BEIMUN XXXIII



BEIMUN Joint Media



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LETTER FROM THE EIC

Honorable delegates, chairs, advisors, and guests,

I am Sean Kim, and it is with great privilege to serve as the Editor-in-Chief of the BEIMUN Joint Media team, the o! cial press publication of the Beijing Model United Nations (BEIMUN) Conference. I would like to congratulate delegates and chairs for tackling the most urgent and complex issues of our time in an ever-divisive world, as well as the organizers for setting up the means to facilitate productive discourse. By simulating the workings of a UN conference, participants engage in meaningful dialogue that paves the way for future global leaders to envision and craft solutions for a better future.

This year's 33rd annual theme is Virtue Attracts Resonance. The phrase comes from the ancient Chinese philosopher Confucius (551—479 BCE). Virtue is never solitary; it always has neighbors, inviting us to remember that perhaps more fundamental than focusing on the resolutions or outcomes of geopolitics is basic ethics and respect for one another during discourse. In a world where polarization increasingly drowns out reason, it is evermore imperative that our generation uses words as instruments of change rather than weapons of division.

Additionally, the ethical resonance this conference is encouraging should be celebrated and invigorated. Journalism is the means of inspiring the wider population to follow virtuous principles, and following this maxim, the BEIMUN Joint Media team strives to capture the courage, commitment, and respectful conversations of delegates. Through the publication covering the first two days of the conference and its resolutions, we hope to remind everyone that, as divided and challenging our world may seem, we have already come so far thanks to the work and conversations of those willing to work for a better world.

I also kindly ask all delegates and chairs to keep in mind two things:

First, please check out the archive page on the BEIMUN website (https://www.beijingmun.org/archive), which contains past BEIMUN issues and the issue that will be uploaded for this year's conference! Our publication team has curated a variety of content that ranges from coverage of serious committee debates to more lighthearted topics, so please enjoy!

Second, if a press member approaches you for a photo or interview, please spare a few minutes. We aim to keep our interactions non-intrusive, but please understand that if we do take more than a few minutes, we are simply trying to capture the essence of the BEIMUN experience. Also, we welcome your candid and personal opinions!

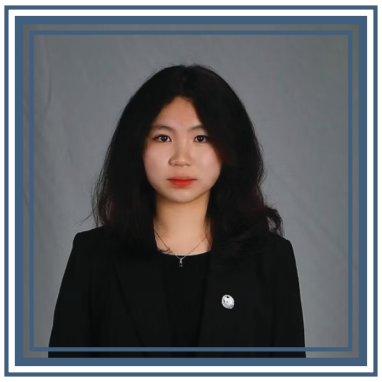
I would also like to give a special thank you to the BEIMUN Secretariat team for incorporating the members of Seoulite, the o! cial publication of SEOMUN and YALEMUN, including myself, into this year's BEIMUN Joint Media team. We hope to continue this collaboration in the years to come.

I wish all delegates the best of luck, and may this conference inspire you to serve for the betterment of our tomorrow.

Sean Kim,



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Western Academy of Beijing (WAB)
Dulwich College Beijing (DCB)
Beijing World Youth Academy (BWYA)
Seoul International School (SIS)
United Nations International School of Hanoi (UNIS)
Singapore American School (SAS)
Beijing City International School (BCIS)
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Canadian International School of Beijing (CISB)
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Layout by Raisen Qi,
Patrick Young

STUFF DELEGATES SAY









Layout by Raisen Qi
Written by Russell Jin

OPENING CEREMONY

The opening ceremony for BEIMUN XXXIII started off with the iconic Hymn to the United Nations, commemorating the importance of global connection. Understanding the importance of the power of music to transcend borders despite a divided world, the hymn acts as an important reminder of the world's complex and interconnected nature.

Marking the opening remark of the conference, Daniel Rubenstein, the Head of School for the International School of Beijing (ISB), shared some remarks. Initiating his speech with a heartfelt commemoration to past delegates, Mr. Rubenstein expressed his optimistic sentiments about the delegates' promising futures as leading figures in embassies, foreign relations, and international corporations. Then, he introduced the principle themes of this conference: Virtue and Veritas.

"From my perspective, similar to what Mr. Rubenstein said in his speech, having this sense of virtue is very important," Gillian Cao, one of the Head Admins of BEIMUN XXXIII, said. "It's very important to have virtue because without it, you really can't achieve anything else. Components such as effective leadership, efficient global initiative, or anything of that sort—it just can't happen without this underlying existence of virtue and integrity. I think the topic we chose was very unique, and also connects to our topic last year, which is the cost of progress. In many aspects, I believe this theme successfully encompasses the conference's whole motto."

Explaining the fast-shifting nature of today's society—where fabrication is ever so rampant—Mr. Rubenstein explained the inadvertent costs of rapid modernization, in which honesty is often overlooked. Truth, as Mr. Rubenstein explained, is the utmost fundamental proponent of forming a stable leadership. In order to achieve true integrity, a nation stands on virtue, rather than deception.

His Excellency, Jaime FlorCruz, an ambassador for the Philippines, also joined the opening ceremony.



As an alumni parent of two children in the host school of ISB, Mr. Florcus received a warm welcome. Additionally, as a former member of the CNN press, Mr. Florcus stressed the essence of active global cooperation towards ensuring diplomacy. Similar to Mr. Rubenstein, Mr. Florcus's stressed the importance of multilateralism in addressing global issues and the need to maintain a virtuous approach amongst multinational relations.

