



BEIWATCH

BEIMUN XXIX

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Opening Ceremony



By Emily Parker

“We believe that coopetition has the potential to be applied outside of the business setting, into the world of international diplomacy,” implored Eric Xie, Secretary General, as he opened the BEIMUN XXIX 2022 virtual Conference. As our world remains a fragmented and problematic community in which we must deal with constant hardships, Eric Xie voiced that “coopetition can take us to endless opportunities. The walls of isolationism that have separated countries from one another can come down brick by brick as nations who were once the greatest of rivals could become partners striving to achieve the same goal.” Following, Xie excitedly wished a happy return to prior participants in hopes for more passionate debate, and challenged new delegates to make their first speech, raise their first POI, and submit their very first amendment.

After watching the ever so inspiring and unifying Hymn to the United Nations created by W.H. Auden, in his tribute produced for United Nations Day, Mr. Daniel Rubenstein, the Head of School of the International School of Beijing, expressed his honor and astounding joy when welcoming delegates across the world to kick start the 29th annual Beijing Model United Nations conference, during

his opening remarks. This will also be the second virtual conference in BEIMUN history. Succeeding an introduction by Deputy Secretary General, Shane Lim, Mr. Rubenstein delivered a truly heartwarming and moving speech which entailed the recollection of a dear friend who happens to be an ISB graduate and BEIMUN alumnus. Mr. Rubenstein recalled that one of the first things that friend mentioned back in the 90’s was how Model United Nations was an opportunity that forever changed her life in the becoming of an established diplomat in Washington D.C. He then voiced that as members of this cherished tradition, “we will become future diplomats, future international leaders, and hopefully future problem solvers to make this world a better place.”

Setting the tone for what has been a long-awaited return to BEIMUN, delegates were welcomed by the ISB High School orchestra performing an exquisite pre-recorded rendition of Jack Jarrett’s “Meditation” conducted by the middle and high school music teacher, Mr. Tony Yu. Delegates were entertained by this beautiful world-renowned piece composed of engaging harmonies, slow development, and full breadth of expressive opportunities from the colorful third movement of Jack Jarrett’s large work, “Serenade for String Orchestra.” With the climax of

the piece featuring a dissonant clash that eventually resolves in a sweet harmony, this piece is symbolic of the temporary, yet definite struggles we face today, but with the understanding that there is always light at the end of the tunnel.

Following the transcending concert performed by the High School Orchestra, as a conclusion to the opening ceremony, Deputy Secretary General Youngsoo Kim introduced the keynote speaker of BEIMUN XXIX-- Senior UN official and United Nations Resident Coordinator in China, Siddharth Chatterjee. Mr. Chatterjee communicated that even when we live in a world that “faces sweeping destructions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, imminent climate crisis, rising division, discrimination, inequality, and the path of global recovery remains highly unpredictable and volatile, [there’s] a strong sense of hope.” This hope within the community and can be sensed from recent events such as the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympic games. The wise words of United Nations secretary, Mr. Antonio Guterres, states, “we need to turn the recovery into a real opportunity to do things right for the future end of good,” and Mr. Chatterjee voiced that the future of resiliency relies on young people who will see and shape the world we live in.

PHOTOGRAPH BY GIGI SHUM

LAYOUT BY HAEWON CHOI

Keynote Speaker - Mr. Siddharth Chatterjee

By Alex Leung

Incumbent UN Resident Coordinator in China, Mr. Siddharth Chatterjee, kindly spoke at the BEIMUN XXIX conference. The Resident Coordinator is the highest-ranked official from the UN sustainable development program and is the Secretary-General's representative, to whom the Resident Coordinator must report.

Having a master's degree in public policy from the Princeton School for Public and International Affairs, Mr. Chatterjee has nearly 25 years of experience in international relations, sustainable development and human rights with the UN in UNICEF operations in countries such as Somalia, Indonesia and Sudan.

Mr. Chatterjee has also been the Resident Coordinator of Kenya, where he worked with the country's government and people to ensure progress towards Sustainable Development Goals and its own agendas and visions. During his time in Kenya, Mr. Chatterjee also placed a heavy emphasis on the rights of women and the youth. Additionally, he has worked with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) as their chief diplomat and ensured that the voices of the most vulnerable people were heard; Mr. Chatterjee was involved in the representation of the IFRC at conferences such as the Busan High-Level Forum and the Rio+20 conference.

Aside from his UN position, Mr. Chatterjee also writes extensively on human rights and environmental

issues, with publications being featured on Reuters, Forbes, and CNBC Africa among other sites. Placing an emphasis on educating others, Mr. Chatterjee has also spoken on TEDx three times. He was also an army major in the Indian Army, starting his career with military strategic studies, and has been awarded for gallantry during active service.

