



# BEIMUN WATCH

BEIMUN XXIV

ISSUE TWO

MARCH 5, 2017

## BEIMUN at ISB: The Possibilities and The Improvements

By Annie Li

BEIMUN XXIV is hosted by the International School of Beijing (ISB), and it seems overdue that the conference would be hosted on its campus. Here are the benefits of having the conference at ISB.

### AN OUTREACH PROGRAM

MUN is about bringing people together and debating local and international issues. As part of the new outreach mission that aims to enrich the experience of MUN for more individuals, BEIMUN Director Ms. Eileen Rueth discussed the support ISB can now provide for Yat Sen Secondary School from Fiji. “[It was the first time taking a plane for] two out of the six students”, Ms. Miriama Naicegecegu, MUN director for Yat Sen Secondary School confirms. Furthermore, Ms. Naicegecegu believes that “the exposure alone is a blessing... [the students] are able to make friends, [and] they are able to gain confidence.”

### BETTER EXPERIENCE

Gawon Lee, Under Secretary General said it the best, “Crowne Plaza would be the same for any other country.” From the traditional dragons placed near the theatre, to the colorful murals by artist Lu Yongzhong, ISB has prided itself in its efforts of interweaving Chinese culture within the ISB culture. ISB’s theatre has also allowed delegates to see a breathtaking Chinese acrobat show that is sure to be remembered long after the conference is over. As a result, attendees from far and wide can glimpse into the vibrant energy of China.

### IMPROVED FACILITIES

Delegates who have attended BEIMUN at the Crowne Plaza in the past know that it was not an uncommon sight to see hundreds of delegates seated on the carpet of the second floor lobby. Moreover, in



past years, slow WiFi has often frustrated everyone from delegates to the press team alike. With BEIMUN at ISB, such issues occur no more as there are high-speed Internet and plenty of couches for everyone.

### REDUCED COSTS

Ms. Rueth affirms that “[she] was able to lower the price for delegates and for schools by seventy-five percent.” Lowering the cost of BEIMUN has allowed the budget to be allocated for equipment upgrade. Gawon Lee also said the “new gavels, placards, dongles” have been bought, providing a better experience for delegates.

### UPGRADED FOOD

Delegates no longer have to eat only cold sandwiches and drink bottled juice, because BEIMUN at ISB allows delegates to enjoy hot lunches catered by Chartwells, along with a wide selection of beverages and desserts available for purchase.

With the reasons above, BEIMUN’s change in location ensures the improvement of future conferences. It will continue to inspire and provide opportunities for individuals that were not possible in the past years.

## The Day that Changed AHMED’S LIFE



Ahmed Mohamed in 2015

Photo by Maya Lu

Ahmed Mohamed, 15, one of the delegates at the BEIMUN XXIV conference, was arrested on Sept. 14, 2015 at his Texas middle school when he brought a homemade clock that was mistaken for a bomb. Ahmed said he simply wanted to impress his teacher, and did not expect that it would lead to his arrest and a series of events that garnered international attention.

“For me, it was really simple, it took me about 20 minutes to make [the clock]. So I showed [my teacher] the clock, and she told me it looked like a bomb, and said she will give it to me at the end of the day,” said Mohamed, recounting the events of the day. “I

was not worried the rest of the day until the police came and picked me up from my class.”

Then he was questioned for hours and was detained at the police station in Dallas, Texas. Mohamed told us that “many events like this happen across the world, but they never get brought to social light. They pass, and you don’t see them.”

The incident became viral, and Mohamed said he “got a lot of support from social media.” This support later convinced the court to drop the charges due to the threat of public backlash. Eventually, the story became so widespread that even individuals such as Mark Zuckerberg, (continued on page 2...)

Layout by Karina Zeng

# The Day that Changed AHMED'S LIFE

*continued...*

By Angela Liu and Candice Shi

(...continued from page 1) Hillary Clinton, and most importantly, President Barack Obama himself tweeted Mohamed, saying, "Cool clock, Ahmed. Want to bring it to the White House? We should inspire more kids like you to like science. It's what makes America great" (Tribune).

