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International Court of Justice: A Misnomer?

by Esther Goh, Wikileaks News Correspondent

The International Court of Justice bench gave their preliminary remarks Thursday morning regarding the upcoming ICJ verdict on Marshall Islands vs. UK due Friday morning.

The French judge said the Marshall Islands' definition of nuclear disarmament was slightly "extreme" and their arguments "weren't fully convincing." She asserted she would have a hard time deciding which party should win the case.

The Brazilian judge applauded the UK for doing a splendid job and stated it was "not the advocates' fault" that the case was "easier on the Marshall Islands' side.". While he claimed to have been "a bit biased" towards the Marshall Islands, he mentioned how they were "nitpicking" during the trial.

The Japanese judge echoed the view that the Marshall Islands had it "easier" and rationalized the UK's alleged breach as an act of "self-defence". The Russian Federation judge personally felt the prosecution's case was "stronger" though she commended the UK for providing an excellent defence.

The Ugandan judge said the UK's "minimal (nuclear) deterrence self defense policy" has indeed showcased intent to abide by nuclear non-proliferation and could "placate" the term "in good faith" from Article VI in the NPT, a "critical flaw" that the Marshall Islands team overlooked.

Earlier on, the Marshall Islands advocate said the UK, "fully aware" of the NPT's terms, chose to remain a signatory and was obliged to abide wholly by it. They went on to "urge" the court to "vote in

[our] favour" in an impassioned plea to the court. During the judges' afternoon closed-door discussions they unanimously agreed the UK's "underhanded treaty" with the USA was a failure by the UK to be transparent in its nuclear dealings. They further concurred that the definition of the "minimal deterrence" policy the UK adopted was "quite relative," posing a stark contrast to their praise of the UK defence in the morning.

Near the conclusion of this lawsuit concerning an issue "of paramount importance" (according to a member of the bench), it was apparent that the UK's international standing as a major global power has been advantageous to its case.

The judicial bench said the prosecution's suit was strong and not unfounded, yet were undecided on their stances. Beyond arriving at a verdict, the judges also must consider if the miscarriage of justice is too great a price to pay for their countries' good relations with the UK.

While the verdict is set to be announced Friday morning, a judge confirmed to the Wikileaks News editor on Thursday evening before the social event that the Marshall Islands would win their case in technical terms in having the UK found guilty of a "breach" of the NPT, but this would have no bearing on the UK's ability to maintain its Trident nuclear submarine programme.

This begs the question: could the International Court of Justice be a misnomer? Does the ICJ pay lip service to uphold international law while maintaining the right of might?



Syrian Crisis: UNHCR's Resolution

by Jong Ching Yee, BBC Correspondent

The Syrian crisis has left neighbouring countries such as Iraq and Lebanon deeply concerned with the mass influx of Syrian refugees crossing their boundaries. They were keen on discussing strategies to cope with this pressing problem and how the developed countries could provide aid.

The UNHCR convened today to address the issue of refugees in the Syrian conflict, debating on the resolution submitted by the Republic of Jordan and co-submitted by the USA, the People's Republic of China, the Republic of Venezuela, and Italy.

The debate was mainly coloured by persistent disagreements of the LDCs (less developed countries), namely Iraq, Ghana and Sudan, over the resolution.

Infringement of National Sovereignty

On the urgent issue of the influx of refugees into host countries, the delegate of Iraq commented that it was too drastic a measure to return refugees to Syria and wanted other countries to be more accepting towards the displaced Syrians. However, in a later interview, the delegate stated that the country itself did not want to accept any refugees as it would potentially strain its existing resources. This problem was shared among other host countries who expressed the need to call on developed countries to contribute funds.

In response, Sudan's delegate was quick to condemn Clause 13 of the resolution, which called for

all host countries receiving aid to submit annual reports on the use of aid received and the progress of developments. This was required to maintain accountability to sponsors in order to prevent the misuse of funds.

It was argued that the clause would greatly undermine the sovereignty of host countries. The delegate of Iraq lent its support to Sudan, stating that all countries should "respect the decision made by countries who choose not to follow the clause". This was further supported by Lebanon and Ghana.

In response to the disagreements, the submitters of the resolution attempted to strike a compromise by allowing such checks to be voluntary instead. However, this unrealistic amendment was promptly pointed out as governments would not have accountability and this would thus facilitate corruption. The clause was eventually removed by the delegate of China, who was a co-submitter.

Beyond checks on the usage of funds, physical checks on refugee camps conducted by the UN bodies were discussed. Sudan denounced this move, standing by its stance that "countries can handle it (rights of refugees) on their own" without foreign intervention, fearing that such security checks would turn into military intervention.

On Creating New UN Bodies

The delegate of Ukraine called for a moderated caucus to discuss the topic of creating three new UN



bodies to ensure the efficiency of aid given, maintain the standard of living of refugees via regular checks, and to safeguard the rights of the refugees. The motion passed with overwhelming support. During the caucus, the delegates of Ukraine, Iraq and Sudan shared the same well-founded doubt over the practicality of duplicating the admin procedures to create three UN bodies, fearing that it would be a waste of time and resources.

It was apparent that the developing countries found the resolution too idealistic, as it has entailed too many obligations. On the whole, developing nations were unwilling to accept the Syrian refugees into their countries because it was uncertain how long the refugees would stay in the host countries and how they would be integrated into their societies. Despite the vagueness and uncertainty presented by the resolution, it passed.



Home Run - and the Security Council Stumbles

by Ambrose Wang Xun Jie, BBC Correspondent

The Historical Security Council ran aground in their debate over the Yom Kippur War after shakily weathering yesterday's crisis. The cohesion of past days had partially broken down over the issue of recognizing the Palestinian Liberation Organization as the Palestinian representative and state actor, amid haggling over territorial claims. Israel's conspicuous absence also left the council's stance uncomfortably one-sided. This report will provide a chronological rundown of the previous two days in the HSC.

Crisis: Out of the Frying Pan

Yesterday's crisis clipped the council's progress towards the Arab-Israeli conflict and provoked an increase in belligerent debate. A new front of tensions opened up in South America, while the furore in Czechoslovakia petered out. Ademeč, successor of the freshly deceased Czechoslovakian Prime Minister Lubomir Strougal, headed talks with protesters while Soviet tanks and troops withdrew from the streets of Prague.

In tandem with the riots winding down, the Security Council passed a resolution calling for an immediate ceasefire and dialogue between the belligerents. Peacekeeping forces may or may not be sent in, depending on future developments.

Across the Atlantic, an arms deal of 400 nuclear-capable missiles between Peru and the Soviet Union had transpired in the council. The United States

swiftly condemned the deal, citing it as a violation of the Monroe Doctrine, which considers foreign interference with both North and South American countries as hostile aggression. The delegate of US pressured his southern neighbour to desist, and Peru spent an afternoon defending its right to purchase arms for "its own defence." Chile and Panama asserted closer diplomatic ties with the USSR, leading to a downward spiral of the South American situation.

A second resolution was hastily passed by the Council, which banned the entry of nuclear weaponry into South America and urged negotiations between the rival superpowers over arms transparency control. The United States had also initiated the Bernstein Plan to invest USD\$100 million into Central and South American states to foster better relations.

Due to the hasty progress of the crisis's events, the Council was unable to comment on their first resolution. However, there was a general disappointment in the second. Many delegates felt that the resolution was merely a stopgap measure and failed to effectively address core concerns, such as long term arms control in the region. The delegate of US expressed dissatisfaction over the fact that the Monroe doctrine was still being violated despite the resolution, which passed only due to awkward political manoeuvring.



