



# BEIWATCH

BEIMUN XXX

PRE-CONFERENCE ISSUE

February 23, 2023

## *Introduction to BEIMUN XXX*



By Emily Parker

After months of anticipation, it is time again for delegates to dress in their best formal attire and gather in global-minded debates about pressing problems faced in the 21st century. The 30th annual Beijing Model United Nations Conference, hosted at the International School of Beijing, will feature eight committees: The First and Second General Assembly, Economic and Social Council, Environment Commission, Human Rights Council, World Health Assembly, Disarmament Commission, Security Council, and the Historical Security Council. After months of diligent preparation, BEIMUN will commence with over 300 delegates from 32 schools joining the united conference to pass resolutions aimed at promoting a brighter future.

Over the course of the next three days, delegates will voice their opinions under this year's conference theme: a future reformed but not restrained by

the past. Many present global issues are consequences of unresolved pressures and disputes. Though the past cannot be changed, it is crucial we must draw lessons from the past as we chart the road for the future. Returning delegates will experience another conference filled with passionate and lively discussion, while rookies will immerse themselves in the excitement that pervades the BEIMUN conferences. For all students, BEIMUN provides a platform to build leadership, collaboration, knowledge, and confidence. This venue gives persistent and like-minded thinkers the opportunities to become future leaders capable of creating real change in the world.

The future of BEIMUN continues to rise higher and higher as each year brings new ideas, more passionate students, and plenty of fruitful debates. BEIMUN continues to thrive as an exuberant and advantageous experience to connect hardworking

international school students, allowing everlasting friendships and memories to be built. As Secretary General, Renee Kuo, highlights, "MUN is much more than just speech and debate. Rather, MUN is about empathy. Through research, collaboration, and constructive debate, we gain an understanding of different viewpoints and learn to collaborate to create shared solutions."



# BEIMUN Leadership Team

By Asher Sevy

### Secretary-General - Renee Kuo

How long have you been involved in BEIMUN, and how long have you been a member of the Leadership Team?

I've been doing MUN since 8th grade, and this is my second year on the BEIMUN leadership team. I was the Head Admin last year, and this year I'm the Co-Secretary-General.

Why did you join BEIMUN?

I initially joined MUN because all of my friends did MUN, so I was peer pressured into doing it... But I stayed in the club because I enjoyed talking about current events and challenging different views. Most importantly, I love meeting different people. The MUN circle is pretty small, so you end up making friends that you'll see in different conferences. For example, I met people in a MUN conference in Beijing and I saw them again when we attended a conference in Singapore. It's nice to have these connections with people you normally wouldn't interact with.

What are some important experiences that you've had while in BEIMUN, and what have you learned or gained from it?

Organizing BEIMUN has taught me the importance of being flexible and optimistic. Last year, we spent months organising BEIMUN China, an in-person conference for schools in China. Because of COVID, the conference got scaled-down to just Beijing schools, then it got postponed, and finally it was cancelled. I realised that being open to change and having a positive (but realistic) mindset is essential.

What are your thoughts on the upcoming BEIMUN conference, and what message would you like to leave with BEIMUN participants?

BEIMUN Beijing is the first large-scale in-person MUN conference in Beijing since the start of the pandemic, so I'm very excited. The Secretariat team has put a lot of time and effort into organising the conference, so I hope that all participants will have fun and enjoy this experience. I also hope that participants will try their best and learn something new, but most importantly, make new friends.

### Deputy Secretary-General - Grace Fung

How long have you been involved in BEIMUN, and how long have you been a member of the Leadership Team?

I've been in MUN for five years (since 8th grade) - first year as a member of the Secretariat. This is my fourth BEIMUN conference.

Why did you join BEIMUN?

I joined MUN at first to improve my public speaking skills and also because my friends joined.

What are some important experiences that you've had while in BEIMUN, and what have you learned or gained from it?

