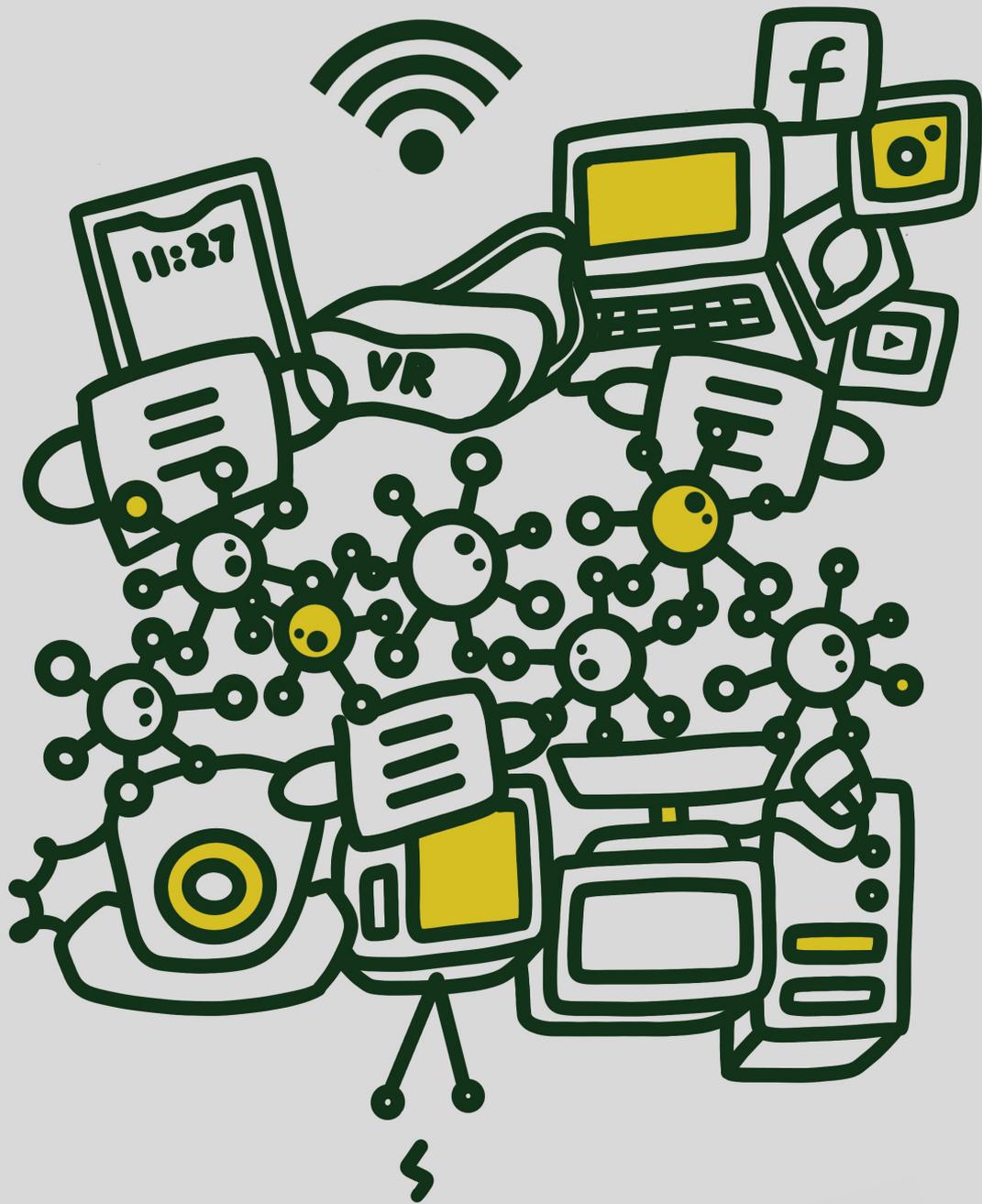


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P A S M U N

# Our Lessons From Covid

Written by: Joey Lin Photographs by: Ingrid Li Layout by: Ethan Chin

Many people are now confused, some even distressed or scared. It feels as if the world has turned upside down. Old mindsets and operating models no longer work, the world has become unpredictable and people's own futures may be unknown. The financial crisis, terrorism, civil wars, global migration, growth in inequality and mental health issues, governments stumbling from one crisis to another, populists and despots rising to power, extreme natural phenomena—and now a pandemic that has affected all of humankind. What on earth is going on in the world? How could the events be better understood and what could be learned from this coronavirus crisis for the future?

The coronavirus crisis has shown how a global crisis also requires individuals to be able to adapt to changing circumstances and to tolerate and come to terms with increased uncertainty. The multidisciplinary science panel has paid attention to it, particularly with regard to children and young people. From the point of view of individuals, it is particularly a question of the new challenges to people's mental capacity and tolerance imposed by the post-normal times and the metacrisis. According to the Harvard scholars Robert Kegan and Lisa Lahey, the gap between the complexity of the modern world and people's mental capacity has grown in recent decades. This makes it significantly more difficult to narrow the complexity gap, as increasing the diversity of one's own mindset and adopting a view of the world that understands and accepts different points of view can require mental growth from people. This kind of "vertical growth" and development of the view of the world is a major challenge to the educational system of the future and to lifelong learning, which has mainly been talked about from the point of view of acquiring new skills for working life.

