



BEIWATCH

BEIMUN XXX

ISSUE I

February 24, 2023

OPENING CEREMONY



By Daniel Lee

The High School Concert Orchestra officially opened the 30th Beijing Model United Nations at ISB with two impressive pieces: Pulcinella and Concerto Grosso. After this strong performance, the ISB Head of School, Mr. Daniel Rubenstein, expressed his honor of hosting the conference this year. He emphasized how meaningful MUN is to ISB, considering how the school was originally founded to serve the diplomatic community in Beijing. There were two major points that Mr. Rubenstein mentioned in his opening remarks. First, the Head of School implored participants to “get a sound understanding of the world” through this experience. He encouraged the young diplomats to fuse different perspectives and step out of their comfort zones. Second, Mr. Rubenstein voiced that “politically and diplomatically successful people form long-lasting personal relationships,” urging the participating scholars to form crucial networks with peers from other schools.

Then, guest speaker Mr. Jöerg Wuttke connected online to the opening ceremony to deliver his speech. As an expert in investment and

commerce between Europe and China, Mr. Wuttke shared valuable knowledge with the aspiring future leaders. He accentuated how to learn from the past, and how “to be informed and not restrained by bias” are the keys to success. Additionally, Mr. Wuttke gave the important piece of advice that diversity must be sought after in multiple environments, such as but not limited to, multinational firms.

As Mr. Wuttke ended the call with us, Secretary Generals Renee Kuo and Ray Fang walked up to the stage to deliver their greetings to everyone. Renee hoped that this hybrid conference would serve as a valuable opportunity to all, where “historical review with our current knowledge help devise better solutions and inform a better future.” Similarly, Ray acknowledged how crucial the joint pursuit of economic growth and sustainability is. Though he expressed doubt towards “our past that may be lost through rapid change,” Ray concluded the speech with an optimistic outlook: “we can solve the global issues that threaten the society by learning from previous examples and transforming traditions.”

Right after these two Secretary Generals walked off the stage, a

celebration video from Sara Yun was played on the screen. As a former ISB alumni (1993-1994) and a career member of the Foreign Service at the US Department of State, she recalled how BEIMUN was a special experience for her as well, which opened the doors to her career in global affairs. She also noted that delegates should set the differences aside and have fun in this conference. Past Secretary General speakers YoonHo Cha (BEIMUN XXV SG), HaeSol Kim (BEIMUN XXVII SG), and Eric Xie (BEIMUN XXIX SG) all appeared on the subsequent video for a brief discussion session.

Finally, George Ward, a US diplomat currently residing in Beijing and a previous Political Advisor at the United Nations, made his way to ISB for a closing speech. Through his experience as a Presidential Management Fellow at the US Department of State, he stressed the importance of freedom of speech and press to foster healthy political development. The opening of BEIMUN marks the commencement of BEIMUN XXX: Let the future be informed, but not restrained, by the past. Let the debate begin.

GA1 Committee Recap

By Sophie Bai

Following the opening ceremony on Thursday night, delegates of the first General Assembly ended their first day of debate. This year, the committee explored two topics: further promoting gender equality in both domestic and workplace settings, and re-evaluating the role of the United Nations in facilitating global collaboration.

Gender inequality has continued to be a struggle for females as women all over the world are still prohibited from achieving greater potentials outside their household. In addition to lower socioeconomic status, females often encounter problems including, but not limited to, sexual harassment, unpaid work, and domestic violence. The United Nations has made reducing gender inequality a crucial 21st century goal by incorporating it into the Sustainable Development Goals; “Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.” The GA1 committee has devised possible solutions such as reforming workplace policies, using gender quota in employment, and changing social norms by addressing gender equality in educating the youth. Though gender inequality is not just concerned with females, the delegates of GA1 are also planning to examine stereotypical gender expectations of males.

