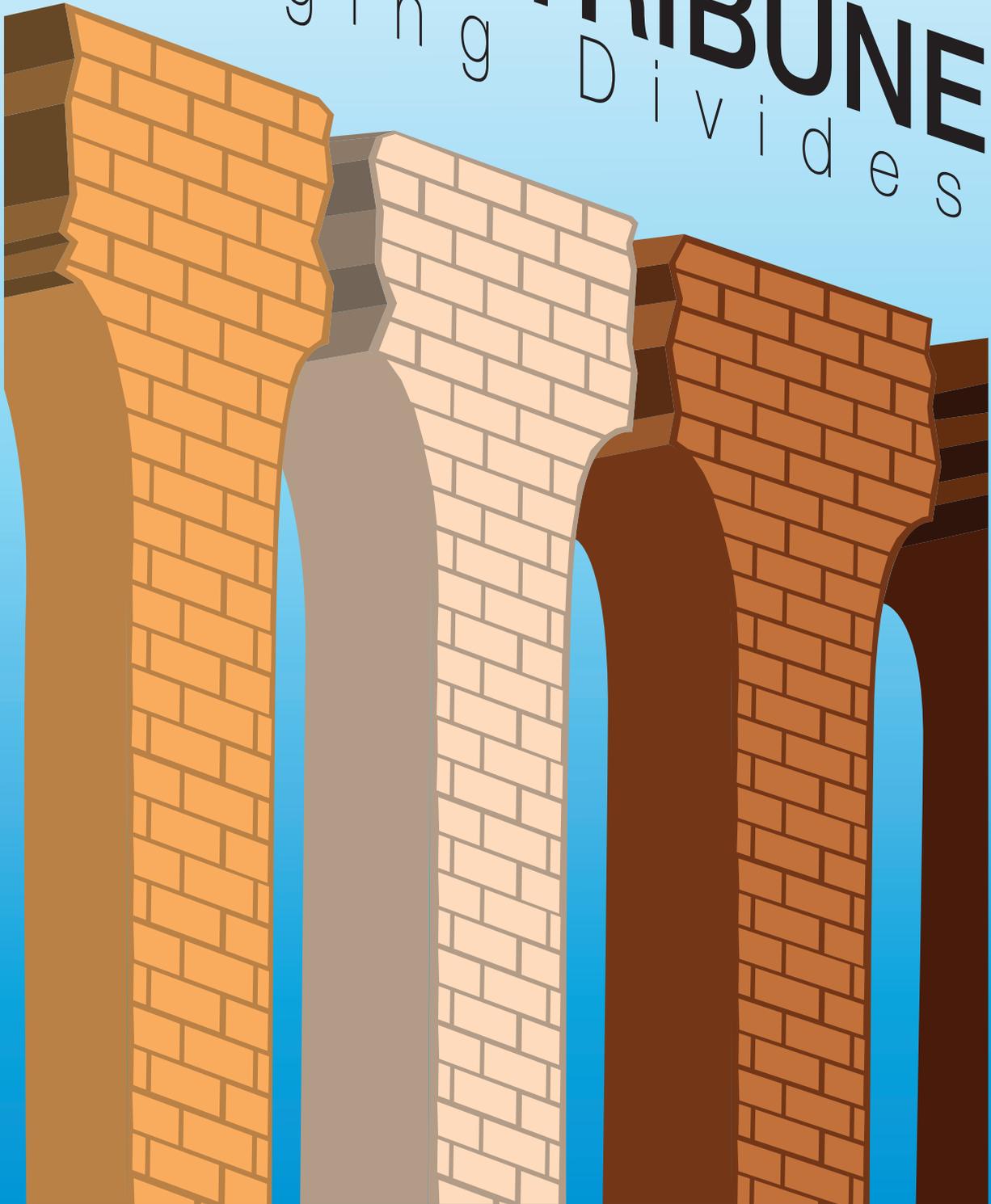


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Issue 1

PASMUN TRIBUNE

Bridging Divides



A Small Opening Ceremony

with a Big Cause

Written by: Joey Lin
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27 out of 190. That was the participation rate of the opening ceremony. Reservations over the Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) confined the admins, delegates and head chairs to their committee rooms, watching the ceremony through a live stream. In addition, Christina Chang (Deputy Secretary General), Mr. Jeff Buscher (Pacific American School MUN Director) and the opening video by Jerry Lin (Videographer, PASMUN Tribune) emphasized the emergence of divisions, with examples ranging from COVID-19 rousing discrimination against Chinese in the U.S.A. to resumed protests in Hong Kong.