"As long as poverty, injustice and gross inequality persist in our world, none of us can truly rest."

These words, taken from Nelson Mandela's speech *Make Poverty History*, have inspired Mr. Chatterjee throughout his humanitarian work and served as the prime target of his development plans. Through this motivation and his existing expertise in the field of international relations, Mr. Siddharth Chatterjee's remarks may inspire delegates to act upon Mandela's words throughout the conference.



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The Breakaway States of Donetsk and Luhansk

By Alex Leung

Since the annexation of the Crimean Peninsula in 2014, the Russian Federation and Ukraine have been embroiled in territorial disputes and military conflicts. Shortly after political unrest in Ukraine, Russian separatists in the Donbas region of Eastern Ukraine formed the Donetsk People's Republic and Luhansk People's Republic. The regions had previously held a popular vote that declared independence: 89% and 96.2% in Donetsk and Luhansk, respectively.

Both regions currently operate as de facto sovereign states, but they still rely on Russian support. Having a majority-Russian population, Donetsk and Luhansk use the Russian Ruble as their currency, and citizens hold Russian passports due to the limited recognition the states receive. As of 2022, only Russia has formally recognized the sovereignty of these states, with four other UN members supporting their independence: Belarus, Nicaragua, Syria, and Venezuela.

Tensions in the Donbas region, located along the Ukraine-Russia border, have been rising in the

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past few weeks, with Russian troops and tanks being lined across the Ukrainian border. Russian President Vladimir Putin's motive for the increased military presence was "protect[ing] people subjected to bullying and genocide." Additionally, he has deemed Ukraine a "constant threat" and has called for its "de-Nazification."

On February 24, Russia launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine, approaching through Crimea, Belarus, and Donbas. The troops have seized key infrastructure and directly attacked key cities, including the capital city Kyiv, to weaken and cut off Ukrainian efforts.

As a result, heavy sanctions have been imposed on Russia. President of the United States of America, Joe Biden, has imposed an export block on technology, which was designed to deter Russia's military and airspace advancements. Further sanctions have been imposed on Russian banks, such as VTB, to damage the Russian military's finances as well as target Russian Oligarchs with assets in the United States.

Members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) have been mobilizing troops

in aid of Ukraine. However, because Ukraine is not a NATO member, the organization has not deployed any troops to the war front; instead, it has sent troops to its Eastern European members, such as the Baltic states and Poland. Currently, NATO has not directly engaged in the defense of Ukraine but has deployed troops to the region and funded cyberwarfare defense.



Russia Declares War on Ukraine

By Emily Parker



Breaking news released in the early hours of February 24th communicated the invasion of Russia's amassed 190,000 troops on its former partnering nation within the Soviet Union, Ukraine. There had been an omniscient cloud of worry and unease over Russia's bordering nation, as in recent weeks the hostile relationship between these two rival countries continued to rise. Mass Russian forces proceeded with their hand in war in efforts to resemble the power Moscow employed in Soviet Days, through implementing a Russian controlled Security Zone. The Russian's also have goals to pull the Ukrainian population of 44 million back into the orbit of Russian domination. Additionally, there are hypotheses that the timing of this war may be a direct consequence of changes in the presidential ruling over the United States from former President Donald J. Trump who was a notable ally to the Russians, to President Biden who is

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distrustful of the Kremlin. The Kremlin is often used metonymically to refer to the government of the Russian Federation and it was a previous reference to the government of the Soviet Union between 1922-1991. Furthermore, the reasons behind Russia's invasion of Ukraine are also explained by NATO's eastward expansion. Ukraine is set on finding an entry into joining NATO, "and Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov explained: 'For us it's absolutely mandatory to ensure Ukraine never, ever becomes a member of Nato.'" ("Why Is Russia Invading Ukraine And What Does Putin Want?")

The attacks of almost 200,000 Russian troops began by targeting Ukraine's military infrastructure and border guard units. This was then followed by Russian tanks bordering the city of Kharkiv, a population of 1.4 million. Russian troops landed near the Ukrainian port cities of Odesa on the Black Sea and Mariupol on the internal sea of Azov. In the capital of Ukraine, Kyiv, millions of citizens attempted to flee under the blasting warning sirens of approaching invasion. Citizens currently living in Ukraine are finding tremendous difficulty in deciding whether or not to uproot and leave the nation, and are scared of being called into action to fight. Many countries near Ukraine have begun preparing for mass numbers of refugees that have fled the country in hope of survival.

Global leaders were quick to condemn Russia's actions and motives, with the European Commission president, Ursula von der Leyen, tweeting, "We will not let President Putin tear down Europe's security architecture." Numerous EU officials promise to hit Moscow with stricter sanctions in disapproval of how Russia has brought back war to Europe. The EU's foreign policy chief, Josep Borrell Fontelles, called out President Putin for bringing back "senseless aggression" and describes these series of events as "some of the darkest hours Europe has seen since World War II." Due to these invasions on Ukraine, Russia has been faced with penalties of their own including restricted access to the UN's financial and capital markets, and an initial round of punishment for the Kremlin officials, lawmakers, and three banks.

