



# BEIWATCH

BEIMUN XXXI

ISSUE 2

March 17, 2024

## Closing Ceremony



By Emily Parker

And with that, the 31st annual Beijing Model United Nations conference has officially come to an end. This year's delegates crowded the theatre of the International School of Beijing one last time to recognize and congratulate delegates on their incessant research, planning, and impassioned work ethic. Following three long days filled with ardent debate, the conference was concluded upon a trademark sound of the gavel hitting the sound block.

As the closing ceremony commenced, BEIMUN II Secretary General and current U.S. Consul to Shen Yang Ms. Sara Yun delivered a heart-felt address applauding the delegates' passion for international diplomacy and government affairs. Ms. Yun describes her previous experience in BEIMUN as a crucial part in building her passion to pursue geopolitics in her future – hoping many other delegates

will serve as the ensuing leaders of tomorrow.

Next, a chair from each committee delivered a short speech, reminiscing on the previous 72 hours that had elapsed far too quickly. In addition to praising the delegates for their hard work, the chairs commended them for being the epitome of professionalism and teamwork that characterizes every BEIMUN conference. Even though each speaker covered a different topic, everyone agreed that every committee's resolutions—no matter how many or how few—were equally legitimate, workable, and significant.

For those delegates who are veterans of MUN, BEIMUN XXXI was a culmination of years of practice and perseverance – a product of commitment. Unfortunately, for many more, this conference marked the last BEIMUN conference of their careers. Secretary General Sally Kim (ISB)

recounts her numerous experiences over her 7-year BEIMUN career, noting that "over the past seven years, [she] has come to realize that [her] political views and preferences were developed and influenced by the brilliant minds [she] met at MUN conferences. Furthermore, the relationships that [she] has forged through MUN have given [her] some of [her] most cherished friendships and memories."

The whole BEIMUN XXXI leadership team urges returning delegates to continue facilitating great discussions and debate – where, in the midst of a rapidly ever-changing society, the destination is dictated by the decisions humanity makes. This year's conference was an introduction to crossing the threshold of "coexisting with differences," as the journey for global cooperation and peaceful existence in a polarized world is still being worked toward.

# ENV Committee Recap

By Emily Parker

According to President A Jin Chang (IST) of the Environmental Commission (ENV), "African coastal regions serve as an essential source of livelihood for millions; however, they are facing the challenge of overfishing and a lack of sustainability in fishing." The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization announced that "the number of overfished stocks globally has tripled in half a century, and today 1/3 of the world's assessed fisheries are pushed way beyond their biological limits." President A Jin Chang suggests that the leading cause of overfishing "is illegal unregulated, and unreported (IUU) fishing." Therefore, delegates of the Environmental Commission focus on addressing the challenges of promoting sustainable fisheries and exploring ways to reduce overfishing and promote sustainable fishing practice, especially in African coastal regions. Should this issue persist, there will be catastrophic outcomes. Thus, it is imperative that

the Environment Commission develop appropriate and practical remedies.

Secondly, Assistant President Isabella Del Rio Garcia (SIS) and Deputy Assistant President Mumu Lie (ISB) work to examine ways to protect natural resources and promote sustainable development use while simultaneously ensuring the completion of the UN SDG goals by 2030. Assistant President of the Environment Commission, Mumu Liu highlights that "human[s] ha[ve] been producing and utilizing natural resources at a faster rate than that of which the natural resources are replenished. Hence, natural capitals such as seafoods will ultimately run out. [...] In the combination with prevailing issues in other fields, the United Nations came up with the 17 Sustainable Development goals in 2015 and aims to achieve most of them by 2030. Both topics discussed in this conference are considered crucial in regards to the SDGs which link to SDG No.12, "Sustainable Consumption and Production." Thus, Assistant President



Mumu Liu recognizes the importance of fostering intellectual, fruitful debate to merge clauses and write resolutions to reach diplomatic solutions.

According to the Environmental Commission chair, "in the past days, a total of 4 resolutions have been submitted and approved addressing each topic, with 2 resolutions on topic 1 submitted by the delegates of New Zealand and U.S.A. respectively, and 2 resolutions on topic 2 have been submitted by the delegate of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kingdom of Netherlands respectively."



PHOTOGRAPHY BY IVY YANG

LAYOUT BY SAMANTHA CHAN

# HRC Committee Recap

By Emily Parker

The Human Rights Council of BEIMUN XXXI aims to resolve two main topics: 1) Addressing reformation of international policies regarding racism-motivated crimes and terrors given the recent rise in hate speech and racially motivated discriminatory policies in MEDCs, 2) Addressing challenges faced by people with disabilities, including issues related to accessibility, discrimination, and social exclusion.