However, it is difficult to say that this is an isolated incident. "I felt like I've been given a crime I did not commit and I had no power. The court system is extremely racist and the police is extremely racist and other people, the majority, are extremely racist so it is hard to fight the court." What Mohamed is touching on is the rise of Islamophobia in Europe and North America, coincidentally a subject under debate in General Assembly 3 of the BEIMUN conference.

Islamophobia refers to the prejudice and aversion against Muslim people and their culture, which is growing in North American and European regions, mostly originating from terrorist threats from the Middle Eastern areas (Basu). Mohamed said "while [he] knew there was racism around, but [he] never expected to be arrested. [He] was blind at that age and did not understand or was mature enough to see what was happening."

A couple of years later, Mohamed is now happily settling into his new life in Qatar. He has even started his own fashion company in January. "When I came to Qatar, I realized how fashion is a big deal in the world. That is a good place to start. After that I will go into engineering," he says. His passion and knowledge to his work is admirable, both in engineering and in the fashion industry, saying: "the reason why people love fashion design companies is [because] they pick the mood of the situation." Besides from his blossoming fashion career, he also participated

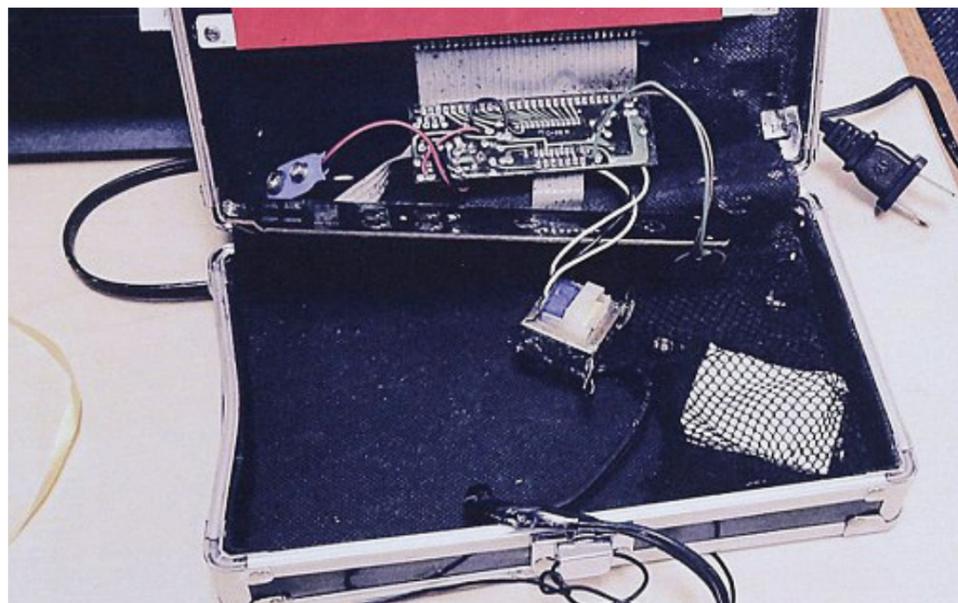


in other extra-curricular activities such as BEIMUN XXIV. Mohamed himself actually attended a real UN conference and gave a speech there, and he said his reason for joining MUN was to see the difference between MUN and the UN. Specifically, he states how he is surprised at the immense professionalism of the students at these conferences, and how closely MUN resemble conferences on the international, televised staged.

Perhaps the most inspiring quality of Mohamed is his courage and resilience. Despite all the difficulties and opposition he is faced, his "word of advice for people [is] do not let people change who you are. Be who you want to be." Back in Texas, Mohamed

recounted that there were others in his school that shared his passion in creating, but "they did not want to show their teachers; [they] were scared that others would make fun of [them]." And though showing his teacher a clock on that fateful day forever changed his life, he is happy that his experiences allowed for the world to better understand the circumstances of those silenced – like himself.