Young Athletes in the Winter Olympics

By Ivy Yang

As the last burst of fireworks illuminated the sky, the Olympic flame - lit upon a giant snowflake - was extinguished, marking the official end of the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics. From the opening ceremony to the end of the closing ceremony, the suspended snowflake cauldron was a symbol of unity and the prevailing theme of "One World, One Family". Below the snowflake, all athletes entered the arena one last time to celebrate their memorable Olympics experience, immersed in the inclusive and inspiring atmosphere.

This year, over the 109 events hosted, cries of joy and despair were heard while athletes performed record-breaking tricks that accumulated to numerous highlighting moments.

In the popular women's singles figure skating event, the Russian Olympic Committee (ROC) had been highly favored for their previous striking performances in the arena and their dominance of the podium. The final result of this event was: ROC's Anna Shcherbakova and Alexandra Trusova won gold and silver respectively, while Japan's Kaori Sakamoto placed third. Unfortunately, the world record holder Kamila Valieva came in fourth after she stumbled multiple times in her free skate. After testing positive in a drug test before the Olympics, Valieva was fortunately allowed to continue skating in the Olympics. Withstanding the questioning voices around her, Valieva still finished with an outstanding performance regardless of her placing, inspiring thousands with her attitude of persistence.

After winning the men's snowboard big air event on February 14th, 17-year-old Su Yiming broke the record and became China's youngest Winter Olympics gold medalist. Landing with a pair of 1800s in his first two runs, Su Yiming secured gold with the smooth completion of the backside triple cork 1800. Adding to the previous silver he won in slopestyle, Su Yiming brought home a second medal with his stable performance of difficult tricks right before his 18th birthday. He excitedly expressed, "It feels like a dream, a big dream come true."



At the same time, China's Eileen Gu also made history, becoming the first freestyle skier to win three medals in a single Winter Olympics. Despite pressures from the media, Gu won an historic third medal after securing an incredible score of 95.25 in the freeski halfpipe. While everyone congratulates Eileen on her achievements, we are also reminded of the years of hard work, dedication, and never-ending passion that come with it.

While the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics has come to an end, the Olympic spirit that all athletes showed this winter will continue. Congratulations to all Olympians. The world is looking forward to their striking performances again in the 2026 Milan Winter Olympics.



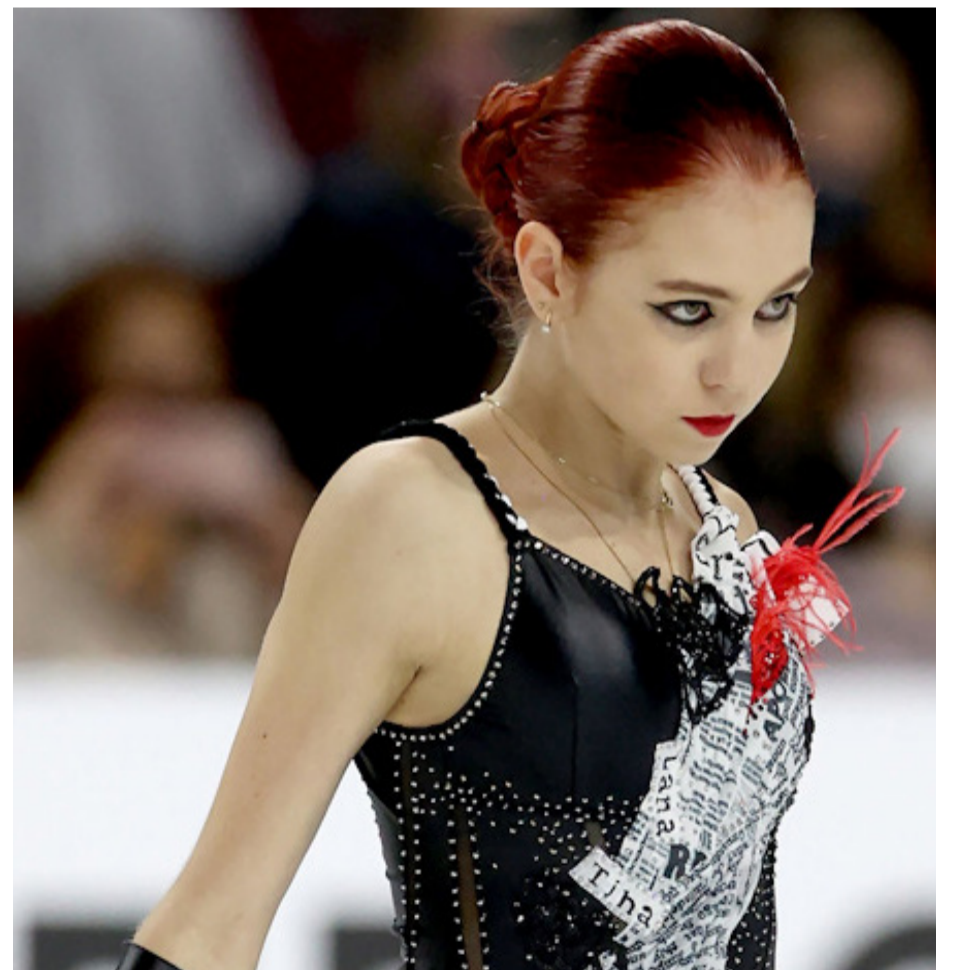
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BTS: Preparation for BeImun XXIX