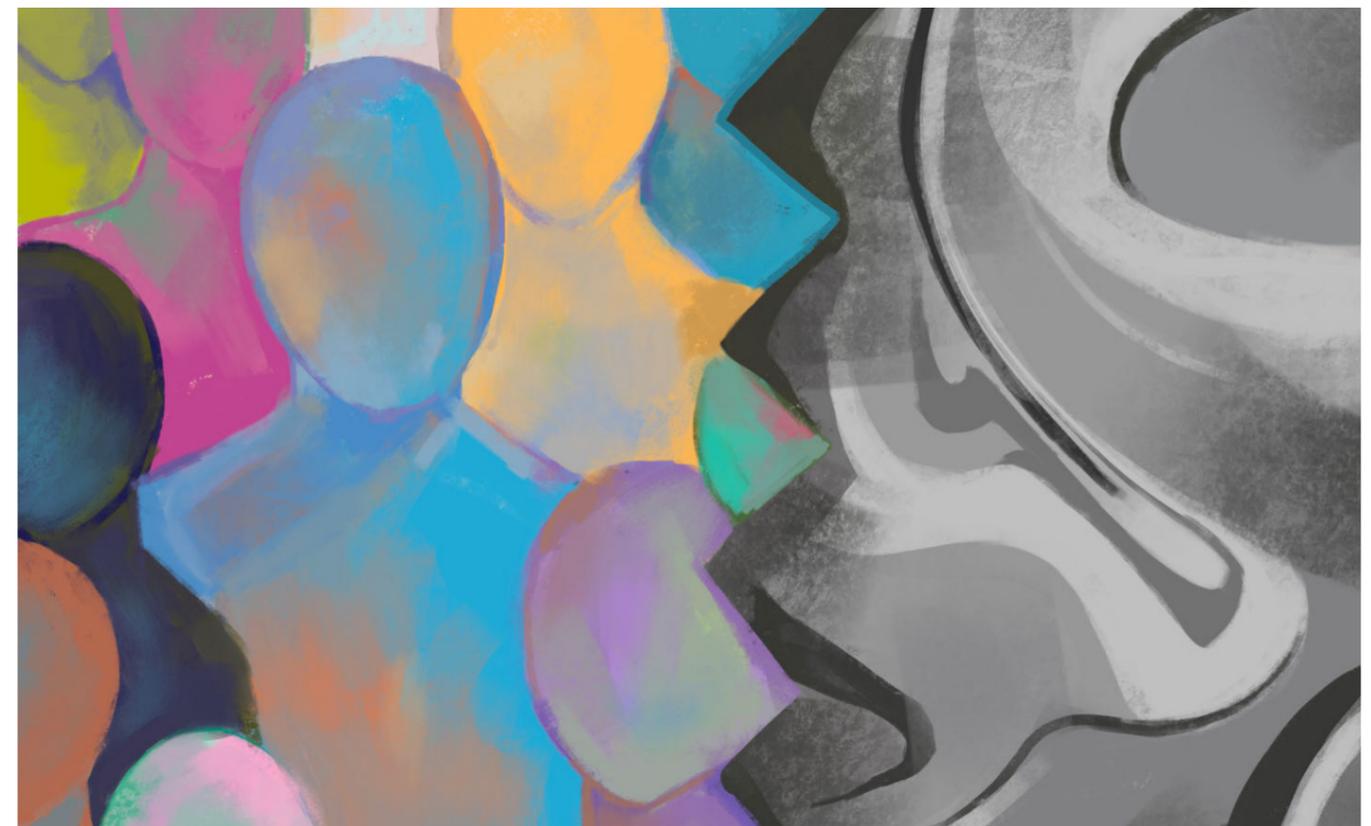
The growing need to address Topic 1 results from widening disparities in society. The world has grown more interconnected in recent years due to racial and cultural integration that has transcended national boundaries. Despite this, the population of the world has yet to adapt with these changes. President of the Human Rights Council, Rachel Ho (DCB), believes "this has exacerbated social tensions amongst different groups in nations, presenting significant obstacles for the governing bodies of each member state to work towards equality and harmony between people. All of this has become even more apparent in recent years, where there

has been a reported surge of hate speech and racially motivated crimes." Currently, several international policies are aimed at addressing this problem. However, given the scale of the surge in discrimination, more is required. Reforming existing policies, creating new frameworks, and enforcing existing policies more strictly are all necessary. Consequently, delegates of the Human Rights Council persist in identifying resolutions that will help combat these social problems.