"I believe maintaining virtue is fundamental in shaping an ideal society," Irmak Ünal, delegate of the Republic of Korea from the Security Council, said. "Not only does it help maintain truthful relationships between nations, but in a society where hot wars and all the political turmoil happens, the value of virtue acts as a compass to guide nations to move forward."

Written by Alina Lee
Layout by Raisen Qi
Photo by Rona Chan

GA1 HEAVILY FIXATES ON SPACE DEMILITARIZATION

The General Assembly 1 (GA1) kickstarted its opening speeches with a cooperative atmosphere. Delegates first decided to address space demilitarization and how nations could regulate intergalactic militarization. Delegates unanimously agreed that all activities should be guided by responsibility, and that the long-term effects of militarizing space far outweigh the short-term economic gains. With this shared agreement in place, lobbying was collaborative, with nations being selfless and prioritizing peace, diplomatic ties, and cooperation, over individual interests. However, there were not as many agreements on policies of how space should be demilitarized, or even demilitarization itself.



"We were forming a framework that uses space only for education, exploration, and scientific discovery," Rishabh Karthikeyan Hariharan, the delegate of Poland. "The strategy was that we take the main country's resolutions and add many clauses. Space is no one's territory. If it was occupied by a specific nation, then there would be much more conflict between who owns which areas of space. We wanted to contribute to the scientific development of knowledge and information in space. Since space is not an asset, it should be used for science."

The majority of delegates agreed that the failure to demilitarize space would result in an escalated, unregulated arms race. It was also noted by delegates that the failure to demilitarize space would inevitably sever diplomatic ties, create conflict, and start wars. Instead, the delegate of Poland and the EU bloc emphasized the use of space for scientific research and exploration instead of colonization. The bloc admitted that the downside to using space solely for research purposes could be that technological development and national security capabilities may be limited, particularly for countries that rely on space-based systems for defense and surveillance. However, delegates argued that these concerns could be addressed through transparency and international cooperation.

"Space should not be demilitarized, but instead the militarization of space should be with transparency and diplomacy," Mohamed Adem, the delegate of the United States, said. "Space should not be an area for military activity, and military infrastructure in space should be reduced. Intergalactic prosperity should be ensured. Prosperity can be ensured through transparency, as transparency is important to regulate and prevent a potential arms race."

However, the delegate of the United States and their bloc took a slightly different stance. As a major player in the militarization of space, the United States conveyed their understanding of the concerns of a potential new arms race, which would surely be far more destructive than the nuclear arms race. Albeit the fact that the United States was concerned about a potential arms race, their bloc still opposed full-scale demilitarization. Instead, they pressed for transparency regarding activities and a simple reduction of militarization in space.

"It sounds as if this delegate is saying that Anti-Satelite weapons (ASATs) are necessary for future tech," Aidan Moore, the delegate of South Africa, said. "However, using new ASATs we were unaware about would cause unnecessary damage and sever diplomatic ties. Although GA1 has no enforcing power, would it not be more effective to submit an amendment to clause seven to discuss any alternate methods to ensure that launching ASATs would result in repercussions?"

The fiery debates and POIs in GA1 arose when a strike was raised against clause seven, a clause that would ensure that countries were deterred from using ASATs. The delegate of South Africa raised a POI and harshly criticized this strike as the delegate of South Africa believed that it was unnecessary and harmful to strike a clause instead of amending it. Striking this clause would result in all reprecussions of using ASATs to exist, which would increase tension and fuel mistrust between nations.

Written by Doyeon Kim
Layout by Raisen Qi
Photos by Agnes Wang

GA2 ADDRESS ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND AGING WORK-FORCE ISSUES

The General Assembly 2 (GA2) opened the BEI-MUN XXXIII conference with a consensus that it is a duty of the developed nations to come together and aid the less economically developed countries after natural disasters. This shared understanding reflected a broader commitment to international cooperation and responsibility within the committee.

"We are just discussing and making a resolution about how Less Economically Developed Countries (LEDCs) need aid to recover from natural disasters," Jinwoo Park, the delegate of Spain, said. "We are thinking of including infrastructure and making an insurance pool for groups of LEDCs in our resolution to help them. Although there are two blocs discussing this issue, I think we will have similar resolutions and clauses."

When discussing the issue of addressing economic recovery for LEDCs after natural disasters, it was agreed upon that a pool of money, or an insurance pool for LEDCs, should be created to mitigate the cost and financially help them. A debate on whether the More Economically Developed Countries (MEDCs) should take a more active role was settled when the majority of MEDCs came to the consensus that national sovereignty and an invasion of privacy would not be breached if the LEDCs also agreed on having help in building infrastructure after natural disasters.

"Resolution are already implemented. Simply stating that in the resolution will not help, which is whyl need amendments to suggest further possible solutions,"

Finally, the GA2 committee engaged in a problem-solving session full of thoughtful amendments. The primary problem they addressed was thinking of a potential solution that was not implemented yet, and a solution that would also further help the working workforce issue. The delegates felt as if the resolution already covered regulations and mechanisms that were in place. Therefore, the delegates focused on submitting amendments that would propose new solutions, such as offering flexible work hours and even suggesting four-day workweeks.





Written by Doyeon Kim
Layout by Raisen Qi
Photos by Lillian Li

GA3 DISCUSS AI MISINFORMATION AND CULTURAL HERITAGE PROTECTION

With the first day of BEIMUN XXXIII underway, General Assembly 3 began its first session by thoughtfully addressing the rising tensions regarding AI. Focusing on the issue of AI misinformation, the nations were open to negotiation and debate over how AI could feasibly be regulated. It was agreed by all nations that despite inevitable AI misinformation, it could be combatted with multilateral dialogue and collaboration. With that stated in the opening speeches, the delegates launched into a promising lobbying session full of discussion and debate.