By Dorothy Du

The coronavirus continues to trouble our daily lives with interruption, but the BEIMUN conference has forged on nonetheless, continuing to be the gathering place of brilliant minds from all over the world. With the future constantly clouded with uncertainty, we can only imagine how difficult it must have been to plan for BEIMUN XXIX. Today, we interviewed members of the BeImun XXIX Secretariat team and others involved in the planning process of BEIMUN to learn more about their experience; they are Ray Fang (Deputy General), Renee Kuo (Head of Administration), Youngsoo Kim (Deputy General), and Matthew Yan (Editor for the Opening Ceremony).

What have you been doing to prepare for BEIMUN XXIX?

Ray Fang: The entire MUN leadership team has done a lot of work to prepare for this conference amid such uncertain circumstances. The main things I've been doing are updating and maintaining our website, creating materials and graphics for participants, and communicating with participants from all over the world to ensure our conference will be an enjoyable experience for everyone.

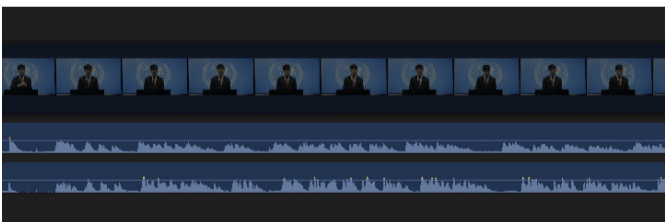
Renee Kuo: As the Head of Administration, Evan and I have mainly been communicating with MUN One, figuring out technology and conference logistics, and recruiting and training admins.

Youngsoo Kim: The preparation for BEIMUN had to be flexible because our future was clouded in a veil of uncertainty. Especially during the period of online learning, we didn't know whether BEIMUN would happen the way we wanted to. The BEIMUN executive team had weekly Tuesday meetings to discuss how to prepare and we regularly delegated tasks in our group chat.

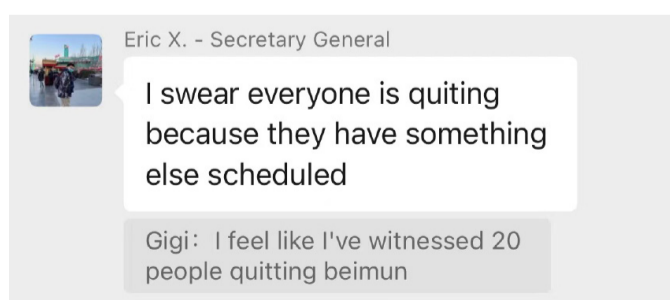
Matthew Yan: For the past couple of days, I've mostly been helping to film and edit the opening ceremony for BEIMUN.



In the Conference Room



Editing the Opening Ceremony



So Many People Quitting Last Minute

There seem to be so many aspects to prepare for, have you faced any struggles along the way?

Ray Fang: Trying to communicate with students, teachers, and software providers worldwide has definitely been the biggest struggle. There were instances of miscommunication that were frustrating and hindered our preparation for the conference. On the other hand, this experience also taught me a lot about being more organized and communicating in a more efficient, precise manner.

Renee Kuo: With BEIMUN XXIX being online, minor tech problems are practically inevitable. It's not that the tech issues themselves are difficult to solve, it's that communicating solely over email can be inefficient and unclear, making a small problem seem much more difficult than it actually is. So the main struggle has been effectively communicating with participants and making sure that everyone understands what is happening. And, because this is our first few days back from a month of online learning, we had a very limited amount of time to finish off all of the conference preparations that could only be done in person.

