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# THE FUTURE OF PASMUN

BY: MICHAEL CHEN

As we come to a close in PASMUN VIII, it's not only the time for reflection on the experiences shared in the past two days but also the hour to deliberate about the future prospects of this conference. Hosted by Pacific American School, PASMUN has certainly inherited and expressed some of the school's traits, those of innovation and boldness. Additionally, given that PASMUN has only opened itself to outside schools for a few years, the conference is likely to continue to evolve as the mantle of Secretariat is passed on to the next team.

A nice starting point would be discussing the expectations and anticipations for future conferences from the delegates' points of view. While PASMUN has always been known for its close-knit and intimate environment, some delegates express interest in seeing a larger community with increased diversity in committee and nationality. "I would like to see more people join PASMUN conferences," says Nicole Wu (Delegate of Qatar, PAS). "I think PASMUN should invite more international students from other parts of Asia," Jenny Lee added (Delegate of Ukraine, IBSH). One delegate jokingly confessed to his sweet tooth when asked for his constructive input. "Snack time!!" exclaimed Il Kyung Baek (Delegate of the Russian Federation, IBSH). Howard Yin (Secretary General, PAS) indicated his hopes for the incorporation of guest speakers, "By inviting outside speakers to deliver speeches in the opening and closing ceremony, we can introduce new perspectives and ideas to our participants." While the aforementioned suggestions are valuable in future preparations of the conferences, it should be noted that Pacific American School's current campus poses some physical constraints. For that reason, it is all the more exciting to the PASMUN community that the new campus is designed with more functionality and convenience in mind.

In an exclusive interview with Ms. Pamela Chu, the Head of School of PAS, she described in detail the philosophy behind the architecture and elaborated on the implications pertaining to future PASMUNs. "The two dominant features of our new facilities", she explained, "are eco-friendliness and open spaces." With certified green buildings, the campus will set an exemplar of firm conviction for environmental protection, especially since environmental issues are common in PASMUN, with the Economic and Social Council debating on topics direct-

ly linked to climate change. Secondly, the open space design opens up a myriad of opportunities for effective utilization and integration of classrooms. "Our spaces are not bound by walls; instead, sliding walls will be generously installed across the school. This arrangement allows for the flexible expansion and compression of the classrooms, fitting the need of both large GA committees as well as the smaller Security Council," Ms. Chu continued. "With larger buildings, the new campus will have the capacity to hold essentially as many committees as we wish," in turn enabling a smooth transition to a larger, more diversified PASMUN. "Our auditorium alone will be able to hold up to 500 people", she enthusiastically noted. Another interesting feature that the new school will have are the floating boxes, which, in essence, are square-shaped extensions outside of higher levels that produces the atmosphere of relaxation and contemplation. "Lucky for the directors, because those rooms will likely be their lounge." As the new facilities will naturally attract more students and schools to participate, "accommodation will [also] be provided to those who travel from farther places," Ms. Chu commented. Thus, it will be more convenient for schools from abroad to travel and stay for the duration of the conference.

And of course, PASMUN will continue to be more firmly digitized. With the inclusion of electronic resolutions and conference issues published online, PASMUN is already a trailblazer for the digitization of MUN conferences. "My goal is to make PASMUN the first ever completely automated, electronic conference," Ms. Chu stated. With highly practical facilities and improved technology at the new campus, many of the technical problems faced this year are expected to be eliminated. Additionally, without the need to rent rooms from Kuang-Fu High School, perhaps the cost can be effectively cut. This could mean cheaper and more affordable fees for participants, which might further encourage more people to join the PASMUN community.

Looking toward PASMUN IX, there is much to look forward to. With the completion of the new PAS campus, the next conference can be the most anticipated yet. As the future PASMUN Secretariat staff gains more experience and continues to challenge traditions, we can only wait to see what exciting innovations the next PASMUN will bring to us.