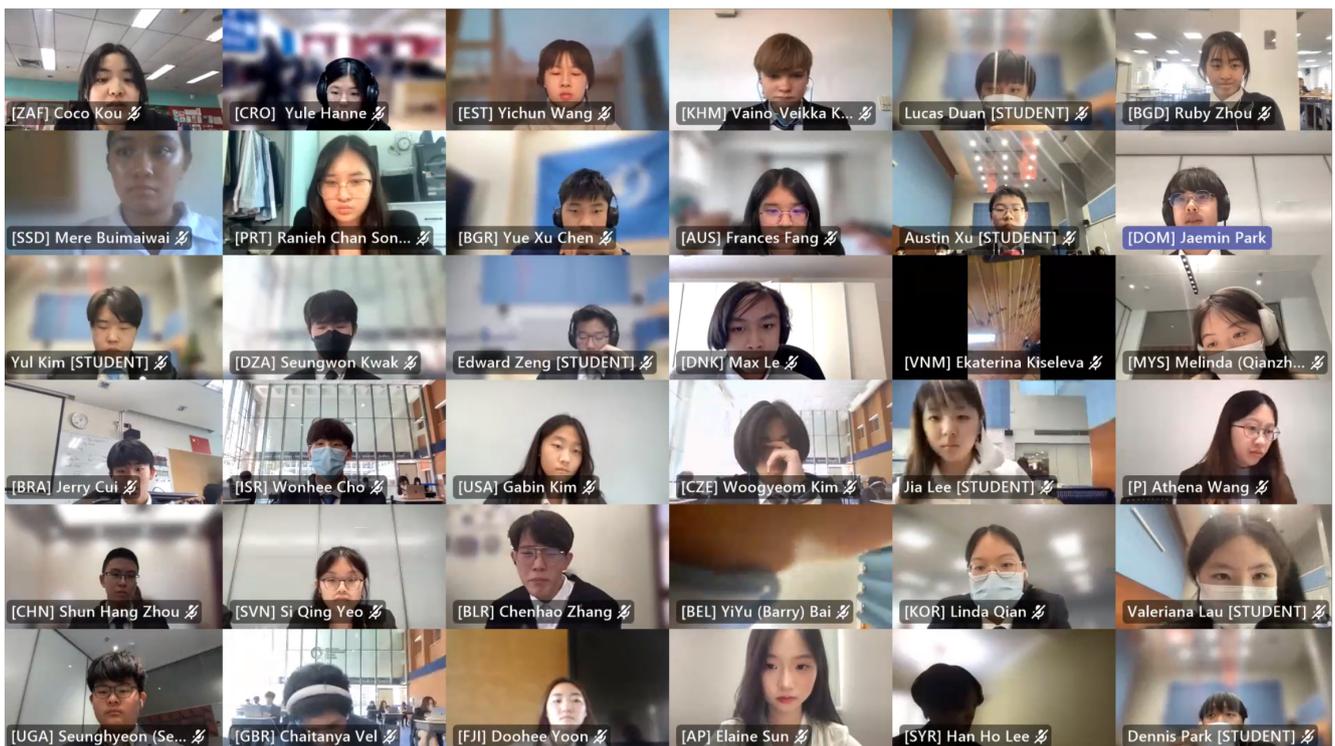
The United Nations is the most well-known institution for facilitating global cooperation. In the 21st century, however, the UN faces harder challenges amongst the increased tensions between many nations. The rise of nationalism, in particular, has caused a rejection to multinational cooperation. Moreover, the UN has struggled to organize global efforts in issues such as the COVID-19 pandemic and Climate Change. To this end, the General Assembly 1 believes that it is crucial to re-evaluate the UN’s current position to tackle international issues successfully. Along with previous attempts taken by the Millennium Development Goals and United Nations Global Compact, the chairs of GA1 devised a list of possible solutions, including “enhancing the governing and regulatory power of existing UN institutions” and “developing consensus among global actors.”

