



SHIV NADAR SCHOOL
MODEL UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE

United Nations



Our Hope for Mankind

UNveil²⁰¹⁹

'UNVEIL THE POWER OF EXPRESSION'

29th July, 2019

Day 1
NEWSLETTER



The Beginning!

-By Kashish Hasrat
Edited by Zara Hannah Kabir

The Shiv Nadar School Gurgaon Model United Nations Conference 2019 began with the solemn opening ceremony. The opening ceremony commenced with Monica Ma'am, Mr. Paul Hetherington, and Professor Hulme lighting the lamp. Shreya Gupta, the Secretary General, addressed the assembly with an impactful speech which focussed on four key points - compassion, hard work, stability and hope which sequed into the agenda for this year's MUN goal - "Sustainable development". Monica Ma'am, when called on stage, spoke to the delegates about how she hopes that the Shiv Nadar School MUN, is beneficial for the delegates and that at the end of the three days of the conference, they transform into capable leaders. She also welcomed the Chief Guest- Ms Nabila Jamshed. Ms Nabila Jamshed is an international security and global governance professional currently working with the United Nations.

This was followed by the beseechment of the Alma college mentors who had trained all the students over the course of the last one month. Subsequently, Professor Derick Hulme, the Director of Alma college spoke about leadership opportunities for the 2019 MUN conference and how it will combat environmental changes.

Kriti Chatterjee and Neel Rohatqi of grade 11 performed a soulful rendition of the 'Earth Song' by Michael Jackson. Next, the entire secretariat, who have been working tirelessly to put the whole conference together, was badged by the Principal- Ms. Monica Sagar. With the Secretary General, Shreya Gupta declaring the conference open, the excited delegates dispersed to their respective venues to begin debates and discussions oriented towards sustainable development.





Our Passport to The Future

-By Simar Singh

"Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today"- Malcolm X. Education and knowledge are an oasis in a world run by small minded bigots. However, more than 72 million children in the world are denied access to this oasis and remain unschooled. 1 in 4 girls in most developing countries are denied the right to go to school. Educating children is one of the most important things in the world, because by doing so we are shaping our future.

Goal 4 of the sustainable development goals is tasked to provide quality education for all children . With over 50 million children in the land of ancient culture and knowledge, here's how India is striving to increase its HCI with a special focus on education.

Public schools in India provide free and fair education to all children between the ages of 6 and 14 under the Right to Education Act. As an added incentive the Indian government is providing free midday meals to all children attending public schools, which incentivizes uneducated parents to send their kids to school, hence breaking the vicious cycle of poverty.

As Alan Moore rightly said,"Knowledge like air is vital to life, like air, no one should be denied it"



lack of study can
be as dangerous as
smoking, as said by a
study



Interview with Professor Hulme

1. What goals did you have in mind when you joined hands with SNS to initiate the first SNS MUN in 2016?

When we first started out in 2016, we had a number of goals in mind, based on the idea, 'the world needs India and India needs the world'. One of these was to create a level of awareness about international issues in today's youth because young people today have both an obligation and the ability to make a difference. One of my personal goals was to make MUN not merely a one-time conference students participate in the month of July, but a learning they carry forward and use in other spheres of life.

2. How do you think we have evolved since then?

Since the first SNS MUN, I have seen students evolve both as delegates and as global citizens. They have become more aware of the international issues that the world is facing in today's day and age. This in turn has gradually fostered 'critical thinking' skills.

3. What do you think of the Indian MUN system as opposed to the American system?

Most schools in India follow the UNA-USA format, which is based on arguments and debates rather than collaborative solutions. In my opinion, MUN should not be a debate; it should be an exciting and interactive process which allows students with varying opinions to come up with innovative solutions to global issues. With this in mind, we introduced the UN4MUN format in SNS MUN.

4. What message would you like to give to our 7th graders who are participating in MUN for the first time?

Children this age are incredibly enthusiastic and inquisitive. My advice to them is to learn about the issue first at the international level and then tackle it from their country's perspective. I would encourage them to work hard and come up with creative solutions. I wish them luck for their future MUNs.