PHOTO BY FRANK HUNG





Image source: WSU

# A DIGITAL CONFERENCE

Michael Chen



Photos by Frank Hung

As traditional letters are replaced by emails and flip-phones are substituted by smartphones, PASMUN VIII is also shifting from a traditional, paper-reliant conference to a highly digitalized conference. Instead of printing resolutions, delegates can now share these documents via Google Drive. Instead of writing amendments on note papers, delegates can now type and send them to the chairs. Instead of reading PASMUN Tribune in print, delegates can now peruse them online. Despite these technical changes, the usage of notepaper as a means to communicate with other delegates and chairs has remained consistent and traditional. Although perhaps, even this might be changed in a matter of time, where a click of a button will instantly send messages to other delegates under the supervision of the chairs.

In previous PASMUN conferences, stacks of papers are used, discarded, and trashed by the end of the two day conference. This shift from being highly dependent on paper for resolutions and amendments to digitization will have several implications for conferences in the future. First, the amount of paper used will be significantly reduced. There will be no need to print resolutions in bulk. This reduction will take a step towards preserving the ecosystem, seeing that fewer trees would be cut down. In addition, where resolutions were once printed and distributed to other delegates during lobbying, marked and modified, and then reprinted, several clicks upon a keyboard will speed up the process of lobbying and editing. Furthermore, amendments are submitted online and can be easily accessed by chairs. The benefits derived from this shift are greatly acknowledged by delegates on the third floor, those from the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). Although some chairs were concerned that delegates might be on Facebook, Instagram, or other social media websites given the liberty to use their laptops, most of them stayed on task. Carly Wen, the Executive Administrative Officer, remarked, "The majority of the delegates are on task. I only saw one person on Facebook and he closed the tab when I approached him".



Although this shift from a traditional paper-reliant conference to a digitized conference has its benefits and implications, it certainly has its shortcomings. The whole conference is based on the Google Drive service and the aforementioned changes are all dependent on the Internet. If either of the two malfunctions, nothing can be accessed and delegates will have to revert back to the traditional method of debating with printed resolutions. Oftentimes, it is not ideal to have everything relying on one thing (in this case, the internet). These shortcomings became an evident problem on the second floor, which includes delegates from General Assembly 1 (GA1), General Assembly 4 (GA4), and the Human Rights Council (HRC). For the first day of conference, delegates on the second floor had trouble accessing the Internet. Although they were able to connect to the Internet, no data came through. There were two theories as to why that was the case. First, some delegates hypothesized that if they become inactive on the Internet for over four minutes, they would get booted off the Internet. In order to stay connected, delegates had to keep using the Internet, which could be a hassle during both the lobbying process and debate itself. The second hypothesis proposed by other delegates was that the router could only withstand the presence of twenty users. However, over seventy delegates were present. Despite these shortcomings, some delegates still view PASMUN VIII as a highly digitalized conference. Kylie Bazarnik (Delegate of Central African Republic, IBSH) from HRC, commented that it is a very "progressive" system, since technology will be the major driving force of improvement.

This unexpected turn of events did not affect the debate significantly. Some of the delegates had hotspots and were using them during the lobbying process, allowing them to share their resolutions with other delegates. In addition, the admins were responsive and were able to resolve any immediate situations. Not only did they help pass out notepaper, they also printed out resolutions for the delegates. The conference simply reverted back to the traditional form of MUN, one highly dependent on paper. As a result, debate was not severely impacted.

In the future, PASMUN strives to become an "All-Tech" conference. As Pamela Chu, the head of school of PAS, says, "[I want] PASMUN to shift toward a more tech-based MUN where even note-paper would be in electronic forms." Although the conference did not become as successfully eco-friendly as expected, it is one step closer to becoming a more digital conference.

# HEART OF THE CONFERENCE: DEBATE

BY MAY LEE PHOTOS BY CATHERINE LU



The atmosphere in Security Council started off as peaceful, but it was only the calm before the storm. Known as one of the fiercest committees in MUN conferences, PASMUN VIII's SC was no exception. Intense debate was ongoing, and delegates were more than eager to be recognized by the presidents. Jessie Wu (President of SC, PAS) affirmed that "the debate has been going very well and has never fell at any time." Many delegates agreed that the intensity of the debate was high. "The level of intensity is definitely a new experience for me [as it is my first time in SC]. The political complexity of the issues' nature and in turn the thinking one has to engage in before speaking is a whole new level," said Rena Ju (Delegate of Yemen, PAS), a major country involved in the issue at hand. Lucy Baek, (Delegate of Russian Federation, IBSH) agreed with her, saying "[it is one of my] first debates when debate was always going on, without any silence." The SC delegates' enthusiasm truly proved that they are one of the most diligent committees in this year's PASMUN.