"We are focusing on the capacity building of states and how we can ensure national sovereignty within national frameworks," Vir Khosla, the delegate of Russia, said. "In practice, it would look like regulating AI watermarks. We need to provide the resources for the balanced capacity of nations to regulate themselves without the imposition of foreign values."

On the other hand, another prominent topic during lobbying sessions tackled national sovereignty. The delegate of the United States emphasized that nations should have their own right to govern their AI policies. The main challenge that was faced when creating a resolution for such an idea was forming a framework that would address and enforce rules such as requiring specific watermarks. This was an issue as smaller countries with less economic and social development were concerned about how enforcing these laws and regulations could cause potential breaches in national security and sovereignty.

"We are just having a general discussion, collaboration, and teamwork," Matthew Ford, the delegate of South Korea, said. "Everyone seems to agree that AI misinformation is a fairly big issue and that collaboration is needed. We also need to think a lot about what it means for future generations to work with AI. I think we all want AI to be used as a helpful tool instead of something to combat against."

Meanwhile, countries that were not actively involved in or influenced by deepfakes and AI misinformation took a far more passive role in creating the resolution. The delegate acknowledged that there were almost no conflicts or disagreements, as AI misinformation was a fairly new subject that had only become a problem recently. The nations also diverted their attention to creating and enforcing regulations and mechanisms that would mitigate future potential risks created by AI, instead of focusing on mitigating already widespread fake AI media.

"Our resolution is that we do not use hard power and coercive interference, such as military usage or the threat of tariffs on foreign goods," Duc An (Tom) Nguyen, the delegate of China, said.

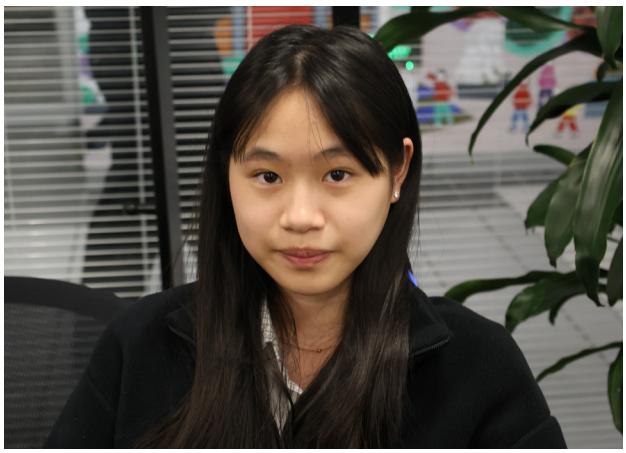


"We only plan to help nations develop their capacity for AI governance and provide financial guidance. We are going to amend the other bloc's resolution of direct interference, and amend their resolution that bases it off the European Union (EU) AI Act."

A fruitful debate full of amendments, new resolutions, and strikes was held. The bloc, made up primarily of the EU, was met with harsh conflict and clashes from the other blocs. The EU suggested that countries should model and create an international framework that would apply to all nations. However, the delegates of China and South Korea believed that national sovereignty should be prioritized, and that countries should make their own ethical and legal frameworks instead of adhering to an international one.

Written by Doyeon Kim
Layout by Raisen Qi
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WHA TACKLE HIV IN LEDCS AND HEALTHCARE DATA COLLECTION



Upon the commencement of BEIMUN XXXIII, the World Health Assembly (WHA) immediately started its opening speeches. Although the focus of the committee was mainly on the widespread dissemination of HIV in Less Economically Developed Countries (LEDCs), it was widely recognized by the chairs and delegates that the resolution should also incorporate beneficiary measures for the More Economically Developed Countries (MEDCs). It was also recognized by the delegate of Cuba and the delegate of Denmark that the spread of HIV in LEDCs has been a structural problem instead of a medical one.

"We are talking about HIV and AIDS, how to prevent them," Tsz Hei Chan, the delegate of the UAE, said. "We are kind of raising funds for LEDCs, since they are less developed. Mostly, the funds are for education and trading for medicine to help people who already have HIV. This issue obviously cannot fully be stopped, but we still have to try to mitigate the casualties."

The main strategies that were talked about in the lobbying sessions were both passive and active strategies. The active strategies regarding treating HIV were through providing medicine and also by pooling funds for the LEDCs to help them build facilities and hospital infrastructure. The delegate of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) brought up the need for awareness and education, which would directly help lower the population that has HIV in LEDCs. Educational initiatives were seen as a way to address misinformation and reduce stigma surrounding HIV. Delegates agreed that by educating communities on transmission methods, prevention strategies, and the importance of early testing, nations could slow the spread of HIV more effectively.

"We are educating LEDC citizens on AIDS and HIV," Yuen Sum Lo, the delegate of Libya, said. "Honestly, I do not think education alone will help mitigate this issue, but that is our group's main idea. We are also discussing how HIV is spread and how we can stop it. Technically, we cannot fully stop it, but we can lower the rates."

The delegate of Libya held similar viewpoints as the delegate of the UAE on how to reduce the amount of HIV contamination. It was admitted by both delegates and the committee as a whole that there was no way to completely eradicate HIV. The resolution was developed with the hope that in the future, it would be used as a cornerstone or foundation when medicinal and technological advancements became sufficient enough to completely eradicate HIV in LEDCs and globally. In this sense, the resolution was viewed not only as an immediate response, but also as a long-term framework guiding future efforts.