As we all embark on our journey in finding our purpose and ourselves it is important to remember the words of Mohamed: "not every place where you fit in is where you belong."



Ahmed's Homemade Digital Clock

"Do not let people change who you are. Be who you want to be."

- Ahmed Mohamed, 2017

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Photo by Christina Choi

Layout by Ellie Lee and Karina Zeng

# CRISES IN THE COMMITTEES

By Angela Liu

In the middle of the HSC 1 debate, crisis struck: “The event involved open fire at civilians conducted by North Korean troops”, announced Gawon Lee, simulating an UN official. Furthermore, she continues, reporting, “the Soviet Union could possibly be involved.” Innocent civilians were also reported to be severely injured and in desperate need of medical attention. Immediately, a (heavily accented) Soviet Union representative denied the possibility of involvement, breaking into a patriotic Russian song to insist their support for peace. The committee was reassured that if the USSR is indeed innocent, the UN simply needs to carry out further investigation to find the true culprit of this civilian massacre. Yet in an odd turn of events, the Soviet Union did not accept further investigation. In the midst of this chaos, delegates have been asked to lobby and propose the next course of action regarding the investigation of the massacre in the Korean Peninsula.

The ECOSOC 1 committee was also in debate before UN and UNESCO representatives ran into

the room, bringing recent reports of an attack conducted by ISIS on the Samarra Archaeological City in Iraq. The UN Counter-Terrorism Committee representative suspects that ISIS wishes to establish their capital at this site because of its history as a powerful Islamic city. In the middle of the analysis, a reporter brings news that ISIS is now holding close to one thousand refugees. Additionally they are threatening to bomb Samarra unless a “ransom is paid and the official Islamic State becomes recognized as an independent, sovereign state” said Ben Rigodin, acting as an UN reporter. The choice is up to the delegates to either protect the heritage site and provide the ransom and recognition or deny their requests but risk the lives of 1000 hostages and the survival of the beautiful city of Samarra.

Yet another committee faced a crisis when the Secretary General and the President of the General Assembly brought news to GA 4 about a massive meningitis epidemic at a Palestinian refugee camp in Jordan that holds over 53,000 refugees. Unfortu-

nately, the Secretary General, Wilson Li, said, “the presence of UN Peacekeepers was blamed for the introduction of new, unfamiliar, and highly advanced bacteria” when they were stationed at the camp to protect the refugees. The disease is highly contagious and becomes particularly transmittable in unsanitary conditions, similar of those in the refugee camps. Health centers are overflowing with patients, medical resources are dwindling, and the epidemic is predicted to sweep across the camp. The UN officials look to the delegates to help solve this health crisis as well as propose actions for the peacekeeping mission in the Kingdom of Jordan.

These debate crises allow delegates to think on the spot, remain professional under emergency situations, and propose solid resolutions for imminent catastrophes, just as UN officials have to do. This builds the realistic element of Model United Nations, giving delegates the first hand experience of the ever-changing nature of our world.

## SECURITY COUNCIL TACKLES PIRACY & STABILITY

By Annie Li

Today’s topics of debate in the Security Council included the ongoing violence in the Gulf of Africa and in Iraq.

In the morning, delegates deliberated over piracy in Africa with a resolution submitted by Ji Whan Moon and Dong Jae Min, both delegates of the United Kingdom. The room heavily discussed clause nine, in which the delegates of the United Kingdom impassionedly urged “governments of West African nations to begin internal reforms within their respective nations economically, so that there is less likelihood of citizens resorting to piracy”, as the region is financially unstable. To follow, the delegate of France affirmed Moon and Min’s clause by suggesting that West African nations should implement a minimum wage.

Moreover, the delegates of Spain also supported Moon and Min by suggesting that that it is crucial for West Africa to develop infrastructure. This was echoed by Vidalia Freeman, the delegate of Uruguay. However, the delegate of the United States thought that the clause was too ambitious and “wide in scope.” Nevertheless, no delegates objected the clause upon voting, and it was passed.