Youngsoo Kim: We were supposed to have a conference called BeImun China with all the schools in Beijing, but that got unexpectedly canceled due to rising COVID cases. That was a big challenge for us because we had to shift our focus to this conference. Also, we had an issue with many people pulling out last minute, so it was hard to coordinate everything. The main problem during planning was logistics. We have an online platform called MUN ONE which all the participants use to share notes. The person who programmed MUN ONE, Joey, was doing his own conference and we hadn't received word from him for weeks. Thankfully, on Monday or Tuesday, he got back to us, but that period of 10 days when we lost contact with Joey was one of the most frightening experiences of my life.

Matthew Yan: Filming the opening ceremony has not been smooth. It seemed simple – and it was supposed to be – but we kept on meeting roadblocks along the way. When we started filming, I realized that the lighting in the location we selected wasn't ideal, so we spent an hour just tuning the camera. Unfortunately, however, the camera ran out of battery after only filming one speech for the opening ceremony, so I had to get another camera that took another hour to set up. There were also a bunch of technical issues, such as the audio not matching up with the recording, the lighting in the shots making people look like characters from The Simpsons, clips from guest speakers not downloading, etc. Don't get me wrong – it was still pretty fun, and, thankfully, everything worked out in the end.

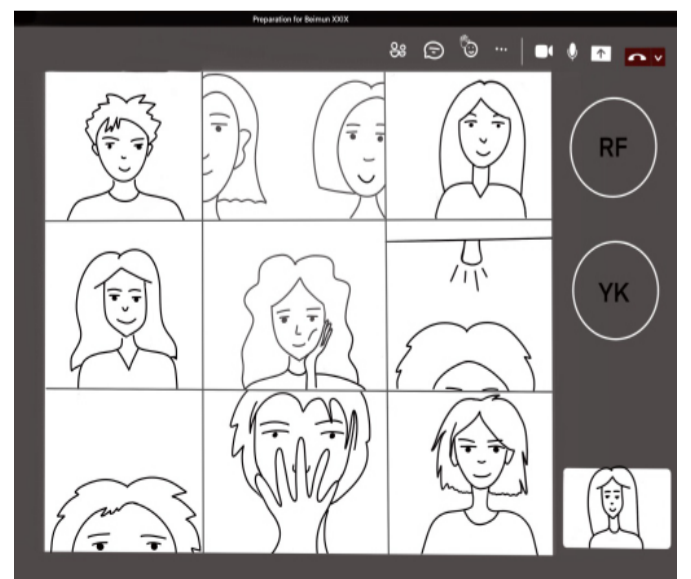
What about any rewarding moments?

Ray Fung: The most rewarding moments in preparing for this conference were when I saw newer members in our club who started off shy and disengaged become passionate debaters and committed to our program. This made me feel like all the work I've done with these individuals had paid off, and it is exciting to see younger students discovering their love for MUN, just like I did in middle school.

Renee Kuo: The most rewarding thing has to be seeing all the work everyone has put in over the past few months come together. We've all put in a lot of time and effort into making the conference possible, and it's so rewarding to see participants enjoying the experience, especially as everything is online, it doesn't always feel "real". It's nice to see that these people actually exist and that what we're doing is making them happy. On another note, there's nothing more satisfying than finally fixing a tech problem and getting a "thank you" after emailing back and forth for an afternoon.

Youngsoo Kim: Yesterday, as Deputy Secretary-General, I was going through different channels, and I went into the Security Council. Somebody immediately said, "weren't you my president for GA last year?" It was someone from Seoul who recognized me, and it was someone to whom I had given the Most Diplomatic Delegate award. That was a pretty rewarding moment.

Matthew Yan: So far, there haven't been any particularly "rewarding moments," since the conference has only just started, but if I had to say, it would've been the moment I sent the video off to the Secretary-General, Eric Xie, on Tuesday night. It was very relieving. It was also good to see the opening ceremony play today.



ELON MUSK'S NEURALINK FACES ANIMAL ABUSE ACCUSATIONS

By Sophie Bai

Recently, Elon Musk's co-founded company, Neuralink, encountered allegations of animal cruelty in its testing procedures on macaque monkeys. Founded in 2016, Neuralink developed a chip device the size of a coin that would connect the human brain to a computer. The chip would be implanted in the human skull along with wires that will pass through into the brain, monitoring and potentially stimulating brain activity. It aims to promote an evolutionary achievement in restoring senses and curing disorders such as Alzheimer's or Parkinson's.

