

2022 ISSUE ONE

PASMUN TRIBUNE

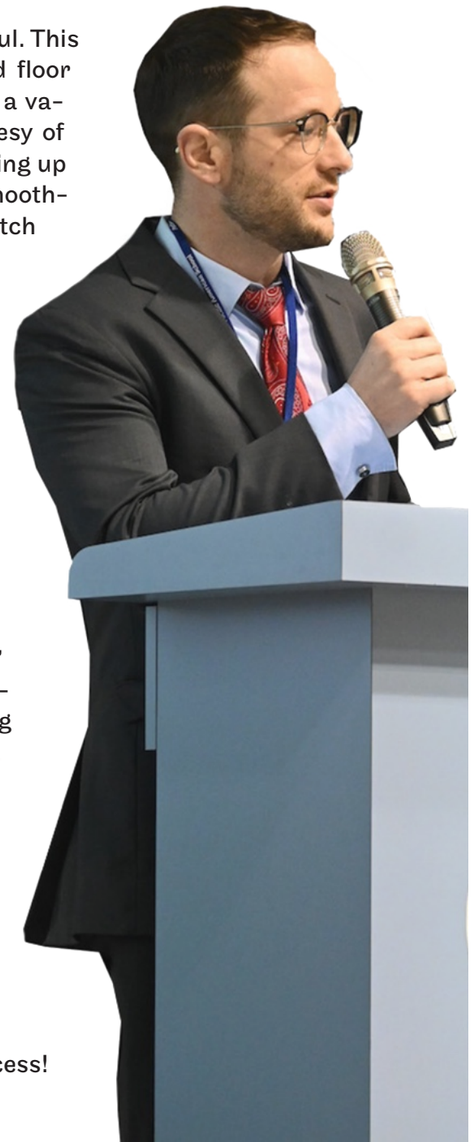
PROTECTING THE VULNERABLE

WELCOME TO PASMUN

THE OPENING CEREMONY RECAP

Written by: Lea Lu Edited by: Victoria Lee Layout by: Allison Liu Photograph by: Nina Liu

The PASMUN 2022 opening ceremony was delightful. This year's opening ceremony took place in the third floor auditorium where we enjoyed plush velvet seats, a variety of speeches, and entertaining videos courtesy of videographer Danny Hung. The tech team had been busy setting up since last night to ensure that our opening ceremony runs smoothly. Though slightly delayed, the ceremony went on without a hitch with Miya Kal, from TAS, expressing that "the seats were very comfortable."



Alice Wang, the Deputy Secretary-General, gave a speech thanking the members of the secretariat team. This was followed by insightful remarks on the conference theme by Mr. Zachary Cook, and a video composed by Danny Hung, officially began the ceremony. Amber Huang, from PAS found the video both fascinating and shocking. The highlight of the ceremony was the duet violin performance by Justin Tang (PAS) and Ian Johnson (HIS) on the piece: Beriot's Duo Concertant. Many delegates expressed their admiration for the musicians. Victor Kang from PAS states that "the violin part was my favorite! It was muy bien(really good)!" Winston Chiu, from TAS, commented that "the opening ceremony was great. The opening ceremony was not something you would usually see; the violin performance was amazing. To describe it in one word: fascinating." Then, the two Secretary-Generals wished everyone for an excellent conference experience and officially opened the PASMUN 2022.

Overall, the ceremony was fast, concise, and considerate of everyone's time. TAS student officer Katharine Lu and IBSH student officer Varun Balakrishnan, the two chairs of YAC, described the opening ceremony as "speedy and smooth." Thanks to the Admins, Tech crew, and Student officers, the opening ceremony was a grand success!



The END of FOSSIL FUELS

Written by: Rachel Lu Edited by: Ariel Lee Layout by: Allison Liu Photograph by: Ryoka Goto

Global warming has long been an issue since the late 1900s. However, most countries have been focusing on reducing pollution in water and air instead of on green energy sources. The Paris Agreement, adopted in 2015, is one of the first treaties regarding climate change. The agreement encourages countries to hit their highest carbon emission levels as soon as possible and gradually decrease over the next few years. Many nations have made ambitious plans to control their carbon emissions levels by 2030, which can serve as frameworks for other countries to construct their emission reduction plans. To achieve the change from carbon and fossil fuels to green energy, nations must work together in preserving resources.