"Putting higher taxes and enforcing trade barriers on other countries, even expanding this data collection problem to the trading issues, is simply too much," Jaehyun Lee, the delegate of Panama, said. "That would result in far greater conflicts, including a potential trade war that could be perpetuated from these enforcement mechanisms."

The World Health Organization (WHO) engaged in an engaging and appealing debate on how the WHO and the United Nations could enforce and discourage the use of health information for unethical and unnecessary purposes. It was suggested by the delegate of Germany to use tariffs and taxes; however, this was met with harsh criticism and opposition by the delegate of Panama, who expressed his concern about a potential trade and tariff war. This response by the delegate of Panama was met with a Point of Information (POI) from the delegate of Japan, as the delegate of Japan conveyed the perspective that imposing higher taxes and enforcing trade barriers was the only plausible enforcement mechanism.

Written by Doyeon Kim
Layout by Raisen Qi
Photos by Agnes Wang

HRC FOCUS ON GENDER-BASED OPPRESSION AND ASYLUM PROTECTIONS

Enthusiastic delegates of the Human Rights Committee (HRC) engaged in a discussion of the lack of implementation and action regarding gender-based oppression. The opening speeches all recognized gender-based oppression and asylum protection as issues that needed to be urgently solved. In the context of the contemporary sociopolitical state of the world, women are not oppressed as openly as in the 1920s to the 1970s. However, women are oppressed implicitly, such as through forced marriages, unequal access to education and employment, discriminatory legal systems, and toxic cultural standards and practices.

"We are currently addressing the topic of forced marriage and other gender-based oppression on women of vulnerable backgrounds," Jeonghoo Yang, the delegate of Poland, said. "We are progressive towards this, and we are trying to find an agreement towards this solution that is neutral, which can include enforcing laws and tackling different activities the government can conduct, such as lectures and educational activities for children and women."

The HRC split into three groups. The first two tackled the conflict of gender-based oppression, whereas the other group addressed the topic of asylum protections. The first group that discussed the topic of gender-based oppression took a neutral approach to spreading awareness and enforcing laws. In contrast, the second group partook in a fruitful debate on whether they should focus on informing the public and spreading awareness of gender-based oppression, or take a more active role to help women directly. Eventually, they settled on taking a more active approach, such as opening more universities for women and creating vocational training programs for women.

"This issue is very serious, and so we need to take an active role in ensuring that gender-based oppression is lessened," Jasmine Ahn, the delegate of Spain, said. "We need more laws, enforcement, regulation, and awareness on this issue. Although this issue affects millions, I think it is not talked about enough, which is why more active roles must be taken."



There was a strong emphasis from both blocs that this issue was, in a sense, "niche." The issue of gender-based oppression has been widely discussed and addressed in the past. Progressive steps have been taking like granting women the right to vote, use public transportation, and receive formal education. However, nations recognized that these advancements were only a baseline that should have already been implemented in the creation of public transportation laws and voting procedures. They wanted to further address the more subtle and systemic forms of gender-based oppression that continue to persist, particularly those affecting women from vulnerable backgrounds through stronger enforcement mechanisms and direct educational programs.

"The other blocs are going to say that we will domestically solve gender-based oppression, because the United States believes that togetherness and cooperation is the way to solve all issues," Haoyang Zheng, the delegate of the United States, said. "I think China will want to solve this problem domestically, which clashes with the delegate of the United States' view. The UN was made to work cooperatively to solve all issues. Although national sovereignty is a positive thing that countries should strive for, that will hinder the progress of solving gender-based oppression."

In the HRC committee, a unique clash arose between the delegates. Specifically, the delegate of China and their bloc placed an emphasis on national sovereignty and solving the issue of gender-based oppression domestically, within their own country. However, the delegate of the United States opposed this aspect of the resolution, as he strongly believed that the purpose of the United Nations was to work cooperatively to combat this issue, rather than addressing it solely within individual countries.

Written by Doyeon Kim
Layout by Raisen Qi
Photo by Rona Chan

DELEGATES OF ECOSOC DISCUSS DIGITAL CURRENCY AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT

Starting off the conference, delegates of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) talked of various ethical and social concerns that could be tackled utilizing digital technology. More specifically, the delegates discussed issues regarding the advancing financial inclusion through the adaptation of global digital currencies and the improving technological literacy in LEDCs.

Despite being largely in unison on the vitality of digital currencies, delegates approached establishing regulatory frameworks and developing technological literacy from different perspectives. While some, such as the delegate of Cuba, advocated for a stronger state intervention, others advocated for a state-sponsored approach, relying on private companies and individual stakeholders. This divergence, stemming from the innate conflicts of interest—with one championing for increased efficiency and the other supporting long-term stability—sparked a major clash in perspectives amongst the delegates.

"The delegate of Cuba believes that digital currencies are advancing day by day. It helps include many of those who are left out or lacked the opportunity to get proper access to certain financial prospects," Franscesco Granada, the del-
egate of the Republic of Cuba said. "But in order to achieve this, higher technological literacy must be achieved. Thus, this delegate believes that stronger, government-initiated measurements should take place, rather than (those of) private sponsorship."

While some delegates sought solutions that needed a stronger financial initiative (such as the establishment of central banks and standardized, global crypto-currencies), the majority supported a mix of online and offline currencies. A possible solution raised to the podium was, once again, the enhancement of technological literacy. All in all, the final draft of the resolution maintained its focus on improving digital literacy, with the support of major organizations such as the UN.

"Our resolutions are mainly focused on improving digital literacy," Seraphina Ciobanu, the delegate of Ukraine, said. "For these, we're hoping to rely on large bodies such as the UN to fund this. Also, the resolution focused more on educational aspects informing people on how to use digital devices and technologies. At the end of the day, what's the use of giving people a laptop if they won't know how to use it?"