Return to Yom Kippur: A House Divided

The aversion of the crisis did little to rally the Council. The discussion over the Yom Kippur conflict resumed with Syria (with Egypt's support) demanding rights to remilitarize the Golan Heights in return for lifting the oil embargo. This split the house over the feasibility of long-term peace in the region with such an arrangement, with Syria eventually conceding to only partial militarization strictly for security purposes. Israel's voice remained silent- its delegate called in sick.

A wider divide reappeared when the United States and China introduced a draft resolution detailing all past agreements made by the council. Syria and Peru objected to the lack of assurance provided to the Palestinians in terms of political representation or even statehood, citing it as 'vague'.



Delegate of Syria tearing up the first draft resolution. Figuratively.

"This resolution could have been written in Vatican City, for all its holeyness," the delegate of Peru retorted.

This sent the US and China on an editing frenzy over lunch, while Syria and Egypt lobbied for support for their own resolution, represented by Peru. They gained a majority favour, with Australia, India, Panama, the United Kingdom, and Soviet Union backing them. However, the veto power of both the United States and China put the Council at a standstill, eventually forcing the delegates to return to conciliatory approaches, by trying to merge the two resolutions via amendments.

The two resolutions differed chiefly in addressing of the Palestine state: The first by the US and China, who offered the PLO a limited chance to attend the talks addressing the fate of Palestine, if it desisted from its belligerent operations. Peru proposed significantly more substantial benefits, such as recognized political representation of the Palestinian people and a structured approach to settling Palestinian land boundaries. Peru also advocated a stronger affirmation of restoring the disputed territories of the Sinai Peninsula and Golan Heights back to the Arab states.

The delegate of the United States expressed concern that the Arab nations were taking advantage of Israel's absence, having tilted the debate and draft resolutions in their favour. As it is, the US has barely agreed to cooperate, and only due to the oil leverage wielded by the Arab states. China, too, objected to the solutions brought by Peru, firmly insisting for it to be carefully analysed and discussed upon by the entire council.

The resolution-merging process is expected to continue in the next day, when hopefully an appropriate resolution may come to pass.



A Breach Of Sovereignty Or A Shield From Danger?

By Zoe Deborah Tauro, Al Jazeera Correspondent

China tries to put across her views.

With the beginning of the debate on Airspace Regulation, the delegates of various countries, at many instances, attacked the delegate of China.

The delegates began by stating the unfairness of China's Air Defense Identification Zone (ADIZ) as it was considered to overlap Japan's and South Korea's ADIZ. In such zones, it is mandated that any civilian and military aircraft, regardless of destination, report their location and identify themselves for national security. The authority to establish an ADIZ is not given by any international treaty nor prohibited by international law and is not regulated by any international body.

If such zones were not defined clearly, it would be challenging to uphold a country's sovereignty - which is very much necessary to promote peace between countries. The ASEAN Regional Forum should have started by proposing solutions for the overlapping ADIZs.

Surprisingly, in spite of the delegate of Japan's adamant refusal, the delegates of Korea have supported China's definition of her ADIZ. However they outlined the need for a set of fixed regulations, with regard to defining ADIZs. It was fortunate that delegates came to the conclusion that such specific set of rules will be enforced for the future ADIZs. They also decided on scheduling multilateral talks to facilitate effective resolution of any tussles over airspace.

International law allows for every country to implement an ADIZ but it is critical that said country is able to maintain their own ADIZ. Hence, rules and regulations need to be implemented to allow for peaceful ties between countries.



Reviewing ASEAN + 3

by Tan Yu Jie, Xinhua News Agency Correspondent

When Xinhua checked in with the ASEAN +3 council on Thursday morning, they were wrapping up the debate over ASEAN Economic Integration. All the delegates were agreeable to the resolution, especially China. When the Chinese delegation was asked as to whether they felt their objectives had been achieved, they responded favourably, as they were one of the sponsors of the resolution. They were thus in a strong position to negotiate advantageous terms for China.

After the short respite offered by the conclusion of the debate on the issue, the next topic to be debated on was Food Security in Southeast Asia. The Republic of Korea opened debate. Subsequent statements by other delegates served to provide background to the context, such as the measures by UN-related agencies that are already present, insight into what possible solutions have not been considered, and the agenda of each individual delegation.

One highlight of the debate was the contention over what the source of the problem was exactly. Each country will have their own unique context, and as such solutions to such problems must address this. In some countries, such as Myanmar and Cambodia, the issue will be domestic infrastructure, leading to failure in distributing food to the people.

The delegation of Thailand believed that the committee should adopt a bottom-up approach by looking at tangible problems on the ground, instead of simply applying a cookie-cutter approach to the issue.

The Chinese delegation raised the point that slash-and-burn tactics remain prevalent due to the vital need for fertile, nutrient-rich soil for the farmers to grow their crops. This can be attributed to farmers being ignorant of correct practices, or to an underlying issue of cost, infrastructure, or both. Alternative fertilisers may not readily be available because they cannot be delivered to agricultural zones and they may be prohibitively expensive even if available. The delegation of the Republic of Korea then argued that this purpose was not the main purpose of slash-and-burn tactics, and that the point was instead to clear land. Even so, there is merit to the argument that the individual needs of the farmers must be satisfied.

As such, if the committee refuses to entertain the idea, it risks failing to address the issue at hand.



ASEAN+3 Moves Towards Solving Regional Food Security

by Prasha Maithani, Fox News Correspondent

Insect cultivation - considering alternatives to feed the hungry.

The ASEAN +3 (Association of Southeast Nations) summit assembled on Thursday to discuss food security in the ASEAN region and possible improvements to it.

Member nations discussed issues touching on food supply, distribution, nutrition as well as protecting the environment from degradation due to agricultural practices.

Vietnam started a discussion on how to improve food security sustainably to feed a growing ASEAN population. There is no shortage of rice in the ASEAN nations. However these nations lack proper guidelines to distribute their produce. Also, increasing rice production would have dire environmental consequences and short term efforts to raise yields would damage long term soil fecundity.

To address this, the US offered to assist in implementing biotechnology solutions including genetically modified drought- and pest-resistant seeds and plant tissue culture.

Issues concerning the management of agro-technology and ensuring nutritious diets for the poor in the underdeveloped regions of the member states were brought up.

Tropical ASEAN states including Thailand and Cambodia could combat nutrition deficiency by cultivating insects on a greater scale, given that lo-

cals are no strangers to having certain insects in their diet. Insect farming would not deplete agricultural land of nutrients or be adversely impacted by weather conditions.

However delegates repeatedly questioned 'how do we distribute food evenly throughout the member nations?' Few suggestions came up, but some advocated more focus on equal distribution of rations for the poor.



Reaping The Harvest - ASEAN +3 Concludes Agreement On Food Security

by Prasha Maithani, Fox News Correspondent

The ASEAN+3 committee passed in its final session a chairman's statement submitted by the Korean delegation on food security, following several amendments.

Singapore initiated the discourse by requesting member nations to implement the solutions suggested in the draft statement. Korea highlighted the fact that everyone's ideas had been incorporated into the chairman's statement.

Several friendly amendments were suggested. Thailand suggested amending clause 3f, which stated that food supply could be diversified by 'providing subsidies to small scale farmers to ensure that they can afford farming equipment such as tractors, sprinklers etc.', highlighting the fact that the FAO (food and agriculture organization) already does so. A better approach would be for nations to tap into these subsidies.

