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PASMUN

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Hsinchu City is Far From What You Imagined

Written by: Iris Chen
Edited by: Christine Chiu
Photographs by: Nina Liu
Layout by: Jessie Liao

Hsinchu City or the Windy City? The natural climate demonstrates the uniqueness of this region located in the northwest part of Taiwan. The terrain concentrates the northern monsoon winds into a powerful draft before it enters the city. However, Hsinchu is more than its breeze. The entire Hsinchu City has been enriched by its incredible culture that is not seen in other parts of Taiwan. Doubtlessly, Hsinchu is also known for its delicious local specialties like rice noodles and pork balls that many foreign visitors savor the taste of. While talking about the local dishes, the topic of local people's amiability is inevitable. The most representative theme of Taiwan is the warm and amicable human touch, this is the same with the local residents of Hsinchu City. The majority of the foreign visitors are astonished by this peaceful atmosphere.

The Hsinchu City Government is looking for ways to improve people's everyday life. To get the citizens more engaged in Hsinchu's future, the government emphasizes the essence of history, waterways, infrastructure, and architecture. Moreover, the Cultural Affairs Bureau has been enforcing cultural developments of this city by advocating social education, highlighting local specialties, and promoting local culture. As you stepped on the soil of this land, the surroundings showcase the city's history, urban construction, innovative technologies, and future vision. These years, the local government has always been reinforcing the overall society from a cultural and educational perspective. According to the Hsinchu City Education Department, the government is exerting great efforts for Hsinchu to move towards internationalism and global connection.

Many Model United Nations committees have been held in international schools in Hsinchu City. Recently, a big event is being held in Hsinchu County! Not hindered by the coronavirus pandemic, PASMUN still continues this year. Going backward to the history of PASMUN. It was first founded in 2009 at PAS. In 2015, PASMUN opened itself to outside schools for the first time and started Since then, the number of participants has been increasing, which grows from around a hundred participants to more than 250 participants. With students coming across from different parts of Asia, delegates



could exchange ideas and chairs could share experiences.

Deforestation worsens the environment, and global warming demoralizes people. More and more organizations have been founded with the aim to protect the natural environment and prevent more devastating conditions. PAS also wants to put in efforts to save the world. Furthermore, as Hsinchu becomes more advanced in the technological field, the transformation of schools becoming more digitized is unavoidable. Since 2017, PASMUN has been digitalizing the conference by shifting all documents online and thus decreasing the carbon footprint.

Now, under the pressure of COVID-19, the number of delegates attending is still rising. This year's PASMUN is the largest conference that PAS ever had, which is around 260 delegates! What's special about it is that there are delegates from Indonesia and are utilizing online workspaces to accommodate participants joining virtually. With the association of technological advancements in Hsinchu, this conference is definitely necessary for serving as the foundation of the global network for students' knowledge. In addition, with students' analytical skills, they are able to understand more about the technical and investment cooperation among nations. And perhaps, delegates would advocate for change and connect countries to knowledge, experience, and resources to help people build a better life for themselves.

Hsinchu has been one of the cities in Taiwan that has only a few people diagnosed with COVID-19. Responding to this pandemic, the local government in Hsinchu City has enforced several necessary measures. Thus, there are many changes after the outbreak of this pandemic. This year's conference asks delegates to explore the theme: Making the New Normal Better Than the Old. The delegates would like to address the ongoing pandemic coronavirus by exploring "normality". COVID-19 has altered people's daily lives significantly, just like how SARS upturned East Asia in 2003. In order to return to normal life before the coronavirus, delegates in PASMUN 2021 will be challenged to evaluate issues that revolve around the "old normal". The attempts are for making the future better by saving more people's lives, protecting the environment, improving health care, and more.



New Ceremony New PASMUN New Normal

Written by: Joey Lin Layout by: Ethan Chin
Photographs by: Nina Liu, Judy Chao

PASMUN has accepted and adapted to the new normal that Covid-19 brought: this year's livestreamed opening ceremony was more successful than ever before. Though reservations over the dissemination of the virus bounded delegates and chairs to their committee rooms to watch the ceremony on the television and their laptop screens, participants found the experience enjoyable, almost normal in a way.