With digital technology emerging as the new norm in global finance, many view these advancements as innovative solutions to tackle global barriers, offering relief to economic inequality and the limited access to currencies in underdeveloped areas in the world. Fostering digital literacy will enable many of the underprivileged to gain access to a much equitable financial system, bridging the gap between social divisions.

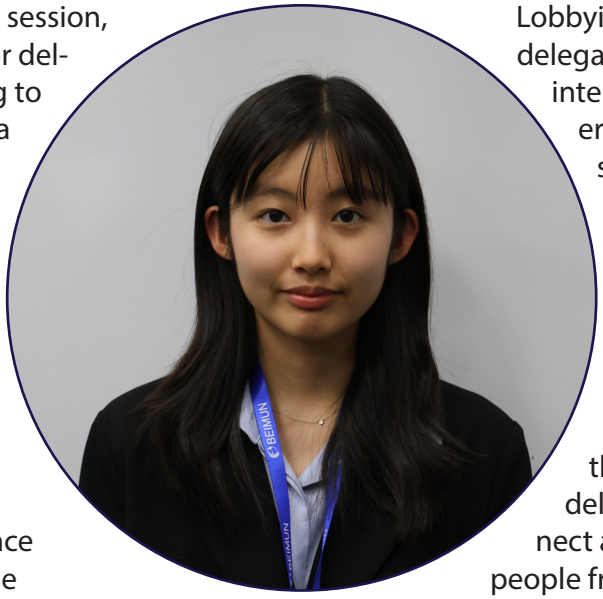


"By addressing these topics, we get to understand the plight of these underprivileged people," Vishwa Narayanan, the delegate of the Philippines, said. "We get to know how and why these issues must be addressed. Social inequality is a major issue in the modern world. This delegate believes that a way to tackle this great adversity must be sought quickly and effectively."

Written by Alina Lee
Layout by Raisen Qi
Photo by Agnes Wang

THE POWER OF LOBBYING

A few silent glances are often much more powerful than words of persuasion, and discreet nods and signals can counter the most awe-striking speeches. After an arduous round of opening speeches and the first reading of draft solutions, BEIMUN XXXIII delegates are given an hour and a half to openly discuss and debate their current stances on the floor. Testing waters and gauging support, delegates openly demonstrate their diplomatic finesse through strategic dialogue. This session, especially important for delegates who are seeking to earn awards, serves as a prime opportunity to showcase leadership and political tactfulness.



"Back when I was a delegate and started to seriously start MUN, I knew that lobbying was one of the most important aspects in the conference process," Zoe Chang, the President of General Assembly 2 (GA2), said. "It's a place where you form blocs and make resolutions, but most importantly you forge alliances and create connections with people that will support you when you debate your resolution.

As soon as the floors open for an unmoderated caucus, delegates of each committee rush to one another, eager to seize the opportunity. Taking a respite from the formalities of MUN protocol and in search of fellow delegates who will support their resolution, delegates bustle from about table to table, in hopes of finding possible allies during this seemingly unstructured yet critical period.

"When the delegates can freely express their ideas based on their country's census, and that allows the delegates to construct a resolution that demonstrates inclusivity," Crystal Ra, Vice President of ENV, said. "The whole motto of MUN is to showcase the interconnectedness of our world. I believe that lobbying perfectly encapsulates that motion."

Lobbying also provides the delegates with the chance to interact with one another. During the lobbying session, unexpected friendships sprout, and encounters can lead to openings of a meaningful relationship. With the MUN being an event with delegates of all places, this session provides the delegates a chance to connect and share ideas with people from all over the globe.

"The lobbying session creates a more thorough experience in MUN," Irmak Unal, the delegate of the Republic of Korea from the Security Council, said. "I believe it helps the delegates to be able to get to know one another without having to experience the rigidness during normal sessions. The fact that we can share each of our delegated country's stances are the upsides of lobbying."

Written by Alina Lee
Layout by Raisen Qi
Photo by Lillian Li

ENV COMMITTEE

On day 1 of BEIMUN XXXIII, the delegates of the Environmental Committee (ENV) discussed strategies on mitigating the impacts of ocean acidification and the environmental impacts of artificial intelligence. While some delegates, such as the delegates of the Netherlands and Italy, strongly championed for putting restrictive measures on the use of AI. Others, such as the delegate of the Czech Republic, searched for more subtle alternatives, with an example being cooperative funding on a national level.

"I think due to urbanization and increased human activities in touch with AI development, we (the environment) are suffering severe backlashes, an example of that being ocean acidification," Seung Yong, the delegate of Italy, said. "In order to combat this issue, rather than increasing governmental supervision, I believe there should be a global quota set in order to regulate the number of data centers that are available. Because essentially, ocean acidification and environmental issues regarding this topic occur due to data centers."

Day 2 of the conference shifted its focus from the fundamental use of AI towards initiatives to fund research and proliferate the use of green AI technology. Some delegates, like the delegate of Russia, supported funding the distribution of information and technological relation to sustainability. Demanding help from both governments and non-government organizations, proponents of this approach initiated to shift the resolution to addresses inequality yet considers sustainability.

"I think sanctions are not good. This delegate believes that sanctions should not be placed on technologies, as it blocks the flow of technological development," Daniel He, the delegate of the Russian Federation, said. "In general, information on how to build sustainable tools should be disseminated and made public since we're trying to build technology together. In order to do that, being able to cooperate with large organizations and establishing regulations are important."

