



BEIWATCH

BEIMUN XXXI

ISSUE I

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Opening Ceremony



By Angela Wang

After three long years marked by the barriers of the COVID-19 pandemic, excitement finally echoed through the ISB Theater as the BEIMUN conference returned to an in-person format. The joyous occasion marked a significant milestone, bringing together delegates from different cities and countries under one roof. The level of enthusiasm that plagued the theater set the stage for another fruitful conference.

BEIMUN XXXI officially commenced following a remarkable performance by the ISB High School Concert Orchestra. The musicians skillfully showcased the final movement of Emilie Mayer's Symphony Number 2. Notably, this movement follows the Rondo form, which highlights two contrasting themes complemented by

an additional dance and cantabile episode. Not to mention, this is perfectly in line with this year's theme "coexisting with differences." Following the performance was a speech delivered by ISB's vice principal Chuyu Cheng. She hopes that delegates will successfully develop skills in diplomacy, critical thinking, and empathy over the next three days. She wishes this conference will serve as a platform "to encourage everyone to speak boldly, listen attentively, and engage respectfully; and also inspire everyone to take action in their communities and beyond." Next, the opening ceremony featured a speech from Mr. Siddharth Chatterjee, the United Nations Resident Coordinator in China, who brings over 25 years of expertise in international cooperation, sustainable development,

humanitarian coordination, and peace and security to his distinguished position. He remarked that "the defenses of peace must be constructed."

To conclude the opening ceremony, Secretary Generals George Xu and Sally Kim delivered their closing remarks. Xu states, "With Covid-19 officially over, it is time to rebuild and adapt to a new world." Simultaneously, Kim hopes "that each of you will also overcome these challenges with patience and understanding." United in their shared mission to create a better world, the ceremony marked the official commencement of BEIMUN XXXI, symbolizing the collective dedication to global progress and positive change. We are excited to see what delegates will accomplish over the course of the next few days.

GA1 COMMITTEE RECAP

By Emily Parker

Technology in the modern world takes its form in many ways – continuing to evolve at unparalleled degrees. On the first day of lobbying, delegates of the First General Assembly convened to discourse the overlooked ethical concerns, “varying from privacy and security, bias privacy on data and creativity, as well as further possibilities for misuses,” in the rapidly advancing levels of artificial intelligence, biotechnology, and nanotechnology. President Gabin Kim (SIS) has begun developing a framework addressing the primary moral conflicts raised by the unprecedented growth in emerging technologies. President Gabin Kim (SIS) stressed that, “as various technologies are growing in an unprecedented speed, it is crucial to recognize the ethical issues that arise to the surface along with it. Many of the current ethical guidelines that are established lack thorough detail and consideration. Since the scope of the technologies are constantly growing, it is important that our understandings and management regarding such

concerns keep up with the speed, as well as ensure that the guidelines are representative to the full extent of the global community.” Concurrently, Assistant Presidents Dana Kim (ISB) and Tracy Chen (SIS) addressed the impact and influence of mass social media in today’s world – specifically, its effect on “noticeable shifts towards extreme political positions for citizens and the creation of competing social groups.” Likewise, delegates of the First General Assembly also worked on developing strategies to combat recent rises in social, political, and racial polarization in More Economically Developed Countries (MEDCs). To effectively tackle and overcome these obstacles, it is imperative to devise a thoughtful strategy that prioritizes bridging social and ideological divides, fosters unity through media literacy, and takes into account the underlying causes of this polarization problem. Assistant President Tracy Chen (SIS) recognized that “polarization is exceedingly evident in our society today, particularly in recent decades, as social networks and media platforms segregate and exclude information, in turn shaping public opinion and

inflaming polarization.” Therefore, she asserted that it is imperative for communities to “communicate so that we can reduce the gap that polarization has constructed.” According to the GA1 Chairs, at the end of the first day, four resolutions had been submitted. Under Topic 1, three resolutions have been submitted by the delegates of Singapore, China and Argentina. Moreover, Topic 2 has had one resolution submitted from the delegate of South Sudan. The first day of BEIMUN XXXI has already witnessed fruitful and passionate debates. Their determination and desire has been palpable. Signifying the potential for both success and excitement, the next few days of this conference hold great promise. Assistant President Dana Kim (ISB) described her experience thus far as being “challenging but valuable.” She is enthusiastic about the upcoming discussion for day two, and is eager to resolve “issues that [are] getting severe right now, and can have a devastating effect on our future, global society, and human well-being.” Delegates of the First General Assembly will continue to actively participate, in hopes of reaching a diplomatic resolution.



