



# BEIWATCH

BEIMUN XXV

ISSUE 2

MARCH 18, 2018

## The Three Horsemen of the Apocalypse - Survey Results:

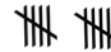
CLIMATE CHANGE



NUCLEAR  
PROLIFERATION



EMERGING  
VIRUSES



\* Of the 82 random students surveyed, an overwhelming majority found climate change was the most pressing of the three global threats.

# Guest Speaker Spotlight: Elsa Tang

By Josh Zeng and Zhuan Ee Yau

As a financial analyst, former salesperson and trainer, Elsa Tang's (汤蓓佳) numerous careers have not been primarily about protecting the environment. In fact, her daily habits used to be very wasteful: ordering lunch with food packaged in non-recyclable plastic boxes, purchasing groceries in small, non-reusable plastic bags, and more. However, after realizing the harms that her behaviors were posing to the environment, Tang became determined to bring a change to her lifestyle by attempting a zero waste lifestyle; she made a meticulous attempt to produce the absolute minimum amount of trash possible.

It all began in September of 2016 when she saw a blogger share her story about the amount of trash that she accumulated over two years had just barely surpassed the halfway line of a small jar. Tang thought to herself, "how is this remotely possible?"

Tang said it is not hard to see how consumers can produce so much trash when you consider facts like: "On average, 1.1kg of trash is produced per person per day, while 22 thousand tons of trash are produced in Beijing alone that could fill up the entire third ring road in Beijing."

Tang suggested that there are many ways in which every individual can contribute to reducing waste production, and one simple change in their daily habits can make a huge difference. For instance, one can purchase only package-free items, such as package-free soap and shampoo. Additionally, one may bring reusable bags when shopping instead of asking for a plastic bag each time. Finally, one can use toilet paper made of bamboo instead of trees, as bamboo grows at a much faster rate. Small changes such as these can reduce the chopping of our wood and ultimately serve as sustainable solutions to saving trees and the ecosystem.

Tang mentioned that the zero waste community also periodically hosts events, exhibitions, workshops, talks, zero waste picnics, and swap parties in order to promote zero waste lifestyles. For some Chinese citizens, in particular, the more wealthy ones, the concept of zero waste or using second-hand goods is almost unthinkable. Tang believes that this is a cultural change worthy of pursuing.

Despite her hopes and goals, Tang admitted that "it is impossible to go fully zero trash in China," the

reason being that there are currently too few items that are purchasable package-free. Therefore, Tang advises anyone moving towards a zero waste lifestyle to begin with realistic expectations, as the change will not be instantaneous and adjusting will take time.



Elsa Tang giving a speech on the topic of "How to Lead a Zero Waste Lifestyle in Beijing" to the environment commission delegates.

# Guest Speaker Spotlight: Tom Henderschedt

By Josh Zeng and Zhuan Ee Yau



Tom Henderschedt giving a speech on the topic of "Disarmament Challenges of the 21st Century" to the Disarmament Commission delegates.

On Saturday morning, delegates of BEIMUN XXV gathered to listen to Tom Henderschedt, Naval Attaché to the US Embassy in Beijing, speak on the topic of disarmament. Many in the room expected the conversation to revolve solely around the issue of nuclear proliferation, and many were surprised when Captain Henderschedt stated that nuclear weapons are only one aspect of a many-headed problem that our generation will face on the path towards achieving disarmament.

Another face is cyber warfare. Captain Henderschedt expressed the confounding nature of cyber warfare, and that these offensives may be enacted by entities of all levels — individuals, non-state actors, and countries alike. A major hindrance in combating these attacks lies in the fact that sophisticated attackers can remain anonymous, making defending against and seeking retribution for attacks extremely difficult.

Another facet of the issue is drones. Captain Henderschedt postulates that, as a relatively young technology, drones have the potential to be used for great harm without proper regulation due to the relative ease at which consumer-grade drones can be weap-

onized. The lack of international standards in terms of flight paths only exacerbates this issue.

The lecture ended on an ominous note, with Captain Henderschedt presenting the following quote from famed American writer E.B. White: "The world organization debates disarmament in one room and, in the next room, moves the knights and pawns that make national arms imperative."