I participated in my first BEIMUN conference as an admin, the second as a delegate, and the third as a chair. Now, I was given the honor of serving as a Deputy Secretary General in this upcoming conference. As an admin, I watched the older delegates engage in heated debates regarding complicated global issues I didn't understand at the time. As a delegate, I participated in exploring issues myself and developed my speaking and debating skills. As a chair, I facilitated debate and watched delegates grow and meet their personal goals. Throughout the years, I have obtained great memories and friends; I have learned that making the most out of the opportunities provided at this conference is important.

What are your thoughts on the upcoming BEIMUN conference, and what message would you like to leave with BEIMUN participants?

This conference is our first in-person conference since COVID. I hope everyone will make new friends, have memorable experiences, and, most importantly, enjoy the conference :D

### Deputy Secretary-General - Sally Kim

How long have you been involved in BEIMUN, and how long have you been a member of the Leadership Team?

I have been involved in ISB's MUN program for 6 years, and I have been to 13 conferences as a delegate and 5 as a chair. This is my first in the Secretariat team, and previously I have served as the MS MUN Coordinator.

Why did you join BEIMUN?

I joined BEIMUN because I was fascinated by resolutions and speeches made during a conference. Also, almost everyone was involved in MUN in grade 6, so I also decided to join.

What are some important experiences that you've had while in BEIMUN, and what have you learned or gained from it?

Last year, I served as a chair of BEIMUN's Security Council, and the topic was "Mitigate the conflicts between Ukraine and Russia." The annual BEIMUN conference is held in February, and on the day of our first debate Russia declared a war against Ukraine and the chairs were asked to keep our eyes on the news on during the conference so we had had the YouTube live streaming of Kyiv and CNN News beside our laptops. This tragic experience made me think more about the Ukraine and Russian War and realize how we are discussing about real issues that are taking place at the moment.

What are your thoughts on the upcoming BEIMUN conference, and what message would you like to leave with BEIMUN participants?

I'd like to remind the delegates that what matters isn't whether your resolution is passed or not, but the discussion and the process to the conclusion made. It is important to speak up and share your opinion on the topic. For the chairs, I know that it's very difficult to have everyone involved in the debate and lobbying and to manage a massive group, especially during the debate. You are having a great influence on delegates and great powers always demand great responsibility. I hope all the delegates and chairs to have a fruitful and enjoyable conference experience and please let us know if you need help.



## Head Admin - Alice Xu

How long have you been involved in BEIMUN, and how long have you been a member of the Leadership Team?

This is my second year participating in BEIMUN, and my first year as a head admin.

What are some important experiences that you've had while in BEIMUN, and what have you learned or gained from it?

When I first heard of Model United Nations, I was doubtful of joining because I was intimidated by the debates and the complex procedures.

Looking back, I've learned that MUN isn't just about public speaking and debate, but also about opening yourself to a wide range of perspectives on different issues, making friends, and most importantly, having fun.

What are your thoughts on the upcoming BEIMUN conference, and what message would you like to leave with BEIMUN participants?

Whether if you are an experienced delegate or not, we hope that this conference can provide you with the utmost support and backing to help you achieve your goals and objectives for MUN as a whole. I look forward to the

30th year anniversary of BEIMUN, and to meeting all of you in the upcoming conferences, whether in person or online!



# BEIWATCH Editing Team

By Asher Sevy

## Editor-in-Chief - Dorothy Du

How long have you been involved in Beiwatch, and how long have you been a member of the Editing Team?

I've been involved with *BEIWATCH* for 3 years, starting from when I was a sophomore. I started as a staff writer, and then in the following year became an editor.

Why did you join *BEIWATCH*?

I wanted to be involved in MUN in some way because I care about social issues, but I knew I wouldn't be very good at being a delegate since I'm not the best at formal debates. Thus, I decided to try and become a reporter for the event.

What are some important experiences that you've had while in *BEIWATCH*, and what have you learned or gained from it?