## SECURITY COUNCIL

This morning, ECOSOC was debating upon the issue of "Building vulnerable people's long-term economic resilience to the effects of climate change." The main submitter, May Sugano (Delegate of Norway, PAS), submitted a resolution to tackle the concerns: "Our resolution focuses on collaboration between member states, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Intergovernmental Organizations (IGOs) to improve health-care systems. [It also covers] risk assessments and risk managements to ameliorate the situation of those in plight." Jonathan Sun (Delegate of France, PAS) said with a positive note, "delegates are adding more and more constructive amendments [to complement the weaknesses of the resolution]." Claire Chang (Deputy president of ECOSOC, KAS) noted that "the debate has been going well with a lot of practical amendments." The debate continued fervently throughout the day with the delegates' undiminishing passion and high spirit.

## ECOSOC

The Human Rights Council began their session with a heated debate on the issue of "Ensuring legal and practical protections to the right to privacy." Joseph Huang (Delegate of Israel, PAS), the main submitter of the resolution, said "our main argument of the resolution is that mass surveillance should be allowed, [which means that] governments would monitor citizens for the purpose of protecting [all citizens' right to privacy]. It is kind of a stance between two extremes of security and privacy." As Huang mentioned, the controversial topic generated passionate discussions. Catherine Hung (Delegate of Mali, PAS) made an against speech to an amendment to clarify a few clauses of the resolution, stating that, "this clause is not going against the police forces, [its focus] is to assist them to [bolster efficiency] in the process of accessing information." Despite the active debate, Audrey Hsu (President of HRC, IBST) thought the debate was progressing slowly: "The debate at the moment is a bit slow, but I think the delegates are trying to get a deeper understanding of the resolution." With the chairs' professional guidance, HRC continued the debate vigorously.

## HRC

## GENERAL ASSEMBLY 1

On the second day, General Assembly 1 moved onto the second topic, "Proposing internationally recognized guidelines regarding cyber warfare." Alice Hu (President of GA 1, PAS) stated in a pleased tone "the quality of debate is pretty good! Even though it started off a bit dull - possibly because people are still tired and not in the 'debate mode,' [the delegates are contributing more and more]!" Max Chen (Delegate of Syria, PAS) agreed with his chair, "the debate was not as active and it was one sided," but he hopes that the debate would be more dynamic as time went on. Jessica Wu (Deputy President of GA1, PAS) stated "some delegates were remarkably well prepared for the conference, [and most of the delegates showed high participation]." Stephanie Chang (Delegate of India, PAS) thought that the "[extremely well prepared delegates] always spoke so confidently that it was sometimes hard to admit that they had a wrong point. But it is interesting to see them argue back and forth!" The overall debate was constructive and the experience seemed to have been valuable for most.



## GENERAL ASSEMBLY 4

General Assembly 4 was full of energy, with many notes being passed amongst the delegates. Justin Wang (Chair of GA 4, PAS) positively remarked, "the delegates are extremely active and have submitted a lot of amendments." McGill Chen (Delegate of Iraq, PAS) said "it is interesting to see that delegates are having a serious discussion due to different information from their own research. [The Delegate of] Egypt said HAMAS are not a terrorist group, but Egypt has actually declared HAMAS as terrorist group in 2015." The committee debated upon the long persisting issue of Palestine. Unfortunately, because the delegate of Palestine could not be present in today's conference, Sean Hu (Deputy Secretary General, PAS) took part in the debate as the delegate of Palestine. One of the delegates, Ray Wen (Delegate of Turkey, PAS) commented "so far, a lot of the new delegates spoke, and with the the DSG present in the debate as one of the major party, the debate has become much more intense."



