a reminder that Taiwan, which individually recognized by them as a sovereign country, has not been rec-



ognized as one internationally and officially, along with not receiving membership from the UN and other international organizations.

As of 1945, the ROC was still a member of the UN, and its government governed all of China, both the mainland and the island. In 1949, however, the Communist Party of PRC expelled the government of ROC from the mainland after the ROC's defeat in the Chinese Civil War, resulting in the ROC governing only the island of Taiwan. Nevertheless, they still considered themselves the rightful government of China. This was shared and supported by many Western governments at the time, such as the United States, allowing the ROC government to continue as the representative of China in the UN in order to prevent another Communist government from gaining another seat in the UN.

In 1971, the PRC gained enough international support, leading to 17 UN member states requesting the placement of the question "Restoration of the lawful rights of the People's Republic of China in the United Nations" on the agenda. The United Nations General Assembly Resolution 2758 was then submitted in order to "restore to the People's Republic of China all its rights and expel forthwith the representatives of Chiang Kai-shek." The resolution was passed with two-thirds majority, and the government of the PRC became the official representative of China in the UN.

The Republic of China, though consistently applying for not only UN membership, but non-membership, and an observer status from 1991-2008 in hopes of regaining a seat in the UN, has been denied at every turn; the People's Republic of China, through the One-China policy, is recognised by the UN as the only representation of China. However, in 2009, the Department of Health of the ROC was invited by the World Health Organization (WHO) to attend the World Health Assembly under the name "Chinese Taipei," an agreed upon name by both the ROC and the PRC that is also used for other international organizations or events.

The status of Taiwan, the ROC, or Chinese Taipei continues to be rather ambiguous and controversial at the moment. Some recognize it as a sovereign country, while others recognize it as a district or region under the governing of the PRC. The majority of ROC citizens, although not desiring reunifications or closer relations with China, and may even identify as first and foremost Taiwanese, have no aspirations for outright independence.

For most Taiwanese citizens, the flag incident of the popstar Chou Tzu-yu was more than just an unjust humiliation of a young girl; it brought back reminders of animosity and tension between the PRC and the ROC that only lead to further strained cross-strait relations. Delegates of PASMUN should tread the issue of UN memberships carefully in their committees, as many observer states and those not recognized are key players in many of the issues discussed in committees.

HSINCHU – PLACES TO GO

BY KRISTEN PENG



BY FRANK HUNG

MUN conferences are exciting because you get to meet new people and discuss some of the most important issues that are affecting our world today. However, besides the debate, you should also spend some time to explore the city you are in, because you never know when you will visit this city again. Speaking of which, what was your first impression of Hsinchu? At the mention of Hsinchu, what famous landmarks come to mind? Was it the Hsinchu Science and Industrial Park or National Tsing Hua University? They are iconic symbols of this lively city; however, Hsinchu offers much more than the science park and well-known universities. With traditional Chinese temples, night markets, old streets, amusement park, and more, Hsinchu provides plenty of activities to keep travelers occupied. Before delving into the topic, I would like to offer you some background information about Hsinchu. Hsinchu is commonly known as Taiwan's "wind city" because of its windy climate, and it is the oldest city in Northern Taiwan. When you walk down the streets, you may discover that many ancient architectural structures remain and that they are shrouded in a reminiscent atmosphere. It shows that Hsinchu contains modernity and antiquity at the same time. Now, let me provide you with a list of places that you should visit during your stay in order to navigate this city and make the most out of what will surely be a memorable trip.



BY FRANK HUNG

Hsinchu Cheng Huang (City God) Temple is perhaps one of the most important tourist attractions in Hsinchu city. The temple is designated as a Tier-Two historical site; it is a Taoist temple with hundreds of vivid and colorful paintings. Cheng Huang, the deity of the Temple, is said to be responsible for making the final judgment for each soul who dies within his jurisdiction. He was honored as "Wei-Ling Kung" by Emperor Guangxu of Qing dynasty; Emperor Guangxu further named Cheng Huang Temple as a royal temple. November 29th of the lunar Calendar is the birthday of Cheng Huang; people celebrate his birthday by having traditional parades and firecrackers. If you think the temple is a boring place to go, then you are wrong; there are a lot of food stands that sell Taiwanese snacks in front of the temple, and it is especially crowded at night. If you want to try some traditional Taiwanese cuisine, it is a greatplace to go. Popular snacks include Liu's braised pork rice, Zheng's fishball, aching rice vermicelli, Wang's oyster omelet, and more! You will not want to miss these delicious foods!

If you wish to experience the rich culture of Hsinchu, Neiwan Old Street is a good place to start. Located in Hengshan Township, Neiwan is a community surrounded by hills and waters. Neiwan Old Street is packed with traditional wooden architectures and stores. Strolling along the street, you are able to feel the relaxing atmosphere, as well as the smell of delicious snacks, such as Hakka tea, Hakka rice cakes, Ginger lily-flavored glutinous rice, etc. There is also a famous landmark on the old street — Neiwan Theater. Back in the 40s, the railroad allowed this small town to flourish because of the mining industry. The owner of the theater understood the need for mine workers to relax; therefore, he decided to open the theater. Unfortunately, as the mining industry started to decline, this theater faced a serious problem of decrease in customers. Now, it has been transformed into a restaurant that serves Hakka cuisine; however, the essentials of the theater, such as the project and screen, are kept. The good thing is that you can still watch Taiwanese films from the 1970s when you are enjoying the delicious dishes. Through the movies, tourists are able to reminisce the past. If you are interested and want to learn more about early Taiwanese cultures, it is a good place to visit.





If you are not interested in learning Taiwan's traditional culture or visiting historical sites, where should you go? Well, I would suggest you to go to the amusement park to relax yourself. The Leofoo Village Theme Park is an amusement park located in Guanxi Township. The park is divided into different themed areas, including Arabian Kingdom, African Safari, South Pacific and Wild West. Arabian Kingdom is full of mystery because several rides incorporate Arabian styles into their designs. The top attractions are Flying Horse, Ring of Fire, and Sultan's Adventure. In African Safari features many animal-interactive attractions, and many other rides. You can see Bengal tigers, baboons, African lions and American black bears while riding on the tour bus. The South Pacific area contains many thrill rides and exciting attraction. If you aren't afraid of heights, you should try Pagoda's Revenge. It takes up to a height of 53 m (approximately 17 stories) high, and you are able to see the magnificent view of the Leofoo Village and the Guanxi area. If you have the courage to try it, you will remember this experience for your entire life. Lastly, the Wild West is an old-west-themed area. Its main attractions include Little Rattler, Old Oil Well, and Big Canyon Rapids Ride. Leofoo Village Theme Park is a place you should not miss because you can have a lot of fun here and remember to try some different activities to relieve some stress from the conference.

Although Hsinchu City is not as lively or crowded as Taipei, this city offers a lot of attractions that keep the travelers occupied. One of the best things about MUN is that you can travel to many different places. Therefore, do not waste your time in the hotels; go out and experience what the city can offer. Maybe you will discover surprises during your stay in Hsinchu!

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