Though these divisions are disrupting harmony and severing relations around the world and even in PASMUN, as participants were separated by masks walls, the ceremony conveyed a wall-to-wall cause — one of unity

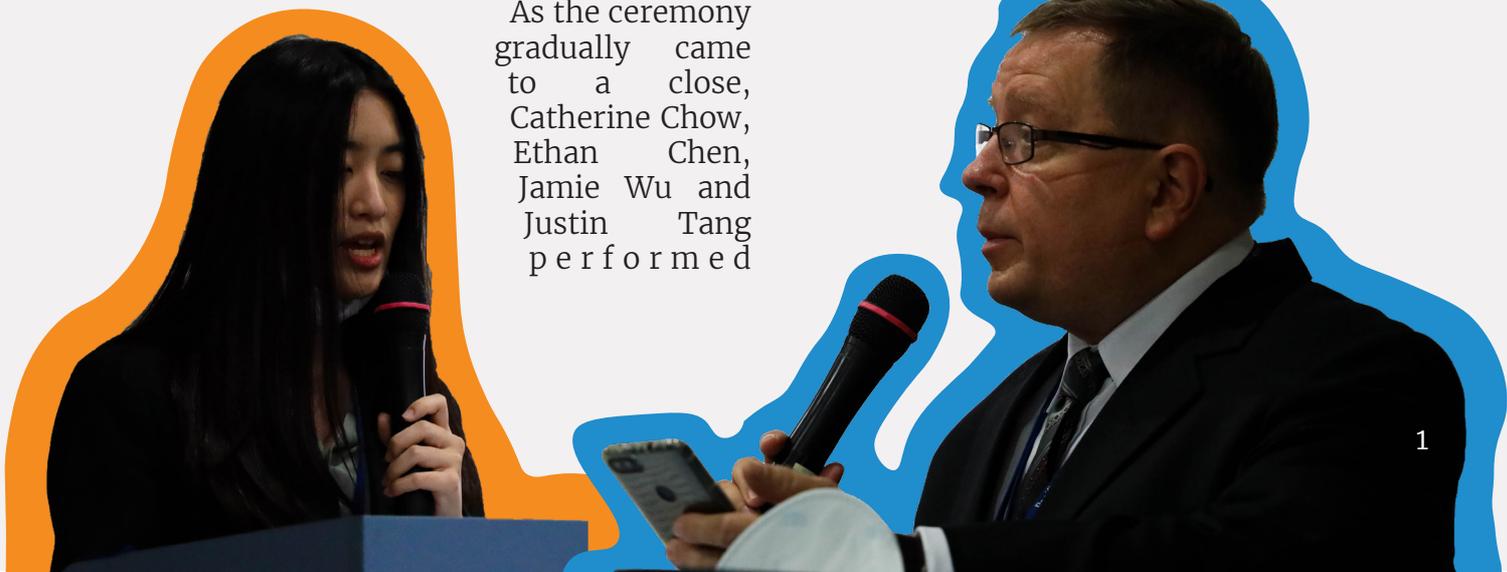
Mr. Buscher pointed out that COVID-19, despite its deadly qualities, actually bridges divides by presenting a common fear, which allows the two sides of the divide to empathize with each other, communicate and reach a solution. Chi-Wei Tai (Delegate of China, Security Council) particularly resonated with Mr. Buscher's speech, saying it was "constructive and inspirational, especially in such times of crisis."