# WOULD YOU RATHER? BY LINDSEY YU PHOTOS BY SABRINA HO



## Continue with your life or restart it?

“Continue, because it’s already been 15 years.” -- Hunter Liu (Delegate of Spain, Morrison Academy Taichung)  
 “Continue, because I don’t want the previous years to simply go to waste.” -- Rodell Lin (Delegate of Spain, Morrison Academy Taichung)

## Have a foot-long nose or a foot-long tongue?

“Nose, so I will still be able to speak.”--Jenny Shen (Delegate of Luxembourg, SGGS)  
 “Tongue, because I can at least hide the tongue in my mouth so people won’t see.” Hunter Liu (Delegate of Spain, MAC)



## Know when you’re gonna die or how you’re gonna die?

“When I’m gonna die, because that way I can at least finish my bucket list.” Elvis Chang (Admin Staff, PAS)  
 “How I’m gonna die, because I want to know if I will die in peace.” Jenny Shen (Delegate of Luxembourg, SGGS)

## Have hiccups for the rest of your life or always feel like you have to sneeze but unable to?

“Feel like sneezing but not able to because continuous hiccups are too awkward.”-- Lin-Ann Jian (Delegate of Brazil, TCGS)  
 “Feel like sneezing, because hiccups will interrupt my speeches.”--Brian Chiang (Delegate of Malaysia, IBSH)



## Wear a snowsuit in the desert or be naked in Antarctica?



“Naked in Antarctica. A snow suit in the desert is too much heat for me.”--Lin-Ann Jian (Delegate of Brazil, TCGS)  
 “Naked in Antarctica. I like cold weather more.” --Elvis Chang (Admin Staff, PAS)

## Have a dog with a cat’s personality or a cat with a dog’s personality?

“Cat with a dog’s personality. Dogs are more approachable.”--Brian Chiang (Delegate of Malaysia, IBSH)  
 “Dog with a cat’s personality. I like cats’ personality but I like the size of a dog.” -- Rodell Lin (Delegate of Spain, Morrison Academy Taichung)

# MODELING THE UN BY LINDSEY YU

In order to have students truly experience a model United Nations, it is not surprising that PASMUN uses THIMUN, an international forum, as a conference to base off of. As Jessie Wu (President of the Security Council, PAS) explained, “The fact that the UN is about international cooperation, it would be more respectful and considerate to adopt a more well known framework.” So, to what extent does PASMUN resemble THIMUN in terms of procedures that can convey the true meaning of the UN to participants?

First of all, like THIMUN, PASMUN does not have a General Assembly Plenary, which aims to bring forth questions raised in different GA committees and call for more encompassing consensus on certain issues like in the real UN sessions. “The PASMUN several years ago used to plenary, too. But it was eliminated for delegates to focus on their individual committee performances,” stated Howard Yin (Secretary General, PAS).

However, PASMUN differs from THIMUN in terms of lobbying and opening speeches. In the 2016 THIMUN Singapore and the 2017 THIMUN the Hague, lobbying sessions were extended, making up almost 50 percent of the whole conference. This is due to the reason that in the UN, lobbying takes up most of the time as well. It is also important that delegates learn the intricate workings of informal negotiations as well as formal debate skills, which can be done through lobbying. Meanwhile at PASMUN, lobbying sessions in most committees only last for a morning,

one-fourth of the two-day conference. “I believe PASMUN can extend its original two-hour lobbying time to three hours or more for delegates to merge resolutions and practice diplomacy,” commented Eric Young (President of ECOSOC, IBSH).

Furthermore, in order to model THIMUN, or rather, the UN, more, PASMUN can try to curtail the number of opening speeches. The length of opening speeches and resolution during committee time were significantly limited and reduced in THIMUN. Jessica Wu (Deputy President of GA1, PAS) reflected on this: “I think PASMUN can consider eliminating opening speeches especially [since] they are scheduled right after lobbying time.” Indeed, without opening speeches, delegates would have more time to lobby. Along with concise resolutions--which, at the same time, compel delegates to propose short yet feasible solutions-- debates can then focus on additional aspects of the issues.