The mental growth of the individual and a more diverse view of the world could have a crucial impact on solving the wicked problems of society. Solving these problems requires diverse perception of the root causes of the problems and their impacts on society, understanding and accepting the points of view and values of different stakeholders and good cooperation skills with different people and groups.



Crises and surprises will also challenge the social structures and operating models developed for a simpler and more stable world in the future. There could be new, perhaps even worse viruses emerging in the future. In the modern world, crises do not stop at national borders. How can the global spread of diseases or crises be prevented without resorting to isolation by closing down borders and restricting movement? The coronavirus pandemic is an example of a global crisis that concerns all of the world's population and therefore requires international cooperation and trust in international institutions. The coronavirus crisis has highlighted the need for new kinds of trust mechanisms and advance warning and countermeasure systems, such as those systems built after the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami. Could the coronavirus pandemic act as a catalyst for change so that the lessons learned could be used for strengthening long-term crisis tolerance, including international multilateral co-operation?



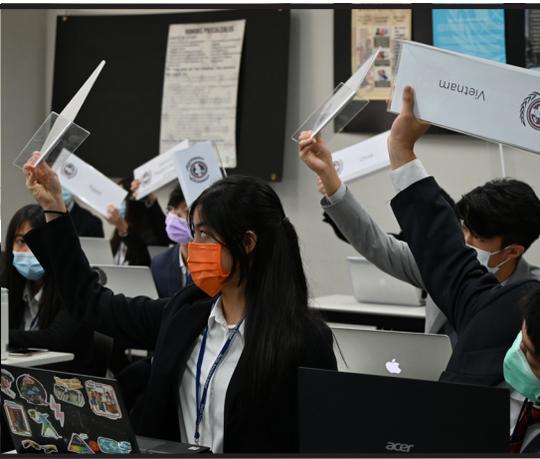
In future, we will also need to be able to prepare for things that we know nothing about yet, something highlighted by an OECD report recommending a systemic approach to social policy. The Finnish WISE research project points out that the pandemic is a public health crisis for which it has been possible to prepare for more systematically than for the socio-ecological fractures that will become more common in the long term, such as climate change or decreasing biodiversity. As a result of the pandemic, the significance and appreciation of expert and foresight information can become more important, as can the need for future-oriented thinking and systemic approaches. Resilience is not strengthened by relying on the past, but by building a more sustainable future that takes into account major developments and their associated challenges, as well as weak signals and wild cards.