However, some obstacles hinder the success of these conservation plans. Many green energy technologies require rare-earth elements to operate. These elements are often clustered in specific areas, giving certain countries advantages over others. Climate change also affects each country differently depending on the location and the stage of development of the country. Different countries would have different perspectives on global warming, making it dilemmatic to plan.

According to the delegate of Canada, Ayden Chin (TAS), some solutions include "reduction and reuse of rare-earth elements" to ensure all countries have access to these materials. The delegate of Estonia, Elroy Liu (TAS), adds that protecting and supporting fossil fuel workers during the renewable energy transition is also crucial. The fossil fuel industry is large and provides jobs for many workers. Therefore, to ensure that the economy does not get severely impacted, governments have to make sure that fossil fuel workers are adequately provided for.

Only Earth can sustain human life. Preserving resources and shifting away from fossil fuels is an important step to ensure that the planet does not get further damaged. In protecting the planet, we are protecting the future, guaranteeing future generations a healthy Earth.

Restorative Justice for Indigenous Populations

Written by: Megan Lu
Edited by: Victoria Lee
Layout by: Jocelyn Ho
Photographs by: Jessica Kim

Despite over 56 million indigenous people killed between the 14th and 15th centuries, from either disease or violence, till this day, indigenous populations still have yet to receive proper reparations for crimes carried out against them. That is why in this year's PASMUN, the UNPFII committee, focusing on indigenous issues, has made its debut in order to aid delegates in exploring the varying issues indigenous people face.

Indigenous people have long thrived on their land, in their own communities before their oppressors appeared. Under the guise of social development, religion, and social Darwinism, foriegn powers arrived and deemed the native people "inferior" to the them who were said to be the more "civilized." After centuries of oppression, biological warfare and indiscriminate violence, populations of indigenous people are still on a decline. Today, indigenous people typically have a lower lifespan compared to the average urban citizen. They also have higher mortality rates, speculated to be a result of the lack of healthcare and sanitation.

Further issues over indigenous land rights have continued to be prevalent in recent decades. Although the lands are sacred to and rightfully belong to the indigenous people, there is a lack of enforcement on the issue of ownership. The indigenous people have already suffered centuries of forced relocation and continue to be oppressed in the same manner. They are often driven to mountainous areas, as seen in the case of Taiwanese indigenous populations, where survival and sanitation pose an issue. Though more attention and awareness have been brought regarding indigenous people being stripped of their land rights, and the concept of restorative justice has been introduced, governments still lack enforcement in terms of ownership, land laws, and resource extraction.



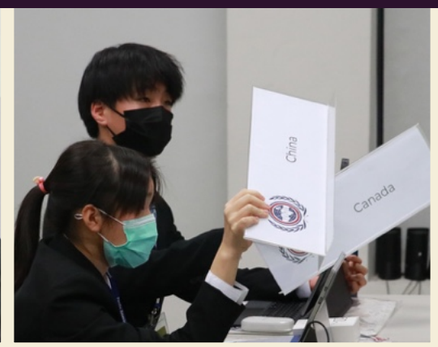




UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues







Acts to restore justice for indigenous people have already been attempted by major countries such as the United States. The US has a long history of conflicts with indigenous people, mainly stemming from the western conquest of North America in the 1500s. Occupying more lands meant pushing the indigenous people to undesired land; as a result, most indigenous people do not reside in urban areas. In recent years, the US has attempted to repair its relationship with the indigenous population. For instance, some American states have renamed Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples Day, in hopes to gain more recognition for crimes perpetrated against the indigenous. Nevertheless, simply renaming a holiday does not rewrite the past nor the present, where indigenous populations continue to exist as an afterthought. More needs to be done to ensure that indigenous populations around the world are entitled to and have access to the same rights, services, and legal protections as any other citizen.

Although previous acts against indigenous populations cannot be justified or undone retroactively, governments can offer compensation and benefits to the indigenous population. For instance, ensured access to healthcare and education can lower mortality rates and help prolong lifespan. These changes can be made to guarantee that indigenous people have the opportunity to live like any other citizen, without worrying about discriminatory acts and injustices against them. Additionally, governments should raise awareness about indigenous culture to properly recognize and represent the population in governments and in wider society.

Indigenous people are vulnerable populations who need to be addressed and protected by those who are able to. Cayden Kowalec (TAS) from the UNPFII committee says that "it's an important issue," recognizing acts committed against indigenous peoples. Sean Hung (PAS) also comments, "All people in the same country should have the same rights." By debating on this topic of restoring justice for indigenous populations, UNPFII delegates are truly taking their first step in "Protecting the Vulnerable."