With the rise of AI in various fields including technology, agriculture, and healthcare, several ethical questions concerning environmental damage and social bifurcation are rising to the surface. As with the rapid development of modern technology, further attention is screened to the underprivileged, who are neglected the basic rights to sanitation and utilities. Addressing these disparities, the delegates put focus on the need to promote sustainability while seeking for social equality.

"Mini NEDCs and other UN bodies and organizations such as the IMF must be prompted to support LEDCs and less developed nations to be able to have the necessary capabilities to mitigate their ocean acidification," Philip Bliss, delegate of DPRK, said. "With the rapid development of technology, taking necessary steps as such is essential."



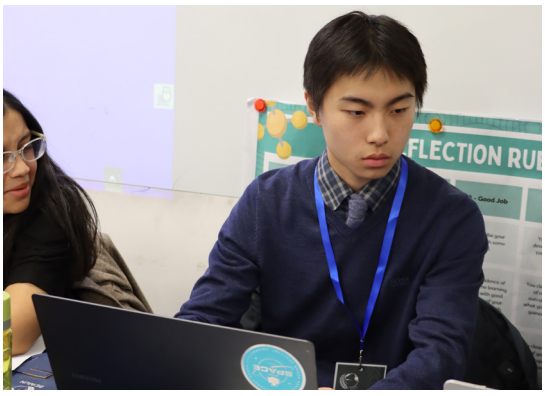
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DIS DEBATES THE ETHICAL LIMITS OF THE USE OF AI IN MODERN WARFARE.

On day one of BEIMUN XXXIII, the delegates of DIS (Disarmament Commission) discussed issues regarding the ethical and moral ambiguities surrounding modern weaponry. Specifically, the delegates tackled the regulation of autonomous weapon systems, AI in warfare, and the enforcement of ethical use and disposal of biochemical weapons stockpiles. Above all concerns, however, was about the innate ethical dilemma of providing an inanimate object power over a human being.

"As the delegation of South Korea, we have prioritized managing human resources above all," Jack Signorelli, the delegate of the Republic of Korea, said. "We question, in terms of ethics: How should we let a machine decide whether to take someone's life or not? In terms of how we resolve this issue, we want to create laws and want to strengthen pre-existing laws when it comes to AI development in warfare. Surely, considering the potential effect this may hold on people, further actions and protocols must be developed."

Aside from the issue of using AI as an effective means of weaponry, a hot debate between those who advocated for a limited approach to the use of the various weaponries and those who viewed the regulation as a resource took place on day two of the conference. Putting a strong emphasis on clause one, the establishment of a weapon-regulatory system, and on clause three, the punishment of nations who failed to keep the agreements of major regulatory conventions, proponents of a strong regulatory system espoused strict accountability for enforcement actions.



"Stricter laws should be enforced upon biochemical weapons," Ian Wong, the delegate of Ukraine, said. "This delegate believes that no new ones should be created. This delegate does feel that one of the major problems surrounding this issue with biochemical weapons and chemical regulations is that the biological weapons convention, unlike the chemical weapons convention, has faulty regulations. So overall, stricter restrictions must be established."

As military technology is advancing day by day, it is of great concern how to bring under control the increasing pressure of escalating arms development. Especially true in the status quo—where global tensions are escalating and political dynamics are shifting kinetically—addressing the boundaries in technological development is essential. Thus, within this context, the proper use of AI is being broached,



especially in such a global landscape where a slight shift of odds can gravely alter the balance of power.

Deciding whether to establish a clear line of regulation for biochemical warfare, moreover, is a great challenge the international community must come to tackle.

"The opinion that this delegate has on regulating autonomous weapons and AI in warfare is that it is important to maintain our conscience when using AI for destruction," Owen O'Heam, the delegate of South Africa, said. "Especially since in the context of war, every little action matters. This delegate finds it too risky to delegate the life of a human to a machine."

Written by Doyeon Kim
Layout by Raisen Qi
Photos by Agnes Wang

SC BROACHES HUMANITARIAN ISSUES OF THE RUSSO-UKRAINIAN WAR



The Security Council (SC) convened on January 23rd to discuss humanitarian issues stemming from the Russo-Ukrainian war (an ongoing conflict) in the 33rd iteration of the BEIMUN conference.

On day 1, despite the primary focus being humanitarian issues and alleviation of the conflict, delegates were also bringing economic concerns into the forefront of the discussion. An unmoderated caucus took place early on in the day, in which delegates began drafting resolutions on potential disarmament and de-escalation in the European frontier.

"During the opening speeches, the delegate of South Korea and the delegate of China presented their concerns over increasing economic conflicts," Carson Park, the President of SC, said. "This was not only in South America, but the nation of China too, as it is currently being heavily impacted by the global tariffs on oil."

The aforementioned delegate of China spoke up ardently during the unmoderated caucus, placing an emphasis on human rights. The delegate stated that China has emerged as a leader of the rising global South. While the nation originally had been subdued by Western imperialism, the delegate of China expressed wishes to speak as equals, particularly with the economy matching the calibre of Western nations.

"Even if that means being condemned by other nations, China will go to any lengths to have an equal say and protect human rights," Prakhar Sharma, the delegate of China, said. "To that end, I hope to mandate that all prisoners of war will be treated in full accordance with the third Geneva convention in the resolution. China wants to lead by example through this peace plan."

The delegate of South Korea also echoed the delegate of China's sentiments for prisoners of war (POWs) to be treated humanely. Namely, they wished to prevent the torture or coercion of POWs under Russia.