Interviewed by Ahona Duttgupta and Navya Sachdeva.





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Environment Programme

By Piya Sharma and Avantika Shah

The UNEP session started with the election of the chair and vice chair. It is not an easy task to step out of your comfort zone and into the shoes of international diplomats, but the delegates from the UNEP did it with poise and sophistication. The first informal session started with the delegates finding their working groups. The common issues amongst the working groups were air-pollution, droughts, and especially clean energy. In the following informal session, some large groups such as that of Pakistan, Norway, and others chose to split temporarily into smaller ones to better focus on each sub-topic. They submitted their papers and the committee broke for lunch. These groups were then given edits to be worked on in the next informal session. The names of the working papers followed a Marvel theme; the names being Hawkeye, Dr. Strange, and Black Panther. The next informal session consisted of research on programs to enrich their clauses. This was followed by another round of edits from the dais and more work on these edits.

Commission on Narcotic Drugs

By Suhani Mukherjee

After a very informative opening ceremony, delegates were briefed about the essence of the overlaying theme of the SNS MUN 2019, and moved into their committee rooms.

The day began with the roll call and all delegates were briefed about the rules and regulations. The flow of the day was also discussed. The agenda, 'Preventing Trade and

Distribution of Illegal Drugs and Substances', was then discussed briefly. This was followed by the elections for the Chair and the Vice-Chair. Those who wanted to vie for the positions gave a short speech, and then, all the delegates voted using their placards.

China was elected as the chairperson, and Columbia as the Vice-Chair. The dais picked the delegate of Philippines to be the page for all of the formal sessions on Day 1.

After all the positions were allotted, motions for the General Speaking List were called

for. The first motion was for 90 seconds, which failed. The second one was for 120 seconds, which also failed. The third and the final motion was for 95 seconds, which finally passed, and a collective sigh of relief was heard from the entire committee.

Thereafter, opening speeches were given by the delegates. These speeches stated their stance on the agenda, and summarized the main points they would be focusing on for

the course of three days. In the following session, the delegates sought out other delegates with similar goals and solutions, and then decided to collaborate to make a detailed and diverse resolution.



United Nations Human Rights Commission

By Navya Sehgal

The very first session of the fourth Shiv Nadar School MUN conference began with a brief roll call. The agenda for this committee was 'Combatting the Social and Economic Consequences of Religious Intolerance'. Hence the rules of procedure for the conference were announced by the Chair and Vice-Chair followed by the election process. 'Sia Kapoor' and 'Mayank Dabbas' were elected by the delegates as the Chair and Vice-Chair. Soon after, the delegates began with their opening speeches that included the viewpoint of the member states on the agenda. The delegation of Spain quoted Martin Luther King Junior, "Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that" to cement the impact of his perspective. The meeting was then suspended for an informal session. During this session three major groups emerged; forces were joined by the countries based on their continents. The major problems that they worked on were the international and regional formula, promoting religious tolerance, economic and social consequences of religious intolerance. Overall it was a very stimulating and fruitful debate.

International Labour

Organization

By Madhuakshi

This committee's agenda focussed on the issues faced by the world regarding equitable employment in the age of Artificial Intelligence. This problem is faced by a majority of the countries in the committee which made the developments interesting and informative. At the onset The Secretary informed the delegates of the rules and the flow of the day. Those who wished to stand for the positions of Chair and Vice-Chair eloquently vied for the chairs following which Sanah Bhatia and Arshia Mago were elected as the Chair and Vice-Chair respectively. The opening speeches began with the Delegate of China, who spoke about an international conference that was held in Beijing and the next generation development program. Speakers spoke about the different issues that were faced by their countries in relation to the subtopics of the committee. This was followed by an informal session wherein two groups were formed along with one individual. The topic of the vulnerable population was the first subtopic of the session. An informal session was proposed. As the informal session began, the delegates split up into groups according to their respective subtopics. They were dedicated towards creating the first draft of their resolution paper.