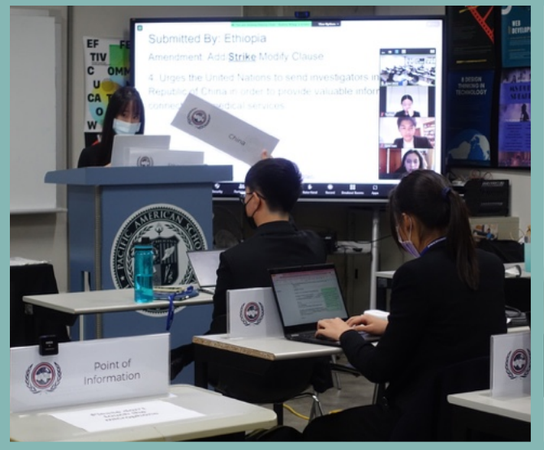








Layout by: Jocelyn Ho
Photographs by: Judy Chao, Nina Liu, Ryoka Goto, Jessica Kim, Ingrid Li











West Goes South:
A New Age of Digital Spouse Abuse

Written by: Chris Chen Layout by: Anneena Lin Edited by: Victoria Lee

After Donda, Kanye West delivered to us his next big hit.

No, it isn't an hour and forty-eight minutes of musical maternal tribute. Instead, it is a one-sided, drama-packed, heart-breaking war between the infamous rapper and his nemesis: SNL cast and stand-up comedian Pete Davidson.

On February 19th, 2021, Kim Kardashian filed for divorce from Ye. The star-crossed couple seemingly moved on to new relationships as dating rumors began to spark between Kardashian and Davidson while Kanye moved on to start a relationship with actress Julia Fox.

During the height of Ye and Fox's publicity from their event appearances and paparazzi sightings, Ye has repeatedly expressed his need for Kardashian to come back. Though Fox regarded this behavior as "residual feelings" from Ye's 7-year marriage, Ye characterized his "eventual" reunion with Kardashian as one with tremendous effect and can enable "millions of families [...] to see that they can overcome the work of the separation."

As expected by many, Ye's relationship with Fox was short-lived as both sides announced that they never had love for each other just hours after their public breakup. His "residual feelings" for Kim persists in continuous all-caps Instagram posts and shots fired at Pete Davidson (dubbing him as "Skete"). The bombardment of forced publicity and attention-prying from Ye upon Kardashian and Davidson presents a new form of digital spousal abuse that should be recognized as a privacy violation. The previous comment of their "eventual reunion" and videos of their daughter is only further proof of Ye's viral blackmailing.

Many of Ye's fans are only adding to the chaos by supporting the Chicago rapper's relentless social media antics while shaming Kardashian and threatening Davidson. From releasing private messages between him and his ex-wife against her will to using his influence to attack Davidson, Ye has repeatedly put Kardashian and her family under insurmountable stress. Kardashian has stated multiple times that Ye's comments have been "hurtful" and "causing further pain" for their family.

Kardashian is a woman of great wealth and influence. However, this does not preclude her from the same issue that she and various other women fall victim to. Ye's continuous online verbal abuse showcases spousal abuse and harassment of a different caliber. Abuse is now not only a domestic issue but can be regarded as something that can happen across the internet and especially when exacerbated with a large and zealous fanbase.



Though it is important to account for Ye's prior mental diagnoses (Bipolar disorder being the most notable) as the potential reason for this level of public endangerment, this does not excuse his actions towards all parties involved. With this public demonstration of online verbal and emotional abuse, perhaps this is the smoking gun needed to include online harassment under the bracket of domestic abuse.

Free Market vs. Socialist Economic System

Written by: Lea Lu Layout by: Anneena Lin Edited by: Ariel Lee Photographs by: Ingrid Li

To what extent should each be included to create a balanced economy? The Youth Action Committee(YAC), covers the dispute between a free market and a socialistic economic systems. The answer varies depending on the country's factors. No country is 100% a free market or a socialistic economy.

Capitalist economies or free markets are free from governmental restrictions and regulations. People benefit from producing superior goods and services. However, even if capitalism boosts the quality of products, it generates wealth inequality and social division. The wealthy get wealthier and the less fortunate stay disadvantaged. Comparatively, socialism focuses on the general wellness of the citizens. Under a socialist economy, the government has control over employment, monitoring the income of all in order to establish equity. However, a corrupt government could create irreparable economic crises.