As the ceremony gradually came to a close, Catherine Chow, Ethan Chen, Jamie Wu and Justin Tang performed

a string quartet rendition of "Viva la Vida." As one of the performers, Chen felt strongly about the song: he explained that, while completely unintended, the song title means "life goes on", which reinforces Mr. Buscher's message.

The success of the ceremony did not come without challenges. Numerous delegates, chairs and admins voiced complaints about the perceivable delay, sound quality and even the occasions in which the screen shut down. Sean Hung (Executive Administrative Officer) echoed those concerns, saying that delay was one of the biggest problems they encountered during the broadcasting, and members of the Secretariat had to frequent each committee to tackle it. Nonetheless, efforts of the Secretariat and admins ensured that the opening ceremony continued.

Just like Mr. Buscher had envisioned in his speech, the opening ceremony was characterized by problem-solving and harmony: the admins worked painstakingly to ensure the success of the broadcasting; everyone wore masks and followed the anti-virus protocols closely. Hopefully, all participants will go on to continue bridging divides and resolving difficulties, be it in the form of MUN issues or problems encountered during the conference.



PASMUN

in a Time of

COVID-19



Written by: Ping Tsai
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Despite the outbreak of the coronavirus (COVID-19), PASMUN 2020 has proceeded as usual due to the fact that the Secretariat and the Administrative Team have spared no effort in the past few months in realizing the conference.

To assuage fears of a potential outbreak at PASMUN, the Secretariat and the Administrative Team, with the assistance of Pacific American School's MUN Director Mr. Jeff Buscher, worked in tandem to devise a list of safety protocols. From requiring masks to be worn at all times to measuring all attendants' temperature upon entry, the

protocols encompassed all fundamental measures vital to minimizing the chances of an outbreak. Cassie Yang (Deputy Chair, Human Rights Council) strongly agreed with the need to enforce those preventative measures, describing them as "necessary and fundamental things you need to do."

Besides the protocols, Secretary General Evan Chiang took note of changes in the conference procedures: "some last-minute changes as a result of the coronavirus included broadcasting the opening ceremony [and serving lunch] in the committee rooms." The social night, an addition to the PASMUN conference last year, has also been canceled. Chiang conveyed that the cancellation disappointed the Secretariat team, since "we had the venue and facility planned." However, at the same time, he believes that "compressing our work to managing only the hallway" permitted the leadership team to better oversee the entire conference.

Even though safety protocols have been set in place, several schools still withdrew from PASMUN in recognition of