In addition, Topic 2 demands immediate and deliberate attention since "it touches on fundamental dimensions of human dignity and equality." Individuals with disabilities often find themselves on the cusp of society in a culture that values success and diversity. Their potential contributions to society are diminished by this exclusion, which also raises concerns about the core principles of justice and equality that society seeks to uphold. Deputy Assistant President Luke Brock (ISB) and Assistant President Michelle Yin (ISB) recognize that "discrimination against people with disabilities is a serious problem



that pervades all levels of society, showing itself in subtle but significant ways." Moreover, they voice that they "are concerned not just with overt acts of discrimination, but also with persistent attitudes and biases that prevent full and equal participation." Therefore, the chairs and student officers of the Human Rights Council stress the importance of "eradicating such bias" and, through a "comprehensive effort [to] combin[e] education [and] legislative reform," shift the public perspectives.



PHOTOGRAPHY BY CLARENCE CHAN

ARTWORK BY POLLY SU

LAYOUT BY SAMANTHA CHAN

# HSC Committee Recap

By Angela Wang

Although its exact origins are still unknown, smallpox infection in humans has been traced back as far as 3,000 years ago. With the expansion of civilizations and the Age of Exploration, the disease became increasingly widespread and deadly globally. Even after the first cowpox vaccine was created in the late 1700s, millions of people continued to die from smallpox because it persisted in spreading. This topic focuses on the 1950s and 1960s, emphasizes the necessity of increased availability of vaccines and international collaboration to eliminate smallpox. The Historical Security Council delegates are looking at novel ideas and taking a different path from earlier attempts.

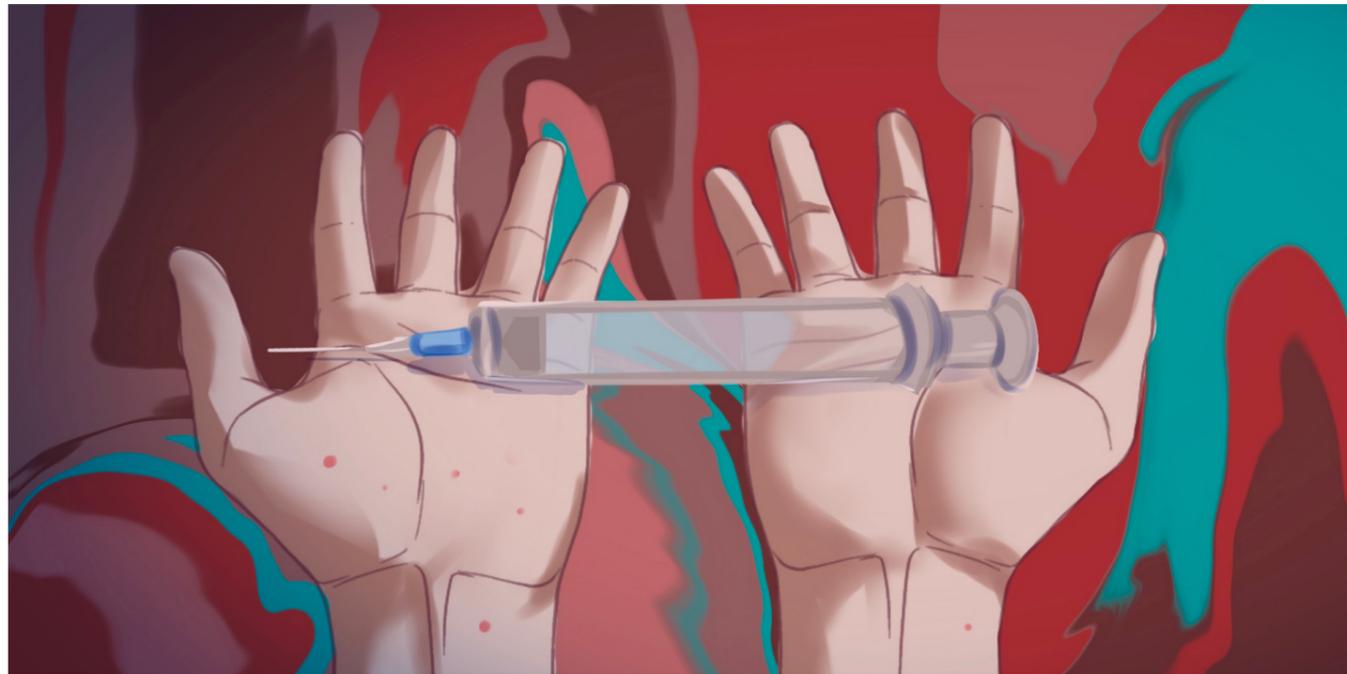
Many nations employed variolation and inoculation techniques to give people immunity against the more life-threatening type of the virus by introducing a milder form of smallpox. These methods, initially developed in China and India, have aided people worldwide. Doctor Edward Jenner discovered the immunity that cowpox provides and used variolation to create a vaccine. However, even with the development of the vaccine, smallpox was only eliminated briefly in a few areas of North America and Europe. During this period, there was a dearth of international cooperation in