In conclusion, we can state that succeeding in new kinds of operating environments requires a diversification of mindsets, mental growth, understanding of diverse insights and values and new kinds of cooperation skills and trust across sectoral, stakeholder and national boundaries. Businesses, NGOs and public administration need to take new measures to improve the capacities of individuals and organisations and develop experimentation and learning processes. The aim should be a new, more sustainable equilibrium between the efficiency and adaptability of society. From the point of view of overall resilience, it is important that, as uncertainty increases, people's trust in basic security and the future also remain.

# Gallery

Layout by: Anneena Lin





Photographs by: Judy Chao, Nina Liu

## Human Rights Council (HRC)

HRC is hosted by two virtual chairs and with only one chair in the room physically. Still, all the delegates were relatively active. The main submitter was Erika Chu (Delegate of Germany, HRC) and the delegates were actively asking POIs, sending amendments, raising placards, and having a great debate in general. They had been constantly discussing the topics of enforcing the UDHR as applied to refugees and immigrants.



# Committee Reports

Written by: Christine Chiu, Iris Chen  
Layout by: Zoe Liu

Edited by: Joey Lin  
Photographs by: Ingrid Li



## Youth Action Committee (YAC)

Panelists had been introducing their clauses in a sophisticated way. While discussing the questions of societal pressures as related to gender roles, Sanhorn Chen (Panelist, YAC) seemed to be exceptionally active in the amendment from David Liu Jr. (Panelist, YAC). However, the majority of the panelists were not very active in speaking up as James Lee (President, YAC) urged them to speak up, despite all the delegates mostly agreeing on all issues. The question of whether YAC, with its “representing myself” nature, is affected by peer pressure warrants its own debate.

## United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

When it came to the issue of “measures to ensure access to, and proper usage of, vaccinations,” Kai Hang Seow (Delegate of India, UNDP) believed that spreading correct information will persuade the people to receive second vaccinations. Though the virtual delegates already reiterated their questions the second time, Seow looked confused with their phrasing. Esther Duann (President, UNDP) demonstrated her role in the committee by solving confusion among delegates in which she nicely explained to the delegates what the virtual delegates were talking about.



## Advisory Panel (APQ)



Today, the experts in APQ are debating the issue of gender inequality. Joyce Lin (Expert of DPRK, APQ) proposed a clause on passing fundamental laws to ensure women’s rights and freedom in areas such as politics and healthcare. She later yielded the floor to Allison Liu (Expert of Saudi Arabia, APQ) who supported the clause by emphasizing the importance of government officials evaluating all proposed legislation. However, Connie Chow (Expert of the United Kingdom, APQ) raised a question concerning whether the phrasing of the clause makes it apply only to certain countries. Steve Chen (Expert of the European Union, APQ) further built on this concern by saying that if no NGOs oversee the process, the clause can easily be twisted by the governments of some countries. The controversy surrounding this clause continued to be debated for a while; it did not pass in the end, however.

## International Court of Justice (ICJ)

After a heated debate for two days, ICJ finally decided their verdict on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Bosnia and Herzegovina v. Serbia and Montenegro). Bosnia and Herzegovina established its jurisdiction in ICJ and proved that Serbia and Montenegro had breached its legal obligations towards Bosnia and Herzegovina. Hence, ICJ ruled that Serbia and Montenegro displayed intent to fund and commit genocide towards ethnic Bosniaks, Bosnia and Herzegovina are not in obligation to pay reparations towards Serbia and Montenegro, and Serbia and Montenegro are to accept this as the final judgment.



# A Case Study for the New Normal: Texas in Dire Straits

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

This year's conference asks delegates to explore the theme "making the new normal better than the old." Essentially, while the pandemic has forced people to adapt to new changes in daily lives, another current issue has raised other questions. Now, people over the world have somehow shifted their focus to the power crisis and other ongoing challenges in Texas.

Generally, the winter storm has inflicted water shortages and power outages in Texas. This incident has altered the local residents' lives significantly by forcing them to accept changes.