PHOTOGRAPHY BY CLARENCE CHAN

LAYOUT BY SAMANTHA CHAN

ECOSOC Committee Recap

By Emily Parker

In December of 2019, a new highly infectious coronavirus disease was identified for the first time in the People’s Republic of China. The World Health Organization quickly declared an official Public Health Emergency, in March 2020. Since then, the coronavirus disease has had various effects on worldwide economies. Firstly, families were forced into self-quarantine and lockdown, prohibiting social interaction: “Policies attempting to remove contact, notably physical contact, were implemented, and the world introduced overwhelming amounts of changes daily.” Thus, technology was soon utilized as a substitute for the social aspects missing from many people lives. This can be evidenced through the introduction of new educational approaches, such as online learning. Secondly, the barrier that the pandemic established lead to many workers suffering from job loss. In response to this international crisis, BEIMUN XXXI’s Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), led by President Kate Han (SFS), Assistant President

Shian Joo (SFS), and Assistant President Matthew Kim (ISB), will first be addressing Topic 1: aiming to develop policies addressing the impact of the pandemic on global economic inequality. In addition to promoting economic recovery and resilience in the African continent. Furthermore, ECOSOC are working to address Topic 2: creating vital measures in order to strengthen social safety nets and promote social protection for vulnerable populations, including the elderly and those living in poverty in developing nations. Even when the world is currently seeing previously unheard of levels of progression, many countries continue to struggle with a variety of problems including: widespread poverty to the vulnerabilities faced by the elderly. Poverty is cyclical because families find it difficult to break free from local constraints including erratic weather patterns, poor educational possibilities, and constrained employment prospects. Younger generations are moving to cities in search of greater prospects while conventional family structures change, leaving older family



members without enough assistance when it comes to caregiving. Their susceptibility is increased by the absence of easily available healthcare services, which makes it difficult for them to manage age-related health conditions. Therefore, the ECOSOC chairs and the delegates of their conference are on a mission to find diplomatic resolutions for these pressing global matters.



PHOTOGRAPHY BY TRACY HO

ARTWORK BY VICTORIA LI

LAYOUT BY SAMANTHA CHAN

DIS Committee Recap

By Emily Parker and Ivy Yang

Amidst a bustling room filled with eager voices engaged in heated debates and intensive lobbying sessions, delegates of the BEIMUN XXXI Disarmament Commission gathered to discuss measures pertaining to two crucial topics: the regulation of the proliferation of Artificial Intelligence weapons and post-war decommissioning systems. Under the leadership of President Lucas Duan, along with Assistant Presidents Andy Lee and Lloyd Kim, delegates engaged in discourse, addressing pressing issues concerning the militarization of AI and the decommissioning of weapons in the pursuit of international peace and security. Throughout the conference, delegates consistently exhibited diplomacy and a spirit of compromise, fostering cooperation to tackle global

security challenges and mitigate risks during times of conflict.

Delegate Miles Tian (ISB) describes challenges in the conference as, “some countries had ideas that were contradictory to our resolution, it was hard trying to find middle ground in agreement.” In addition, “some of our resolutions were really different and we didn’t know how to put our ideas together.” However, he describes the first day of lobbying as a success, where “(the) overall environment of the committee was really fun and enjoyable.” Moreover, his “bloc wanted to create an entirely new organization, and that caused a lot of funny commotion, basically it was very memorable.” During the following two days of the BEIMUN XXXI conference, he hopes “to focus on topics and further elaborate on what we wanted to discuss during the debate.”