# DR. RUETH TACKLES HARD TRUTH: *How to hold the UN accountable for crimes*

By Chan Park

As delegates were merging resolution clauses, Dr. Jeanne Rueth, Adjunct Professor of International Relations, stood before the General Assembly as a guest speaker. Dr. Rueth took the podium to discuss current difficulties in holding United Nation (UN)'s Peacekeepers accountable for crimes upon returning from their missions.

The United Nation's Peacekeepers' mission statement, as follows, is to "help countries navigate the difficult path, from conflict to peace. Deploying troops and police around the world, they seek to integrate with civilian peacekeepers to address the range of mandates set by the UN Security Council and General Assembly. " To ensure the security of the UN's Peacekeepers - including troops, civilians and other UN staffs - all UN mission personnel hold immunity from any laws within the nation in which they are assigned to.

Herein lies the problem, as Dr. Rueth pointed out. "Does that mean the UN mission personnel have the right to commit any crime and slip away?" There have been numerous cases in the past of troops on duty who have allegedly committed systematic rape and abuse on children at displaced persons' camps but remained unprosecuted behind their diplomatic immunity. As a result of jurisdictional gaps, this often stems from the country's lack of willingness to take a proactive role in protecting victims and punishing personnel for commit-



*Dr. Jeanne Rueth giving a speech on the topic of "The Question of Private Military Corporations operating in the Middle East" during the 6th General Assembly.*

ting intolerable crimes. Dr. Rueth emphasized the importance of countries working together to create policies that can hold the UN personnel accountable. However, this is difficult for countries without a stable governing system to support these desired systems.

Dr. Rueth's words sought to change the approach of delegates from the General Assembly committee six when forming a resolution. Upon concluding her speech, it became evident that the points laid out by Dr. Rueth had surely broadened the perspectives of many delegates.

## Fun Geographic Facts About the Conference

Sweden

Canada

Phillipines



# Modern Slavery: Where is the Justice?

By Lu'An Fortier Situ

When the topic of slavery arises, many may automatically look back into the history books and associate the topic with the enslavement of indigenous people by European colonizers, including the African slave trade. It is often a misconception that slavery is an issue that humanity solved long ago. Unfortunately, this is not true.

Think of the everyday clothes you wear or the phones you use on a daily basis. Have you ever wondered where it all came from?

Human trafficking still exists in modern day society under the guise of "Modern Slavery." Human trafficking or "Modern Slavery" as it could aptly be referred to as is defined by the UNODC as "the acquisition of people by improper means such as force, fraud or deception, with the aim of exploiting them." The practice is divided into three categories, chattel slavery (those born into slavery), debt bondage (those who pledge themselves for financial loans), and contract slavery (those who are deceived with fake job offers).

Criminal enterprises involved in human trafficking more often than not treat people under their control as commodities rather than people. They exploit those most vulnerable in society, those who are unable to defend themselves, those who innocently trust the intentions of others, and those who are easily forgotten. Human traffickers do so because of the profits earned from this lucrative yet inhumane business. The United Nations estimates that

the total market value of human trafficking stands at \$150 billion annually. Today, it is predicted that there are upwards of 40 million slaves in the world. It is predicted that 71% of all those who are being trafficked are females, 29% are males, and one in five are children. All are subject to physical and mental abuse, sexual exploitation and forced labor.

The major obstacles in solving the issue lie in the elusiveness of crime enterprises involved in the trafficking of humans. However, with the emergence of new technologies and government policies, which emphasize the transparency of knowledge, the number of survivors begin to grow.

Currently, major companies are responsible for tracing their supply chains to address and seek out any cases of human trafficking and modern slavery. However, these instances of modern slavery often occur at the very bottom of these supply chains, which results in even more difficulties in victim identification.

"It is one of the most pressing and complex human rights challenges of our time, yet also crosses over into such diverse areas as transnational crime, international humanitarian law, domestic and international labor frameworks, and migration, among others," said David Abramowitz, managing director of Humanity United.

There are still many challenges to solving this issue that has yet to be overcome. So it must be recognized by all that slavery is still a prevalent issue today. It is

an issue that violates the basic human rights of vulnerable people and an issue that those with the power must tackle to preserve justice for all in society.