"A key priority is ensuring that prisoners of war are not mistreated under Russia," Irmak Ünal, the delegate of South Korea, said. "The Republic of Korea has stopped most of its economic transactions and trades with the Russian Federation. It is mostly in support of Ukraine with regards to this conflict and their prisoners of war. In general, however, our resolution works to ensure the individual safety of prisoners of war from both sides."

On day 2, delegates began to more fiercely defend their stances, and delegates representing the West were particularly outspoken about the semantics of the resolution. P5 nations (United States, United Kingdom, France, Russia, and China) began to use their veto powers to protect their stances. Chiefly, as the goal of the security council is to maintain security and peace, solely providing humanitarian aid without disarmament or de-escalation conditions was argued to be outside of the committee's jurisdiction.

"The delegate of the United Kingdom realized there was a clause on humanitarian aid," Carson said. "Initially, it was not a problem, but the clause said only nations who agree with the resolution are eligible to receive humanitarian aid. However, the delegate of the United States struck that part, so the operative clause was vetoed."



Layout by Raisen Qi
Written by Russell Jin
Photo by Lillian Li

HSC DELIBERATES ON RECONSTRUCTION AFTER THE IRAQ WAR

During BEIMUN XXXIII, the Historical Security Council (HSC) met to discuss the resolution of wars; namely, seeking reconstruction during the aftermath of the Iraq War (2003-2011) and formulating a response to the Syrian Revolution (2011-2024).

Early on in the first day, delegates began to establish their stances on the manner in which reconstruction should be handled in Iraq. Delegates mostly expressed their nuanced relationships with Iraq; for example, the delegate of the United States stated that they would assist Iraq, but in an unyielding manner.

"The role of the United States on the reconstruction of the Iraq War is major, because the United States is sending donations and establishing reconstruction measures," Molly Liu, the delegate of the United States, said. "The delegate of the United States is not wholly in support of Iraq, burt is rather helping them with an iron fist. I will converse with more delegates to garner support for the resolution."

The delegate of Iraq, on the other hand, was not in favor of strict intervention and presence of other nations in their territory. The delegate criticized past reformation attempts, and insisted on gaining more autonomy through a resolution that allows Iraq to rebuild independently. Finding a suitable balance between sovereignty and external responsibility was a recurring theme of discussions among delegates.



"There were reformation attempts in the past, but it didn't work because external forces left the country too rapidly, or didn't pay enough attention to political matters," Beomjin Kim, the delegate of Iraq, said. "I want to gradually eliminate the need for external assistance, and stabilize the political landscape by reducing the control of the terrorists."

The delegate of Israel similarly left assistance to Iraq in the periphery, and instead stressed the importance of preventing false information from circulating and being acted upon. The delegate expressed that Israel's position was muddied by their complex history with Iraq.

"Israel isn't a definite supporter of Iraq in this conflict. Since the Gulf War, Iraq has fired missiles at Israel, and the two countries were essentially enemies," Soyoon Lee, the delegate of Israel, said. "However, after the fall of Saddam Hussein, we formed a bloc due to our similar stances. We all hope to eliminate false intelligence, because the Iraq War was induced by confusion over weapons of mass destruction."

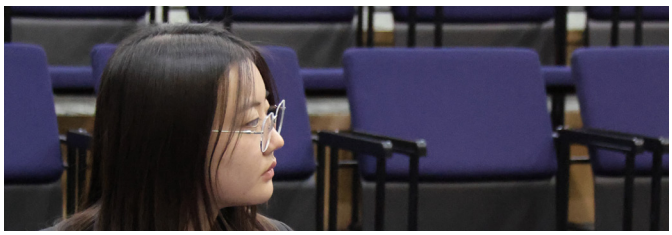
On day 2, delegates continued to debate on the future of Iraq's sovereignty. However, new strands, including the safeguard of human rights as well as the enforcement of ideologies were also brought up. These contentious topics caused many veto threats, and P5 nations (United States, United Kingdom, France, Russia, and China) disagreed with multiple clauses of the resolution, but compromise was reached in the end. Particularly, the aforementioned delegate of Israel indicated support for the resolution.

"The delegates had effective and actionable ideas, seeing that the resolution of the other bloc passed with all the operative clauses," Soyoon said. "Our own resolution lacked some information. However, we will try to make amendments to avoid further vetoes, specifically from P5 nations."



Written by Russell Jin
Layout by Raisen Qi
Photos by Agnes Wang

ICJ COMMITEE



Over the three days of BEIMUN XXXIII, International Court of Justice (ICJ) worked to resolve disputes from court cases belonging to different historical times: Nicaragua v. United States (1986) and Ukraine v. Russia (2022). On January 23rd, or the first day, they initiated their discourse on military and paramilitary activities concerning Nicaragua.

During the opening speeches, advocates fiercely began to defend their representative countries. An outspoken advocate for Nicaragua declared that this case is not about ideology, but law, and whether more powerful states can violate the sovereignty of smaller nations. Specifically, the said advocate championed equal protection under international law, not only for those powerful enough to enforce it themselves.

"The applicant party, which I am a part of, supports Nicaragua and Ukraine, or the nations that bring other ones to court," Julian Danailov-Benguernane, an advocate, said. "The first issue we will try to debate is that the United States took measures to destabilize Nicaragua's government in an unlawful manner."

The advocates expanded upon this point, claiming that the Contra forces were intentionally sponsored by the United States. They stated it was at a moment of vulnerability right after after an end to authoritarian rule, despite Nicaragua never having made a request for collective self-defense.

Moreover, the advocates presented this case as a broader precedent for keeping influential states in check and upholding the legal system. They requested that the Court affirms Nicaragua's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and political independence.