In the afternoon, the Security Council moved onto concerns in Iraq due to the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) through a resolution submitted by the delegates of France. In clause three that “asks the World Bank [and] the International Monetary Fund (IMF)...to provide more monetary funds and material goods...to improve the basic conditions in refugee camps,” the delegates of the Unit-

ed Kingdom asked how such a clause would deviate from the status quo. Additionally, Chris Park, the delegate of France, urged for the inclusion of military personnel in regards to sub-clause that suggests “deploying other relevant officials to assist the UN-HCR [(United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees)].” Park then fervently urged others to vote in favor for this clause, as he believes it would greatly aid Iraqi refugees.



Photos by Shermaine Diong

Layout by Anagha Sridhar

## THE BACKSTAGE CREW OF BEIMUN

By Anna Brenner

BEIMUN would not be complete without its administration, or admins for short. These committed students voluntarily dedicate long hours to work alongside all participants to provide a smooth and successful MUN experience. Admins are the messengers of MUN, passing critical notes between delegates. Dressed in bright green, armed with friendly smiles, the MUN superheroes are always ready to help.

SY Uhm is a middle school admin assigned to General Assembly committee one. SY is very enthusiastic about MUN and decided to become an admin because he wanted to learn more about how high school students run the conference. He looks forward to the day when he can be a BEIMUN delegate himself. One thing SY enjoys about being an admin is the fact that there is always something to do. Reading the note cards he passes allows him to be more engaged in the debate by giving him a better understanding of the world's pressing issues. Overall, SY Uhm believes that his experience as an admin member will aid him in becoming a strong delegate

in the future.

Chan Park is a high school admin assigned to the Historical Security Council. Chan said that he "chose to become an admin because [he] wanted to meet his friend who said that she is coming to BEIMUN to become a chair." He also wanted to acquire some knowledge and experience with MUN as he is considering becoming a delegate next year. Chan also likes making new friends at a conference that brings together students from so many different parts of the world.

Johanna Jakobi is a high school admin assigned to the Advisory Panel. Johanna thinks that being an admin is worthwhile since it is interesting to see how people work from the sidelines rather than participating in the debate.

Most of the admins treasure this experience as they get to understand MUN more before becoming delegates themselves. By helping conference organizers and supporting delegates, the admins also learn valuable skills that will make them stronger delegates if they join MUN later.