I learned how to write fast; I usually have weeks to complete my writing assignments but in *BEIWATCH* you need to publish within a day.

What are your thoughts on the upcoming BEIMUN conference?

I'm excited since it is my first in-person BEIMUN conference!

## Text Editor - Daniel Lee

How long have you been involved in Beiwatch, and how long have you been a member of the Editing Team?

This is my second year in *BEIWATCH*. In my junior year, I was a staff writer, so this will be my first year as an editor.

Why did you join *BEIWATCH*?

I joined *BEIWATCH* because my English teacher back in 10th grade told me about it. I thought that it would be interesting to meet new people. It is where anyone can pursue their passion in journalism.

What are some important experiences that you've had while in *BEIWATCH*, and what have you learned or gained from it?

From my experience last year, I made new friends from other schools. This was a valuable experience for me.

What are your thoughts on the upcoming BEIMUN conference?

I hope that the upcoming conference will be a meaningful one as it will be my last year in the *BEIWATCH* team!

## Layout Editor - Akari Oh

How long have you been involved in Beiwatch, and how long have you been a member of the Editing Team?

I became involved in *BEIWATCH* last year as a layout member and moved to become a member of the Editing Team this year.

Why did you join *BEIWATCH*?

It was an opportunity that came up during our English class near the end of 10th grade, and I thought it would be quite fun to do layout for a publication about MUN. Another reason is I could connect with peers from different grade levels and meet new people.

What are some important experiences that you've had while in *BEIWATCH*, and what have you learned or gained from it?

I think the most important part of *BEIWATCH* is time management, as we are always on a very tight schedule to finish the entire process in one day. It's always fun to see everybody in a room with full adrenaline, trying to complete their parts before the deadline.



PHOTOGRAPHY BY  
NAEN KWAK, MICHELLE GUO



LAYOUT BY AKARI OH

## 4 THEME: POWER OF POSSIBILITY

# A Future Informed But Not Restrained By The Past

By Sophie Bai

Another year, another conference, another focus. The annual BEIMUN conference has returned, impressively, with a brand-new theme – “a future informed but not restrained by the past.” The present seems to be seared under the flames of hardships, from the Russian Ukraine War all the way to the massive earthquake in Turkey and Syria. No nation involved will be suffering alone. Amidst a swarm of rising issues, the Secretariat of BEIMUN XXX reminds that “although we cannot change the past, it is imperative that we learn from it as we plot the course ahead.” Now, it is the delegates’ responsibility to take on these words and exemplify them into creative resolutions that could craft the greater future ahead.

In correspondence with the theme, the committees will all be tackling prominent issues; the General Assembly 1, for instance, will be investigating “promoting gender

equality in both domestic and workplace settings” as one of their topics. The Economic and Social Council will be undertaking the issue “reinvigorating the global economy after COVID-19,.” and to reflect on the 30th anniversary of BEIMUN, the Historical Security Council will be revisiting The Nigerian-Biafran War of 1967 and The Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962.

When asked about the reason for selecting the current theme, Deputy Secretary General Sally Kim responded that “it is now time for BEIMUN to change and plan for the next 30 years. We believe that we can arrange for an optimistic future by reflecting on our past experiences, learning from our mistakes, and making changes.” She also hopes that delegates will “take this conference as an opportunity to learn from peers and student officers rather than resigning... we expect the delegates to stay active, take risks, make mistakes, and ultimately learn.”



PHOTOGRAPHY BY  
NAEN KWAK, MICHELLE GUO

LAYOUT BY SAMANTHA CHAN

## Committee and Topics Overview

By Emily Parker

**The First General Assembly** is working towards promoting gender equality in both domestic and professional contexts. This assembly is also reevaluating the role of the United Nations in facilitating global collaboration.

**The Second General Assembly** aims to adopt measures to address the global issue of substance abuse. Moreover, the Second Assembly is discussing measures to mitigate the effects of civil war in many nations.

