



# BEIWATCH

BEIMUN-Y

October 12, 2019

## WHY BEIMUN-Y?



Shantia Laurenz, the delegate of China in ECOSOC, participating the debate at ISB

By Lei, Maxine and Jackie

This year's BEIMUN-Y conference at the International School of Beijing (ISB) marks its third anniversary, reaching another memorable milestone in its short yet steadily thriving history. With over 110 delegates, BEIMUN-Y has brought together students from five different schools: ISB, Dulwich College Beijing (DCB), Canadian International School of Beijing (CISB), Beijing International Bilingual Academy (BIBA), and Beijing World Youth Academy (BWYA) to one united conference. The BEIMUN-Y conference, comprising middle school students, serves as a "low pressure introduction" to MUN. As Dr. Katherine Maloney, ISB's High School MUN Coordinator, highlights, BEIMUN-Y helps delegates "prepare for and successfully participate in a MUN conference." This year's conference features four committees: General Assembly, Human Rights Council, Environment Commission, and the Economic and Social Council, each exploring a variety of the world's most pressing issues.

In this year's BEIMUN-Y conference, there have been two major additions: high school volunteers and a new committee. With experienced high school delegates involved now, middle school students can receive advice when drafting resolutions and giving speeches. Eric Xie, ISB sophomore and chair of the GA committee at BEIMUN-Y 2019, recalls his first MUN experience, "I was afraid because of all the people in the room and there was no one to help me". With this new change, new BEIMUN-Y delegates can have a much smoother experience. Furthermore, with the addition of a new committee, the size of each committee has decreased. This allows delegates to have more opportunities to speak at the podium and interact with their fellow delegates.

However, these changes only mark the start of the conference's growth. Dr. Maloney said she "hope[s] to keeping growing and improving [BEIMUN-Y] in the years ahead". She credits this year's success to the student directors, Rachel Kim and Shawn Teh, who each occupy a secretary-general position.

The future of BEIMUN-Y is only surpassing a higher and higher quality with new fundamental improvements that have been put into effect for the BEIMUN-Y conference every year. BEIMUN-Y will continue to be a beneficial and joyous occasion that will not only unite international students around Asia by learning, debating, and working together, but also create life-long friendships and memories.



# Profiles: Modelling Success



By Annie Yeung

Thanks to Shawn Teh and Rachel Kim, the Secretaries General of this year's conference, BEIMUN-Y has successfully come to a close. They have worked

extremely hard to provide a meaningful experience for younger delegates where they can practice their skills without the pressure of a major conference. Shawn Teh, an 11th-grader from the International School of Beijing, has been involved in MUN conferences for four years. His first BEIMUN-Y experience was the inaugural BEIMUN conference back in his freshman year, which has inspired him for this year's conference. He said "serving as a chair help[ed] [him] refine [his] leadership and coordination skills to better understand what middle school participants are looking for in a conference". To him, MUN conferences have always created "a platform for students all around the region to connect with one another and to exchange ideas."

Rachel Kim is a 12th-grader from the International School of Beijing and this is her sixth year being involved in MUN. She has been to approximately 12 to 13 conferences, adopting various ideas to improve BEIMUN-Y. For example, she said, "CISSMUN at Concordia International School had really nice (ideas) such as flags on each table", and so they implemented that as a test trial here at BEIMUN-Y. This year's BEIMUN-Y conference differs in that they have created a wider range of committees discussing different world issues and she hopes that "the new changes will give delegates an opportunity to speak more and have a more official experience". Rachel believes that MUN is truly an opportunity for delegates to "not only practice their public speaking skills and explore current events, but to also help shape their person." MUN has been a truly inspiring experience for her and she revealed that "as she began her college application process, she is applying to international relations" programs because of her involvement with MUN.

Both Shawn and Rachel have expressed their hopes that this conference will provide the basis for their passion and aid their journey as delegates. Pol-



Shawn Teh, the Secretary General



Rachel Kim, the Secretary General

ished by their time and effort, BEIMUN-Y is now an even stronger stepping stone for inexperienced but aspiring delegates.