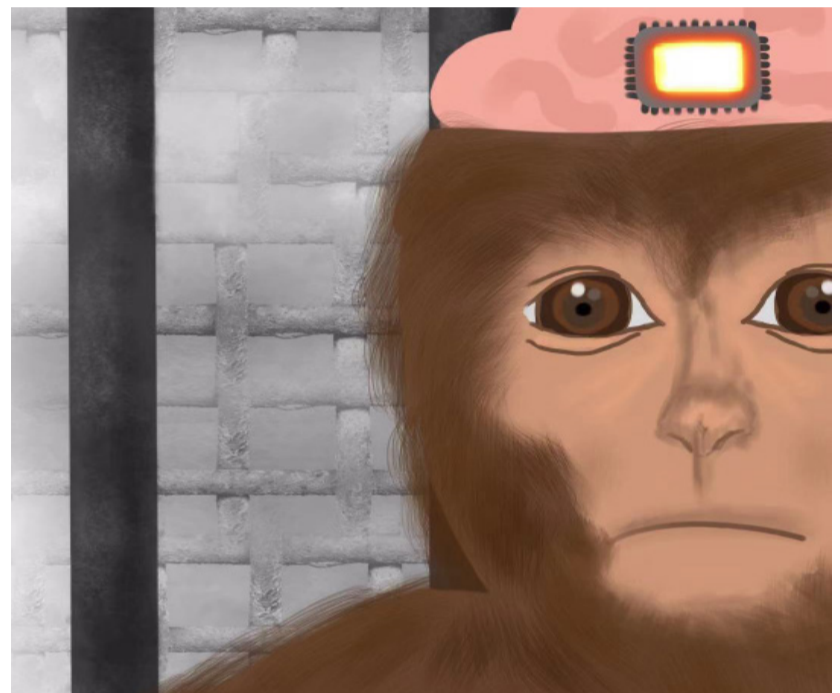
The company has been testing on macaque monkeys with the University of California, Davis, since 2017. Animal cruelty accusations were disclosed for the first time in the five years of Neuralink's operation by the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine (PCRM), a nonprofit organization that strongly opposes animal testing.

PCRM reported that the company subjected monkeys to exceptionally invasive skull implants that caused them extreme suffering and permanent brain damage. The organization obtained countless pages of health records, autopsy reports, and other documents that described the \$1.4 million partnership between Neuralink and UC Davis through California's open records laws. Based on these records, Neuralink had conducted experiments at UC Davis with at least 23 monkeys between 2017 to 2020, and only 7 or 8 monkeys survived likely as a result of the implants. Filing complaints to the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) based on the university's violation of the Animal Welfare Act, PCRM claimed that "Neuralink and UC-Davis staff failed to provide dying monkeys with adequate veterinary care... [the monkeys] had steel posts screwed to their skulls, suffered 'facial trauma,' seizures following brain implants, and recurring infections at implant sites."

In addition, PCRM accused Neuralink of using a substance called "BioGlue", which is supposedly illegal for usage; PCRM stressed the negative impacts BioGlue has on the monkey's mental health.

As the allegation spread across the media, Neuralink immediately retorted the accusations by stating, "two animals were euthanized at planned end dates to gather important histological data, and six animals were euthanized at the medical advice of the veterinary staff at UC Davis." According to the BBC, Neuralink also refuted the claims involving BioGlue by stating it is an "FDA-approved product." In further response to claims of lacking proper care for the monkeys, Neuralink stated that its test animals are arranged into a "6,000-square-foot in-house vivarium" to ensure their wellbeing.

Despite the animal cruelty accusations, Neuralink has continued to develop its technology that will connect a human brain to a machine. "It's like a FitBit in your skull," Elon Musk initially described.



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Superlatives

By Daniel Lee

Though this year's BEIMUN is being held online, this did not deter the delegates' imagination and commitment; despite the strict attire requirements, delegates have found ways to express their individuality and excitement. Furthermore, this year's BEIMUN has seen both the end and beginning of certain individuals' diplomatic journeys.

Senior 1: YoungSoo Kim, International School of Beijing, G12, Deputy Secretary General

YoungSoo Kim's MUN journey started back in 7th grade, making this conference his 6th. His most memorable experience was THIMUN Singapore (attended in his sophomore year) as it was his "last traveling conference before COVID hit." Moreover, his team "arrived at... 5 in the morning." Kim, the Deputy Secretary General, recalls that the conferences are "really intimidating at first and when you make a mistake, it feels like the end of the world." Nevertheless, Kim emphasizes the importance of confidence and accepting constructive criticism.



Rookie 1: Alice Xu, International School of Beijing, G11, ECOSOC, United States of America

Alice Xu's interest in being a delegate sparked over the pandemic when she paid increasing attention to global issues and economic problems. Xu, of the International School of Beijing, mentions, "people are really friendly." One of her personal goals to achieve through this conference is to effectively deal with pressure: "The USA plays a significant role in global politics, and there is a huge responsibility in my hands."



Best Dressed 1: Jessie Park, G11, Shekou International School, SC, China

Jessie Park of Shekou International School claims that "it is still cold in ShenZhen," which influenced her decision of wearing a warm turtleneck top. She is also wearing a black blazer jacket and jeans. Park, the delegate of China, expressed discontent towards her choice of pants: "I'm wearing ... unfortunately, not really entertaining... normal jeans." She additionally mentions how the selections are unintentional and not reflective of her internal emotional state.