Ping Tsai (Deputy Secretary General, Secretariat), Mr. Jeff Buscher (Director, PASMUN), and the opening video by James Wu, Gracy Wen, and Stanley Huang (Videographers, PASMUN Tribune) described the new lens through which we now view the world due to the pandemic.

Both speakers, Tsai and Mr. Buscher, admitted that Covid-19 has cut deep swathes into an already divided world. From PASMUN 2020 to PASMUN 2021, Covid-19 has declared to the world that it would be a prolonged pandemic, and that it would recur as soon as defenses are down. "We [all] look forward to returning to a state of 'normalcy' with which we are familiar," Tsai demonstrated the sentiments of people all over the world, whether in lockdown or not.

Although Covid-19 has seemingly fragmented the world even further, Like Mr. Buscher stated, Covid-19 is a reset button for many troubled places and situations, for people to stand back, often quite literally, and assess the state of the world from a new perspective, and using new tools like the ever-evolving technology to address deep-rooted problems. The new perspective can be alarming and difficult to swallow, as Mr. Buscher described, "The pandemic drove us even further apart, exposing deep-seated resentments and anger, systemic and widespread inequities, and an inability to even attempt dialogue." But it's the grimness and gravity of this universal exposé that motivates more people to urge change in the world. Initially local events like the Black Lives Matter movement escalated globally faster than ever before, and people marching up and down the streets campaigning for equal human rights can be seen from Minneapolis to Monrovia. The "healing power" of Covid-19 was manifest in heavily polluted areas like India, as cars dispersed and wilderness returned, allowing the crowded Delhi metropolis to behold the grandeur of the Himalayas from their very windows.





Compared to last year's first virtual experience, PASMUN 2021's opening ceremony ran smoothly and . The essential elements—the speeches from the Secretariat and Mr. Buscher, the opening video, and the much-anticipated orchestra performance—haven't left PASMUN despite the evermore pressing situation.

To ensure the most realistic replication of a physical ceremony, the admin team worked past midnight on multiple occasions to balance experience and safety. Last year, many delegates, chairs, and directors voiced complaints that the technology did not deliver. Yet, nearly all participants found the experience, save for a small delay in the commencement of the ceremony, nearly flawless. Ben Tsai (Executive Administrative Officer) expressed his pleasant surprise after the first day concluded, saying that he "did not expect [the ceremony] to run without any [noticeable] errors at all."

The hosting of the opening ceremony itself posed as an allegory for the conference theme: "making the new normal better than the old." Its success is a testament of a better new normal, and the atmosphere that it fosters is sure to allow participants to produce meaningful resolutions, extending PASMUN's impact beyond the registration desks and the temperature checking machine, into all participants, into the world.









The Non-General Assemblies

Written by: Christine Chiu
Edited by: Joey Lin
Layout by: Anneena Lin
Photographs by: Judy Chao

PASMUN 2021 is unique in its own way. Other than the continued Covid-19 protocols from last year, newly joined online participants from abroad, and this year being the largest conference PAS has ever held, we got three special committees with very different procedures: APQ, YAC, and ICJ.

The Advisory Panel (APQ) is a committee that focuses solely on one topic throughout the conference and presents their resolution to the Security Council (SC); the SC would then debate and vote on the resolution. Allison Liu (PAS, 11), representing Saudi Arabia in APQ this year, mentioned that "We abide by SC procedures and would debate clause by clause, not as an entire resolution." She also shared an interesting fact about the APQ—"We refer to ourselves as 'experts' instead of 'delegates'."





The International Court of Justice (ICJ) mainly settles legal disputes between member states. Lillian Shern (PAS, 12), one of the judges for ICJ this year, explained that "ICJ doesn't have regular delegates but judges, advocates, witnesses, and even a registrar. There're also heated cross-fire debates and judge examinations which make this committee different from others." She expressed unabated anticipation towards debate in the court, "I expect that the advocates have prepared their own cases and frameworks, and I'm excited because ICJ would be on fire!"