Throughout Thursday, the delegates of GA1 expanded their discussion on both issues. However, the first lobbying session was not a straightforward one, as Jia Lee, a delegate of the committee, indicated that “Thursday was an awkward exchange of delegates.” Nevertheless, the discussion progressed as Jia stated, “after the break, our 10-delegate block suddenly expanded to 15 delegates.” The assistant president Edward Zeng stated



that “the focus for today will be finishing up lobbying and moving in to debate.”

Numerous resolutions were proposed after a productive Friday morning. For instance, the Republic of Tunisia, along with Republic of Croatia, Egypt, South Sudan, and India, suggested creating service centers to deal with domestic gender equality. Australia, along with four other nations, urges the UN to establish anti-discrimination policies to promote gender equality in workplace settings. Upon the topic with UN’s position, the delegate of Belgium recommended less economically developed countries to collaborate with the more economically developed countries and that state members foster more partnership to endorse global collaboration. These listed examples are merely the tip of the iceberg for resolutions. The chairs are now looking forward to another fruitful debate session.



ECOSOC Committee Recap

By Emily Parker

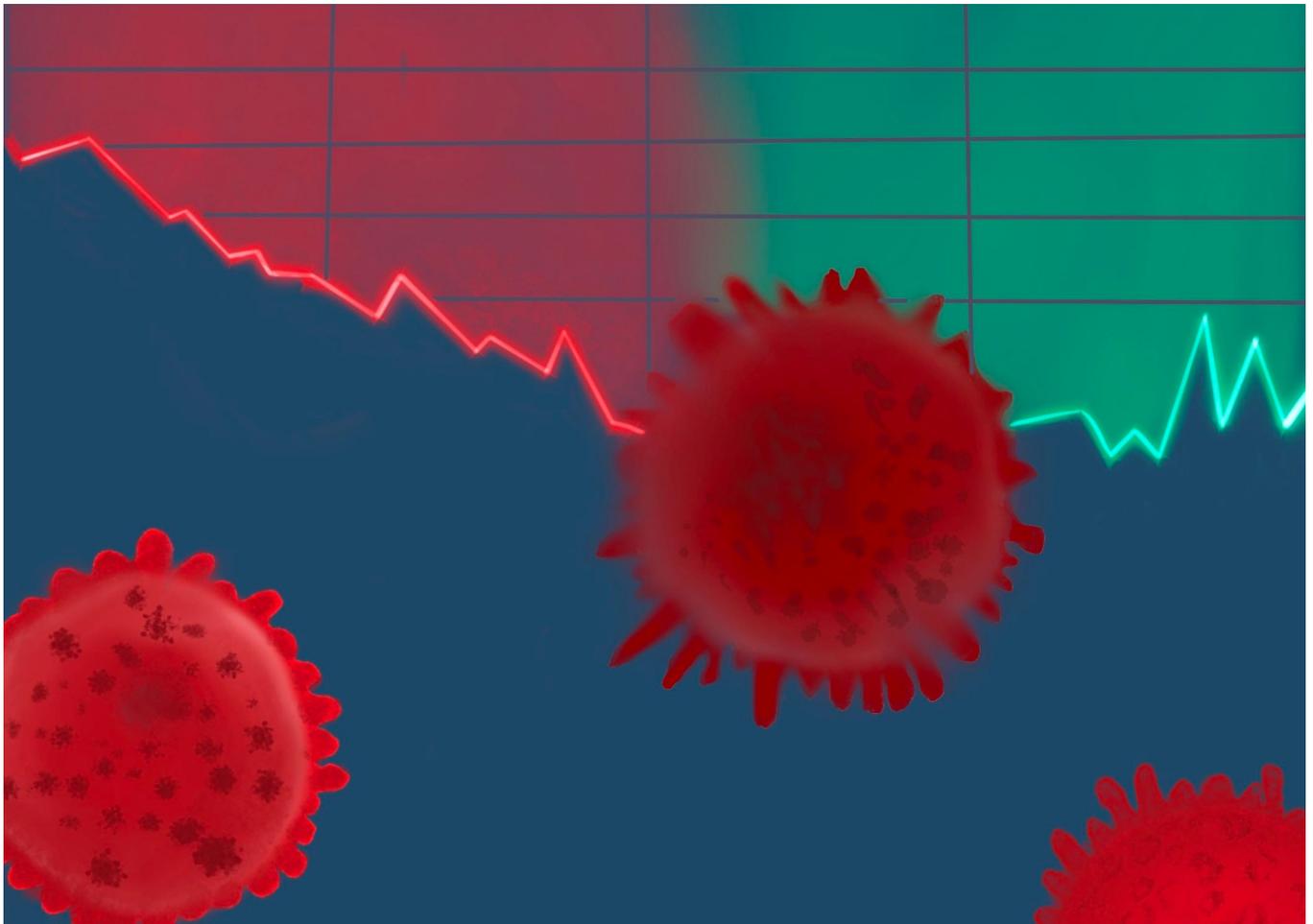
On the second day of the 30th annual Beijing Model United Nations conference, delegates of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) convened to address measures targeting the prevention of future financial crises. They also evaluated solutions to reinvigorate the economy after Covid-19. During the pandemic, the global economy experienced a recession, which caused damages to the development of the global socioeconomic order. Led by President Jaeha Kim (NIS) and Assistant Presidents Seungwoo Ham (IST) and Mi Na Son (IST), esteemed delegates of the Economic and Social Council gathered once again to voice their strong opinions on this virtual platform. Students will lobby and debate extensively to reach a consensus on what resolution will best improve these persistent problems.