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# HAWKING'S FINAL LESSON FOR HUMANITY

By Hyo Ree Kim



"We have given our planet the disastrous gift of climate change ... When we have reached similar crises, there has usually been somewhere else to colonize ... But there is no new world, no utopia around the corner. We are running out of space, and the only places to go to are other worlds."

- Stephen Hawking

In a final speech before his death, renowned cosmologist Stephen Hawking emphasized the importance of focusing scientific resources on research for colonizing new planets. Hawking had believed it was too late for humanity to save itself and set a 100-year deadline for humanity to colonize other planets to save itself. Before his death, Mr. Hawk-

ing set guidelines for mankind to follow in order to make the colonization of other planets a reality.

1. Bring the cost of spaceflight down dramatically.
2. Develop new technologies to launch humanity farther and faster into space.
3. Discover more habitable planets than the ones we have already discovered
4. Learn how to survive on inhospitable planets we already know about, such as Mars, and other planets that might support life, Proxima b.

However, all do not share Hawking's pessimistic view of the world. [REDACTED] (the guest keynote

speaker for the BEIMUN XXV conference), challenged delegates to prove wrong one of the smartest men the world has ever produced. [REDACTED] gave delegates an eye-opening speech of the responsibilities that rest in the hands of the next generation.

Upon further reflection, Hawking's predictions for the future seem very realistic. Humanity now finds itself in a dire situation and a unified change is needed now more than ever. As a society that's constantly facing social issues of justice and inequality, it is essential that effective resolutions can be made to unify mankind for the sake of the world.

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# RECAP ON DAY 1 COMMITTEE MEETINGS

By Josh Zeng

## Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

Corruption is a major problem present throughout the numerous countries today. In BEIMUN XXV's Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) debate, delegates voiced their opinions regarding the issue of preventing corruption within newly industrialized nations. Delegates from a diverse group of nations debated extensively to reach a consensus on how to manage, or ideally, prevent corruption.

However, the council hit roadblocks on its path toward a solution. These were caused by different interests of each country that delegates represented. For examples, Shawn Teh, the delegate of Canada, proposed that establishing or improving upon an anti-corruption political party within each country and educate children about the destructive influences of corruption on society. Contrastingly, Li Tong, the delegate of South Africa, argued that the fundamental problem may not be corruption itself.

When the debate began to heat up, the delegates and chairs heard the shocking news that Jacob Zuma, the president of South Africa, has been taken into custody by the military. Despite a sudden crisis, delegates maintained their passionate attitude to resolve corruption, collaborating in both small and big groups.



Trey Sprouse, Delegate of Cuba, Economic and Social Council



(left to right) Molly Wright, Delegate of Somalia, GA6; Tianyue Cathy Gao, Delegate of United Arab Emirates, GA6

By Chan Park

## General Assembly 6 (GA6)

As one of the main committees of the General Assembly, General Assembly 6 (GA6) primarily considers legal questions in the General Assembly. BEIMUN XXV's GA6 debated issues regarding the following: ensuring the criminal accountability of United Nations personnel on missions, answering the question of the legality of cryptocurrency, and resolving the liability and legal matters of self-driving automobiles. While lobbying, the delegates divided themselves into smaller groups based on different concerns on the use of cryptocurrency.

By presenting each members' resolution to their group, the delegates discussed different viewpoints, which they later integrated into a single resolution. After Dr. Jeanne Rueth's speech, delegates finalized their unanimous resolution. They first debated on a resolution that tackled legitimacy of cryptocurrency, presenting distinct stances based on the country's interest. For example, Joey Wang and Taughfeek McDonald, the delegates of Kazakhstan and Senegal, argued that cryptocurrency could replace existing national currencies as it promotes transparent money transactions. Meanwhile, the delegates of Finland and India, Hyun Joo Ji and Seo Yoon Lee, strongly asserted that cryptocurrency could not be legalized at this point for huge price fluctuations and security fears.