## An Eye-Opening Experience

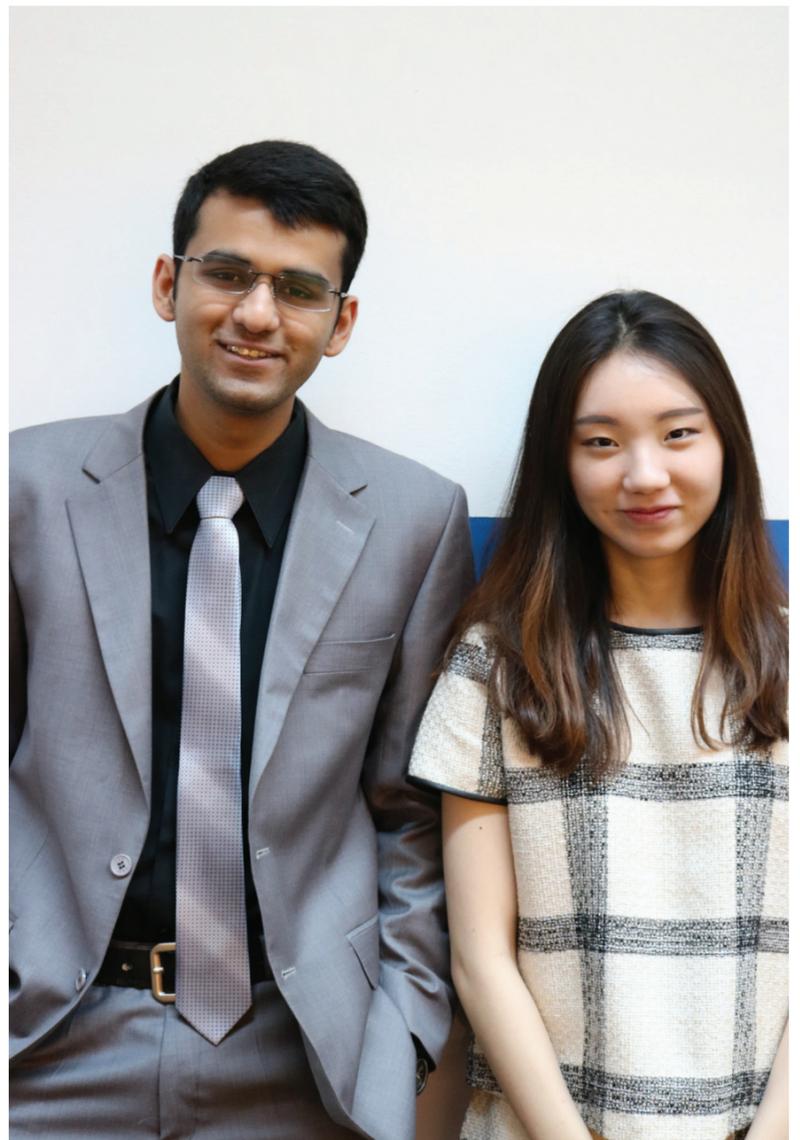
By Hyoree Kim



BEIMUN is a conference in which hundreds of engaged scholars meet to debate the most pertinent world-wide issues. Though all have different reasons for coming – some pressured by their friends, while others concerned with the people affected by global atrocities – all undoubtedly enjoy the experience it provides. "Initially, I joined MUN because a close friend of mine wanted me to be her companion," said Gawon Lee, the Under Secretary General of this year's conference, "but after debating on child trafficking in sub-Saharan Africa, I had the sudden urge to go and help people in need by further debating worldwide issues." This, the idea of helping people others, rings across all the participants in BEIMUN.

Beyond discovering this passion, Lee found she was capable in public speaking through her delegate experience, leading her to continue with MUN until serving in her current executive position. Similarly, Ashwin Srikanth, President of the General Assem-

bly, states that, "My social studies teacher in Finland taught me the importance of learning who I am as an individual in a global community because it is really important to know where you stand on a global level when we are all so connected." His interest piqued when his social studies teacher introduced him to these concepts, and like Lee, he continued with MUN until he became the president of the general assembly. They both agree that BEIMUN is a place to also improve public speaking skills, and that it introduces participants to a whole new array of experiences.



Photos by Shermaine Diong

Layout by Annie Yang

# IS KOREA READY FOR REUNIFICATION?

By Sunny Lee

The Korean Peninsula was divided along the 38th parallel, or 38 degrees latitude North, following the surrender of the Japanese colonial regime in 1945. This was a defining moment for Koreans, as their history and regional dynamics were drastically altered (Cha).

Since the division, both countries have agreed to prioritize a peaceful unification as a national goal. However, this has been nearly impossible to achieve due to the ongoing tension between the two states, which have grown differently over the past seventy years politically, economically, and socially. Given this extreme disparity, it is widely believed the eventual unification between the two Koreas will be immensely difficult, costly, and ultimately, highly unlikely. Analysis shows that there have been five theories in unification studies since the end of the Korean War, all of which was driven by a combination of ideology and real-world events (Cha).

## FIRST THEORY - 1945: WINNER TAKES ALL

The first theory emerged shortly after the division of Korea and was prevalent throughout the Cold War. This was essentially the notion of “unification by force” (Cha), meaning the only legitimate solution to unification was for one Korea to crush the other (“Five Theories of Unification”).