States were also concerned that insufficient youth would take up farming due to the lack of monetary reward in the profession. With more mouths to feed, and possibly fewer farmers, this would lead to a critical situation that would require larger nations like the US to interfere.

Clause 3a stated 'diversify food supply by; encouraging the farming of insects for consumption...'. The farming and consumption of insects as food seemed 'unrealistic' to Myanmar, which suggested focusing on fish and livestock resources would be

better for these nations. They declared that there was a need for diversifying food sources; not necessarily farming insects.

Most delegations were fairly pleased with the chairman's draft statement except China. The delegate of China urged summit members to focus instead on the growing population in the region. The other nations did not entertain China.

Myanmar put up a further three unfriendly amendments which emphasised the need for social safety nets, cash transfers and microfinance, which all failed to pass. The chairman's statement was unanimously passed after debate on all the amendments had been resolved.



ASEAN + 3: Eat And Be Full

by Tan Yu Jie, Xinhua News Correspondent

Today, the ASEAN +3 committee went into voting and passed their Draft Chairman's Statement (DCS) on Food Security in Southeast Asia. The resolution included clauses that addressed logistical inefficiency through the sharing of technologies from ASEAN+3 nations, infrastructure development, and utilisation of GPS to track cargo transports.

To address the worry of over-reliance on food imported from outside of the ASEAN region, diversification of food sources was offered as a solution. Alternative food sources suggested ranged from more conventional sources, such as simply introducing suitable food crops not present in the region, to more drastic measures like insect farming.

Loans are to be offered to farmers at low interest rates so that they may invest in modern farming technology. The ASEAN Food Agency was proposed to enhance research and development into genetically-modified food, lab-cultivated food, and high-yield varieties of food. Public education campaigns will also be carried out to promote awareness of alternative food sources, and combat misguided fears of genetically-modified food if it is found to be safe for human consumption.

The DCS recommended more judicious use of food stockpiles, and hinted at decreasing the current stock-to-use ratio, and suggested that nations share expertise on stockpiling techniques, as the stockpiles are stored domestically.

Food wastage, at all stages of production, was recognised to be a significant issue, as over 40% of potential total food output was not realised. It was recommended that the creation of communication links be facilitated so as to simplify the chain of supply, and that research should be carried out on the methods of converting food waste into com-

post.

It was recognised that it is important to share the expertise and agricultural technologies of ASEAN+3 among other member states within ASEAN so as to create greater equality in food output.

In the opening statements offered of what each respective delegation thought about the DCS, it was, for the most part, lauded as being representative of every delegation's national interest.

China pointed out that the opening clause of the DCS was not clear enough, and did not sufficiently focus the scope of the DCS, as it included mention of population growth as a possible issue, even though no relevant clauses existed to tackle it.

Some subsequent speakers, such as Indonesia and the Republic of Korea, accused China of being nit-picky and insubordinate to the committee. This criticism was perhaps uncalled for, as China seeks to maintain close diplomatic ties with all nations and hopes to ensure enhanced food security amongst ASEAN countries. Eventually, a friendly amendment was passed to correct the offending clause.

In spite of the drama that ensued earlier within the council, it came as a relief to all participating nations that the DCS was actualized.

Xinhua News Agency wishes to thank all delegates for taking the time to read the article, its editors for not censoring the entire article outright, and finally, all stakeholders who made it possible for China to showcase its diplomatic capabilities within this arena. This is where fights are fought, not with guns and explosives, but with words and ideas, and we are proud to have been able to bear witness.



Beating Around The Bush With Russian Troops

by Lee Lui Xia, TASS Russian News Correspondent

Regardless of the bombings that occurred in Ferghana Valley yesterday night, member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) have yet to discuss the prevention of further tragedies in Uzbekistan. Instead, they are still discussing the operations of Russian troops sent to maintain stability in the region.

Anti-governments protests were going on when two consecutive bombings occurred. The casualties have been reported to be almost 20,000 with a death toll of 5000 including government employees and innocent bystanders. So far, no organisation has claimed responsibility for this devastation.

This comes after a death threat was sent to the Russian delegate. The Russian delegate has dismissed its security forces that were once safeguarding him. This security concern limited his participation in unmoderated events.

Speculation implicates the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU) for the responsibility of the Ferghanah bombings, but others say that the Uzbekistan government might actually be using the IMU to carry out its dirty work.

Russian forces were the only ones from the region sent yesterday as the civil unrest escalated. Russia alone has sent personnel to the conflict zone as its plea for a joint-cooperation force to aid Uzbekistan has been ignored by other member states. A situation like this has raised tension within the committee and concern about the need for preventing further terrorist attacks.

“Russia has deployed the 112th armoured brigade and 11th helicopter brigade to ensure security in the region,” said the delegate of Russia when questioned by the TASS correspondent regarding the reasoning behind this assumption. He clarified that the “use of conventional forces is usually constitutive of an invasion” but the Russian troops deployed in Uzbekistan have not taken any violent measures to show any intention of invasion.

“Brutality has to occur for it be an intervention. So far, there has been no such thing has been done by the Russian troops placed in Uzbekistan,” the Russian delegate added.

Member states; Tajikistan and India have come forward to say that Russia has a vested interest in Uzbekistan’s economy and will try to make Uzbekistan its puppet. In response, the delegate of Russia has spoken out to say that “This delegate is puzzled to the delegate of Uzbekistan’s comment as this delegate’s interest is the same with other nations which is to maintain stability of Uzbekistan”. It was repeated numerous times by the Russian delegate that Russia truly does not have an ulterior motive in helping Uzbekistan in its time of need.

“Russia asserts and will continue to assert that the forces constitute minimum effective force necessary for ensuring peace,” said the delegate of Russia.

It is with disappointment that the committee is sidelining the crisis at hand and isolating Russia especially since, Russia is one of the only nation to have taken immediate action to prevent further catastrophe like the one in Ukraine.



Cracks In UNSC: Is Assad For Or Against ISIS?

by Ryan Cheong, Fox News Correspondent

Blocs form after discussing Syria in the ISIS problem

The UNSC reassembled today after dealing with the Iran-Israeli War, to continue their discussions on the threat of the Islamic State (ISIS). The meeting was plagued by disagreements on the legitimacy of the Assad regime with three out of the Permanent 5 members declaring that the Syrian government had “lost its legitimacy”.

America, France and the UK have decided to bring the legitimacy of the Assad government into question with America openly criticizing Assad saying that “[Assad] cannot other ISIS works in [Syria]”. The other two members of the P5, Russia and China were concerned that the former three countries were not respecting the Syrian government’s sovereignty.

Russia expressed the desire to remain “diplomatic” and maintained that Assad was democratically elected and that any support for Syrian rebels “goes against democracy”. The statement was met with sniggers in the council as many members were aware of the Crimean Situation.

Tensions rose in the council as Venezuela accused the US of having a hidden agenda behind their support of the Syrian Rebels instead of the Assad government. The Venezuelan delegate alleged that America was hoping to install a “puppet government” in Syria, after the Assad regime falls. Keeping a cool head the American delegate asked for

proof of this unfounded statement and to no one’s surprise (least of all to this reporter’s), Venezuela was unable to make good on his words.



Economics Of Governance

by Yangdup Sherpa, TASS Russian News Correspondent

The world has lots of problems and one of them is income inequality and corruption. As UNDP is working on this problem, supported by many countries, including Russia.

This topic started by most countries stating that Income inequality plays a big role in underdevelopment for the countries facing it, Income inequality indirectly causes corruption as money laundering and tax evasion is common when corruption occurs.