By Hyoree Kim

## General Assembly 3 (GA3)

In BEIMUN's General Assembly 3, delegates are hard at work preparing their resolutions for three great world affairs: preserving endangered languages in the age of globalization, protecting endangered world heritage sites in West Africa, and preserving Nomadic cultures throughout the world. These delegates are all very passionate about these issues, and they all truly wish to present the best possible resolution to make a positive impact on these issues one small step at a time.



(left to right) Megan Ko, Delegate of Yemen, GA3; Maggie Cheng, Delegate of France, GA3

According to the delegates of General Assembly 3, resolutions concerning the protection of endangered species will comprise of the utilization of the rapid development, the influence of technology, and various platforms to spread awareness. The fact that humanity is currently in the age of globalization will be taken advantage of as delegates approach a resolution fit for all. For example, in regards to protecting endangered languages in the age of globalization, the delegate of Venezuela, Amelie Hajiev, proposed utilizing the influence of social media to spread awareness of these languages and to create facilities where educated people could volunteer to teach these languages. With responses conforming to the conference's main objective, it seems that there will undoubtedly be a consensus on the resolution for GA3.

# RECOGNITION FOR THE ADMINS

By Zhuan Ee Yau, William Chen

This year's annual BEIMUN conference hosted over 500 students coming from nearly 43 countries across the world. All participants were here to address the



Catherine Sze having an interview on admins assisting BEIMUN XXV

main challenges and issues facing our world today, and introduce several possible solutions. With such a busy and hectic event, it would not be possible without the gracious help and assistance from the admins.

With several ongoing committee meetings and students transitioning from one place to another, things may get out of hand sometimes. Volunteers from ISB give up their weekend to admin for the BEIMUN conference. The admins are there to specifically make sure nothing goes wrong, and the conference runs as smooth as possible. Admins are responsible for a variety of jobs from little things like giving directions to monitoring committee meetings. On opening night of the conference, the admins were even held to 11:30 at night before being allowed to go home.

When asking admins what challenges they faced, they responded with a variety of answers: "The hardest job for me was dealing with people going on their phones and telling them to stop, but they still continue to do it," said Catherine Sze, a Grade 12 admin from the host school International School of Beijing. Another Grade 12 admin Patrick Zhang stated, "When you need to be tech support and run all over the place, it gets a bit tiring." Grade 12 admin David Yao said, "As an admin, standing around and listening to debates can get a bit dull. But it's always fun to listen to someone make an interesting speech that spices things up every now and then."

Though the job may be challenging, the admins are keeping a positive attitude and this is attributing to the overall success of the conference.

Photographs by Christina Choi, Jane Kim and Alice Lee

Layout by Annie Yang

# Senior Reminiscences

By William Chen and Lu'An Fortier Situ

It's time to say goodbye to our seniors who are attending their last year of BEIMUN. For this occasion, here are a collection of the responses of seniors to being asked to finish the phrase: "My last BEIMUN is like..."

**Spencer Shia**

International School of Beijing  
Delegate of North Korea, GA1

"My last BEIMUN is like a somber moment. A moment of terrible and inconceivable sadness. To think I started as an ineloquent person that could not speak in front of audiences. I look forward to doing MUN in college, and don't understand why people complain that MUN does not help with college applications, as it generates awareness and improves perspective. This allows us to comprehend that politics are not made of idealism, but realism, and that there is a zero-sum to global politics. To be good citizens, we need to have an adequate comprehension of what is around us, and as we cling to our ivory towers, we must understand the reality of the actions around us."



**Michelle Hwang**

Brent International School Manila  
Chair of Environmental Commission

"...is my third beimum, but it feels like my first, as it is my first time being a president."



**John Edvard Axelsson**

Internationella Kungskaps gymnasiet  
Delegate of Canada

"My BEIMUN is interesting, fun, exciting, formal, and meeting new people."



**Trajche Belevski**

Gimnazija Dobri Daskalov  
Delegate of Bosnia and Herzegovina

"My experience for this conference is much more formal, precise, more organized than my previous experience. The great thing about this conference is that there are people from different ethnicities and countries that I get to meet which is a once in a life time experience. The whole conference is a new experience for me and will be in my memory."