providing vaccines and virus control, and other nations suffered tremendous losses.

The assistant president of HSC Josh Ding (ISB) states, "Considering the severity of the smallpox virus in the 1960s and the many failed attempts to eradicate the disease, ethical solutions must be implemented to improve the situation. One such solution is the creation of the World Health Organization Council on Variola Virus (WHOCVV), which is designated to combat the smallpox virus." The creation of WHOCVV is a solution that could potentially improve the smallpox virus issue. The committee engaged in extensive discussions regarding the eradication of the smallpox virus. They explored various proposed solutions, such as facilitating the unrestricted global distribution of vaccines, encouraging donations from privileged regions, and conducting further testing to evaluate the effectiveness of vaccines. To foster global collaboration, it is crucial to cultivate openness, trust, and effective communication among nations. This includes placing a strong emphasis on transparent reporting regarding the utilization of the virus and vaccines, ensuring their appropriate use and preventing any potential misuse. In addition, delegates pointed out that ensuring equitable support and access to vaccines for all countries is of equal importance, as it



helps prevent the dominance of a single powerful program. By forming alliances with other organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), nations can actively engage in projects and take responsibility. As an alternative to global caucuses, regional caucuses were proposed to prevent larger countries from exerting undue influence and to foster more meaningful discussions and consensus among representatives. Following two days of discussion, the delegates of the HSC remain committed to continued participation in order to reach a resolution.



PHOTOGRAPHY BY CLARENCE CHAN

ARTWORK BY CLARENCE CHAN

LAYOUT BY SAMANTHA CHAN

# GA3 Committee Recap

By Angela Wang

There is a growing recognition of human rights in the discourse surrounding corporations' roles in Africa. Despite advancements, several businesses still infringe upon human rights by engaging in discriminatory and forced labor practices. The UN has highlighted the value of universal human rights for every person. Africa suffers numerous challenges, such as discrimination, forced labor, and systemic issues that endanger the well-being of its people. Groups such as the World Health Organization support people who are victims of corporate violations of their human rights. These companies must exercise additional caution in their operations, even if they are subject to domestic and international regulations. Unsettling data—such as forced labor impacting millions of people in Africa, children in need of aid in the Central African Republic, and human trafficking in Nigeria—emphasize how severe the

human rights crisis is in the world's least developed area. Corporations must take responsibility and be accountable for promoting human rights in Africa, considering the issue's significance in the continent.

The assistant president, Kanglee Park (ISB), describes this topic as "exploring corporations' roles in violating human rights in Africa." She states, "During the debate session, delegates posed feasible solutions such as education and workforce developments, international support/frameworks, and economic and social policies." Some other possible solutions for this issue could be strengthening the National Legislation, enhancing transparency, empowering local communities, and capacity building for local governments and regulatory organizations in Africa. National legislation is a solution that involves creating new laws that adhere to international standards, similar to what international support does. Reducing infractions requires African nations to



strengthen national legislation regarding corporations' human rights duties. Reducing infractions entails passing legislation mandating that companies follow global standards and face consequences for violating them. After two days of the conference, delegates of GA3 will continue to collaborate to find a resolution.



PHOTOGRAPHY BY IVY YANG

LAYOUT BY SAMANTHA CHAN

# Interesting Stories from BEIMUN

By Angela Wang

Wrapping up the last day of BEIMUN XXXI, six delegates were asked to share a highlight or interesting experience from this conference.

When asked about her favorite part of this conference, Emma (SASPD), fondly recalled the moments of shared laughter with Josh and Gordon while serving as the chair. While not her inaugural experience as a chair, this particular experience was particularly memorable for Emma – each instance of chairing can present a distinct and unique experience. First time in Beijing, Barthes (Logarithm school) enjoyed the ISB campus, as well as a “cute girl admin” he encountered.