Major parties such as Singapore, the United States of America (USA), and Hong Kong are deemed as capitalist states. Yet, they are not completely capitalistic. Singapore has several Government-linked Companies (GLCs) but still allow consumer demands to influence the production and market, allowing the economy to function as a free market. The USA is a mixed economy where private organizations have to be registered with government agencies and cannot operate without a government-provided license. Yet, these government regulations are able to regulate the market without domination.

Parties such as People's Republic of China (PRC) and Denmark are heavily socialist states with thriving economies. The government owns many large corporations, running and controlling the movement of cash. Through higher taxation, Denmark is able to provide welfare benefits such as access to healthcare, youth allowances, and public institutions to its citizens.



Through these examples, it is clear that a mixed economy is beneficial when balanced. For a socialist economy, there should be a safety net to fall on if the system fails, as demonstrated by Hong Kong. Denmark shows us that the right to healthcare, education and aid from the government keeps the community balanced, no matter the type of market. Ultimately, the economy and citizens' livelihood are interconnected, and a successful economy is created by balancing both socialist and capitalist ideals.

Tensions in the Taiwan Strait

Written by: Iris Chen
Edited by: Ariel Lee
Layout by: Zoe Liu
Photographs by: Ryoka Goto

PASMUN 2022 focuses on the theme of “protecting the vulnerable,” which has been the core of Model United Nations (MUN). Aside from resolving issues around ethnic tensions in turmoil, discrimination faced by minority groups, and problems about other places, the Security Council (SC) this year highlights the stressful condition that Taiwan Strait has been undertaking.

The issue of tensions in the Taiwan Strait has long been a struggle throughout the history of Taiwan. Ever since China’s loss of Taiwan and the subsequent split that resulted from the Chinese Civil War, heated debates on the Taiwan Strait have not ceased since that period and remain a crucial point of contention that the international community seeks to resolve.

23° 33' 11.22" N
121° 01' 15.97" E





Back in the 1950s, the first and second Taiwan strait crises both illustrate the armed conflicts between China (the PRC), and Taiwan (the ROC). In the following years, seen from events such as UN recognition of the PRC and U.S recognition of the One-China policy, the PRC has gained momentum in generating its influence on issues regarding Taiwan’s political status. PRC certainly did not soften its stand of taking ROC back and insisted to prove their interpretation of the strait correct.

In the past few years, the ratification of the Anti-Secession Law further confirmed PRC’s position of not pursuing peaceful measures but aiming to achieve their goal through unpeaceful means. Currently, increases in PRC military activities and the absence of ROC in the WHO conference, amid the COVID-19 pandemic, have raised international awareness toward the stressful condition that ROC is facing. Although former President Ma, from the Kuomintang Party, had attempted to alleviate the tensions between the two lands, little progress has been made.

The tensions between China and Taiwan have risen dramatically in recent years, under the presidency of Tsai Ing-Wen (from the Democratic Progressive Party). President Tsai’s approach to the relationship between China and Taiwan is a deep contrast to President Ma’s attempts in which she denies Taiwan’s status of being part of China. Tsai has been working progressively in gaining international support for recognizing Taiwan Strait’s independence and freedom. Her actions, thus, demonstrate the inconsistency between the two countries’ interpretations. Different interpretations on the Taiwan Strait further raised awareness toward the disputes on the political status of ROC.

Concerning the escalating tension between the two lands, Catherine Chow (PAS), the delegate of China in SC, comments that since Taiwan has been a historical territory part of China’s empire, “ROC is part of PRC.” At the same time, although Chow does recognize that two sides do interpret “China” differently, she insists that there is only one representative of China due to the One-China policy (1992 Consensus), which the current Taiwan Strait government has violated.

Even though President Tsai deviates from early attempts to make peace, she still attempts to mitigate the tension through other means. Possible solutions to the current situation revolve around military activities. Specifically, lowering militarization is considered as one of the necessary measures to alleviate the issue. For instance, the U.S can reduce arms sales to the PRC, which will significantly reduce the military threat PRC possesses toward ROC.

Protecting the vulnerable is essential in promoting a peaceful atmosphere. The vulnerable not only includes the typical minority groups but also consists of groups that are threatened by powerful nations, such as how the PRC has treaded the ROC through military tactics. In SC, delegates are expected to actively engage in the discussion of the issues of Taiwan’s Strait due to the controversies under the worsening situation.



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