



BEIWATCH

BEIMUN XXXI

PRE-CONFERENCE ISSUE

March 15, 2024

Introduction to BEIMUN XXXI



By Sophie Bai

The anticipation is building as the 31st Annual Beijing Model United Nations (BEIMUN XXXI) Conference approaches. Scheduled to take place from March 15th to 17th at the International School of Beijing, we are excited to welcome diligent young minds that will provide solutions to some of the world's most pressing issues.

BEIMUN has served as a platform for fostering global understanding and diplomacy among students for over three decades. Each year, students step into the shoes of diplomats, representing various countries, and engaging in negotiations similar to those that real-world leaders are having.

Over the last four years, since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, BEIMUN has been held online. Despite the shift to an online format, the

delegates maintained a high level of professionalism and enthusiasm by dressing appropriately and actively participating in discussions. Now, as we transition back to an entirely in-person format this year, we are eagerly anticipating the return of the vibrant energy and interpersonal dynamics that come with face-to-face interactions. With the removal of COVID-19 barriers, we are excited to see different voices fill up ISB's discussion rooms.

Not only does BEIMUN serve as a platform for delegates to get involved with pressing global issues, but it is also a fantastic opportunity to enhance critical thinking, public-speaking, and collaborative teamwork skills. Through researching, lobbying, and debating, delegates can pitch their own distinct ideas while they gain new perspectives from their peers. Over the course of the weekend, delegates representing different countries will work with each

other and arrive at original resolutions that will solve the world's most pressing issues.

But BEIMUN is not just about lobbying and debating. BEIMUN is also about making new friends and creating meaningful memories. With the transition back to an entirely in-person format, participants can experience the personal connections and camaraderie that thrive both in and out of the committee rooms. These personal interactions not only contribute to an inclusive conference atmosphere but also create a supportive community where delegates can learn from one another, exchange stories, and build friendships.

We eagerly look forward to the friendships and memories that will be forged during this immersive experience. The BEIWATCH team wishes everyone a wonderful conference here in Beijing!

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LAYOUT BY SAMANTHA CHAN

Schools Attending BEIMUN XXXI



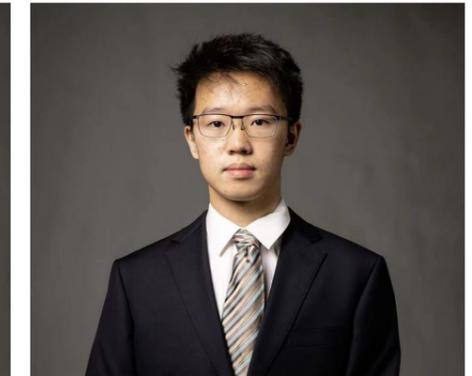
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- Beijing World Youth Academy
- British School of Beijing
- Canadian International School of Beijing
- Canadian International School of Hefei
- Chinese International School Hangzhou Campus
- Dulwich College Suzhou
- Dulwich College, Beijing
- German School Shanghai Yangpu
- Gorchakov MGIMO Lyceum
- Gurvan Tamir International
- HD Beijing School
- Human International School
- International School of Beijing
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- LYFLS MacDuffie Curriculum Center
- Logarithm School

- St. Paul Academy Daechi
- Seoul Foreign School
- Sha Tin College
- Shanghai American School Pudong
- Shanghai American School Puxi
- Shanghai Community International School - Pudong Campus
- Shanghai French School
- Shekou International School
- Shenzhen Foreign Languages GBA Academy
- SMIC International Private School Shanghai
- Suzhou Singapore International School
- TEDA International School
- True Light Middle School of Hong Kong
- Western Academy of Beijing
- Xiamen International School
- Yat Sen Secondary School

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Coexisting Peacefully in a Polarized World

By Emily Parker

A new year, a new conference, a new theme.

The decade of the 2020s has already delivered significant progressions in humanity – where innovation and modernism continue to elevate levels of scientific development and acquired knowledge. However, many people entered the decade of the 2020s with hopes for a more united world: an international community geared towards achieving peaceful cooperation. Instead, today “society is [being] torn between two opposite ends, raging against one another.” Discouragingly, the decade of the 2020s has been characterized by conflict and extreme polarization, as the concept of cooperation seems to be discounted. Existing inequalities of discrimination and marginalization are heightened, as a consequence of many countries relapsing into a mindset focused on division. Simultaneously, “barriers to trade, cultural exchange, and overseas students have sadly become the new norm.” In order for humans to coexist without descending into hatred and violence, leading

officials of the contemporary political stage must accept and respect each other’s differences, work towards a common goal, and act as role-models for their citizens. Perhaps, many BEIMUN delegates will become these future leaders of tomorrow.