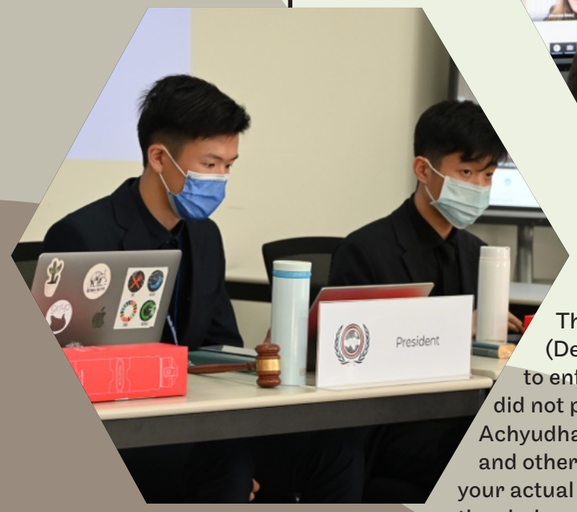
The Youth Action Committee (YAC) provides a platform for youth to voice their opinions on contemporary issues, encouraging critical thinking in real-world situations as global citizens. Zoe Liu (PAS, 11), a former YAC participant, commented that "In YAC, you can address your own opinions disregarding country stances which is way freer than other committees, and this definitely encourages participation." In addition to this advantage, "The interesting part about the procedure is that people are called 'panelists'," instead of the conventional "delegate," she added. When asked about her expectations for this year's YAC, she gladly replied that "Since it's a small committee with people seated in a circle, panelists would probably be less nervous and therefore participate more."



Committee Reports

Written by: Iris Chen, Joey Lin Edited by: Joey Lin
Layout by: Anneena Lin Photographs by: Cheney Lee, Ingrid Li

Sheena Chiang (Delegate of India, SC) had actively participated in the issue of the ongoing situation in Yemen. Among the back and forth debate, Benjamin Chen (Delegate of the United Arab Emirates, SC) and Shantia Laurenz (Delegate of European Union, SC) had gone to a divergent way regarding the punishments related to weapons usages. After a professional retort from Chiang, Chen was persuaded but Laurenz was not; this amendment ultimately did not pass.



Security Council

General Assembly 1



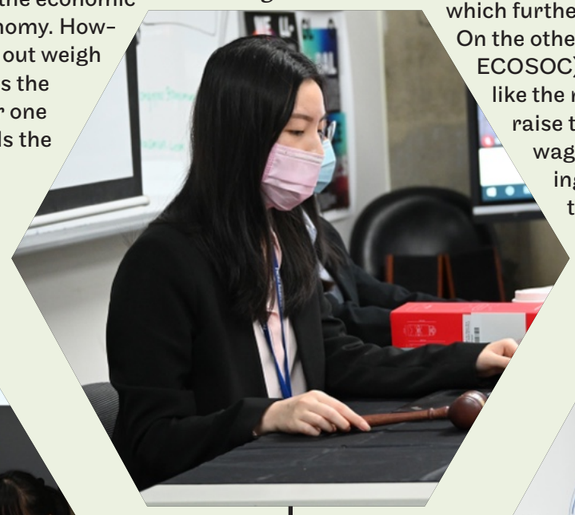
The amendment from Andrew Huang (Delegate of the Republic of Korea, GA1) to enforce arms control in the Middle East did not pass, despite the support from Srinivasan Achyudhan (Delegate of the United Kingdom, GA1) and other nations. His stance seemed jf "Please raise your actual hand if you vote/not vote for the resolution," the chairs restated, as the virtual delegates kept clicking on the "raise hand" button on the Google Meet call instead of raising their physical hand.

Seeing the majority's demand for extending time on the amendment from Patrick Ho (Delegate of the European Union, GA3) the changes that Ho proposed seemed to be an essential basis for the issue: the question of the economic impact of youth migration on the global economy. However, their interest in snack time seemed to out weigh their eagerness to continue on the topic as the chair expresses, "there is still a time for one speech, the floor strongly recommends the delegates to volunteer."