To fight back corruption or not allow it occur in the first place, China, Angola, Germany suggested to encourage progressive tax system, which was the fought against as Russia claimed that this a not a good option, as they had experienced this system falling, instead of doing good did more harm.

Also Germany called upon that the amount of wages should not be discriminated due to factors like gender, race and religion. Which was agreed upon by all countries, but is more doubtful with countries such India, Russia and other corrupt african countries.

As UNDP helps many NGOs around the world, it was brought to attention that some of the the NGOs UNDP were helping are involved with the government, as Russia said “ Governments please take notice the UNPD only helps NGOs not governments”, it is actually a big deal as fund from UNDP is going to already earning governments.

The income inequality issue was focused specially on Russia as it is one of the countries with this issue in a large scale, mostly due to the large scale of the countries. The focus was mainly on the gender wage inequality and religion discrimination. Russian responded by saying it government is doing the best to fight this and some cities like, Moscow and St Petersburg.

USA had also called Russia and other countries corrupt and as matter of fact it is the one of the most corrupt countries in the world, as NSA joint with Germany was spying on european companies, and not just other firms of other countries but also its own people. Which did cause a huge controversy, in which most countries call upon USA for answers. Also the CIA itself is known for corruption for bribing to get higher positions in the agency. USA is also known for corruption in its government for helping bigger firms to reach more greater heights, which is hidden from the people.



Money Matters: EU's Renewed Financial Policies Hint At Greater Economic Co-operation With China

by Edgar Foo, Xinhua News Correspondent

Having resolved the Iranian crisis, the EU returned to the enduring economic concerns of austerity measures and financial unions, considering both simultaneously.

Many delegates were unable to settle for absolutes--they expressed support for austerity measures and financial unions to varying degrees, resulting in numerous overlaps and permutations of opinions.

The delegate of Italy called for targeted austerity in debt-ridden countries, but recognized that expenditure levels should still be maintained otherwise. It was common consensus that continued trade and investment was still necessary for economic development, and delegates strived to strike the delicate balance.

And this is of paramount importance, given that the EU is China's biggest trading partner, while China is the EU's largest source of imports and second largest two way trading partner. The trade and investment relationship is a major source of wealth, jobs, development and innovation for both sides.

The importance and relevance of ties with the EU is punctuated by the EU-China Strategic 2020 Agenda for Cooperation, the guiding document of Sino-EU relations agreed upon at the EU-China Summit in 2013.

The delegate of the UK argued otherwise, tactfully

asserting that the dilemma mostly lay with the EU deciding whether to "kill off welfare or incur debt", which alludes to the shortcomings of reduced austerity and increased government expenditure. Still, she acknowledged that there was still a need for "investment in skill" as a means to "international competitiveness".

Also introduced was the notion of common fiscal policies and fiscal unions to shrug off debt.

Not only would it increase transparency in the EU, it could also cushion the economy's slowdown without exacerbating debt, thus leaving Sino-EU trade uncompromised.

Belgium had financial solutions of its own, which included establishing a supervisory body to "ensure effective repayment of deficit of debtor nations". This could create opportunities for co-operation with the China Banking Regulatory Commission (CBRC) in terms of joint administration, statistical analysis and monitoring of asset flows in China and the EU.

The glaring problem of unemployment was also addressed. The delegate of Estonia had an elaborate proposal entailing labour market training in the EU to enable labourers to move away from basic production and seek higher skilled jobs. EU skilled labour are more than welcome in China, where foreign talent can provide expertise for quality improvements of Chinese products and services.



She returned to the need for the EU to open new industries, a sentiment reiterated by many delegates. To spur expenditure, investment, market expansion and job creation, the economy must move up the “value chain,” by evolving from relatively commoditized manufacturing and lower-skilled assembly to a more innovation-based economy. Closing the Sino-EU industrial gap facilitates trade, reduces burdens on enterprises and helps industries’ competitiveness on a global scale. Currently industrial divergences between EU and Chinese systems still create barriers to trade and inflate compliance costs.



End Game - The Historical Saga Concludes

by Ambrose Wang Xun Jie, BBC Correspondent

...in 25 minutes

The Historical Security Council finished its business with the Yom Kippur war in a brisk anticlimax, passing an amended resolution by Peru with a vote of 6 for and 3 abstaining. Amendments by China and the United States and two unmoderated caucuses preceded the voting, with a previously absent Israeli representative brought up to speed. Israel's delegate accepted Peru's relatively more Arab-leaning terms, and the resolution was passed at 9.37 AM, GMT+8.

This makes the HSC the fastest council to resolve their issue. By contrast, the UNSC two doors away was still unable to pass anything by the end of the final session. The success of the former was owed to the cohesive nature of the council, as parties were direct in discourse and willing to compromise. This unified fiat attitude distinguished them from the latter, which was gridlocked in bloc divisions and thus unable to gain consensual agreement.

The HSC reopened debate after a break, this time as a council of Harry Potter fiction. Superlatives followed shortly before lunch.

Directives addressed under resolution:

- Civil conflict averted in Czechoslovakia
- Nuclear arms dealings halted in South America
- Ceasefire and partial demilitarization in Arab-Israeli conflict
- Disputed territories of Sinai Peninsula and Golan Heights returned to Egypt and Syria, with the West Bank and Gaza strip places under due process for setting a Palestinian boundary

- Palestinian Liberation Army to desist belligerent activity and subsequently to join territorial negotiations as a representative of the Palestinian people.
- Jerusalem to be placed under UN administration
- Oil embargo lifted

Awards

The delegate of the US was crowned the Best Delegate at the closing ceremony while the delegate of China clinched the Outstanding Delegate award. The competition for merits was speculated to be very close, with consistently strong performances put in by the delegates of Yugoslavia, Peru, and Syria.

The delegate of India won superlatives for Best Dressed and 'Most likely to start a Ponzi scheme', and Peru was honoured as most likely to start World War 3. Australia and the United Kingdom were branded as the traitor couple, after removing their support of US/China's resolution in favour of Peru's. The delegate of the USA also went home with the unsavoury reputation of being the sluttiest. In his absence, the regular BBC correspondent for the council was also awarded best dressed male delegate.

And so concludes the 5 day saga of political dealings, and hopefully the end of the Yom Kippur conflict. The world had stood on a precipice, and for once, the UN's most prominent representatives had the sense to steer it away.



SCO: Russia Reclaims Uzbekistan

by Lee Lui Xia, TASS Russian News Correspondent

Russia's intervention in Uzbekistan comes after the international community has voiced concerns over the growing numbers of casualties caused by Uzbekistani civil unrest and the insurgents' attacks. Russia has stepped in, mainly to fulfil its duty as an authorised government as Uzbekistan's government failed to do so.

The Uzbekistani government has lost all control within its nation, forcing them to retreat back to the capital, Tashkent. Uzbekistan's military troops have been depleted tremendously and has been incapacitated - nowhere able to restore the authority of the Uzbekistani government.

People have lost all confidence in their nation's government. Tensions have amounted as more have joined forces with the Islamic terrorist group, Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU). The citizens' loss of hopes comes after three Major Generals were accused of corruption and the delaying of the general election that was supposed to be held on 11 June.

Rumours have circulated that the Uzbek government that brought forth the late-president, Islam Korimov's replacement, Abdulaziz Konilow are only postponing the election "in order to come up with a new plan to "control" the elections in their favour".

With the possibility of citizens joining the IMU, the SCO has decided to set up the Shanghai Co-operation Organisation Peacekeeping Executive (SCOPE) to assist with peacekeeping in the region. SCOPE's Headquarters have been installed in Tashkent at this moment in order to combat the turmoil

affecting the whole nation. The HQ placement has attracted criticism from people as security in Uzbek is severely compromised and SCOPE staff are under immediate threats.