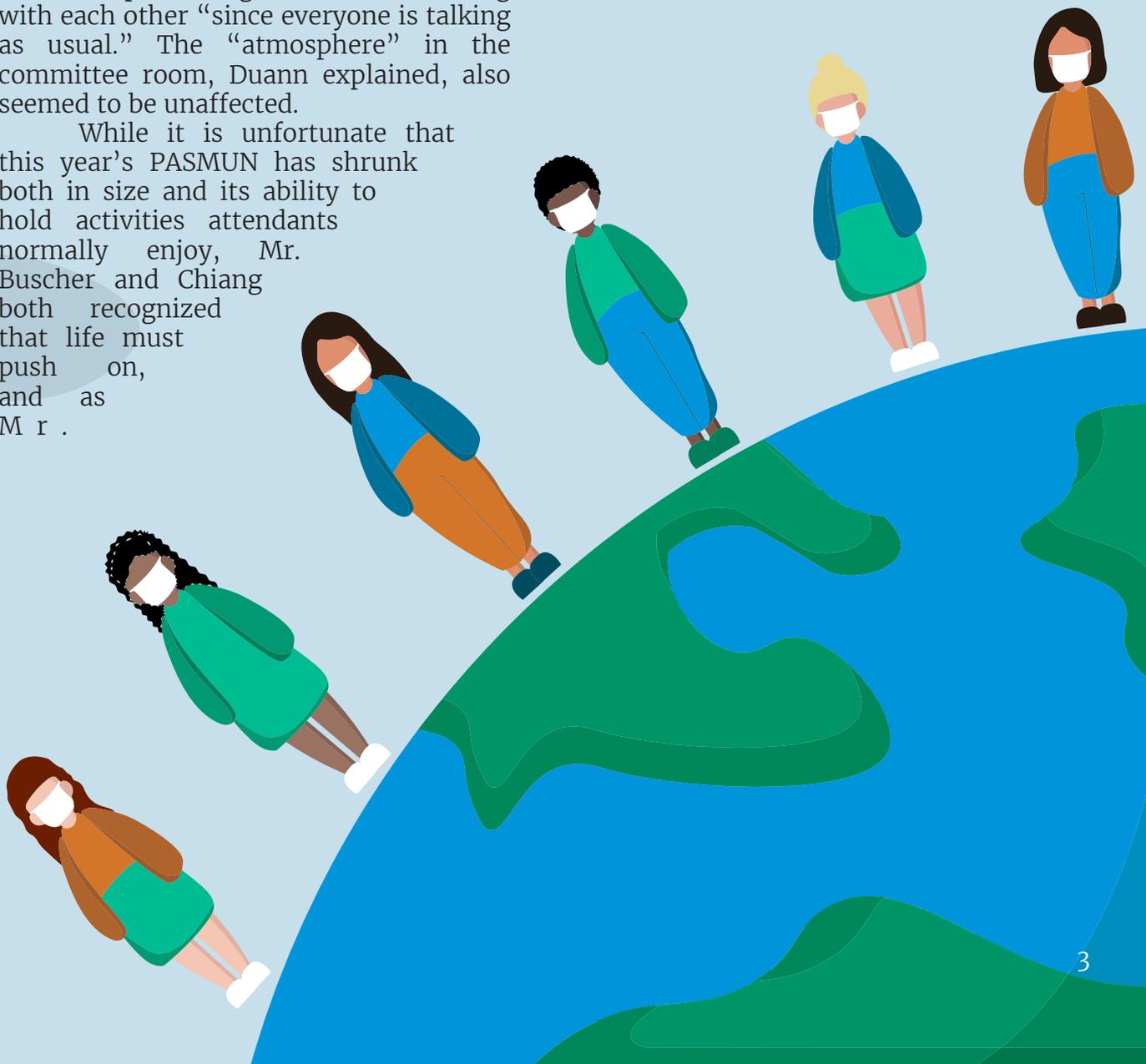


the virus' high transmission rate. Yet, on the other side, a substantial number of participants still chose to attend. When asked about how their families and peers reacted to their decision, Ang Kee Jiunn (Delegate of UK, General Assembly 1) expressed that because PASMUN 2020 was his first conference, his parents "strongly encouraged" him to attend regardless.

In addition, chairs of different committees have also indicated that lobbying went smoothly. Claire Chung (Deputy Chair, General Assembly 4) communicated that "lobbying isn't really affected much because everyone is wearing a mask." Instead of worrying about contracting the disease, Chung added, the MUN first-timers in her committee were more focused on composing well-rounded resolutions with other delegates. In the same vein, Esther Duann (Deputy Chair, GA1) believes that the coronavirus did not impede delegates from interacting with each other "since everyone is talking as usual." The "atmosphere" in the committee room, Duann explained, also seemed to be unaffected.

While it is unfortunate that this year's PASMUN has shrunk both in size and its ability to hold activities attendants normally enjoy, Mr. Buscher and Chiang both recognized that life must push on, and as Mr.

Buscher put it, participants must "recognize the shared humanity that such a common fear reflects, and work together to get through it." As evidenced by the fact that P A S M U N has been operating in full swing, it appears that delegates took the message to heart. Perhaps to successfully bridge social and economic divides, attendants must seek to ameliorate the divide caused by the viral outbreak.



The SDGs: Significant, Decisive, Grand

Written by: Karri Lin
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The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are known as a series of objectives that would lead to the achievement of world peace and prosperity by 2030.