**The Economic and Social Council** is striving to implement just approaches to forestall future financial crises and meet macroeconomic objectives, such as a stable inflation rate and healthy economic growth. Also, this council is exploring interventionist and market-based policies to reinvigorate the global economy, which has suffered a severe recession due to the coronavirus pandemic.

**The Environment Commission** is examining the role of MEDCs (More Economic Developed Countries) in addressing climate change as well as measures to alleviate the impending global water shortage.

**The Human Rights Council** is examining measures to defend the physical capital, cultural heritage, and rights of indigenous communities. It is also searching for strategies to protect the rights of transgender people, touching on the theme of inclusivity.

**The World Health Assembly** is analyzing methods to ensure that medical research is representative of all populations. Besides, it is investigating ways to alleviate the mental health crisis.

**The Disarmament Commission** is confronting questions of cyber warfare and proposing solutions on the most effective policies to demilitarize nations that have underwent conflict.

**The Security Council** is addressing the current situation in Libya and the escalating tensions in Eastern Europe due to the war in Ukraine. This council explores the consequences of recent international conflicts.

**The Historical Security Council** is reflecting on the Nigerian-Biafran War (1967-1970) and the Cuban Missile Crisis (1962). Through present knowledge, the council is revisiting and evaluating pressing issues of the past.



# Chat GPT

By Sophie Bai

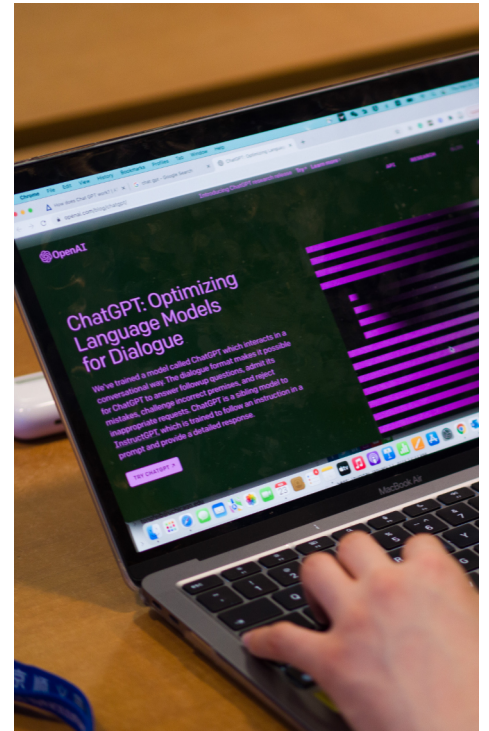
“You’re right, it’s important to be aware of the potential risks of interacting with conversational agents like myself.”

This was said by the newest chatbot AI Chat GPT. Released by the company OpenAI, Chat GPT is meant to be a generative language model that produces natural conversations with its users. After a user types a question in, the AI roams the entire online database and cherry-picks the most relevant source. In the next few seconds, the user will receive a desired answer structured in a detailed and coherent manner. Trained through reinforcement learning, Chat GPT can generate code, write articles, summarize information, and more. The innovation seems like one that would make our lives more convenient. But at the same time, it raises important questions about authenticity.

And the challenge did strike: “Chat GPT could help students cheat” “Professor catches students cheating

with Chat GPT.” Of course, students would be attracted to the charm of finishing school assignments without effort. However, educators now worry about the originality of student work, as an alternate form of plagiarism has inadvertently been created. Although some schools have banned Chat GPT, other schools believe it remains out of the school’s control. In addition, the machine may “potentially replace instructors” as it produces factual, informative texts and can answer questions in a nuanced way.

Professor Mike Wooldridge from Oxford University’s computer science department suggested: “Within a very small number of decades, it’s going to be quite hard to go back through the historical record and check what was human-generated and what was not.” To echo the theme of BEIMUN XXX, we should always seek the positive side of AI and initiate changes to the current limitations.