**Laurina Ye**

International School of Beijing  
Deputy Secretary General

"My last beimum was a very rewarding experience as I was able to meet many inspirational people such as guest speakers and delegates from all over the world! As my 4th and final BEIMUN, I was able to do more work behind the scenes, planning the conference, and interacting with a lot of insightful people."



You can't go back and  
change the beginning,  
but you can start  
where you are and  
change the ending.

— C.S. Lewis

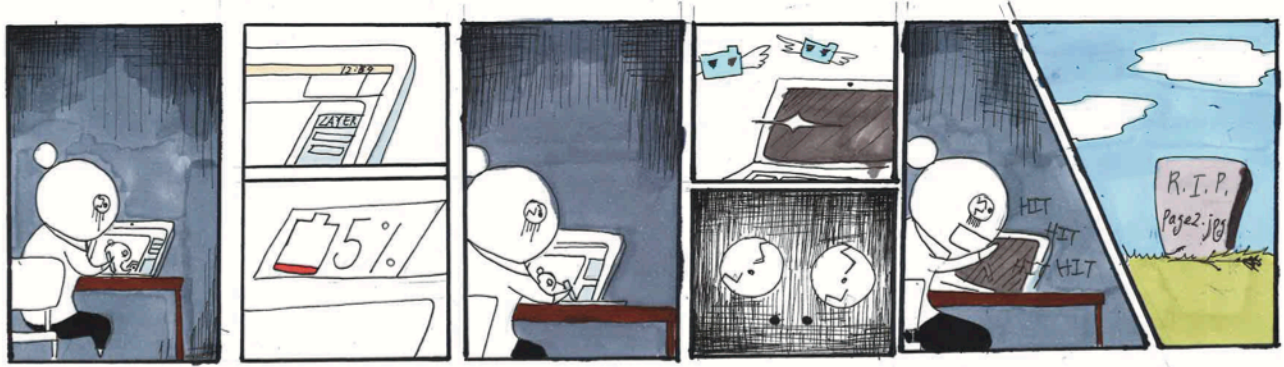
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"C. S. Lewis Quote: 'You Can't Go Back and Change the Beginning, but You Can Start Where You Are and Change the Ending.'" [Quoteency, quoteency.com/quote/781638/C-S-Lewis-You-cant-go-back-and-change-the-beginning-but-you-can-start-where-you-are-and](https://www.quoteency.com/quote/781638/C-S-Lewis-You-cant-go-back-and-change-the-beginning-but-you-can-start-where-you-are-and).

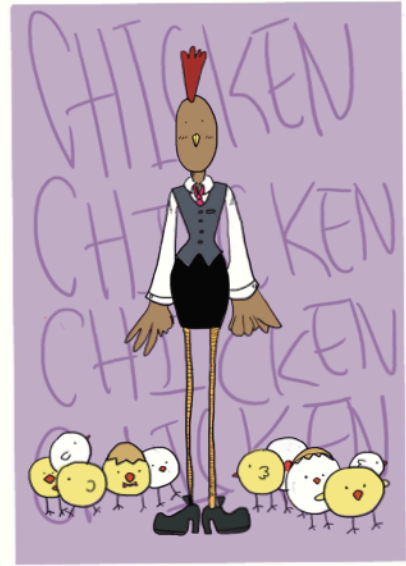
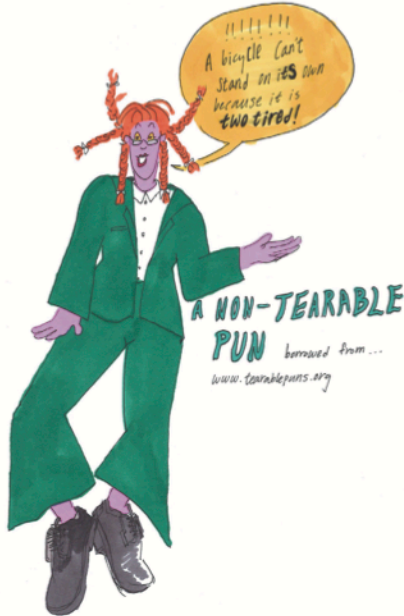








Spot the Differences!



Artworks by Heewon Lee, Hyo Jin Kim, Sonia Zhang, Sharon Noh

Layout by Jenny Cha

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