General Assembly 4

By Simar Singh

The General Assembly Committee 4 commenced with an eloquent address by the Secretary, briefing the delegates about the rules and regulations. Delegates brainstormed and shared their views on the topic - 'To be promoting peaceful uses of outer space'. The elected chair was the delegation of Greece and the vice chair was the United States Of America. During the speaker's list, delegations of every country present talked about peace in space. Bangladesh and Venezuela talked about special programs launched by each of their nations. Developing countries such as Senegal talked about the need of cooperation between developed and developing countries for launching space programmes that ensure the safety of the galaxy. When an unmoderated caucus was launched and the delegations interviewed, their main ideas seemed to compliment and better one another's. Delegates of Senegal, Denmark and Portugal focused on SDG's 3 (Good health and well being), 11 (Sustainable cities and communities) and 13 (Climate action) and also highlighted the need for programmes that help developing countries build their own space technology. Delegations of Bangladesh, UK and India talked about the need for drafting a resolution by the end of this day, that would ban the use of weapons in space.

Committee on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

By Akshita Singh

The agenda for this committee was 'Criminal justice responses to cybercrime in all its forms'. The session started with an introduction to the ground rules which led to the discussion of the role of Chair and Vice Chair.

After a democratic election, the Chair, Anwita Ganesh, and Vice-Chair, Anjana Sinha, kept a close watch on the behaviour of delegates.

Group 2 led by the delegate of Saudi Arabia, Cuba and Gabon who start off with the discussions on the problems and the strict consequences that should be made to ensure it does not occur again. They say as a whole body that the definition of cybercrime varies from country to country. They wanted to prioritize the cybercrime problems and make it mandatory to have a law against cybercrime.

After a formal session the delegates discussed how far have they reached in drafting their resolutions and again break into an informal of 50 minutes and were completing their working paper.

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UNHRC



UNEP



GA4



ILO



CND



CCPCJ



Interview with Ms Nabila Jamshed

what is your opinion on the importance of MUN?

I think that MUN is critical to school life. From experience; it gives you a firsthand insight into real world diplomacy. The agendas have become so complicated; you're dealing with outer space affairs, AI in the ILO – these are critical issues that call for extensive research and you have to be able to think on your feet based on that research. Where you take a stand, but then on the basis of your allies in the committee, you have to change your stand.

Has the UNDP reached any positive conclusions in India?

Yes, it's been great working in India. India has been a global leader in the United Nations for so many years. So, India was one of the most important countries to set the Sustainable Development Goals back in 2015. Not only in the setting of the SDG, but India has also been a global leader in combating climate change. There is the National Solar Alliance that the Prime Minister has set up, and there are movements like Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan and Jan Shakti. These are being seen as examples of big social movements in the UN. In the UN we like to say, if a particular scheme can change the fate of 1.3 billion people, it'll be so easy to replicate it in other countries. So for the UN, it's quite a pleasure to work here

As you know, this year's agenda is on the 'Sustainable Development Goals'. According to you, do you think these SDGs that have been set by the UN are too ambitious? Do you see these goals being achieved by the set deadline of 2030?

That's a very good question. In fact in the year that the SDGs were set, they were being questioned on a large scale. And I think for me personally, there was a strategic reasoning behind setting such ambitious goals. One of the purposes of the SDGs, was not to just to set an agenda that is to be achieved by 2030, but the idea was also to get people to think about the entire set of development issues as part of a whole – unlike the 8 MDGs that were followed till 2015. It is imperative to note that we have come together to support a common vision. 135 countries have pooled in their money, political will and they have already in the last four years made such commendable progress, and India has certainly set a global benchmark.

Which SDG is most significant for India?

There is no easy answer to that, it depends entirely on who you ask. But from a personal point of view, this is not me speaking as an officer of the UN; I am very passionate about the cause towards empowerment of women, and I think the SDG 5 on gender equality is also equally important. If you can improve life across social and economic indicators for 50% of India's population, which is women, you will automatically fuel progress for the entire country. It's a pool of potential. So I believe if that is one SDG that India can achieve, it will immediately accelerate progress in the rest of the country.