# Catastrophic Earthquakes in Turkey and Syria

By Ivy Yang

The recent earthquakes in Turkey and Syria have led to devastating impacts throughout the region. On February 6th, 2023, a 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck Gaziantep, a Turkish city along the Syrian border. Nine hours later, another 7.5 magnitude earthquake,



followed by numerous smaller aftershocks, hit the region, leaving infrastructure in ruins and tens of thousands of people beneath rubble. Currently, the death toll from the pair of cataclysmic earthquakes has reached over 40,000, and the numbers do not stop there.

In a heartbreaking photograph, a father remains above a collapsed apartment building, holding onto his lifeless daughter’s hand beneath a heavy concrete slab. Just meters from where the photograph was taken, a man with a sledgehammer was seen trying to smash through the ruins (Jones). In the aftermath of the earthquakes, more heart-wrenching moments remain unspoken outside the cameras’ lenses.

Over the past two weeks, while rescue operations have been actively searching through wreckage for earthquake survivors and assessing the level of damages, underlying government limitations and fatal

construction flaws have been slowly unveiled. Over decades, Turkey’s region has been well-known for seismic activity, especially in the East Anatolian Fault zone at the border between the Arabian and Anatolian tectonic plates (Quigley). Yet, many fallen buildings have demonstrated flaws in construction and inadequate seismic enforcement, making people question constructors’ adherence to building codes and government regulations. In an interview with seismologist Ross Stein, he mentions that during a factory inspection, he could “pull out a hunk of Styrofoam” from the cement wall of a manufacturing plant (Thompson). Construction flaws like this potentially add to the harm seen in the recent earthquakes. In light of the damages from this deadly event, perhaps this will also serve as a reminder for improvements in building quality and government provisions for future catastrophes.

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# Iranian Protests

By Alex Leung

“In my nightmare, I see someone is following me in the dark. I’m alone and no one is helping me.”

This is not a dream. This is the reality that many Iranians face in their country. In 2022, the protests in Iran reached a new level; organizations and figureheads from across the world started voicing their concerns for the people of Iran. These protests were invigorated by the death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini, a woman who was arrested and killed for not wearing a “proper hijab” as part of Iran’s theocratic laws

The 2022 protests are a part of the larger, ongoing democracy protests that have sprung up across Iran since 2017. The country — formally the Islamic Republic of Iran — is a theocracy, and runs on strict religious customs. With rising corruption and authoritarianism, as well as economic instability, the people have called for secularism,

government reform and democracy.

Among the motives of these protestors is the revoking of the mandatory hijab law, which has been in place since the establishment of the theocracy following the 1979 revolution. Throughout the decades, countless demonstrations have been held to protest this law and to advocate for women’s rights. These protests have only been met with arrests and prosecution. In fact, representatives of Iran’s leader Ali Khamenei have expressed that law enforcement should make public places “unsafe” for women who are “improperly veiled.”

On the global scale, nations around the world are imposing sanctions on Iran as a consequence of their human rights violations. The United States has also supported the people of Iran by providing them internet access while the Iranian government began shutting down internet access across the country. “Our policy is to defend and support the fundamental rights of



Iranian citizens just as we want to support the fundamental rights of citizens across the globe,” says Rob Malley, Special Envoy for Iran. While Iranians fight for their freedom, their cries will be heard across the world.

# Michigan Shooting

By Victoria Li

At Michigan State University, in East Lansing, Michigan, 3 students were shot dead and 5 more were critically wounded on February 13, 2023, making it the 67th mass shooting in the U.S. this year.

