



# BEIWATCH

BEIMUN XXV

ISSUE ONE

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## THE GRAND OPENING

By Hyoree Kim



The curtains open, lights dim, and conversations come to a pause. Anticipation weighs heavy in the air as the time of commencement grows closer. Over 600 pairs of eyes train their eyes on the performers on the stage.

The International School of Beijing (ISB)'s choir and high school orchestra provided a grand opening to the annual conference by performing a collaborative piece, *An Ancient City*, which filled the theater with a beautiful melody and an amazing cello solo that captured the attention of the audience. This served as an excellent transition to Dr. Patrick Hurworth, ISB's Head of School, who offered a warm welcome to all delegates participating in this year's BEIMUN conference. Following Dr. Hurworth, Deputy Secretary General Eden Liu addressed this year's theme, "Justice and Equity in the Age of Globalization." The audience then welcomed this year's honorable guest speaker, [REDACTED]. The stories in his life that inspired him surely motivat-

ed many of those in the audience to take action for the three challenges that he believes must be tackled: climate change, nuclear proliferation, and emerging viruses. After [REDACTED] impactful speech, Secretary General YoonHo Cha took the stage and declared the BEIMUN XXV conference to commence with the sound of his gavel pervading the theater.

To conclude the opening ceremony, ISB's Wushu team and a professional acrobatic team gave an intense series of performances, where swords flew and flags waved across the stage. From juggling hats and clubs to spinning a pot and table using two feet, the acrobats successfully executed many heart-stopping feats that had the audience on the edge of their seats. These performances, containing great emotions and graceful movements, allowed delegates from around the world to experience a taste of China's culture.

The opening ceremony has set a strong foundation for the collection of valuable experiences and memories that are to come in the next few days.



# A TRIO OF THREATS

By Casper Suen and Lu'An Fortier Situ

In the opening ceremony, delegates were welcomed to BEIMUN by the joyful spectacle of a Chinese acrobatic troupe and a performance by the International School of Beijing (ISB)'s choirs and high school orchestra as well as the Wushu team. The twenty-fifth annual BEIMUN conference was ushered in by the sounds of laughter and general merriment; the excitement was palpable. However, only moments before, the entire auditorium had sat in silence as one man delivered a sobering warning to the youths that had gathered from around the world to pursue a common goal.

His message was simple: that the survival of the human race was being threatened. That man was BEIMUN guest speaker [REDACTED] and his message to the delegates was triple-pronged. The emergence of new viruses, nuclear proliferation, and climate change are all forces that possess the power to destroy the human race, and, potentially, all life on Earth as we know it. Help is needed now more than ever.

## EMERGING VIRUSES

As most recently demonstrated by the West African Ebola virus, pathogens that possess the ability to cause pandemics of biblical proportion are still very much in existence. Even considering the astonishing advances of modern medicine, humanity can still be threatened by a handshake or the oversight of a traveler returning home from a contaminated country. By the time the UN's Public Health Emergency of International Concern was lifted in March 2016, a

total of 28,616 suspected cases of Ebola and 11,310 deaths had been reported from three different countries. These statistics from the World Health Organization suggest a forty percent mortality rate, however, the WHO suggests that in reality, this was closer to seventy. Additionally, the WHO stated in a release that the previously mentioned figures seriously underscore the severity of the outbreak. While the pandemic was contained through the courageous efforts of the medical workers who risked their lives to help the people of Sierra Leone, Liberia, and Guinea, the next malady may not be so simply defeated. ■

[REDACTED] suggests that Avian Flu — also known as H7N9 — is considered by some experts at the UN as a likely candidate for the next pandemic. However, [REDACTED] elaborates, they suspect that the next pandemic will be the endgame to Ebola's warm-up, with the potential to eliminate five to eight percent of the world's population. An event such as this hasn't been



seen since 1918 when the Spanish flu killed three to five percent of the world's population as reported by the US Census Bureau. It's only a matter of time, and the only thing to be done is to wait and hope that humanity has prepared enough.

## CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate Change has no longer become a question of "if," it has become an issue of "when" however the existence of such a threat is still relentlessly

questioned. The late Stephen Hawking, in a recent Royal Society address, has predicted that human life on the planet has about a century left. Climate change is a key factor to this, and according to Professor Hawking, the time left to save our world is over. Humanity as a whole had a brief period to save the world and we missed it, Hawking warned. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change 2007 climate change report, the effects of climate change will continue to grow more and more significant, and increasingly prominent. Between rising sea levels, rising temperatures, and rising incidents of droughts and heat waves ("Global Climate Change: Effects."), the world faces the increasingly prevalent promise of ruin.



## NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

Nuclear proliferation, the spread of nuclear weapons, has become an increasingly daunting worry for the United Nations to address. After the "Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons" went into force in the 1970s, the world was increasingly optimistic on the containment of the proliferation of nuclear weapons, especially due to Article VIII calling for the revision of the operational treaty every five years ("Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) – UNODA."). However, in the wake of the 2015 review's failure to "reach agreement on the substantive part of the draft Final Document" being a major setback in the UN's efforts on the subject, accountability of parties may have been drastically reduced. In an age of growing nuclear threats, such as North Korea and Iran, as well as non-state actors like ISIS, it is imperative to continue seeking treaties such as the "Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action", which allowed Iran to be freed of economic sanctions while restricting their nuclear program and allowing for accountability through foreign parties' extensive ability to perform verification (Laub, Zachary).

In the face of [REDACTED] three urgent messages, BEIWATCH hopes that delegates continue to show unwavering resolve and determination to change the world for the better.



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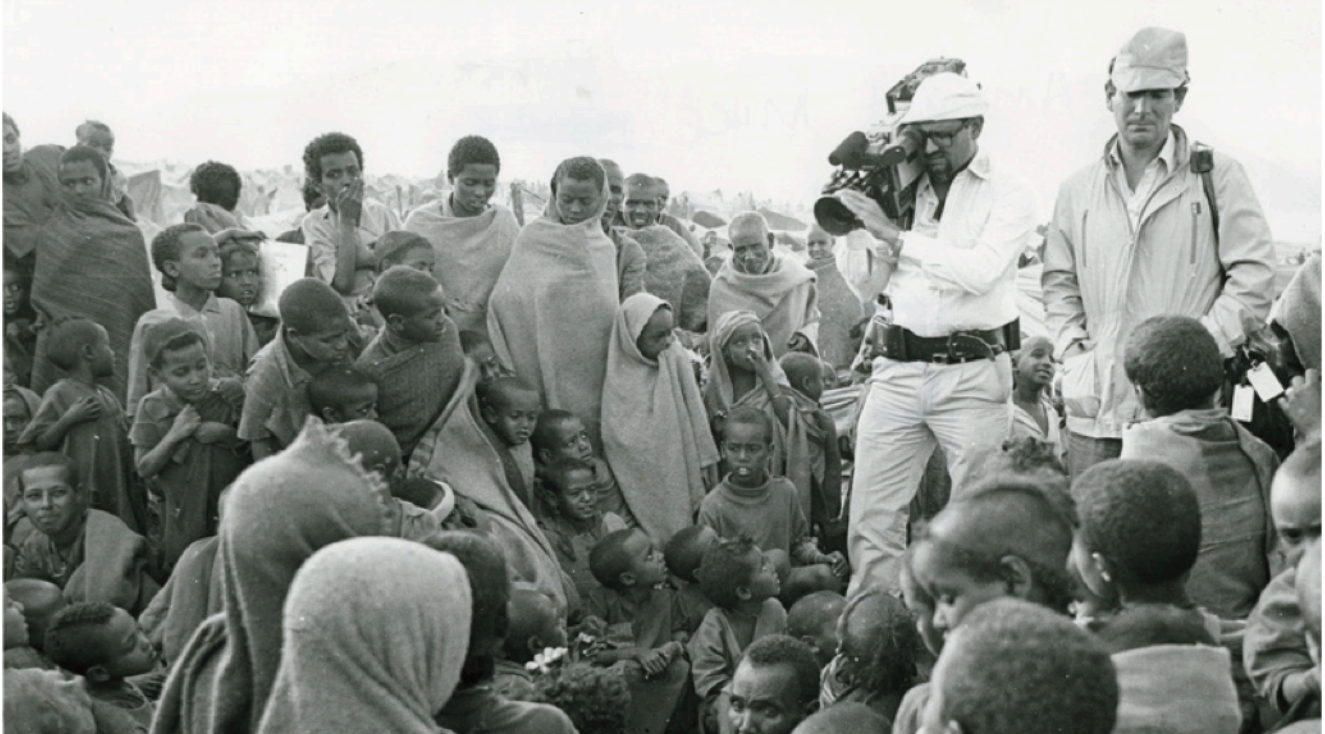
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# WHO IS MOHAMED AMIN?