This year, the Secretariat related committee agendas to certain SDGs. For instance, the Human Rights Council (HRC) issue “Amending the UDHR to make protection against the effects of climate change a protected human right” was inspired by SDG 13, which prompts member states of the United Nations to address climate change in a meaningful manner.

The importance of debating SDG-related issues cannot be overlooked. Albert Chen (Delegate of Rwanda, HRC), stressed the significance of the SDGs and stated that all delegates tried to expand on the SDGs in his committee. Furthermore, Jonathan Sun (Chair, Youth Action Committee) indicated that the SDGs have provided tools for overcoming human divides, which is consistent with this year’s theme. Sun stated: “I think by debating closely to the SDGs, we will actually find ourselves solutions to the problems right now.”

Similarly, Mr. Buscher (Pacific American School MUN

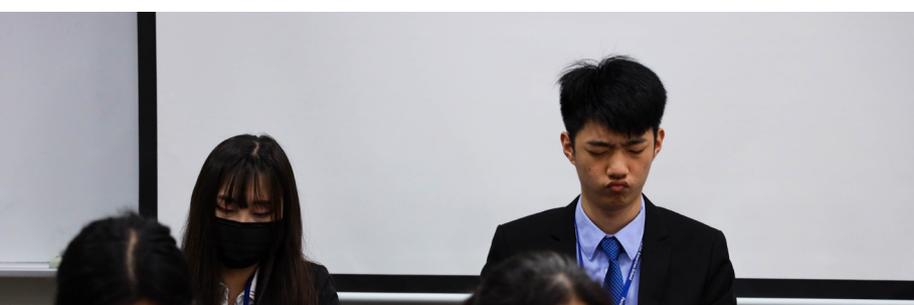


Director) agreed on the significance of the SDGs, saying that “Most people in the world don’t live in dictatorships, nor are they in countries where there are wars. What most people do face are challenges of sustainability, of development, of environmental protection, and climate change, which are all part of SDGs.” Mr. Buscher also believes that by debating SDG-related issues, students get more motivated to reach out to the human race and actually improve everybody’s lives, rather than just preventing wars.

Additionally, Mr. Buscher hopes that delegates can apply the values that they’ve learned from SDGs into their own lives. With SDGs, he wishes that participants can “look at their neighborhood and think how I can make it better and more sustainable — more in line with the SDGs.” Moreover, since students in PAS mostly come from middle-class families, Mr. Buscher thinks it is especially crucial for them to understand and sympathize with people who come from a less ideal socioeconomic background.

Taking into account the opinions of the delegates and Mr. Buscher, one could say that the SDGs stand for more than the Sustainable Development Goals; they could also stand for issues that are significant, decisive and grand.





Iran
v.s.
U.S.A.

Who Will Win?

Written by: Iris Chen
Edited by: Ping Tsai
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At PASMUN 2020, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) tackled the contentious, alleged violations of the 1955 Treaty of Amity, Economic Relations, and Consular Rights.

The main conflict of the debate this year was essentially about the nuclear deal between Iran and the U.S.A.. From Iran's viewpoint, the U.S.A. simply attempted to withdraw from the Joint Comprehensive Plan Of Action (JCPOA) and arbitrarily

re-imposed sanctions on Iran, violating international law — the 1995 Treaty of Amity, Economic Relations, and Consular Rights in the process. The USA argued that they had officially withdrawn from the JCPOA and that the resolution was not binding.

When compared to other committees, ICJ debates are considered more hostile because it is simply about right or wrong: there are no grey areas, only black and white. This requires the delegates and judges to be strict in regard to the claims they make and the evidence they provide.

Despite the challenging nature of ICJ debates, Victoria



Lee (Advocate of the USA, ICJ) believes it was “great in participating in the debate because everyone is nice.” In addition, she thinks cross-examinations and testimonies were the most interesting part of the debate. Similarly, Lillian Shern (Advocate of the Islamic Republic of Iran, ICJ) believes that one of the most exciting parts lay in cross-examinations and giving delegates the freedom to voice their opinions to the judges and argue more.