During the debating session of ECOSOC, delegates discussed attainable solutions. Beginning with pursuing a resolution submitted by the Republic of Croatia, and co-submitted by The Federal Republic of Germany, Republic of Finland, Republic of Estonia, and the Republic of France, the Republic of Croatia calls for the government to, “avert future economic shocks brought on by COVID-19 or other health crises by supporting and investing in health infrastructure.” They also vocalized the high importance of requesting support for commercial banks from member nations and encouraged business loans and financial aid. There are calls on UN members to implement measures to strengthen their current connections with other countries and encourage international trade. Encouraging member states to revitalize travel and transportation within and between their respective states is also vital to



stimulate global economic growth once again.

In the coming days, we hope to see many more resolutions submitted and passed in this conference. Over the course of today, both new and returning students stepped into the arena to present their clauses.



ENV Committee Recap

By Ivy Yang

Facing threatening environmental catastrophes and addressing related issues have become one of 21st century's most pressing matters. Led by president Jaewon Kim, and assistant presidents Elizabeth Van Sluytman and David Nam, delegates in BEIMUN XXX's ENV committee have gathered in extensive discussions to tackle current ecological disasters and environmental issues in an attempt to avert further damage. Amidst fervent debates and lobbying sessions, delegates are challenged with pitching resolutions in relation to climate change and the global water crisis.

Recognizing the disparity in economic stability and international power, delegates converged on possible solutions for More Economically Developed Countries (MEDCs) in acknowledging environmental justice "through climate finance, technology transfer, and other essential methods" (Sluytman and Nam). Disproportionately affected by environmental issues, Lower Economically Developed Countries (LEDCs) face probable threats propelled by natural disasters, public health concerns, and socioeconomic instabilities. Alarmed by the escalating issue of global warming—as seen in temperature and sea level escalations—a resolution was submitted by Malaysia: the possibility of supporting

geo-engineering research and development, utilizing efficient advanced technologies, and organizing global awareness events and campaigns. Additionally, in an attempt to encourage companies to employ more sustainable energy and limit carbon emission, delegates proposed the idea of reinforcing the cap-and-trade system to limit emissions and carbon tax regulations to disincentivize firms.