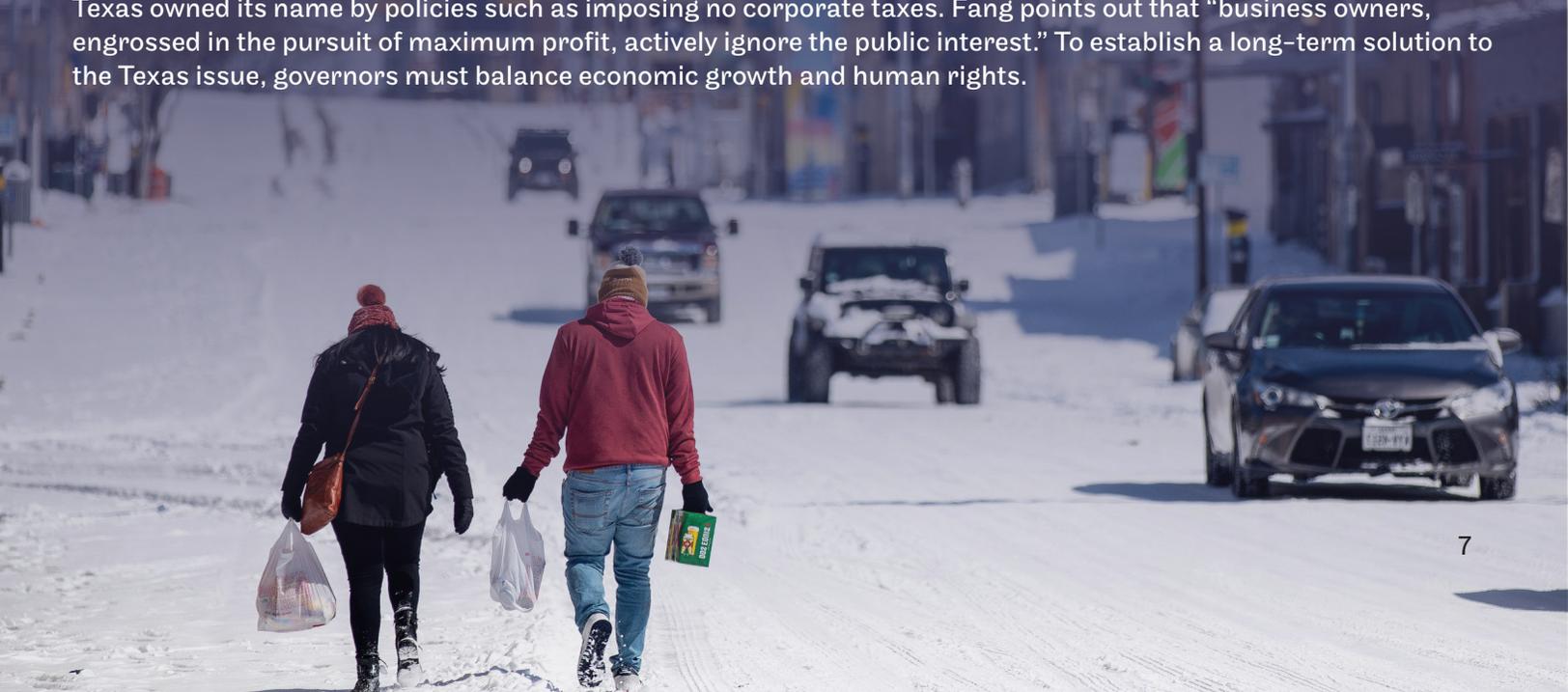
The solution for this problem is needed to "make the new normal better than the old." Meanwhile, a question is raised in regard to searching for the right solution: why Texas wasn't ready for the extreme cold?

On February 15, several power plants tripped offline in rapid succession. An unusual Arctic blast spread across Texas from the tip of the Panhandle all the way to the Rio Grande Valley. Many Texans have died because of the winter storm. Texas largely relies on natural gas for power. Natural gas infrastructure was unprepared for the plunging temperatures brought by the winter storm.