## SECOND THEORY - 1991: TOO DIFFICULT, TOO DANGEROUS

The second theory was formulated after the unification of the two Germanys. The Koreans watched the German unification with deep envy, but watching the Germans struggle with social, political, and economic integration caused Koreans to realize the challenges of unification. Though it was previously seen as something desirable, it now became something to be avoided because of its staggering costs and terrible uncertainties (“Five Theories of Unification”).

## THIRD THEORY - 1998: SUNSHINE POLICY

In 1998, Kim Dae-jung, the ROK’s new democratic president, presented the idea of the Sunshine Policy, in which its main aim was to soften North Korea’s attitude towards the South by encouraging interaction and economic assistance. This was a policy that was closely tied to President Kim’s liberal political ideology. However, it was created not only because of his ideology, but also due to the Korea’s liquidity crisis in 1997 which made unification impossible, thereby engaging in the North Korean regime over the long-term and paving way for a gradual transition, or “soft landing” (Cha). The notion that this policy generated was that unification should be pushed generations into the future, which caused the vast majority of Koreans to believe that unification is not practical – too expensive, risky, and time-consuming – and therefore should not be a goal attempt-

ed to be achieved (“Five Theories of Unification”).

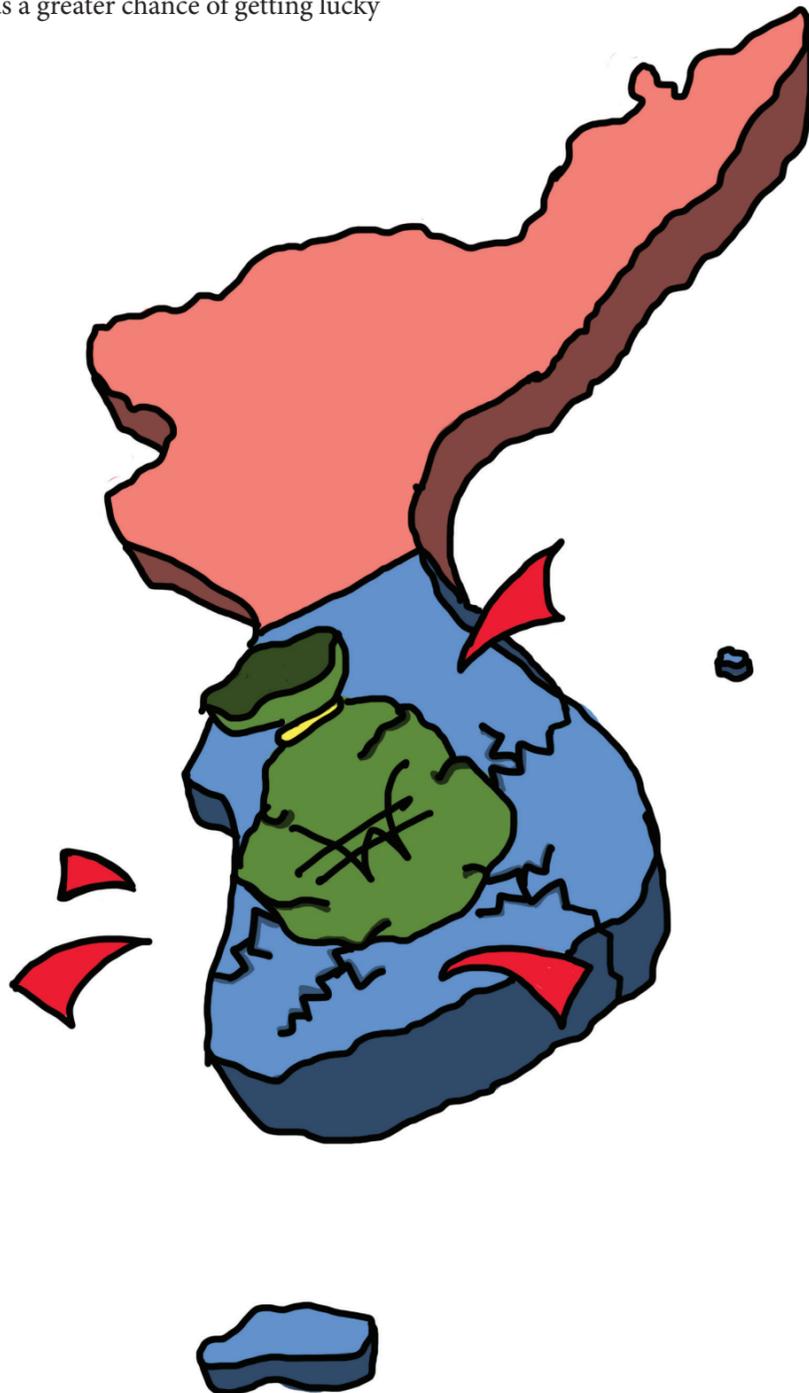
## FOURTH THEORY - 2010: PRAGMATISM

This theory was suggested by the South Korean President Lee Myung-bak, who was a fiscal conservative rather than an ideologue. He viewed the possibility of unification on more pragmatic terms – that is, unification may be expensive and dangerous, but as it may happen next year, next month, or even next week, preparation for it was necessary. Some critics pointed out preparation for unification was too overwhelming of a task, and that luck also plays a big role in its success. President Lee’s response, however, was that luck does not come without preparation. He further claimed that one that is prepared has a greater chance of getting lucky

than one that is not (“Five Theories of Unification”).