On day 2, judges began to vacillate more as they encountered moral ambiguities. Even judges that were initially wholly supportive of the United States expressed that Nicaragua's case came off as equally credible due to the efforts of the advocates. A recurring theme was finding the difference between lawful defense and unlawful intervention.

"Both the United States and Nicaragua presented valid arguments on the military and paramilitary activities in and against Nicaragua," Alice Choi, a judge, said. "All the judges were ultimately in favor of Nicaragua, and this is the final decision. We will be moving onto our next case on day 3, which concerns Ukraine and Russia. We expect this case to be quite contentious in nature as well."

As stated, Nicaragua received more support in the end, to the relief of the advocates. Judges unanimously found that Nicaragua should be granted reparations from the United States for all of the damages done, chiefly to set a standard for future interventions and affairs among nations.

"The arguments presented by both sides of the hearing were reasonable and clear," Youngjin Roh, a judge, said. "Although the respondents' arguments were somewhat convincing, their violation of international law would implicitly pave the way for future illegal interventions, which is why we ruled in favor of Nicaragua."

In fact, judges stated that the legal frameworks discussed in the first case would be directly informing their handling of Ukraine v. Russia. Through the first two days of the ICJ's discussions, it is apparent that legal cases are not considered in isolation, but with regards to future cases and maintaining the integrity of the legal system.

Written by Russell Jin
Layout by Raisen Qi
Photos by Agnes Wang

ICC TRIES LEADERS OF THE DRC FOR CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY

The International Criminal Court (ICC) convened on January 23rd to discuss Prosecutor v. Jean-Pierre Bemba and Prosecutor v. Germain Katanga in the 33rd iteration of the BEIMUN conference.

Providing some context on these historical figures, Katanga is a Congolese former rebel leader who had a role in the Bogoro massacre (2003), while Bemba was a leader of a liberation movement and responsible for atrocities committed by his deployed troops. The ICC differentiates itself from the International Court of Justice by debating cases pertinent to specific individuals rather than states.

"Both of the cases in question are related to genocide and war crimes in the Central African Republic," Eesha Singh, the Deputy Chair, said. "In this committee, the prosecution will prosecute both Bemba and Katanga. Judges will later discern whether the individuals are responsible for none, some, or all of the crimes."

From the first day, judges deemed that Bemba and Katanga were at least tangentially involved with the crimes. Echoing the words of the Deputy Chair, judges emphasized the nuance that is present when determining guilt, as they may only be responsible a subset of the convictions rather than all. This comes down to the level of knowledge and control they had over the known crimes.

"As a judge, we can't have any biases whatsoever. We purely stand for peace and justice," Ashley Lim, a judge, said. "With our current cases, the judges decided both clients convicted are guilty. More importantly though, the level of guilt and what they should be convicted of is difficult to discern, especially since there is not as much information on these cases that than we had hoped for."



On day 2, there was a shift in narrative within the committee. Specifically, this was observed in the context of Prosecutor v. Jean-Pierre Bemba. As a result of effective testimonies, judges became far more convicted about Bemba's involvement in crimes. In their minds, he transformed from a passive bystander to someone who is directly in the chain of command.

"We saw the prosecutors bring in some really good testimony, while the defense struggled during questioning, trying to keep the story straight about what Bemba's role was," Vince Warr, a judge, said. "We are leaning more towards that Bemba is guilty. The defense put up a good fight, but they weren't able to provide enough conclusive evidence to suggest that Bemba was ignorant."



Written by Russell Jin
Layout by Raisen Qi
Photos by Agnes Wang

JUNIORS ON THE RISE

Bustling with a rather lighthearted air, junior delegates of BEIMUN XXXIII attend the conference with ease at their standings. With the majority of them being experienced delegates or chairs, the eleventh graders indeed take on their roles with far more comfort than during their rookie years.

"As a junior, and an expert in MUN, I can relate to these rookies because when I was a rookie myself I often struggled a lot," Dylan Park, the delegate of Australia from ECOSOC, said. "But over the years, I was able to develop my skill through several conferences, such as this one (BEIMUN). Since I've been a delegate for two years now, I was able to really enhance my skill as a delegate and become better at MUN."

Indeed, an elevated spot at the dais is not the only benefit a junior delegate gets. Set aside the position, with years of accumulated experience, junior delegates are now able to engage in nuanced discourses and debates with much adroitness.

"I would say that MUN is pretty nice if you have the skills," Ethan Hisao, the delegate of Finland from ECOSOC, said. "Since MUN requires a lot of thinking and processing of various content. For example, finding which clauses to put into resolutions, or understanding the different stances or perspectives between several countries, these are all the things that you have to achieve in order to get a comprehensive viewpoint in MUN. And I know for a fact that these skills take time to achieve."

Now, they have the opportunity to savor a taste of alleviation, and can be relieved from the heavy burden of having to make an impression amidst the intense delegation. Sitting at the dais as a chair comes as quite a fresh experience for the juniors, even among their years of experience. As they enter the committee and scan through the room, they spot rookies, eager in enthusiasm and full of anticipation. Catching glimpses and parallels of their former selves, the juniors look back on their past experiences.

"When I used to be a freshman or a sophomore, I participated in a lot of conferences as a delegate." Leah Kim, President of General Assembly 1 (GA1), said. "That's why it was kinda pressuring for me to perform very well every time I went up to the podium. So naturally, I had to work really hard to get my work done beforehand. As a Junior, though there are still a lot things to do, it still feels much better, since I'm not pressured by the burden of having to make perfect speeches, or having to win awards because now I'm in the position where I have more freedom to make decisions for the committee."



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PHOTO DUMP









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COMMITTEE

















PHOTOS









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