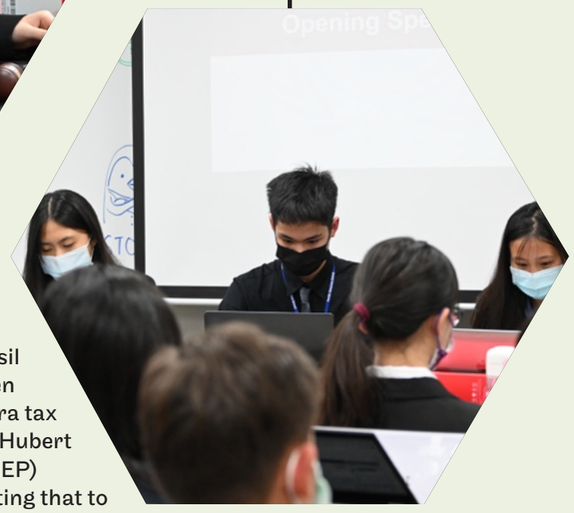
General Assembly 3

United Nations Environment Programme



On the topic of transitioning from fossil fuels to renewable fuels, Benjamin Chen (Delegate of Norway, UNEP) charges extra tax if industries use unnecessary fossil fuels. Hubert Huang (Delegate of the European Union, UNEP) proposes a second-degree amendment limiting that to companies owned by the state. To all delegates of UNEP, this method struck a perfect balance between transitioning to fossil fuels and economic stability, in the form of an overwhelming majority and only one person abstaining, and zero against.

Many delegates like Andrea Wu (Delegate of the Republic of Korea, ECOSOC) argued for raising the minimum wage on multiple occasions in order to ensure economic security to vulnerable populations. In Wu's speech, he cited the snowball effect—low income families suffer from low minimum wage, which further cripples their ability to climb the social ladder. On the other hand, Aurora Huang (Delegate of South Africa, ECOSOC) questioned why is meeting an arbitrary amount like the minimum wage necessary and proposed to raise the minimum wage to what is the living wage instead, arguing that having an ever-raising minimum wage can be a burden on both the private and public sectors.



Economic and Social Council

What Do Other Schools Think of PAS?

Written by: Christine Chiu
Edited by: Joey Lin
Layout by: Zoe Liu
Photographs by: Nina Liu

PASMUN XII is the largest conference PAS has ever held, with around 260 participants from more than 10 schools—including AAIA, AST, DIS, IBSH, IBST, ISS, KAS, MAT, TCGS, TAS, and more!



A large gathering like this is a rare opportunity for students from a mix of different schools to interact with one another and have fun through MUN. Whether you are from a local school or international school, attending the conference in person or online, experienced in MUN or not, we hope to get a better understanding of your PASMUN experience. Hence, Gracy Wen (Cinematographer, PASMUN Tribune) and Christine Chiu (Text Editor, PASMUN Tribune) randomly selected several non-PAS participants from a variety of committees and asked their opinions regarding PAS. Most delegates spoke of their positive experience at PASMUN so far, albeit some mishaps. Here are some of the most frequent responses we got from the interviewees in anonymous:

💡 Q1: What do you think of the PAS participants in your committee?

"They're quite fluent in English." (-TCGS)

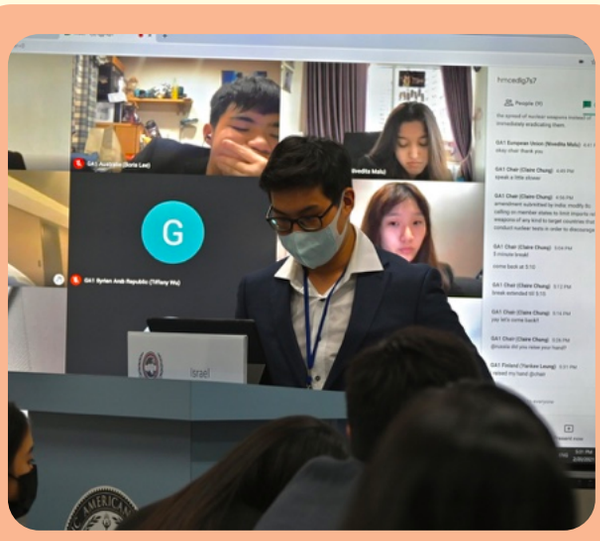
"They take initiative during lobbying and know what they're doing" (-TAS)

💡 Q2: What do you think of the PAS campus?