## FIFTH THEORY - 2014: JACKPOT

This final theory was formed by President Park, who coined her thoughts on unification as a “jackpot” (Cha) for her and her country. She explained that the process of unification should be seen as an opportunity for growth, investment, and peace among the two Koreas. President Park does not view unification as a “winner takes all” (Cha) scenario – something to be feared or delayed indefinitely, or something that should be prepared for overwhelmingly – rather something that should be dealt with a positive attitude (“Five Theories of Unification”).



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 “Five Theories of Unification.” *Korea JoongAng Daily*. JoongAng Ilbo, 22 July 2014. Web. 03 Mar. 2017.

# 6 NOTES & INFOGRAPHICS

## "WHERE HAVE ALL THE PUNS GONE?"

By Misato Fujii

As we know, note passing is essential to MUN as it allows for delegates to communicate without having to yell or walk around. However, though it is a tradition to have flirtatious, or funny notes passed around in other conferences, for reasons unexplained, this year's BEIMUN XXIII has been wrought with an incredibly serious vibe. Perhaps it is the shyness – maybe the delegates are not as willing to take a leap of faith – or maybe it is the atmosphere that is making the delegates feel more pressured to stay within a bubble of professionalism.

Ben Rigodin, the Deputy Head of BEIMUN's Admin, speculates that changing the venue from a hotel to a school has caused delegates to feel more apprehensive and less flirtatious. While in previous years, delegates have sent incredible pun-including notes, such as: "I am your only JUAN!!!" This year

there have been none! Where have all the puns gone?

There has been, however, a few courageous delegates within the General Assembly Committees such as the delegate of Austria who carefully conceived a plan to pass a cute note with a simple message. The delegate asked an admin to pass a note to the delegate of Fiji with the message: "Hey Fiji, what's your name? :)" He specifically informed the admin to walk all around the delegates before passing the note in order to keep the secrecy.

You might be shy, or maybe unsure of what may happen if you send a note of unimaginable doom or greatness, but unless you do so, you will never know. Maybe it will not go as great as you hoped... or maybe it will! Whatever way, BEIMUN is only four days, and if you feel that you need to take a risk, you might as well just try!