This February, the low temperatures Texas faces are exceptionally extreme because those are never seen in the past. The snow and ice made roads impassable, the state's electric grid operator lost control of the power supply, leaving millions of people without access to electricity.

Then, power comes back for most in Texas, but other problems pile up. Some power plants were restarted overnight, allowing electricity to more homes to be restored. Still, Texas' problems weren't over.

Relating to this year's theme, Sunny Fang (Chair, GA3) believes that aside from the immediate need of ensuring warmth for Texans, the primary concern would be to seek alternatives to create a more sustainable power source. Moreover, Fang suggests that this power outage projects a concern in the long run and poses questions of capitalism's feasibility, especially regarding providing essential goods and services. Add to this, Fang claims that this issue is a classic example of how economic prosperity contests population well-being. Dubbed "business utopia," Texas owned its name by policies such as imposing no corporate taxes. Fang points out that "business owners, engrossed in the pursuit of maximum profit, actively ignore the public interest." To establish a long-term solution to the Texas issue, governors must balance economic growth and human rights.



# BATTERY

Photographs by:  
Ingrid Li, Nina Liu  
Layout by:  
Jessie Liao



## CHAIRS

IN COMMAND



## DIR-ECTORS

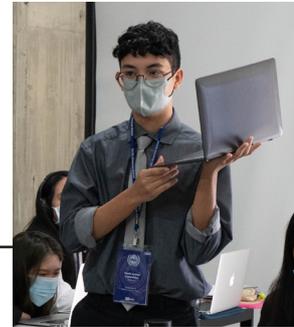
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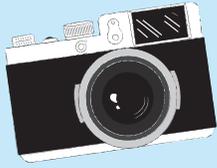
# DELEGATES

# IN DEBATE



# ADMINS IN ACTION





# Editor's Note

Written by: Joey Lin    Layout by: Zoe Liu    Photographs by: Nina Liu

Gunshots flying in the streets, disappearing in the flesh of the innocent. People hidden in the darkness of the alleyway, dressed in rags, and watching the long file of vaccine-takers outside. Modern slaves shackled not by bars but by threats, dying to see society one day. At the start of a new decade, PASMUN and PASMUN Tribune have decided to focus on what we deem to be a unifying factor for all the scenarios above: a fear of change. For generations, the rate of change has remained constant. Those who wrote books on papyrus still did so in old age. But in the last century, the momentum for innovation began accelerating beyond recognition. Those born in an age without television are now facing a digital future of instantaneous-ness and boundless connectivity. Everything feels foreign, uncontrollable, and therefore threatening. The world is complicated, and change complicates it even more. And so, a modern wave of endangerment to human rights and dignity has been ignited by those petrified by social, technological, and political reform. Immigrants are shunned by countries on a global scale, totalitarian regimes are gaining support, and those who attempt change are threatened with their lives.



Covid hit different (as the kids say). The coronavirus pandemic has covered the world (literally), and covered the world with a new shadow. Everything is distant right now, everything is on this newfangled medium called the Internet. With the global wires untangled and the youth leading the primary medium of communication, this is the best time for change.

In Issue 1, we explored the roots of PASMUN and the solutions that individuals like PASMUN delegates and staff have come up with to cope with the pandemic and make the new normal better than the old. And in Issue 2, we dived into the specifics and sought to uncover what issues around the world have been holding us back and have been resolved due to the pandemic.

As much as optimism is appreciated, the events happening around us are giving away to growing isolationism and disconnect. Still, as members of the press, and as citizens of our society, we are obligated to do as our covers ask: improve the world as much as we can after the virus's assault, and make the new world come out on top.

Thank you for coming to PASMUN 2021, and we hope that Tribune can live up to its name and campaign people's rights, to speak, to act, to change.

Sincerely,  
Joey Lin (EIC, PASMUN Tribune)



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