Following the creation of SCOPE, the SCOPE HQ came under attack. This occurred as the new SCOPE staff were moving in. As this was going on, another bomb exploded in Fergana Valley. This attack was executed by the Nationalists Movement of Uzbekistan which are supported by the IMU. It was reported that 200 people were killed by terrorists who then fled to Kyrgyzstan.

This attack has called up Russia to mobilise its troops to once again prevent further insurgent attacks in the region. The Russian forces are coming through Kazakhstan and are prepared to initiate further peacekeeping actions with the permission of Uzbekistan. At this point, if Uzbek government does not want to accept help from other nations, Uzbekistan will lose all its control.

The continuous turmoil in Uzbekistan has finally awakened the Uzbek government as it re-evaluates its domestic stance. Uzbekistan has called for talks between the Nationalists and Independent Movement of Uzbekistan to solve the nation's crisis.

"The Uzbekistan government will do its best to fulfil the interests and wishes of its citizens. Therefore, we request support from other member states of SCO. We are preparing talks with the possible leader of the two protesting groups, Nationalists Movement and the Independent Movement," said the Uzbek delegate.



Throughout it all, the Uzbek government has still failed to broker peace with the Nationalist Movement, the Independent Movement and its people. The Uzbeks are now calling for a merger of nations instead of requesting for a new government. All confidence in their government and future elections has eroded away.

As Russia enters Uzbekistan, with the support of Kazakhstan, the prayers of the Uzbek people have been answered. Peace has been obtained and Russia will now bring sovereignty back Uzbekistan. Aside from that, Russia has revived all its ties with the Central Asian countries, re-emerging as the legitimate government of Uzbekistan.



ARF: A Successful End?

By Zoe Deborah Tauro, Al Jazeera Correspondent

The delegates of ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) kicked off today's committee session with the issue of the Rhothenian refugees. Immediately, the delegate of Indonesia was grilled by the delegates of Myanmar and Brunei about potential exploitation of these individuals.

The delegate of Indonesia proposed apportioning some of her minor islands to all affected countries in the ARF. The issue was complicated as The Philippines later caught armed Rhothenian refugees on their territories. Some concerns were raised by the delegate of Myanmar in relation to the ARF's failure to completely disarm the refugees, and the potential problem of refugees returning to Myanmar territory havoc amongst their local population.

Al Jazeera believes that the issue could simply be resolved if countries considered giving citizenship to refugees, who have legitimate roots in the respective countries that they're inhabiting.

Other solutions proposed included installing a collective security force from all ARF countries, common maritime forces, and giving the refugees citizenship on condition that they were trained and joined this common navy. These solutions were proposed but many delegates could not decide on whether long time solutions were better than the short time ones.

The delegates of China and Russia proposed to accept the refugees as citizens. And the draft resolution submitted by the delegates was eventually

passed! This reporter feels that the resolution was beneficial for all countries and that the lack of involvement from the delegates of USA and Singapore might have facilitated parties to an agreement. In conclusion, the ARF had successfully resolved the issue of piracy and upheld the human rights of the refugees.



DISNEY'S FROZEN

by Edgar Foo, Xinhua News Correspondent

The title above was just to grab your attention; basically, the EU argued about Santa Claus.

The EU closed its formal season of council debate with the passing of Italy's resolution on EU financial policies with a vote of 13 for and 2 against.

However, festive cheer came to an abrupt halt as the chairs brought attention to a sudden crisis in the North Pole, telling of Santa's horrific dictatorship over helpless elves, reindeers and penguins.

Regrettably, delegates' eyes filled with fear as their childhood crumbled.

With quick emotional recovery, the council sprung to action. Xinhua took great offense at the opening remark made by the delegate of Italy, who claimed that elves deserved no aid given that they were only capable of producing toys of "inferior quality" as if "made in China". Xinhua wishes to take this opportunity to dismiss such an unfounded claim.

By taking over 70% of world toy output, China has become the toy consumption market of the world (leaving the North Pole rather eclipsed in its production roles). As toys are intended for children, safety is the biggest concern of consumers. China's government not only enforces comprehensive safety and labeling standards, but also closely monitors compliance of China Compulsory Certificate (CCC) which is one approach to continuously ensure safety and quality of toy products.

China was also falsely implicated when the delegate

of Estonia insisted that China was in fierce economic competition with the EU. He felt that the invasion of the North Pole and its development as an economic hub ("second China") was necessary to counter China's progress.

In reality, China and the EU are the largest trading partners in the world, with maximum access to each other's markets and trade flows going over \$1 trillion in recent years.

Italy raised the promising possibility of invading the North Pole and creating a system of communism as the alternative to its current dictatorship. This could create greater demand for China's involvement and political presence in the Arctic Circle. Even if not realized, China already has vested interests in the region, co-operating closely with the US and Russia, members of the Arctic Council, on maritime and oil drilling operations in the region.

China's is also involved in Arctic research---in Spitsbergen, Svalbard, is the Chinese Arctic Yellow River Station that the Beijing-based Arctic and Antarctic Administration established in July 2004. The two-story building includes labs, office, lobby, storage facilities and a dormitory for about 25 scientists.

By 2015, China plans to launch three Arctic expeditions and five Antarctic research expeditions. China has also commissioned a new polar icebreaker ship, its second after the Xuelong, or snow dragon. Disputes in the Arctic Circle could stymie China's transportation and expedition for natural resources.



The blasting air conditioning only added on to the wintry atmosphere. Left cold, hungry and emotionally traumatised by Santa (as if elves), the delegates shivered in their seats. The chairs decided to provide some humanitarian aid of their own, tossing M & M chocolates in a Yankee-styled pitch. One missed the delegate of Estonia, giving him good reason to suggest that “for Christmas, we should get you balls to practise with”.



Eleventh-Hour Delegate

by Soon Hao Jing, Press Editor

A press editor left his day job to become a WTO delegate for a day.

At the request of the dais of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) committee, I parachuted into their council at the eleventh hour - literally, at 11am Thursday morning - to take Japan's vacant seat in the debate on opening a transpolar shipping route (TSR) in the Arctic Sea.

Before that I had sat in watching DISEC pass unmoderated caucus after unmoderated caucus trying to produce a draft resolution for their first topic, then gone to WTO to hear the debate on opening TSR. When some delegates confusedly asked whether I was the missing delegate of Japan I said no.

The WTO Dais approached me, however, saying that Japan had to be represented as an important member in the debate. I took my leave from the Press Corps then.

It helped that I had some background knowledge of the issue of the Arctic Sea being used as a time-saving shipping route from Western Europe to North-east Asia, gleaned from news and other MUNs.

At the first opportunity I rose to make a speech, suggesting the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea provided a legal framework justifying use of the Arctic Sea for shipping, and that a regulatory body should be set up to govern the shipping route to keep it safe and clean.

With a few more speeches I became almost like any other member of the council. During an unmoderated caucus - which eventually reached half an hour long, and ended a few speeches away from lunch-time - I walked to and fro two blocs, a smaller one with China, France, Australia and others in favour of exploiting the TSR, and a Canadian one featuring states like Egypt and Panama, each hosting the Suez and Panama Canals respectively, who wanted severe restrictions on TSR use.