Even though PASMUN has many goals to work toward and improvements to make, there are more factors to consider. “I think the reason why there are opening speeches is that the time is often used to give the approval panel enough time to edit resolutions, even though many find it inefficient,” stated Alice Hu (President of GA1, PAS). Nevertheless, PASMUN will innovate in a way that effectively conveys to its participants the real purposes of and meanings behind the UNw3.



PHOTOS BY SABRINA HO

# BATTLING DISCRIMINATION IN HRC AND ECOSOC

BY TEENY CHEN



PHOTO FROM FINANCIAL TIMES

According to the United Nations' stance on discrimination, "[discriminatory behaviors] involve some form of exclusion or rejection." These differences in treatment towards people take many forms and can be driven by variances in perspectives regarding other people's gender identity, race, religion, ethnicity, or sexual orientation. Though nations have come up with measures and have worked towards reducing the gap of inequality, discrimination still remains a heated topic of debate today. Luckily in PASMUN VIII, two of the committees—ECOSOC and HRC—consist of issues that attempt to eliminate labor discrimination, protect the rights of minorities, and reduce gender inequality in political representation.

Discrimination on the basis of race, religion, gender identity, and sexual orientation is extremely prominent in workplaces. Laborers may be rejected for employment due to those unchangeable characteristics, harassed at the workplace, or fired without any legitimate reasons. Some countries have implemented basic laws, such as the Age Discrimination in Employment Act and Equal Pay Act in the United States; however, they are not necessarily properly enforced by the government. However, in many developing countries, those laws do not even exist. Julia Chang (Delegate of China, IBSH) believes that "it is crucial that member states revise their job evaluation methods in such a way that allows applicants to accentuate their skills and experience rather than their distinctive characteristics." Moreover, she added that governments play an important role in resolving this issue as they can "regulate reports of as many companies as possible in order to detect the patterns of differences in

wages that can lead to incidents of labor discrimination."

Angela Han (Delegate of Bangladesh, PAS) proposed that raising people's awareness about women in Bangladesh "through social media, newspaper, or articles" could possibly "solve the employment insecurities and give them more job opportunities."

In HRC, delegates were engaged in the debate on "protecting the rights of minorities in places where racial and communal tensions are apparent." Minority groups in many places across the globe are subject to inequality, sometimes under the law and with the help of government. In some countries, the discrimination against minorities has been aggravated to the extent that they face intense violence or have their families torn apart. Fortunately, the globalization of technology and communication has assisted in spreading awareness about discrimination occurring overseas. Major international media has also placed more emphasis on areas with racial and communal tensions. However, "social media itself is not enough to alleviate the problem," said Alan Syau (Deputy President of HRC, PAS). He added, "there are deep-rooted ideas of hatred or violence that need to be tackled in order to actually even begin to alleviate the problem in the long term."

Another issue regarding discrimination that HRC is tackling is on women's representations in politics. There is a significant gender imbalance in political decision-making bodies, considering that there was only 22.8% of female representation in national parliaments as shown in the UN Women Survey in 2016. Equal representation is essential in establishing a democratic government, thus it is crucial for

nations to focus on making women's voices heard in political situations, such as policy formulation and application. In some religiously-dominant countries such as Saudi Arabia, governments already seriously discriminate against women. However, according to Jun-Wei Chen (Delegate of Saudi Arabia, Concordia Taiwan), their government has "tried to change the situation by including scholarship for women's higher education, working women policy, and their rights to vote." Andre Tsai (Delegate of the Russian Federation, IBSH) believes that the first step that needs to be taken is to "educate women in the way that encourages them to take part in political representations." He explained, "the problem with the significantly small number of women in politics is that many are taught in a way that impels them to believe women should be regarded as inferior to men." Moreover, according to the chair report on this issue, one of the most fundamental steps to resolving this issue is "to promote the healthy relationship among genders and influence the institutions through education on campus, in neighborhoods, and in the workplace." Therefore, people are more likely to be regarded as equal to men in society, especially in politics.

Discrimination, in any forms, is a type of unfair treatment. Regardless if it is labor, gender, or ethnic discrimination, it is essential for member states to resolve discrimination within their countries or in other countries in order to achieve equality across the globe.



# MOMENTS

PHOTOS BY: CATHY LU, FRANK HUNG, SABRINA HO

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