At 8 PM, 911 arrived at the scene with a heavily armed police force when gunshots were reported inside Berkeley Hall of Michigan State University. The gunman opened fire inside the classroom, killing 2 students. As the offender headed to the Student Union, he killed a third student, as local authorities report. The killer fled the scene, and the students ran in fear, searching for emergency shelters. Others sought protection in classrooms and libraries, by forming a barricade with tables and chairs. After hours of intense police searching, the 43-year-old suspect Anthony Dwayne McRae shot himself dead after police officers discovered him not far from the

campus. The police found 2 firearms and multiple rounds of ammunition in his possession, as well as a document listing several other locations in Michigan, Colorado, and New Jersey. Officials claim that these locations are where McRae planned to attack. While the police investigated the home where McRae lived with his father, the FBI stated that the offender suffered from mental illness. Families and friends mourn the deaths of the students lost: Junior Arielle Diamond Anderson, Sophomore Brian Fraser, and Junior Alexandria Verner. The 5 injured students were hospitalized and are in critical condition. Further investigation is done about the motives behind McRae’s actions.

US President Joe Biden finally repeated his call for gun control at a National Association of Countries gathering in Washington: “[I]t’s happening far too often in this country, far too often. While we gather more information, there’s one thing we do



know to be true, we have to do something to stop gun violence from ripping apart our communities — ripping apart.” The Michigan State University remained closed for a week after the shooting.

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PHOTOGRAPHY BY  
DOROTHY DU, SAMANTHA CHAN

PHOTO FROM  
New York Times, The Guardian

LAYOUT BY AKARI OH

# 8 COLLEGE APPLICATION MYTHS

## College Application Myths

By Daniel Lee

Many students believe that their college applications will attract the attention of admission officers, of course, in a good way. However, the reality is often much different from what one thinks, especially when it comes to grades, standardized test scores, and extracurricular activities. Here are some college application myths pervading the minds of students.

### Myth 1: Getting All 7s (As) Is the Most Important Aspect of the Application

Yes, your grades will give an overall impression on how committed and academically capable you are. However, depending on the selectivity of the college, grades may not matter as much as other components of your college application. Also, grades you received in classes related to your intended major may matter more than other classes. For instance, if you are applying for a major in engineering, it may harm you if the colleges see that you are failing physics.

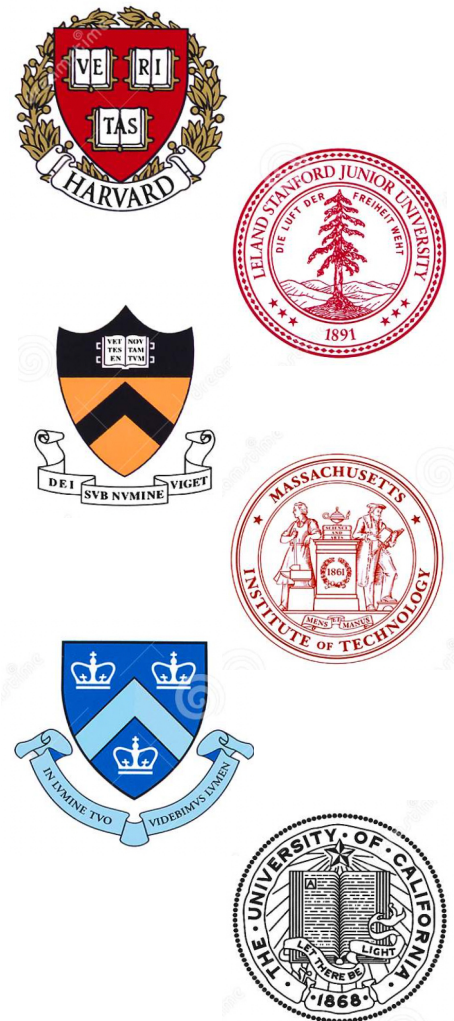
Overall, grades do not solely determine your acceptance, yet they are a crucial component of your application. Clark Brigger, the executive director of admissions at the University of Colorado, Boulder, notes that “when a student takes a challenging course and does well, it is predictive of how they will perform in college... However, there are always some students who stretch too far and then struggle with their performance and subsequently their health.”