At the same time, delegates have also expressed concerns toward the global water crisis evolving around water scarcity, contamination, and waterborne disease. According to the World Health Organization, approximately "2.2 billion people around the world do not have safely managed drinking water services, 4.2 billion people do not have safely managed sanitation services, and 3 billion lack basic hand-washing facilities" (WHO). Considering the underlying socioeconomic threats on ecosystems, delegates proposed different amendments through rounds of debates. Besides, they discussed potential solutions to mitigate the damaging effects of the water crisis on different stakeholders. In a resolution submitted by The Republic of the Philippines, delegates suggested measures including, interventionist supply-side policies. These include, for instance, direct government investment in research and development to



strengthen filtration systems. In addition to funding basic scientific investigations, the suggested policies include stricter maintenance to improve existing management systems. In retrospect, as mentioned by ENV's chair David Sun, "raising awareness in countries, especially MEDCs, to gather funds and donations" will also be crucial in advancing sustainable development and supporting rural areas with insufficient access to clean water.

Overall, the heated discourse addressed the theme of sustainability and how international governments must come together to pursue economic growth while preserving the environment for posterity. Resource depletion is inevitable, yet this conference served to address possible ways to mitigate environmental consequences.



DIS Committee Recap

By Victoria Li

The lack of effective disarmament methods, which is required to alleviate pollution and effects on the population, is concerning. This theme initiated the discussion in the Disarmament Committee, where delegates highlighted the necessity of exploring more effective methods. For instance, it is estimated that over 14000 nuclear warheads and 100 million landmines are currently in existence, killing around 20,000 people every year. The committee discussed how there were 4.8 million Vietnamese people still being affected by the aftermaths of Agent Orange, a deadly toxin used by the Americans during the Vietnam War.

Regarding the matter of Vietnam, delegates proposed solutions such as active investment in biotechnology in an attempt to disintegrate the explosives biologically. Other remedies include filtering contaminated soil and wastewater so that the natural resources are completely distilled. One of the most innovative suggestions was to create biosensors to detect the

presence of toxic chemicals and radioactivity in the environment. Regarding the issue of nuclear weapons, delegates discussed the importance of the government in repurchasing arms from weapon holders for a monetary reward. This financial incentive may then serve to reduce the number of firearms in the public. Consequently, they can be disposed of by the government through procedures like melting them into scrap metal for the production of other goods.

Finally, the delegates mentioned how the habitats contaminated by the chemicals and nuclear waste may be restored through national fundraisers and conservation areas. The second discussion revolved around cyber warfare, more specifically, the failed IT Act of 2000. This international policy that was proposed to prevent online warfares proved futile, as one of the delegates said. The debate also touched on whether the expected increases in global cybercrime prevention costs (over 10.5 trillion USD by 2025) was appropriate. The proposal for preventing cyberwar called upon



implementing national strategies to exchange information between international organizations. This would ensure that all cyber activities conducted are within domestic territories and updated for a national cybersecurity assurance framework. The delegates also urged other participants to raise awareness regarding non-profit organizations and non-governmental organizations that may construct a management system and request the government to simulate cyberwarfare through drills. This would educate citizens on how to handle cyber-attacks.