By William Chen and Austin Kwok



The year is 1983; a small Ethiopian boy traverses the infinite steppe under a ruthless midday sun. Without water or food he travels only with the clothes on his back given to him by his already deceased family. This has become a daily reality for the people of Ethiopia.

The famine that would ravage the nation had begun.

Weeks pass, and his body is discovered by a weary photographer. This is a familiar sight to him. He weeps for the child knowing that he was too late. The only thing he can do is press the shutter. A snapshot to remember a boy who had been forgotten by the rest of the world. The photographer continues knowing full well that just beyond the horizon could be another starving child.



His name is Mohamed Amin.

Fast forward to 1984. The world tunes into the

morning news. In an instant, their world is changed by videos of starving Ethiopians and photos of dying children. Doctors, teachers, lawyers, it didn't matter who you were at the time, the images confined in the 24-inch by 20-inch screens changed you. Among them was [REDACTED], who was horrified by the images, which would change his life's course.

Mr. Amin was born on Aug. 29, 1943. Growing up in Kenya, Mr. Amin developed a love for photography and soon became the most relied upon African news photographer as well as the founder of Camerapix. Mr. Amin's work became integral to the documentation of the Ethiopian famine that occurred between 1983-1985.

Onset by a yearlong drought, the truth about the famine and the 8 million people it was affecting was kept hidden from the rest of the world. But after Mr. Armin and his colleague, Michael Buerk's BBC documentary was aired, the Ethiopian crisis was forced into the world's attention.

Despite losing his arm to an ammunition dump explosion during the Ethiopian Civil War, Mr. Amin continued his work in Ethiopia to spread the truth of the situation.

His work inspired many musicians to take action as well. Charity singles were released, namely "We are the World," which in total raised upwards of \$50 million for the famine relief efforts. In 1985, Irish singer Bob Geldof organized the Live-Aid concert,

which urged people to donate money and their governments to participate in relief efforts. The event raised 145 million pounds.

After his photos were seen by millions around the world, aid relief efforts to Ethiopia came in massive waves. The world had been motivated to send donations to relief agencies, such as Save the Children, and governments began to use numerous military assets to carry food and water to Ethiopia.

Mr. Armin's life tragically ended in 1996 during a plane hijacking years after his life-changing efforts in Ethiopia.

As a photographer, Mohamed Amin was selfless and always dedicated himself to his work. He has inspired many others to make a difference in the world and for that BEIWATCH honors his legacy. His efforts in documenting the Ethiopian famine are an example of the efforts needed by everyone to ensure justice and equity in an age of globalization.



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# EQUALITY ≠ EQUITY

By Josh Zeng

The terms equity and equality are often used interchangeably. But there are significant differences between the two. Simply put, equality has to do with being the same, and equity has to do with being fair.