"Your entrance looks 'rich'." (-IBST)

"It's really large and spacious." (-IBSH)

Upon hearing similar responses repeatedly, Wen came up with an apt analogy and asked, "A lot of you described the PAS campus as large and spacious, do you think it looks like Costco?" Indeed, the answers we got are all a solid "YES."













Gallery

Layout by: Anneena Lin Photographs by: Cheney Lee, Ingrid Li

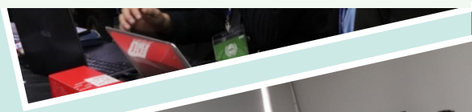






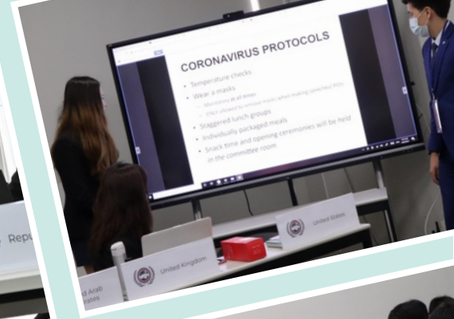


















Up and Down the Halls: Adapting to Change at PASMUN

Written by: Christine Chiu, Iris Chen Edited by: Joey Lin Layout by: Zoe Liu Photographs by: Nina Liu

As soon as the participants of PASMUN 2021 arrive, each of them lines up one by one orderly. Due to the coronavirus disease, PAS is responsible for securing participants' health. The student officers have plenty of extra jobs this year. Both the Secretariat and administrative officers have demonstrated the best they could to ensure everyone's health safety. In preceding conferences, there was nearly no such condition that everyone should be wearing masks and provide their identification cards. In spite of these, their hard work is to assure everyone's body temperature is measured and that everyone's hands are sanitized. Though the process of entering the conference room seems to be prolonged, health safety is enforced.

This year, PASMUN welcomes its participants from schools all across Taiwan with the newly equipped temperature-measuring machine, something that should be no surprise during the current Covid-19 pandemic. Even so, many delegates and admin staff alike were fascinated by the presence of the machine. It was the first time that many people saw something like this, and it left quite a lasting impression. During PASMUN, everyone would need to go through the health and safety SOP in front of the machine before entering the PAS building: First, face the screen on the machine; it would detect your body temperature. Second, use the hand sanitizer provided on the machine to clean your hands. And of course, everyone is required to wear a mask at all times, and seats at the lunch tables are separated by sneeze screens to prevent infection between participants when dining. Delegates have reacted to these drastic changes with surprise but still appreciation—PASMUN is avoiding all the hazards that come with hosting an event in the middle of a pandemic.

According to Ping Tsai (Deputy Secretary-General), the Secretariat's job has also somehow been changed. As some delegates are joining PASMUN online, the Secretariat has to try their best to contact the school and work with the admin staff to fix any issues that arise. Some online delegates were experiencing access and connectivity issues and it is relatively difficult to address them across the ether. Tsai noted the shift in the nature of the Secretariat's role into more of connecting the online delegates with the physical conference in order to produce a true hybrid experience. They were doing a masterful job at the time of this article, and things seemed to be running smoothly.







Aside from the Deputy Secretary-General, delegates would also like to express their feelings and thoughts about the significant changes after the outbreak of the coronavirus. Christine Tsao (Panelist, YAC) feels that the measures taken are pretty adequate and even expected. In addition, she explains how it relates to this year's theme: "kind of necessary in the new normal we find ourselves in." On the other hand, as expected, Tsao thinks the new scanning temperature machines could be used in a more efficient way because it is placed at the door, which slows down the process. However, she feels that the coronavirus protocols are still necessary and the conference has already taken appropriate steps.

The small things that participants may not notice or take as granted are usually the most essential measures done by the student officers. The pandemic disease causes them to find their duties onerous. Though there could still be some space for improvements, all of them still did their best in helping to make the conference a success. The whole conference could go well mainly because of their efforts and hard work. If the Covid-19 situation escalated further, PASMUN would actually be held online due to the heightened government regulations. However, we are lucky enough to still hold the conference physically. To ensure a safe and clean environment on the PAS campus, it is crucial for everyone attending PASMUN to follow the protocols and make the most out of debate, and we thank you for your cooperation in advance!

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