Rookie 2: Matthew Kim, International School of Beijing, G11, DIS, Denmark

This is Matthew's 2nd conference after his debut in THIMUN, which was a few months ago. Kim, the delegate of Denmark, considers this experience as a crucial step towards achieving his dreams: "I really want to study global relations in the future... and this is an excellent chance to get some relevant knowledge in the field." Kim believes the conferences are special because their international nature provides more chances to interact with fellow young diplomats.

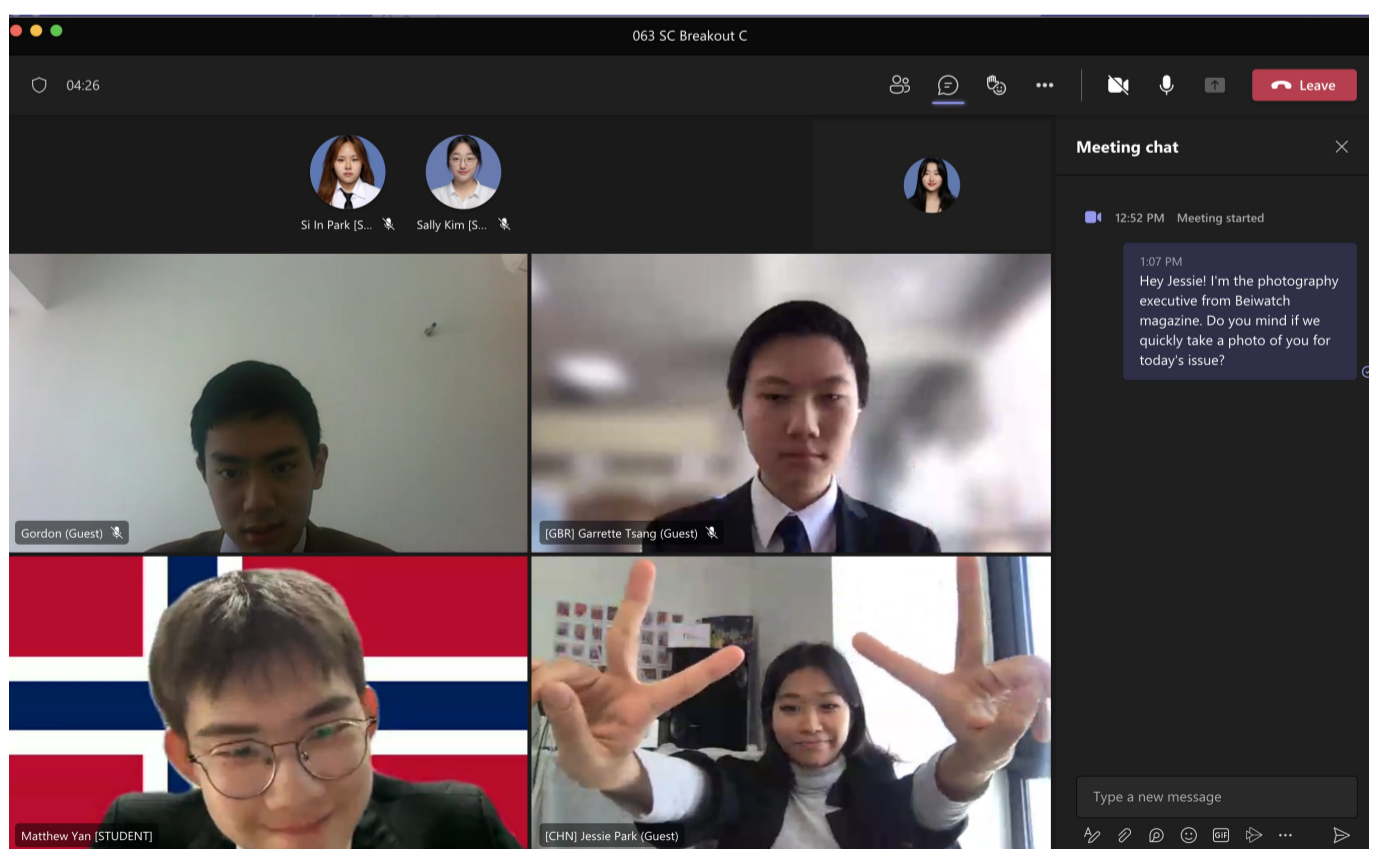


Senior 2: Si In Park, International School of Beijing, G12, Deputy Secretary General

This is Si In Park's 6th year taking part in MUN. Park recalls that "the 2016 conference was the most memorable because many delegates gave encouraging compliments." She says that MUN is a valuable experience because it allows one to be involved in a very inclusive and interesting social bubble. Park, the Deputy Secretary General, has advice for the rookies: "it doesn't matter what position you are in... challenge yourself and do anything that comes in to your mind!"