Layout by Gigi Shum

Layout by Irina Park

# ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE

By Jackie Yuan

The bustling era of the Industrial Revolution brought significant economic progress to nations all around the globe, and a vital fuel for this progress was the use of automation in production. However, a moral dilemma is gradually surfacing among the consequences of industrialization – the working rights of man are threatened by machines. At BEIMUN-Y, 14 delegates assembled in the Economic and Social Committee (ECOSOC) with chairs Si In Park and Youngsoo Kim of the International School of Beijing (ISB) and student coach Brian Kim from ISB, strive to reach an agreement on “addressing the rise of automation in the global workforce.”

Many meaningful clauses that aim to help solve this issue were proposed by eager delegates. For instance, Aaron Hou, the delegate of India, declared that he and his respective group, including USA, Germany, and Argentina, are against the rise of automation in the global workforce. He notes how incorporation of automation in India would lead to a massive loss of job opportunities. Additionally, Aaron expressed that a lot of the Indian citizens are living below the poverty line. Thus, the overpowering of automation over human labor would worsen poverty rates in India.

Hence, he urged member states to “create or modernize existing social welfare to combat the consequences of job loss brought on by automation in the world.”

Among the delegates, the chairs and the student



Brian Fan, delegate of the Russian Federation in ECOSOC, in favor of the resolution

coach also contributed to the thought processes of delegates. Brian said he has been “helping delegates to write resolutions by gathering and combining their information and urging collaboration for all dele-

gates.” Youngsoo stated that his specific methodology to help the young delegates is by “...[separating] the three groups based on their country stance and [taking] the P5 nations [into consideration].” For example, for Canada and the USA, they are separated in the same lobbying group because firstly, they are allies; secondly, they have similar positions on automation in general.”

Moreover, Youngsoo described that “lobbying [has been] going smooth and I love how more experienced delegates are not leaving other less experienced delegates behind but lifting them and helping them.”

As the ECOSOC committee ended with their last debate, every delegate has now gained an in-depth knowledge of the effects of automation in our world throughout the passionate exchanges and speeches. In conclusion, the overall sessions of this committee have proven to be a tremendous success as delegates spoke from their hearts and analyzed the issues from their roles as a true global citizen.

# GENERAL ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE

By Jackie Yuan

In a study conducted by the Small Arms Survey, it was revealed that a staggering 857 million firearms are owned by civilians globally, with the combined number of firearms owned by law enforcement and



Gina Yoo and Eric Xie, Chairs of General Assembly

military only at 160 million. This disparity has raised issues of public safety and security. Led by Gina Yoo and Eric Xie, the chairs of the General Assembly committee (GA), delegates debated the issue of regulating the trade and civilian possession of firearms.

Alongside the chairs were Shane Lim of ISB and Henry Han of CISB, the newly implemented student coaches. Throughout the conference, the chairs and student coaches circulated through the room, helping delegates with their work. Lim described the general state of the entire conference as “very productive, as chairs and coaches monitored the progress of the resolutions and debate status of delegates.”

Photographs by Christina Choi and Gigi Shum

From these debates and discussions, the delegates were able to arrive to many distinct resolutions. For instance, Allen Wang, the delegate of Argentina, presented that his delegation, along with those of Brazil, Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Uganda, and Indonesia, would like to call upon the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) to educate children and the public about the firearm policy. He would also like to recommend for member states regulating firearm trade reduce the number of firearms imported and exported.

In contrast to this, George Xu, the delegate of the Russian Federation, alongside the delegates of the



Gina Yoo and Eric Xie, Chairs of General Assembly 1, presenting dress code and essential information of BEIMUN-Y to MS delegates.

UK, Spain, and India, “[believed] there should be restrictions for guns, but [he] would still allow citizens to purchase them.” Furthermore, Chelsea Choi, the delegate of India, elaborates on this middle-ground position: “we’re trying to restrict the production of steel and imports in firearms and place sanctions on countries supplying large supplies of guns to countries with conflicts.”