For this year’s annual Beijing Model United Nations XXXI conference, delegates gather to discuss this year’s new conference theme: “Coexisting Peacefully in a Polarized World,” a rather fitting theme to tackle the growing polarization that has already encroached upon the international community. However, unlike the conventional notion which suggests achieving peace necessitates addressing and reducing disparities, BEIMUN XXXI adopts a distinctive perspective: “Coexisting with differences.” The official mission statement suggests that “differences are no longer celebrated but have become excuses to limit, discriminate, and harm. However, differences need not make us enemies. If polarization is inevitable, then humanity must learn to coexist in a polarized world. We must respect each other, acknowledge our differences, and seek a peaceful way to coexist in



this turbulent world.” BEIMUN XXXI secretariats recognize the need for unity and cooperation – acknowledging that the disconnect between different countries is a pressing matter. In an urgent effort to promote diplomacy, meaningful discourse between delegates, that aims to resolve the reoccurrence of global issues and address contingencies, is necessary. Thus, we look forward to witnessing delegates collaborating and crafting resolutions that will make this world a better place.



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Committee and Topic Overview

By Ivy Yang

The First General Assembly (GA1) is developing strategies to address concerns surrounding the increasing use of new technologies and rising social, political, and racial polarization in economically developed countries.

The Second General Assembly (GA2) is addressing workplace discrimination in less economically developed countries while also working to mitigate the post-pandemic impacts on education.

The Third General Assembly (GA3) is actively discussing corruption in Southeast Asian regions and formulating policies to promote transparency among nations. The committee will also explore strategies to ensure corporate accountability for compliance with human rights standards.

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) is crafting ways to enhance social protection measures and social safety nets for vulnerable populations. Concurrently, the council is formulating policies to help Africa recover from the economic inequality caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Environment Commission

(ENV) is examining ways to promote sustainable development, which involves mitigating the impacts on ecosystems and natural resources in alignment with the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Specifically, the commission is placing emphasis on fostering sustainable fishing practices in African coastal regions to mitigate the impacts of overfishing.

The Human Rights Council (HRC) is addressing issues of accessibility, discrimination, and social exclusion faced by people with disabilities. At the same time, the council is advocating for international policy reforms in response to the increase in discriminatory policies and motivated crimes.

The World Health Assembly (WHA) is contributing to alleviating the shortage of healthcare professionals and improving access to healthcare, while also discussing approaches to improve access to clean water and sanitation in less economically developed countries.

The Disarmament Commission (DIS) is exploring methods to regulate and reduce the use of Artificial Intelligence weapons, as well as



establishing an effective framework for decommissioning weapon systems in post-war nations.

The Security Council (SC) aims to enhance global security by developing plans to tackle the addition of new Weapons of Mass Destruction and the changes in current treaties, ultimately aiming to foster stability within political structures.

The Historical Security Council (HSC) is focusing on the global efforts to eradicate the smallpox virus and responding to the humanitarian crises following the dissolution of the Soviet Union.



PHOTOGRAPHY BY ANGELA WANG

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US Presidential Elections

By Emily Parker

The 2024 United States elections are scheduled to be held on Tuesday, November 5th, 2024. Joe Biden, a member of the Democratic Party who is dominating the field against Jason Palmer and Marianne Williamson, is running for re-election against his predecessor Donald Trump, a member of the Republican Party (running for a second, nonconsecutive term) who is similarly overtaking his Republican challengers after Nikki Haley suspended her campaign on March 6th, 2024 (Gómez and Astor). Moreover, the independent and third-party candidates are: Robert F. Kennedy Jr., Cornell West, and Jill Stein. (Gómez and Astor). The winner of this election is scheduled to be inaugurated on the 20th January, 2025. "Abortion, immigration, healthcare, education, the economy, foreign policy, border security, LGBT rights, climate change, and democracy," are expected to be the

primary leading campaign issues (2024 United States presidential election).

The 2024 election marks the seventh presidential rematch in American Presidential history. In addition, this election is the first presidential rematch since 1956 "when Republican President Dwight D. Eisenhower defeated Adlai Stevenson, the Democratic opponent he had four years prior" (Weissert). If former President Donald Trump gets reelected, he will officially become the second president in American Presidential History to serve two nonconsecutive terms.

President Biden's State of the Union address and former President Donald Trump's victory speech on Super Tuesday provoked contradictory ideas and visions of America's past, present, and future. The two speeches displayed a significantly separate idea of their individual visions for the nation. "I see a future for all Americans," Mr. Biden's speech concluded. "I see a country for



all Americans. And I will always be a president for all Americans because I believe in America" (Gómez and Astor). Mr. Trump's final words conveyed a different tone, "We're going to have to deport a lot of people, a lot of bad people," he said in concluding his 20-minute address, "because our countries can't live like this, our cities are choking to death, our states are dying and frankly our country is dying, and we're going to make America great again" (Gómez and Astor).

Palestine protests at the Oscars

By Angela Wang

The 2024 Oscars, also known as the 96th Academy Awards, took place, Sunday March 10th, at the Dolby Theater in Los Angeles, California. As the attendees arrived at the red carpet, Pro-Palestine protests calling for a ceasefire in Gaza and the Israel-Hamas war broke off in the streets. As reported by the police department, at least three war-related protests occurred that evening.