Best Dressed 2: Sally Kim, International School of Beijing, G10, SC, Assistant President

Sally Kim, the Assistant President of the Security Council, is wearing "formal shoes, stockings, black miniskirt, white turtleneck top, and a gray blazer." This is the exact same outfit she wore to the THIMUN ** conference, and she claims that it demonstrates her persistent interest in MUN. Kim mentions how her attire - composed of a variety of hues - reflects her internal emotional state: "I am very excited and looking forward to this conference because this is my first stab at being a chair."



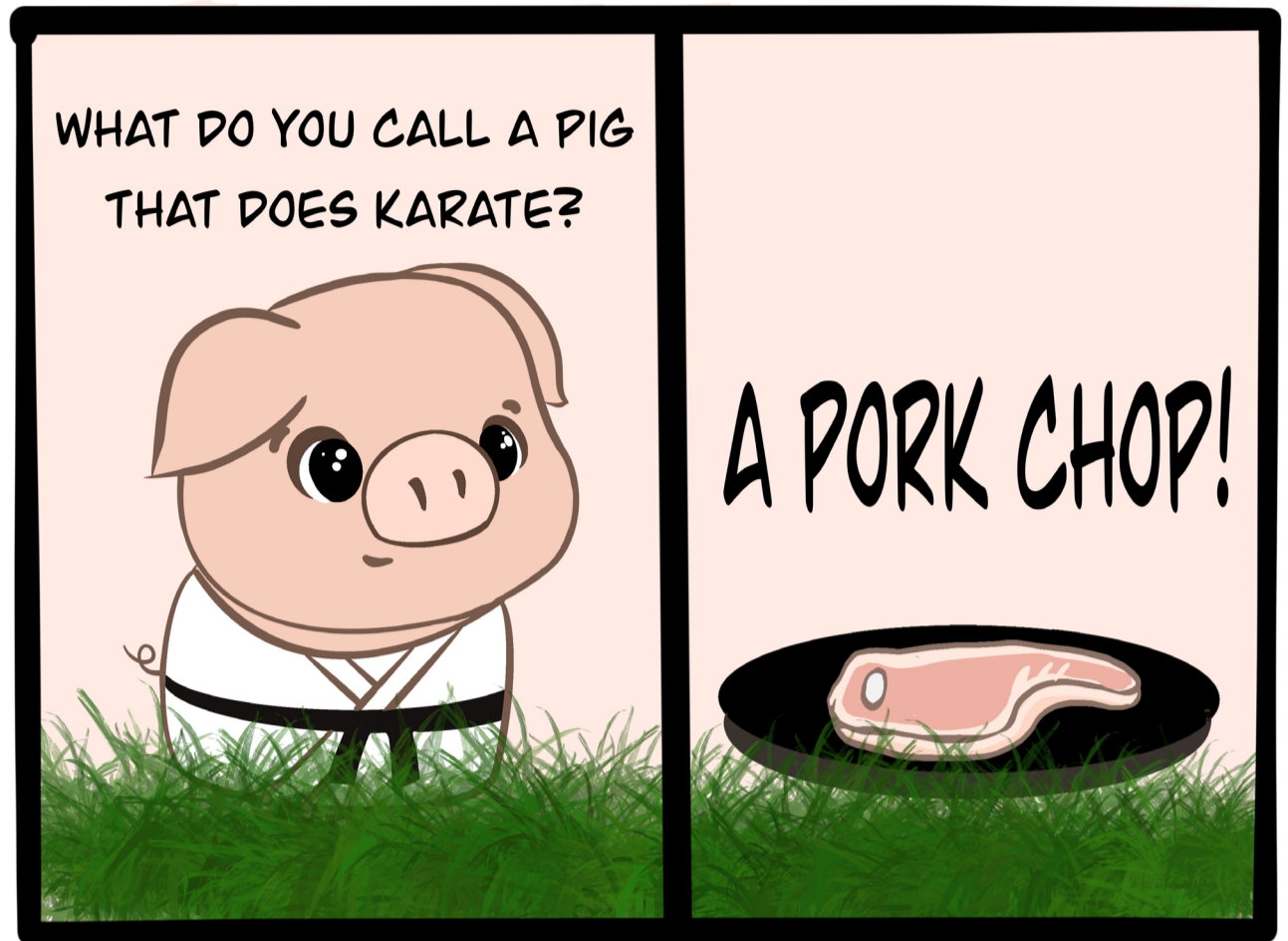
8 COLLAGE



Therapy cat before



Therapy cat after I share my problems



"A CURIOUS TANGYUAN"



ARTWORKS BY MIE KO, BERNICE CHAN, CHELSEY WANG

LAYOUT BY AKARI OH

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