When the witness examination ended, advocates from both sides then proceeded to the next step, which was the start of the debate.

The commencement of debate raises the question: will the Islamic Republic of Iran or the United States of America emerge victorious? Only the verdict tomorrow will tell.

PASMUN's Future Hopes

Written by: Iris Chen
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Photograph by: Judy Chao



Treating MUN as an activity for not only high-schoolers, but also middle-schoolers, and having high expectations of middle-schoolers, the Secretariat reserved General Assembly 4 (GA4) and the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) for middle-school delegates. Like most newcomers, delegates in GA4 and ECOSOC received only a small amount of training. However, there was a small number of people, among Pacific American School (PAS) delegates, who had attended PAS's after school club and were more experienced than the others.

Several delegates expressed their support for the change. In hopes that MUN can accommodate delegates more in terms of age, Aurora Huang (Delegate of China, GA4) and Seow Kai Hang (Delegate of Japan, GA4) are both convinced that allocating exclusively middle-school delegates to certain committees would help alleviate said delegates' pressure. Moreover, they believe that the problem of differences between skill levels will also be eliminated.

Adding on to Huang's and Hang's comments, the Secretariat hoped to minimize the difference in knowledge and experience between middle-schoolers and high-schoolers, so that PASMUN's future hopes, the current middle-schoolers, would

not feel discouraged. Moreover, the Secretariat considered separating middle-school and high-school students as a better way for middle-schoolers to voice their opinions.

The middle-school delegates in GA4 did not disappoint the Secretariat's hopes. While the delegates did struggle with the technicalities of debate at first, they still showed their eagerness for involvement. For example, in GA4, even though some of the middle-schoolers did speak up in the first person's view, they still tried to correct themselves immediately and continued arguing for their stances enthusiastically.

On the other hand, in ECOSOC, the middle-schoolers were more hesitant to speak up on the issue, and the chairs needed to draw attention to clauses so that the delegates can be more involved with the topic at times. However, later in the day, most delegates tried to engage with the issues more by discussing and researching more.

Overall, the middle-schoolers look forward to the MUN experience in high school; their experience at PASMUN has made them eager to participate in MUN more and further engage with international topics.



From the Lobby to Lobbying

Written by: Karri Lin
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Layout by: Jessie Liao
Photographs by: James Wu

Right after the opening ceremony, the delegates proceeded into lobbying, a critical process that takes place before the actual debate. As lobbying continued, reporters of the PASMUN Tribune interviewed the Chair and the Delegate of Iraq in the Human Rights Committee (HRC).

The main issue discussed in the HRC was about making protection against the effects of climate change a human right, seeing as climate change is not only causing destruction of the environment, but also resulting in refugee crises. Facing this problem, delegates discussed the ways in which countries could help in protecting refugees and preventing further climate change.

Cassie Yang (Deputy Chair, HRC) believes that today's lobbying went fairly well. Although a number of delegates were meeting each other for the first time, everyone was cooperative and worked well with each other; there was not much clashing among the delegates. In particular, she praised Cheng-Yuan Li (Delegate of UK, HRC) and Albert Chou (Delegate of Rwanda, HRC) for being active members and taking on a leadership role in their respective blocs.



Kiki Tseng (Delegate of Iraq, HRC) also agreed that the lobbying generally proceeded peacefully, as everyone was friendly with each other. She said that every bloc was diligent, be it when conducting research, typing out resolutions or merging all resolutions. Nonetheless, she felt that lobbying was rather pressing, as there was very limited time in which delegates could type their resolutions.

Seeing as everyone participated well in today's lobbying session, Yang was extremely satisfied with the delegates. Instead of hoping for more active participation among delegates, she reflected on herself, realizing the ways in which she herself could improve — such as helping delegates understand the issues more and regulating and facilitating lobbying. Altogether, however, lobbying went smoothly, and everyone was able to work cooperatively and efficiently.



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