On closer reading and after discussion with the delegates of China, France, and Canada, I realised the two opposing blocs were more similar than different, more united than divided. I had little idea why they should oppose each other, until I asked France and the delegate told me that the Dais had split up the council's previous grand coalition attempt to pass a working paper and draft resolution on the Bali package. Council members were just too friendly with each other and ready to agree on anything. I didn't mind that, because they treated me like one of themselves too.

The debate carried on throughout the afternoon, and it was after multiple times of urging the Chinese delegate to submit his working paper quickly that he did so. Canada submitted theirs too, and the council then wrangled over diverse issues, such as when the TSR should be opened to commercial shipping, the nature of the regulatory body, even whether the TSR should be opened to 'cruises' and 'fishing.'



Panama repeatedly accused the council, in rambling speeches, of ignoring its pledge to help less developed countries, reminding the WTO that just days ago it had promised to do so, and demanded compensation in case the TSR diverted trade away from the Panama Canal.

As a delegate I thought the reason why countries had stopped talking about giving countries like Panama aid was because we had already resolved one topic and were now discussing a different one. Irritated, I raised my placard and asked the delegate of Panama, since he was crying for compensation, “how much would the delegate of Panama like to be paid” to stop opposing the TSR. Before a sniggering committee, the Dais stated that “bribing is not in order.”

I realised that Canada and China’s two working papers were more or less the same. They complemented each other, and had four commonalities. Each side had roughly half of the 18 council members, and both agreed that the TSR should only be exploited in future, a regulatory body was required, environmental impact had to be kept to a minimum, and safety of navigation had to be achieved.

I spoke on this and urged the council to get together behind a common draft resolution, and was relieved to introduce a motion to suspend debate for the day at 4.30pm. The two halves of the council immediately gathered to merge the working papers into a draft resolution.

In hindsight it’s not impossible to act as a delegate, even if you have less than an hour’s notice. If you don’t know what’s going on, listen to others’ speeches before deciding what to say, and read anything you can get your hands on in committee. As for debate, again, listen to what others are arguing before making your reply.

In terms of solving issues, no council would lack suggestions for draft resolution clauses, but sometimes it takes effort to reconcile differences in position and belief. That said, I probably had it easier than any other delegate, because delegates after all are concerned about personal performance and the chance to win awards. My not having to prove myself made it so much easier to just act as a match-maker and seek to reconcile two opposing camps together to produce a joint draft resolution.



An Introvert's Guide To Gracing MUN Socials

by Esther Goh, Press Correspondent

The time has come for Socials! After an action-packed day spent on crafting ironclad speeches, formulating razor-sharp rebuttals, banging out comprehensive resolutions on laptops (and for some, churning out articles for the pleasure of our dear readers), we can finally let our hair down at the much awaited Socials.

This reporter, however, understands how social events at MUNs can be quite a trial for some less extroverted delegates all too well. Being an introvert herself, she tends to shun large crowds at every opportunity. The self-conscious awkwardness a true blue introvert feels when expected to mingle with fellow delegates, the hesitance to engage in friendly banter, the ever present fear of attracting too much attention ... She's no stranger to it all.

Though one might be content watching the action from the sidelines, why not try to let loose, interact with others and make friends once in a while? After all, new experiences are always an adventure. Here are some tips this reporter has for intimidated introverts to not only survive Socials, but thrive.

1. Quality over quantity

Talk to a few friends you are closer to and feel comfortable around rather than trying to chat with every person you meet. No one's expecting you to suddenly morph into the life of the party, so there's no pressure to be a social butterfly. You'll feel much more at ease staying with a tight-knit group of friends rather than acquaintances. That said, stick-

ing with only one delegate the whole night might cause you to be viewed as clingy, so avoid that. An ideal number would be a group of four to five (yourself included).

2. Listen

It can be daunting to strike up a conversation at times, even with friends you made at the MUN. So here's the perfect time to use your good listening skills as an introvert! Divert the conversation topic towards your friend by asking questions about themselves. You'll get to know them better and they'll appreciate your patience and your interest in their lives. A win-win situation is thus achieved.

3. When in doubt, smile.

Although it can be hard to maintain a cheerful, personable facial expression (especially when you're drowsy and feeling like an awkward turtle) it's well worth the effort. A smile brightens up your face and makes you more approachable. A poker faced, shy delegate can be mistaken to be arrogant and aloof by casual observers, a first impression that you most definitely would not want to make. Smiling is your best bet if you want to appear sociable and fit in at the event.

Lastly, this reporter challenges introverts like herself to come out of their shells and throw themselves into the thick of things for once. Hey, you might even have fun while trying! She certainly will do so too at tonight's social event.



Anything But MUNDane: A Fashion Commentary

by Esther Goh and Lee Lui Xia, Press Correspondents

We unveil the forerunners of fashion at SMUN

Lately, we've not only seen great arguments during the course of SMUN but also a display of amazing sartorial choices by our participants.

The female delegates were, quite literally, dressed in their very best. The array of dresses (not forgetting blouses and skirts) were chic; with nothing too extravagant. We, journalists had to make the tough choice to feature several delegates' attire that caught our eye.

That said, the male delegates are not lacking in the fashion department either. Their outfits were far from conventional. In fact we spied some of them donning spiffy suits and were impressed by the colour coordination skills they have shown. It was a play of colours through their ties and dress shirt.

Without further ado, we present to you...the impeccably styled Models of SMUN.



In this photo we have two lovely ladies, Kashsmeraa on the left and Jasmin on the right. Kashsmeraa, representing Angola in United Nations Development Program, is looking ferociously stunning. We love that she went beyond the norm to show-off her edgy style. Jasmin, delegate of Israel in the Historical Security Council, appears to be going for a look contrasting Kashsmeraa with a lovely black lace dress, a must in every woman's closet.



Here, we have Russel Marino Soh, Chair of ASEAN +3 rocking a biker jacket on his all-white ensemble. We totally love this style as not only is it different, it's a play of textures: faux leather, cotton and light denim!

Kim Do Yeon, Delegate of Philippines from DIS-EC, is donning a cute shift dress with quirky prints. Her dress is just so adorable! We love that the dress can be pulled off as a casual dress that you can just put on and you're set for the day!



Simple, sweet and sophisticated. Kim Su Ah, delegate of Brunei from ASEAN +3, is looking lovely in this all-white one-piece.



Beige and navy can never go wrong. For this outfit, we are absolutely obsessed with Park Yun Bin's poncho-blazer, delegate from ARF. We love she dropped a more rebellious look by pairing her outfit with combat booties.



Ming Li, our Director of Publicity in Outreach is looking good with her minimalistic-chic outfit donned with a classic long turquoise necklace as her statement piece. Her turquoise necklace provides a contrast to monochromatic hues, bringing out the clean cut lines of her exemplary outfit.



Rajat Khole, Delegate of Cyprus from EU is looking astonishingly polished with his suit which showcases an array of colours. Not many can pull off 5 colours in their outfits but we believe that Khole has done a good job with it!

That's all from us now. Thanks for tuning it and here's to fashion that's nothing but MUNDane!



SMUN Playlist

by Esther Goh, Press Delegate

A medley of songs that best sum up our emotions during the course of SMUN

Disclaimer: Songs mentioned are limited to the genre of mainstream pop for benefit our readership (assuming that pop is actually popular amongst the majority).

Over the past few days I have observed many delegates blissfully listening to music from their earphones, immersing themselves in the beauty of melodies and lyrics. (Some of them even plugged in during committee debates!!) SMUN delegates definitely do enjoy their music and some even enjoy facing the music (when caught in action by their Chairs)...

Instead of documenting this MUN as I usually do – through serious news articles which can get a little heavy at times – I have decided to adopt a more lighthearted approach.