PHOTOGRAPHY BY POLLY SU

ARTWORK BY MIE KO

LAYOUT BY TRACY HO

GA2 Committee Recap

By Angela Wang

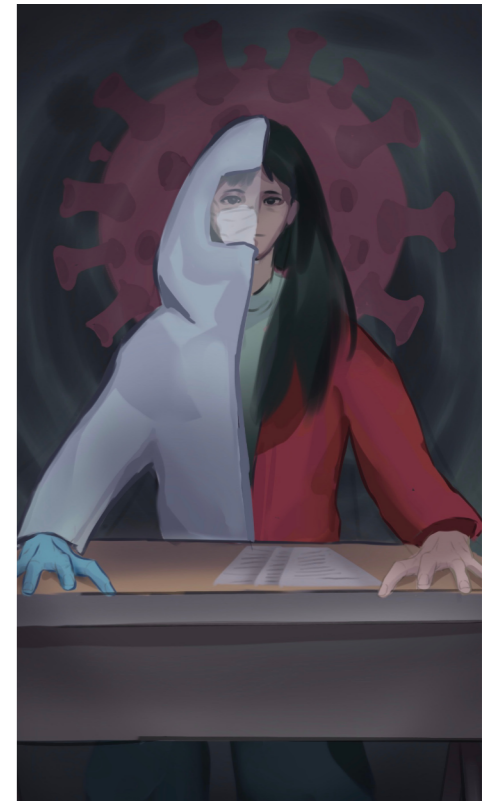
As a result of the major interruptions in learning caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the world has suffered from a reduction in educational advancement. Additionally, the pandemic has also had a detrimental effect on educators, exacerbating challenges with grading and assessment, intensifying stress and burnout, and raising concerns about teacher shortages and turnover rates.

The worldwide pandemic has brought attention to the digital divide, which is characterized by differences in access to resources and technology necessary for successful remote learning. In the post-pandemic world, achieving equity in education, ensuring justice, and providing equitable access to resources and support have become critical objectives. Comprehensive frameworks are required to address these issues, which encompass measures such as supporting disadvantaged youth, providing mental health support, investing in teacher training, bridging the digital divide, offering catch-up programs, and filling knowledge and skill gaps.

An issue the committee will discuss for the following three days is solving the problem of disparate educational opportunities in the post-pandemic era. President, David Nam (ISB), says the GA2 committee addresses diverse topics, but, for this year’s BEIMUN, topic two is “solving education-related

problems, specifically lack of access to education during the COVID-19 pandemic.” Similarly, a delegate of the Second General Assembly, Maxwell (ISB), states some possible resolutions are to “provide support for the mental health of educators and learners, review relevant policy, work with organizations related to the UN, and encouraging cross-national cooperations.” President David Nam recognized that “One of the solutions to reinforce access of education would be spreading awareness for funding, which could be invested to build non-profit organizations that provide free online education.” Therefore, one main solution to the problem of education in the post-pandemic era could be to spread awareness.

Other solutions include increasing familiarity with digital tools, developing programs that support students in recovering lessons to reach the standard necessary and adhering to a more standardized grading rubric to combat grade inflation. Sufficient financing is required to enhance educational systems and solve resource and infrastructure constraints. Educational systems should adapt to the new realities by reforming policies and updating curricula, including flexible assessment methods and differentiated instruction. Catch-up programs like tutoring and extended class times can help bridge educational gaps. As stated by the committee members above, prioritizing mental health care and addressing grade



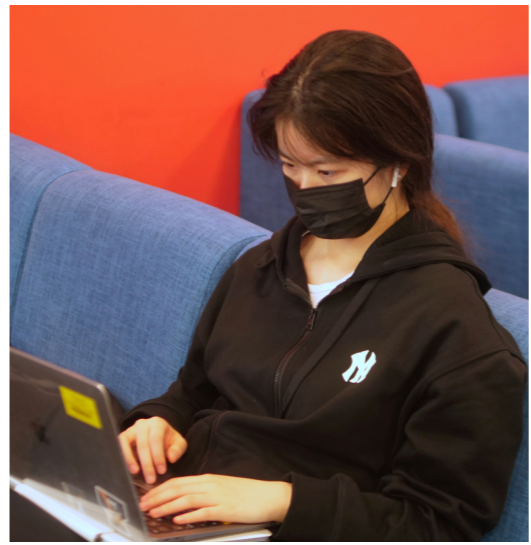
inflation with standardized grading rubrics and qualitative feedback is valuable. All things considered, there is a general need for education to be more widely acknowledged as a human right. In addition to these possible solutions, education should be treated in a way that makes post-pandemic education more widespread and inclusive.