6 COLLAGE



PHOTOGRAPHY BY IVY YANG, NAEN KWAK,
MICHELLE GUO, SAMANTHA CHAN

LAYOUT BY SAMANTHA CHAN

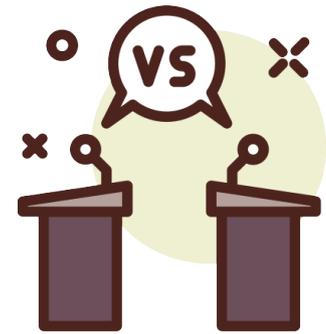


PHOTOGRAPHY BY IVY YANG, NAEN KWAK,
MICHELLE GUO, SAMANTHA CHAN

LAYOUT BY SAMANTHA CHAN

BEIMUN XXX Leadership Team

opening ceremony

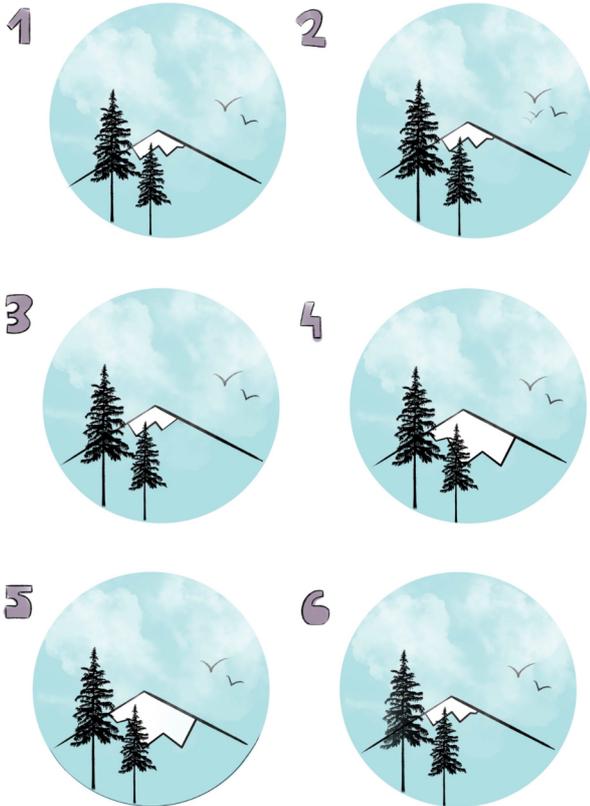


*Thank you BEIMUN XXX leadership team
for your hard work!!!*



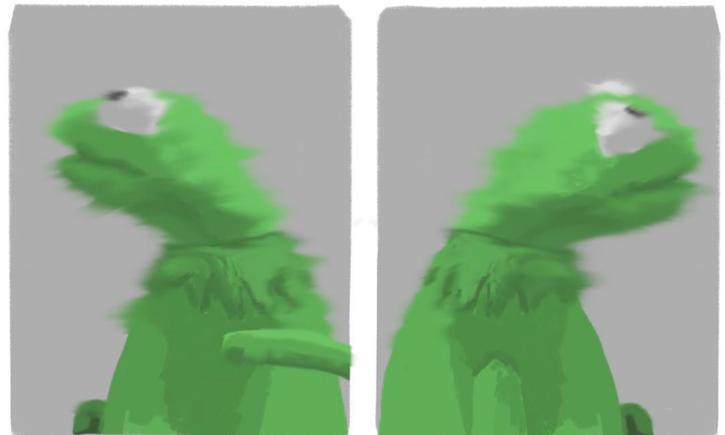
impromptu meeting

SPOT THE TWO DRAWINGS
THAT ARE THE SAME



mom: "clean your room, people coming over for a barbecue"

me looking for the grill in my room:



ARTWORK BY BERNICE CHAN, MIE KO

LAYOUT BY NAEN KWAK

BEIWATCH PRESS TEAM

BEIWATCH is your one-stop shop for all things MUN! Here, a group of talented writers, photographers, artists, layout designers and editors work tirelessly to bring you the very best, up-to-date news about MUN conferences in Beijing.

ADVISOR
Steven Selkirk

CHIEF EDITOR
Dorothy Du

TEXT EDITOR
Daniel Lee

REPORTERS
Daniel Lee
Emily Parker
Ivy Yang
Sophie Bai
Victoria Li

PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR
Ivy Yang

PHOTOGRAPHERS
Dorothy Du
Ivy Yang
Michelle Guo
Nean Kwak
Samantha Chan

VISUAL EDITOR
Bernice Chan

ARTISTS
Bernice Chan
Clarence Chan
Mie Ko
Tracy Ho

MANAGING EDITOR OF LAYOUT
Akari Oh

LAYOUT DESIGNERS
Akari Oh
Nean Kwak
Samantha Chan