Here is a SMUN playlist compiled just for all of you - one that hopefully captures the flow and flux of feelings on a typical MUN-day.

Now, when you pulled yourself out of bed early this morning you must cried out to your parents ‘Don’t wake me up...’. But kudos to you for turning up eventually to SMUN, dressed all suave in your suit and tie!

As you entered council, with your trusty laptop and a folder full of research in hand, were you thinking ‘I came to win’ a Best Delegate award? Prepared and ready, you sat upright in your chair as your council session began. Or perhaps, you were the Chair of the council.

As debate wore on and countries came to a stalemate, you couldn’t help but realise the council seemed to have ninety-nine problems to solve, especially councils facing crises. Thankfully the delegates decided to let it go and put aside their countries’ conflicting views to concentrate on resolving the issue at hand.

Some of the male delegates might have caught sight of an alluring female delegate and how she looked so perfect. Female delegates too may have wished to profess “I really really really like you” to particular male delegates in their council.

After an intense council session, the only thoughts that fill your head are “Let me go home, I’ve had my run”. Bidding farewell to your friends with a see you again, you dragged your weary self out of the NUS campus, telling yourself that your hard work today was worth it.

Well, that marks the end of a fulfilling day! Lastly, here’s a song shoutout for all my fellow delegates: I lived, carpe diem and make the most of your SMUN 2015!



Your POPular Playlist

Don't Wake Me Up by Jason Derulo - "Don't wake me up"

Suit And Tie by Justin Timberlake - "Suit and tie"

Fly by Nicki Minaj - "I came to win"

Problem by Ariana Grande - "Ninety-nine problems"

Let It Go by Demi Lovato - "Let it go"

She Looks So Perfect by Five Seconds of Summer - "She looked so perfect"

I Really Like You by Carly Rae Jepsen - "I really really really like you"

Home by Michael Buble - "Let me go home, I've had my run"

See You Again by Wiz Khalifa - "See you again"

Worth It by Fifth Harmony - "Worth it"

I Lived by OneRepublic - "I lived"



When All Delegates Desire “Clapping Is In Order!”

by Jong Ching Yee, BBC Correspondent

UNHCR started off the day, hoping to hear the chairs announce, “Clapping is now in order!” before lunch. They started the debate on the topic of economic and infrastructure constraints, but the progress was slow.

“Should we help our own people or the stateless people?” The delegate of Côte d’Ivoire was concerned about caring for too many stateless people, and urged countries facing the same problem to voice it out. One of the chairs agreed that the delegate delivered the most powerful speech during that particular moderated caucus.

Some delegates suggested funding and expertise be channelled towards the stateless people. However, the delegate of Sudan strongly felt that “there was no reason why stateless people should be given priority. We must be fair to normal citizens, those who have citizenship!”

Only a handful of countries objected the resolution, and that there were more friendly amendments as compared to unfriendly amendments. One of the unfriendly amendment pointed out by the delegate of Saudi Arabia was to accept that member states have concerns over the fact that the stateless people pose a potential threat to national security and interests.

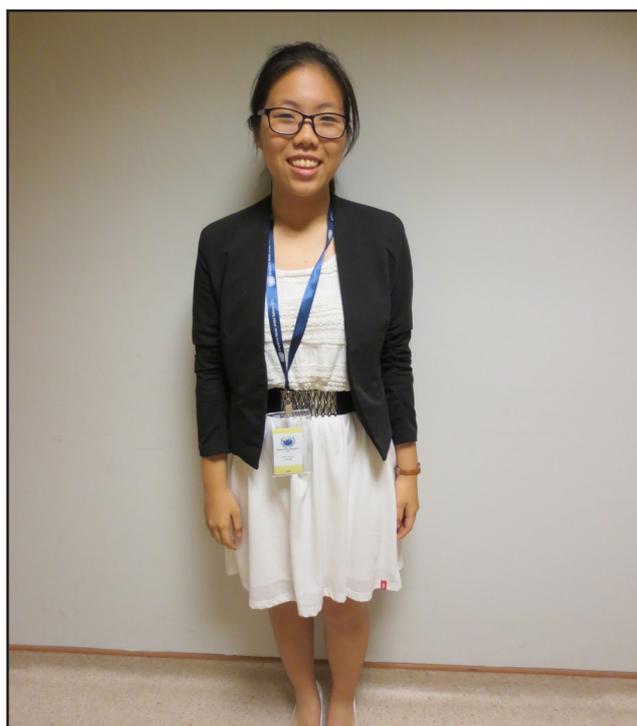
Eventually, the resolution passed the voting and clapping was in order. This was indeed a relief as the resolution has effectively addressed most con-

cerns raised as compared to the previous resolution passed in the council.



Spotlight: SMUN Stand Outs Part (1)

by Zoe Deborah Tauro, Press Delegate



The delegate of Indonesia from ARF is probably the most outspoken delegate amongst the pool of interviewees. SMUN 2015 is only her 2nd MUN yet an air of experience surrounds her. She recounted her experience thus far to be fun yet intense. She is a cheerful and friendly person in the eyes of this reporter; definitely bringing light to her committee. (Her chair has shared that she would even spend time bonding with fellow delegates who appeared a little lonely during committee breaks.) She too recounted sharing a cab with two other delegates and even befriending them. She has a brave personality and this somehow sparked a couple of conversations and new friendships with fellow delegates during lunch breaks.

With her sarcastic and bold personality, this reporter sees this girl as bad ass and spunky. She has been to numerous debates, garnering experience and knowledge. She even gave a sarcastic retort to the delegate of China on her working paper. She said, “This delegate’s submission is like swiss cheese. It is full of holes and stinks.” This girl is none other than the delegate of Ghana from UNHCR. With her deep passion for debate she has proven time and time again of how vocally strong she is. She is quite a unique delegate with her bold electric blue dyed lowlights and her commanding tone. But overall, this reporter enjoyed interviewing this compelling delegate.



His clear points and aggressive arguments make this delegate of Iraq from UNHCR a force to be reckoned with. However, in the interview conducted, he seemed really relaxed and was enjoying the MUN experience very much. Being 20 years old, this delegate was participating in MUN for the second time and was actively participating in speaking. The delegate spoke of using this MUN to get a 'high school' kind of experience while putting himself in the shoes of an Iraq delegate. This reporter has enjoyed the fights in debates that the delegate of Iraq has put up.



Spotlight: SMUN Stand Outs Part (2)

by Ryan Cheong, Press Correspondent



When the Press Corp first caught wind of a delegate who was described as ‘sassy’ at UNICEF, this reporter knew he had to get the scoop. We caught him in the middle of an unmoderated caucus and he was more than happy to oblige us with an interview. This is only his second MUN but he has so far felt great about getting to flex his MUNscles. While other delegates in his council might think he has his facts wrong, this reporter feels he’s just happy to be here.

This delegate from Jordan might not seem as a loud person at first, but boy was this reporter wrong. Along with having a very audible voice, this delegate also manages to get his council, the usually MUNDane UNSC to liven up by making jokes. On just the second day of the Crisis, he actually wanted to declare war on Israel! (An idea that was thankfully shot down by the rest of the council) He has a very personable aura surrounding him and accepted our invitation to be interviewed with gusto. This reporter definitely looks forward to hearing more from him during caucuses.



The British delegate from the ICJ found this year's SMUN a real step up from the one's she participated in, but relishes the challenge. She displayed professionalism when approached and graciously accepted our invitation to interview her, and answered many of our questions with ease. This cheerful delegate feels her council is bonded and hopes to enjoy her time here at SMUN, a feeling this reporter hopes is MUNTual throughout the delegates.