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ARTWORK BY CLARENCE CHAN

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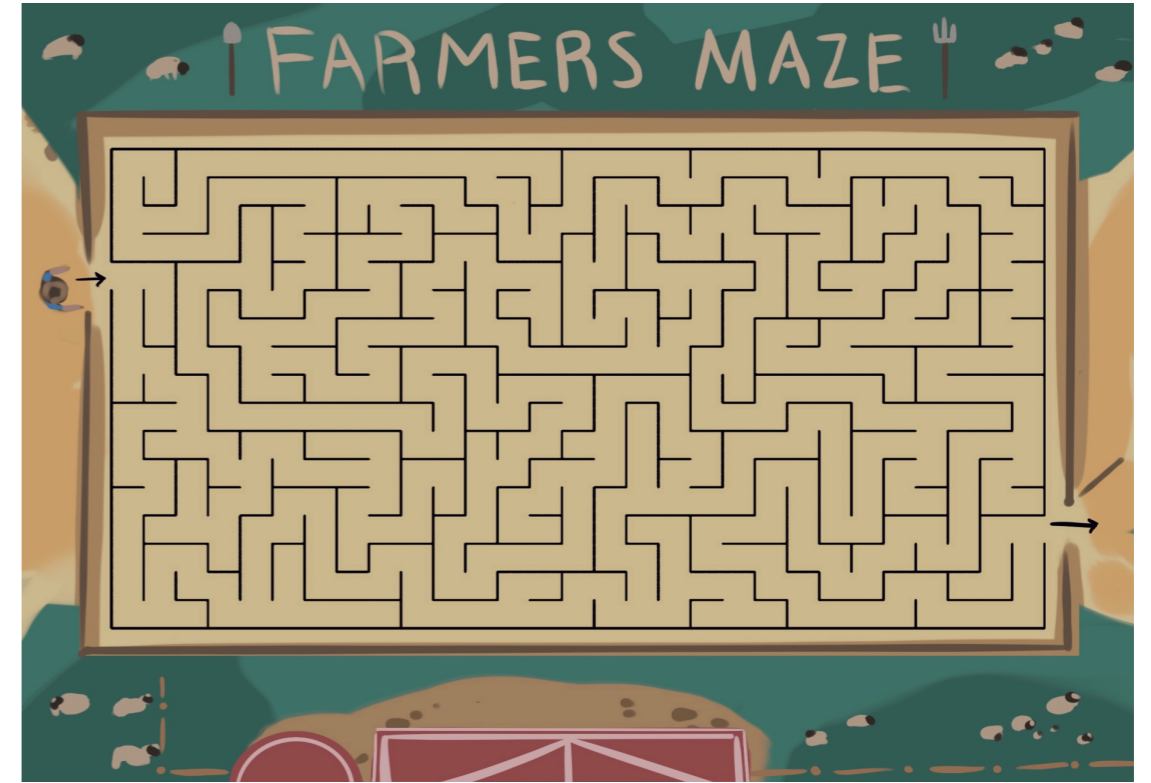
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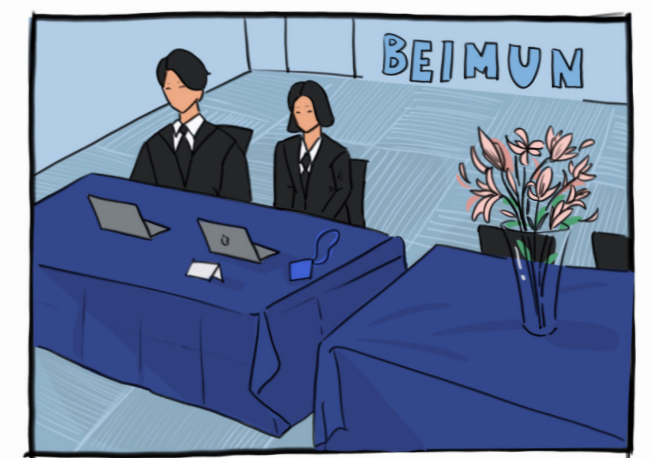
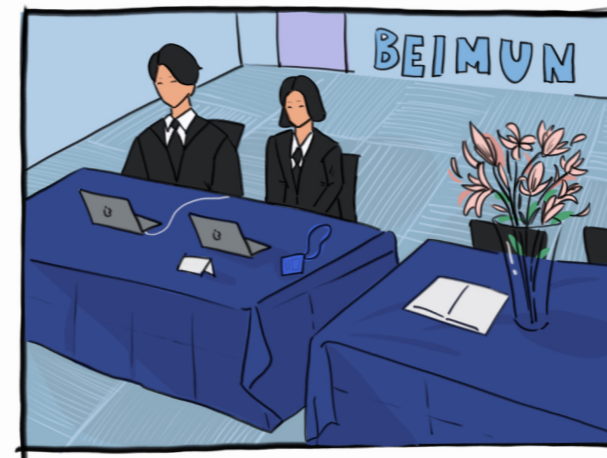


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