When countries strive for an equitable distribution of wealth, they often need to reallocate income from wealthier individuals to poorer individuals. This is designed to give the less fortunate segments of society better access to opportunities to improve their socio-economic standing. A common argument for equitable distribution is that the rich do not need to get richer, and that the gap between rich and poor should be reduced.

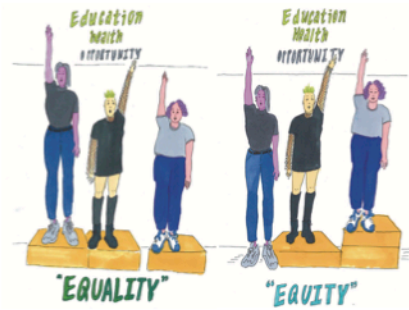
In order to achieve more equity in nations, some countries require citizens with a higher income to pay a higher percentage of their income as tax, while citizens with a lower income pay a lower percentage of their income. This is known as a progressive income tax system. It is considered equitable, or fair,

but not equal. The objective of enacting a progressive tax system is to distribute income among citizens more evenly.

While some nations adopt such systems, others implement a flat taxing system, in which the same percentage of income is taxed no matter how much the income is. For example, in a flat tax system where everyone pays 10 percent income tax, a rich person earning \$1 million a year would pay \$100,000 in tax, while a poor person earning \$1,000 a year would pay \$100 in tax. This is considered equal - because both pay 10 percent - but not necessarily fair. A progressive tax system might require the wealthy individual to pay \$150,000 in tax, or 15 percent of his or her income, while the poor person would only be required to pay \$50, or 5 percent of his or her income.

From an individual standpoint, whether one supports equity or equality is likely to depend on their own situation. In general, if one is relatively poor

compared to others, he or she would advocate for an equitable system, whereas a rich individual would wish for an equal system. Still, many rich people approve of the progressive system for the wider benefits it often brings to society, such as tax revenue to pay for public education and health facilities.



# Rapid Growth and its Challenges

By Zhuan Ee Yau

In the age of globalization, nations with fast-growing economies face the prospect of widening gaps between rich and poor. This issue is especially prominent in large developing countries like Brazil, South Africa and China, where rapid growth over the past 30 years has been accompanied by increased income inequality.



While official Chinese figures show the gap between rich and poor improving slightly from 2011 to 2017, income inequality rates here are still a concern for many observers. According to the National Bureau of Statistics and the Financial Times, China's Gini coefficient, a scale ranging between zero and one that measures the degree of income inequality

in a nation, has fallen to a reading of 0.465 last year from 0.477 in 2011. A Gini coefficient of zero would indicate perfect equality of income, while a reading of one would mean the opposite. The United Nations likes to see countries working to keep Gini coefficients from exceeding 0.40.

There are many contributing factors to widening income gaps throughout the world. A major one is technological advancement. Many countries are experiencing rapid development in technology that is leaving many jobless at all skills levels. For example, computers and machinery are capable of performing many tasks that unskilled workers used to do. These workers whose skills are not "sought" anymore in the labor market are therefore left structurally unemployed because these machines can not only work more efficiently, but also more effectively than them. Other factors may include differences in standards of living between citizens in rural and urban areas of these large expanding economies, economic liberalization, lack of access to education, and more.

To resolve this issue, many countries could impose more progressive tax systems, in which tax increases exponentially as income increases. In other words, this approach suggests taxing the rich and redistributing to the poor in the form of free education

and health services. This would decrease the unbalanced income by promoting more equity in income distribution between all social classes. They should also employ policies such investment in human capital by expanding more access to excellent education and training. This would help promote long-run economic growth. Other solutions include creating more jobs by investing in infrastructure, increase access to credit and micro-credit, and providing social safety nets to lower income families to ensure social stability.



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# MARS VS VENUS: Where do we go next?



By William Chen

"By the year 2600, the world's population would be standing shoulder to shoulder, and the electricity consumption would make the Earth glow red-hot," Stephen Hawking told the Tencent WE Summit Earth in 2017.