### Myth 2: Standardized Test Scores Can Make or Break Your Chances of Getting In

Most high school students prepare for the notorious SAT so that they can use their scores in their college applications. While standardized test scores do measure individuals' knowledge and problem-solving skills under pressure, different institutions place varying levels of importance on standardized tests. Many colleges are either test-optional or test-blind, so standardized test scores are not compulsory. Despite this, you must consider whether you will be applying for scholarships. Sometimes, to qualify for a scholarship, applicants need SAT or ACT scores.

### Myth 3: The More Clubs and Activities the Better

When it comes to extracurricular activities, quality means much more than quantity. Being passionate about key interests or your intended major is more important than myopically joining different clubs. Often, leadership or executive roles in athletics and other clubs can suggest that you are a well-rounded, balanced student. Extracurricular activities are where you can show the colleges personal interest and interesting sides of yourself. With activities such as MUN, students can demonstrate their international-mindedness and interest in global issues :)



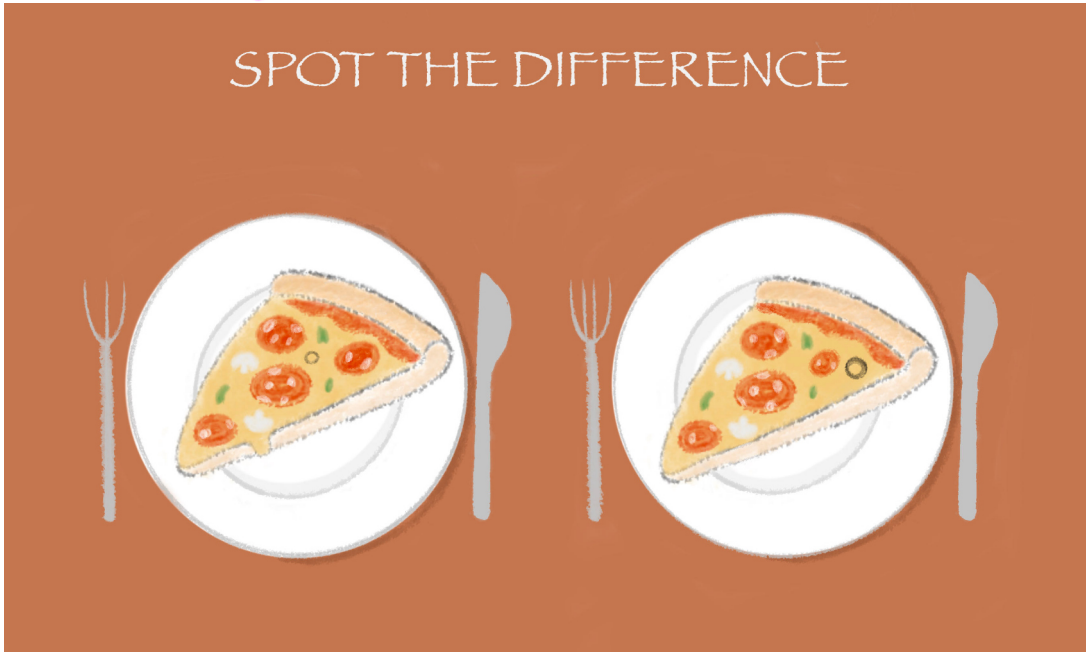


# Word Search Frenzy



Find the following words in the puzzle.  
Words are hidden → ↓ and ↘ .

- |          |         |              |          |
|----------|---------|--------------|----------|
| ANT      | GLASS   | PAY          | TIE      |
| BUBBLE   | GOLF    | PLACE        | WORKLOAD |
| CALENDER | HAMMER  | PRACTICE     |          |
| CHAIR    | LOG     | READ         |          |
| CHECK    | MAGNET  | REFRIGERATOR |          |
| COHERENT | MARKING | SEAWEED      |          |
| CORAL    | MONDAY  | SECRETARY    |          |
| COUNTING | NUMBER  | TALK         |          |



ARTWORK BY TRACY HO

LAYOUT BY SAMANTHA CHAN

## 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.

- |  |  |   |   |   |
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