The largest protest, organized by groups of Film Workers for Palestine and SAG-AFTRA members, consisted of 500 to 700 protesters. Longing to put an end to the Israel-Palestine conflict, protesters marched the streets, furiously yelling "no awards for genocide!" The glorious Oscars had transformed into a chaos of car honks via the severe traffic jam caused by the protest. The crowds had dwindled out by afternoon, but some protesters still attempted to enter the gated sections

close to the Oscars. Police officers used zip ties to secure the entrance following their attempts. Some celebrities who attended wore pins calling for a halt to shooting, bringing the issue to the red carpet. Mark Ruffalo said "Humanity Wins," outside of the academy awards to support the Palestine activists.

Similarly, another protest led by the Jewish Voice for Peace Los Angeles took place close to the theater. In addition to calling for a ceasefire, this protest aimed to urge influential figures of Hollywood to take action to mitigate the conflict.

In a third protest, hundreds of people turned out to protest Hollywood's backing of US-funded Israeli activities against Palestinians in Gaza. The purpose of the protest, coordinated by a range of organizations including Black Lives Matter LA and the US Palestinian Community Network, was to sabotage the Oscars and draw attention to retaliatory actions faced by critics of Israel in



the film industry.

In an attempt to deal with the demonstrations, the police issued a dispersal order and a warning about substantial traffic delays in the area. To prevent further advancement, the police set up temporary walls to block the protesters' views. Nevertheless, the chaos inevitably attracted a significant amount of viewership for the Oscars.

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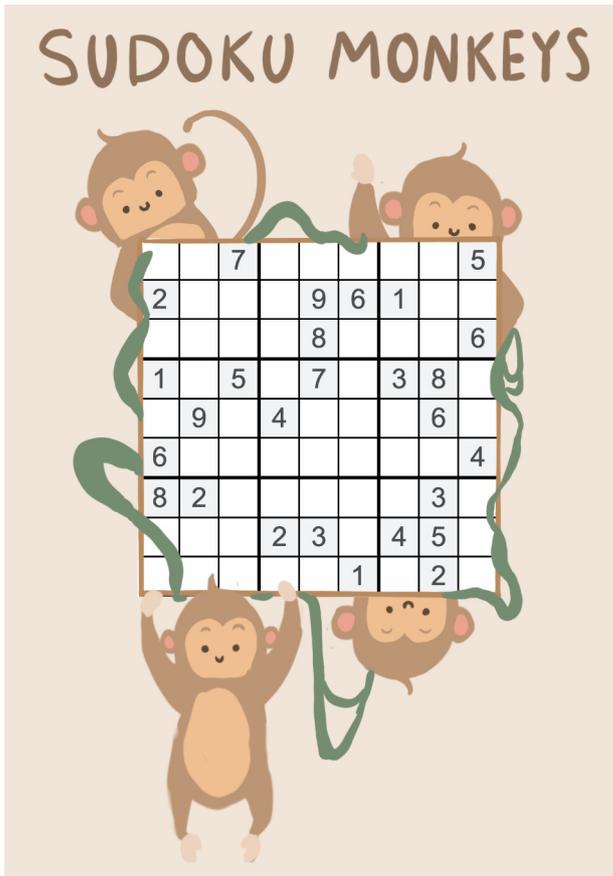


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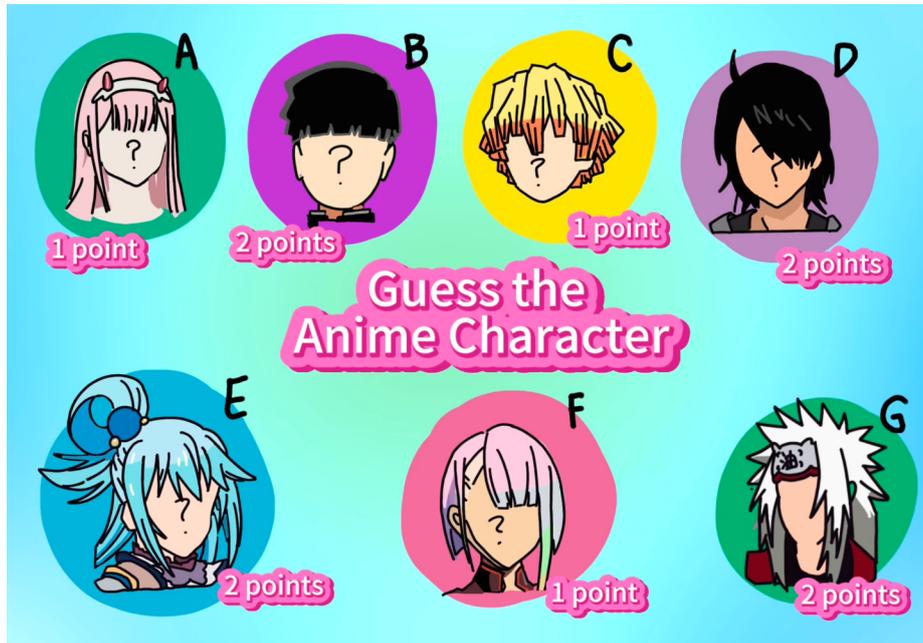
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Me when I finally finished my homework at 3am



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