The trade and civilian possession of firearms remains a globally significant issue. Yet through the diverse perspectives brought by each and every delegate participating in the GA committee, everyone was able to view this global issue from a new perspective through expressive lobbying and passionate debating. With the combined efforts of the hardworking chairs, teachers, and most importantly, the delegates, the GA of BEIMUN-Y 2019 has been a huge success, bringing each delegate to a deeper understanding of what it means to be a global citizen.

Layout by Irina Park

## 4 Committee Recap

# NUCLEAR POWER IN PERSPECTIVE

By Harry Szeto

“Nuclear energy is a double-edged sword: you can’t live with it; you can’t live without it. It is significantly cheaper than any other type of renewable energy; however, it is also the most dangerous,” said Yousung Bak, the chair of the Environment Commission, as the committee’s first debate commenced.

The onset of the 21st century has been characterized by a drastic shift in societal development; moving away from traditional industry that was ushered in by the Industrial Revolution, we entered an age based on information technology – the Digital Age. Within the past three decades, we have seen the de-



Andy Koh, a delegate of Algeria from the Environment Commission, during a debate

velopment of technology rise at an unprecedented rate. However, what has been integral to this process is electricity, or energy. According to the US

Energy Information Administration, the world will consume 50% more energy in 2050 than now. Energy, perhaps, has had the most measurable impact on productivity. However, this has also brought the issue of climate change to the forefront: how can we efficiently and sustainably supply our world with energy?

BEIMUN-Y’s Environment Commission aims to address the issue of energy through the lens of nuclear energy. Chairs Emma Liu and Yousung Bak, both from the International School of Beijing (ISB), led debates on “evaluating and implementing the use of nuclear energy as a means of electricity generation.”

As the day’s events commenced, delegates started off their speeches off quite timidly. However, as debates began, discussions between the delegates quickly gained momentum. Focusing on the economic and intellectual implications, the debate revolved around the issue of the cost of nuclear energy sources. Jiwon Yoon, delegate of Spain, proposed that “we should not take away the use of [nuclear energy], but it should be lessened and supported with other sources of energy.” Spain, along with many other MEDC’s, derive a majority of its energy from renewable sources. Furthermore, Yoon believes that with proper education and correct funding, nuclear energy can become a viable and reliable energy source.

Controversy and speculation have surrounded nuclear energy; as Bak states, it is a “high risk, high



Andy Koh, a delegate of Algeria from the Environment Commission, during a debate

reward” source of energy. Nuclear energy is volatile, with the ability to take many human lives; however, such risks are borne by all major modes of energy production. And, with it being so efficient, nuclear energy cannot be neglected as a source for energy. Therefore, as the Environment Commission has addressed today, the question shouldn’t be, “is nuclear energy safe?” Instead, we should be asking, “is nuclear energy more dangerous than other energy sources? How can we make it safer?”

# HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

By Evelyn Chen



In a period of rapid socioeconomic development, money has manifested itself as society’s primary concern. The effects of money has grown until it now envelops almost every aspect of people’s lives, becoming so ubiquitous such that the motives of many individuals is merely to climb up an increasingly precarious socioeconomic ladder.

In developing countries, corporations compelled by greed have been reducing laborer’s wages below the internationally agreed minimum salary - an at-

tempt to maximize profit. This act severely violates the second and fifth article of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which identifies the right for employees to work in just and favorable conditions. In light of these issues, this BEIMUN-Y conference’s Human Rights Committee (HRC) focuses on the issue of “combating labor exploitation in international corporations in Less Economically Developed Countries (LEDC’s).” If this issue is not addressed, then continual violations of minimum wage requirements will perpetuate poverty on a global scale, which in turn, exacerbates the abuse of human rights in LEDC’s.

In recent years, many countries have established or strengthened minimum wages to eliminate unduly low pay and promote decent working conditions. However, the persecution of migrant workers, child exploitation, and unequal treatment of women continue to exist. “Thus, we must discuss [this issue] and resolve it as global citizens,” says Kelsey Fu, chair of HRC.