In light of this dire prediction, mankind might start considering other options just to be on the safe side. As we look beyond the sky to some of our neighboring planets in the solar system, Mars seems like a popular option. But there is another possibility, however slight.

A surface temperature ranging from 425 celsius to 450 celsius, Venus would seem a very unlikely place for humans to call home. But that's where science comes in. According to NASA researchers, just 50km above the surface of Venus exists an atmosphere whose gravity, pressure, and solar radiation protection are like that of Earth. The High altitude Venus Operational Concept (HAVOC) is a NASA research project which calls for the construction of an aerostat environment to make the colonization of Venus possible. In simpler terms, HAVOC seeks to create floating cities (airships) 50km above Venus's surface in the pocket which is habitable by humans. These "cities" which look more like blimps will be solar powered and are believed to be a valid solution by many NASA researchers. However, even with the

use of these airships, there are many other environmental threats to man in space. Obviously, there would be a need to wear spacesuits for oxygen, but there is also the problem of sulfuric acid rain and solar radiation. While many NASA scientists are hopeful that the colonization of VENUS will work, many people might not want to move even if it does work.

Mars is a little more forgiving, with many scientists believing that water is present. But it is still

not exactly what most would call home. Mars possesses a significantly lower mass than Earth or Venus, and thus the forces of gravity present on Mars is extremely weak. This can result in several things, one of them being the planet's inability to hold a sufficiently dense atmosphere. On top of that, what little atmosphere that is still present is poisonous to humans. Additionally, rapid muscle degeneration — where one's muscles deteriorate due to disuse — may begin to take place just a few short weeks after being on Mars. On the upside, the lack of gravity will eradicate the obesity problem (the scales won't function properly). Additionally, humans could lift much more stuff and jump much higher. Temperatures on Mars are relatively comfortable, with night temperatures hovering around a nippy negative 70 celsius (bring a sweater).

With both options weighed, it seems as though there's no clear winner. Neither planet is ideal for the survival of humanity nor is any other in the solar system. Instead of trying to look for homes on other planets, we should really be looking after our own. As human beings, we are responsible for preserving the green in the trees, the blue in the ocean and the rainbows in the sky for our children to admire as we have. There is no planet like Earth. There is no place like home.



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# BREAKING INTO BEI 门

By Chan Park

On the surface, MUN is just another extracurricular activity, but to a great deal of us, it means so much more. Model UN has helped delegates all over the world to grow into leaders, discover futures, and create ever-lasting friendships.

In an era of globalization, being a global citizen has become vital, as the world faces countless issues that threaten its prosperity. Becoming a delegate requires more than just dedication - it requires passion and critical thinking skills. Unfortunately, in the case of many MUN members just starting out, some of us may just miss out on the short list to a conference. But as many say, failure is only the first step to success and achieving your goals. Take the delegate of France for example, Sung Jun Yun. As an ISB senior, he wanted to challenge himself and attended his first conference, MINIMUM, in September. Being inexperienced, Yun had a less than glamorous start and was ranked as the lowest performing member of the conference. As it stood, there would have been no chance for Yun to get a spot at BEIMUN. He needed another chance. Yun remained steadfast and did not let his performance waver his confidence or passion for MUN. Refining his skills through countless hours of practice, Yun received his second chance

*"I've seen rooms filled with delegates who are debating for the first time and rooms with delegates who haven't missed a single conference in their entire MUN career. But most importantly, in all the rooms and debates I've been in, I've always been surrounded by dream seekers and world shakers. As delegates we represent the hopes of the future, we joined not to earn a title but to make a difference. It doesn't matter which conference you get into or don't, what we do is too important for that to matter."*

- Sung Jun Yun, the delegate of France

with the arrival of CISSMUN. Defying all odds, Yun flourished in his second conference, the hours of practice were evident and he was able to earn his spot at BEIMUN.

"We don't grow when things are easy," Yun said in an interview. "We grow when we face challenges."

BEIWATCH found Yun's story worth sharing because of the lessons he learned through his experience that can be applied to other delegates.