## COUNTRIES REPRESENTED AT BEIMUN



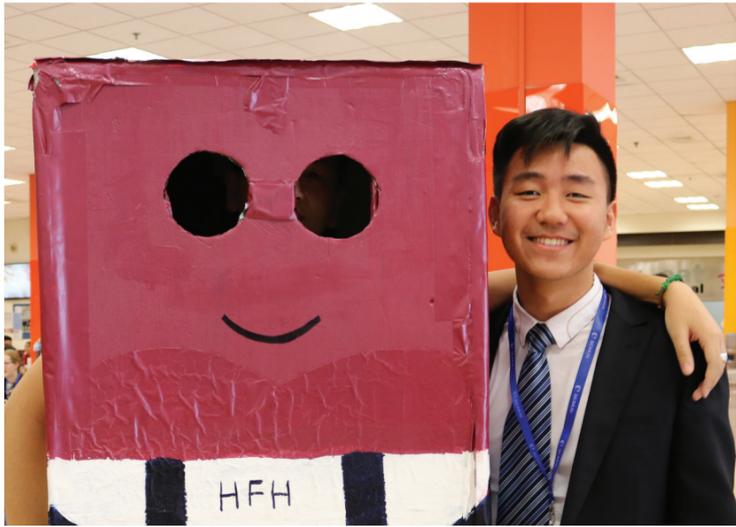
BEIMUN  
BY THE NUMBERS



1 WORLD  
5 CONTINENTS  
13 COUNTRIES  
40 SCHOOLS  
100 DIRECTORS  
7 STUDENTS  
3 STUDENTS  
3 STUDENTS

driving on the road to success...

# PHOTO COLLAGE 7



Check out tomorrow's issue at [beimun.org/beiwatch.php](http://beimun.org/beiwatch.php)!

Photos by Shermaine Diong, Vivian An, Maya Lu, and Christina Choi

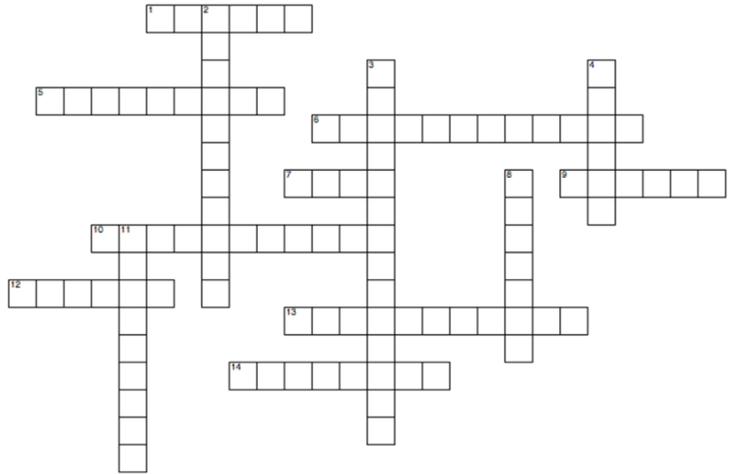
Layout by Mina Kang

## “LAYOUT”

GRAPHIC DESIGN IS MY PASSION!!!!



## CROSSWORD PUZZLE



### ACROSS

- 1 An agency of the United Nations established in 1945 to promote the exchange of information, ideas, and culture.
- 5 Move (goods) illegally into or out of a country
- 6 A fear, prejudice, hatred or dislike directed against Islam or Muslims, or towards Islamic politics or culture
- 7 Something, typically money, that is owed or due
- 9 The practice of attacking and robbing ships at sea
- 10 The active maintenance of a truce between nations or communities, especially by an international military force
- 12 The protection granted by a nation to someone who has left their native country as a political refugee
- 13 The reduction or withdrawal of military forces and weapons
- 14 Connected with the sea, especially in relation to seafaring commercial or military activity

### DOWN

- 2 The natural world, as a whole or in a particular geographical area, especially as affected by human activity
- 3 Equip or supply (a place) with soldiers and other military resources
- 4 A time of intense difficulty, trouble, or danger
- 8 A person doing unskilled manual work for wages
- 11 The process of receiving or giving systematic instruction, especially at a school or university

## SPOT THE DIFFERENCE



## “STUMPED”

adventures from the Beiwatch room



Artwork by Nicole Bae and Hyo Jin Kim

Layout by Maya Lu

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