Another delegate James (SASPX) shared an amusing anecdote during the conference. He recounted the time when he accidentally fell asleep in the

library, assuming it was a day dedicated to lobbying. However, he was awakened by an administrator who informed him that the debates were about to commence. Unaware of the committee's name, he found himself lost on his way back, leading to a total of approximately an hour spent searching. Also from SASPX, Claire, recalled a particular delegate frequently receiving strikes due to disrespectful behaviors.

Bowen (IST) shared an interesting story about a delegate creating a Pokemon clause in the crisis they debated. He suggested using grass and electric-type Pokemon to fight the water-type monster from the marine. However, Anna (from Gorchakov MGIMO Lyceum) commented that “we debated on Pokemons for two minutes because people thought Pokemon weren’t real and shouldn’t be used.”



## Awards

### Most Diplomatic

- GA1:** China
- GA2:** Italy
- GA3:** Italy
- ENV:** Tajikistan
- ECOSOC:** China
- HRC:** Sudan
- DIS:** China
- WHA:** China
- SC:** China
- HSC:** China

### Most Passionate

- GA1:** Argentina
- GA2:** Tajikistan
- GA3:** Croatia
- ENV:** Japan
- ECOSOC:** Slovakia
- HRC:** Tunisia
- DIS:** Japan
- WHA:** Tajikistan
- SC:** ROK
- HSC:** DPRK



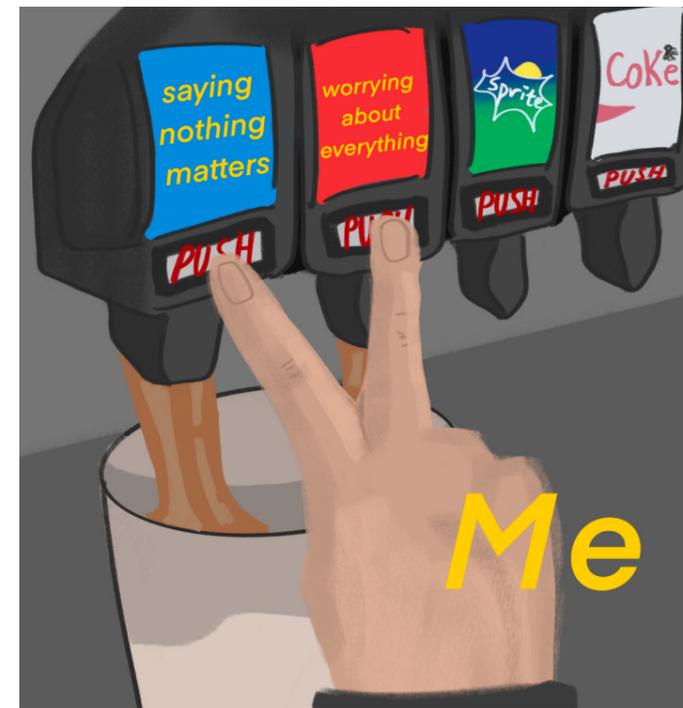


PHOTOGRAPHY BY IVY YANG

LAYOUT BY SAMANTHA CHAN

# Easter Word Search

B	U	N	N	Y	F	U	R	T
A	S	H	O	P	N	E	I	D
S	C	U	U	W	T	L	S	F
K	A	N	E	S	E	H	P	L
E	N	T	A	R	T	F	R	O
T	D	E	G	G	S	U	I	W
C	A	N	D	Y	A	N	N	E
K	U	T	U	L	I	P	G	R
C	H	O	C	O	L	A	T	E



SOURCES: REDDIT, CANVA

ARTWORK BY MIE KO, VICTORIA LI

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.

- |                                     |   |   |  |  |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|--|--|
| <b>ADVISOR</b><br>Steven Selkirk    | <b>TEXT EDITOR</b><br>Sophie Bai  | <b>PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR</b><br>Ivy Yang                       | <b>VISUAL EDITOR</b><br>Clarence Chan<br>Mie Ko                      | <b>MANAGING EDITOR OF LAYOUT</b><br>Samantha Chan    |
| <b>CHIEF EDITOR</b><br>Bernice Chan | <b>REPORTERS</b><br>Angela Wang<br>Emily Parker<br>Ivy Yang<br>Sophie Bai | <b>PHOTOGRAPHERS</b><br>Angela Wang<br>Ivy Yang<br>Polly Su | <b>ARTISTS</b><br>Clarence Chan<br>Mie Ko<br>Polly Su<br>Victoria Li | <b>LAYOUT DESIGNERS</b><br>Samantha Chan<br>Tracy Ho |