The devotion and dedication that Yun has is something that all delegates have whether they know it or not. Through hard work and the right mindset, anybody with enough passion can break into BEIMUN.



## DAY 1 SUPERLATIVES AND STANDOUTS

By Luan Fortier Situ



The best dressed man on the first day of BEIMUN was Lebo Yao, originating from The International School of Tianjin. Wearing a seemingly standard suit, Lebo wears it well and with confidence, with an amazing black/red checkered tie.



Representing far off lands is Marija Pavloska, from Coalition of Youth Organizations of SEGA Macedonia.



The best dressed woman on the first day of BEIMUN was Alice Jeong, from Shekou International School. With a specifically black and white colour palette, she stands ahead of her peers in the category of best dressed.



Leo Cheng trekked 12.2 kilometers down the hallways of ISB on day 1, aggravating a track injury which required treatment from the athletic trainer Randen Morisako.



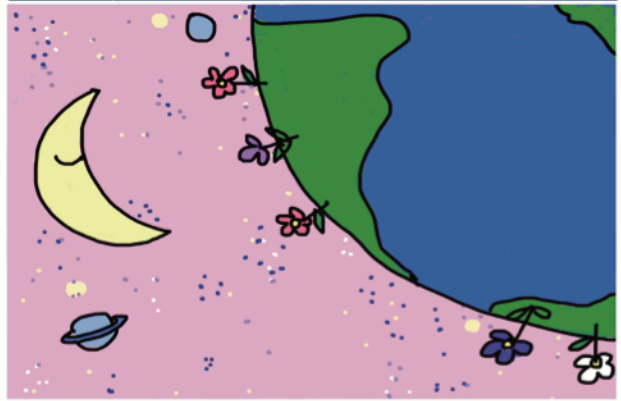
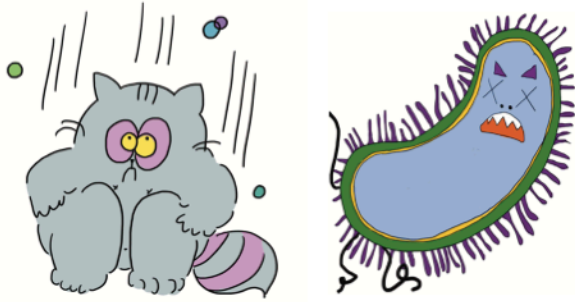
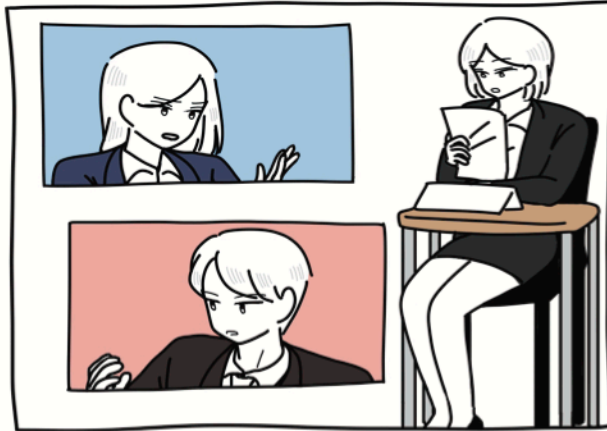
Brent Cheung and Luke Cheung are two brothers visiting from SAS Pudong.





Photographs by Christina Choi, Alice Choi and Jane Kim

Layout by Sonia Zhang



Answers to the pre-conference issue puzzle

5	+	1	+	8	=	14
+		+		+		+
9	-	7	+	4	=	6
-		-		+		+
3	+	6		2	=	7
=		=		=		=
11	+	2	+	14	=	27

NON-Tearable Pun  
 pun borrowed by [www.TearablePuns.org](http://www.TearablePuns.org)



Artworks by Hyo Jin Kim, Heewon Lee and Sharon Noh

Layout by Sabrina Chen

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