While today’s delegates of HRC arrive with varying clauses and moreover, solutions, the common aim is to find the most effective means of combating

labor exploitation. In their debates and discussions, the students focused on enforcing minimum wage requirements, implementing education systems to raise awareness, and enacting harsher penalties for transgressors. If firms that exploit staff face higher financial penalties, they would be deterred from abusing workers. All in all, through the fruitful discussion between well prepared delegates, the chair of the committee, Seoyoon Lee, “feel[s] the world has already made a stride forward to a more peaceful place where workers’ exploitation is absent and everyone lives happily with a fair income.”

Sources:

Brian Fan, delegate of the Russian Federation in ECOSOC, in favor of the resolution

Photographs by Elly Kim

Artwork by Ally Shin

Layout by Jessica Park

# 5 Opening and Closing Ceremony

## Opening Ceremony

By Evelyn Chen

"We are here because we care!" announced Shawn Teh, the Secretary General, thus commencing the third annual BEIMUN-Y conference. As global-citizens, all participants of BEIMUN-Y recognized the importance of improving the world's status quo. It is considered to be their duty of honor to fulfill this challenge. By encouraging students to recognize and strive to resolve global issues, BEIMUN-Y aims to cultivate a generation of intellectuals that will make a difference in the future. From the determination sparkling in the young delegates' eyes, the enthusiasm filled the room from the secretary's speech, to the excitement revealed by the guests' manner, it is evident that this year's BEIMUN-Y was anticipated by all.

As further remarked by Shawn, "we live in a world of prosperity and despair. Our own comfort should not blind our sight to see the issues of poverty, illness, and political imbroglia pervasive in other parts of the world." Fortunately, our delegates have come prepared to share their insights regarding different issues, dedicating themselves to make the world a better place. Although the delegates are only middle school students new to MUN, their curiosity, eagerness, and responsibility render them comparable to professionals. As declared by Shawn, "the second we wear these formal suits, we transform from students to serious diplomats."



Shawn Teh, officially starting BEIMUN-Y 2019-2020 in the opening ceremony

As understood by all, a single person's influence on the flow of world's sociopolitical tide may be small, but as a group, we can change everything and anything.

## Closing Ceremony

By Harry Szeto

After a day of heated debates, mixed emotions, the BEIMUN-Youth III conference has officially come to a close. The conference comprised of more than 110 enthusiastic delegates that gathered at the International School of Beijing (ISB) to passionately debate daunting global issues that affects our day to day interactions. Discussion ranged from topics on



Rachel Kim, secretariat of 2019 BEIMUN-Y, announcing the official ending of the conference.

nuclear energy to the development and rise of automation in the global workforce.

The excitement and anticipation was palpable in the air as delegates gathered in the MPR for the closing of BEIMUN-Y. Shawn Teh and Rachel Kim, the Secretaries General of BEIMUN-Y, wrapped up the conference with a few words of wisdom. "MUN is not a competition, and even the tiny, seemingly insignificant individual actions make a huge difference," said Shawn. They both highlighted that their experience with MUN has broadened their perspective of the world and improved them as global citizen.

In order to recognize a few of the most hard-working delegates, awards were given. Awards were given for the most diplomatic and the most passionate delegate of the conference in each committee. The awards are as follows:

### General Assembly (GA):

1. Most Diplomatic: Hans Yuan, Delegate of Saudi Arabia
2. Most Passionate: SiKai Feng, Delegate of Spain

### Human Rights Council (HRC):

1. Most Diplomatic: Sally Kim, Delegate of Saudi Arabia
2. Most Passionate: Jun Lee, Delegate of India

### Environment Commission:

1. Most Diplomatic: Andy Koh, Delegate of Algeria
2. Most Passionate: Robinson Tong, Delegate of Saudi Arabia

### ECOSOC:

1. Most Diplomatic: Aaron Hou, Delegate of India
2. Most Passionate: Eric Ge, Delegate of USA

The tension was high as names were called, with delegates cheering for their peers. Regardless of whether they received the award or not, they were all winners, devoted to making the world a better place one step at a time.

# 6 Photo Collage

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Photographs by All Photographers

Layout by Austin Li



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## SUDOKU



Number of Differences: 5

Artworks by Chelsey Wang, Ally Shin and Gigi Shum

Layout by Jessica Park

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