A Night To Remember

by Esther Goh and Jong Ching Yee, Press Correspondents

Social night was a lively affair that allowed us to see SMUN participants let out their inner party animals. Across the room, we spied people heartily swaying their bodies to the music and snapping countless selfies.

The delectable array of dishes served at the buffet tables were swiftly polished off by the delegates. We were more than satisfied with the mouth-watering platters of mushroom soup, lamb masala, prawn fritters and many other courses. The spread was complete with delicate squares of cheesecake and an assortment of fruits for dessert.

The photobooth proved to be a great attraction as many struck goofy poses. With the booth featuring props galore, including exaggeratedly oversized spectacles, signs bearing tongue-in-cheek slogans and colourful wigs, it was easy to see why delegates swarmed to it like bees to honey.

The highlight of yesterday's exciting social event was, undoubtedly, the pageant. One by one, contestants representing their respective committees strutted their outfits down the runway. They displayed great fashion sense and radiated confidence as they sashayed up to the stage.

The male delegates certainly showcased their spontaneity in the catwalk segment. They struck suave poses as popular beats from various eras such as "Dancing Queen" and "Oppa Gangnam Style" blared. Deafening applause came from the audience

as they danced wildly to the songs played.

The female pageant contestants were spectacular too, with their chic outfits and megawatt smiles. Their sultry gyrations on stage attested to their flexibility. In an interesting question and answer session, contestants had to respond to the host's queries. Their replies ranged from the witty to the downright humorous, providing us with much entertainment.

The judges were greatly impressed with all contestants and so were we! The representatives from ICJ bagged the titles of the Prince and Queen, winning big indeed! It was truly a night to remember for us all.





McNation: Leading the World One Happy Meal At a Time

by Ivan Hong and Laura Goh, Potato Press Correspondents

Potato Press: The World's Finest (Tasting) News Source

Mcdonald's took the world by surprise as it was announced yesterday that it will hold a seat in the United Nations. The international governing body has throughout its long history been criticized for its inability to take decisive action on a variety of issues; especially those involving the conflicting interests of the Permanent Five nations. Recent events in Southeast Asia like the Rohingya, and past conflicts between ASEAN member states have also highlighted the failure of regional and international bodies in dealing with humanitarian crises. These structural failings however, might take a turn for the better with the might of the Golden Arches leading the way.

With an annual revenue of USD\$5.6 billion, McDonald's transnational empire exceeds the GDP of 86 out of 184 sovereign nations, making it the 98th richest nation. Its highly developed economy spans throughout both the developed and developing world, giving it unparalleled influence and popular support globally.

Sweeping McChanges

In addressing the UN General Assembly, Ronald MacDonald, sporting the iconic red wellingtons and crimson-striped sleeves, announced sweeping new changes to address the problems of the various councils - from disarmament and peace talks, to issues of food security and development. "We call on all claimants in the South China sea, and belligerents in the Middle East and around the world, to

abide by international law, lay down their arms, and focus instead on the pursuit of McHappy-ness". In a stunning move to compel the powerful nations to yield to compromise, Ronald MacDonald threatened to embargo the sale of Happy Meals throughout the world - a move which would throw hundreds of cities around the world into chaos. "Such extreme measures will only reserved for recalcitrant nations. Lighter penalties could include actions like serving Pepsi instead of Coke", he added. McDonald's meals are a staple diet for many workers in many financial and trade centres across the globe, and are central to the sustenance of the global economy. Delegates from the US, France, Russia and China were seen shifting uneasily in their seats and intense murmuring could be heard in reaction to the threats of fast food sanctions.

"World hunger and malnutrition are issues that touch us deeply. To tackle these issues, Macdonald's has already donated millions of dollars worth of aid in the form of air-dropped Happy Meals to war torn and impoverished areas." said Ronald. In response to criticism from representatives of the World Health Organization (WHO) over MacDonald's contribution to rising obesity and other related coronary diseases in the developed world, MacDonald's responded by saying that in view of the severely inequitable distribution of food globally, that should be considered a "Happy problem", rather than a cause for concern.

McDonald's revealed that as the world made war



over the last few decades, it had quietly diverted parts of its revenue to acquiring surplus military aircraft and vehicles, and repurposed them for peace. Over the next few months, an armada of reconditioned bombers will continue to rain fries from the skies to refugee camps across Europe, Austral-Asia and the Middle East. Refurbished armored personnel carriers (APCs) from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have also been deployed in the new “Global War on Hunger”. But in the place of heavy-calibre machine guns and troops, these “APCs for peace” will now transport battalions of staff armed with deep-fryers, hot plates and ice-cream dispensers. “These machines were designed to deliver death, but under the flag of the Golden Arches, they will now deliver life - 24/7” declared Hamburglar, the official UN spokesperson for McDonald’s.

The Golden Future of Global Governance

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon, commenting on its recent membership said “McDonald’s has strong and lasting ties with the global community, supplying nearly every nation in the UN with Mac-Meals. Their presence in the United Nations may greatly speed up the process to achieving the United Nations’ Millennium Development Goals.” Helen Clark, the current Administrator of the UN Development Program also remarked that the Big Mac Index is already an established measure by which human happiness is compared globally, making their acceptance into the UN an appropriate choice.

“Also, their curly fries are pretty good.”

Delegates of the world’s nations seemed hopeful about MacDonald’s accession to the General Assembly. When asked about her opinion on the proposed plans to combat malnutrition and hunger in the developing world, Clark replied that she was “lovin’ it”.

McDonald’s presence in the United Nations heralds

a new beginning. For all the criticism that has been levelled at the “McDonaldization” of cultures over the last few decades, perhaps the McDonaldization of international relations will mark the start of an unprecedented era of truly effective global governance.

The red flag bearing the iconic symbol of transnational unity in the shape of the gold letter “M” will be hoisted alongside the array of national flags outside the UN Headquarters in New York today at 1200 GMT.



Overheard At SMUN

by Cassandra Pee, Press Editor

Diva Delegates Dissing Lunch

"I did not come here
and pay to eat ice?!"

- Delegate scooping the cheng t'ng dessert at lunch

"There are no tea, no scones...
just leftover lunch for tea."

- Delegate of Australia, UNDP

Singaporeanisms

"So pain... I keep banging
myself!!!"

- Chair misusing the gavel

"We solve the problem
already what... why you
still come and kajiao*
us?!?!"

*kajiao: singaporean lingo
for "disturb",
parliamentary language
clearly NOT on point!

- Delegate of China, ARF

Breakout Stars

"I'M YOUR BIGGEST FAN
I'LL FOLLOW YOU UNTIL YOU LOVE ME
PAPA-PAPARAZZI...."

- Press Delegate sings as he leaves for UNSC Press Conference

"TO QUOTE A VERY WELL KNOWN
HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL SONG...
WE'RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER!"

- Delegate of Jordan, UNSC

Sex It Up!

"My chairing
session was over
but I stayed all the
way to watch the
Malaysian
delegate..."
"No way! You're so
horny!!!!!!!!!"

Conversation between two Chairs



"THAT GUY IS NOT MY TYPE! HIS HAIR IS TOO CURLY... LIKE A DURIAN! ... OH WAIT. BUT DURIANS AREN'T CURLY, THEY'RE SPIKY."

ONE OF THE CHAIRS OF PRESS CORPS

"WHY ARE THERE SO MANY STUDENTS IN SINGLET'S AND SHORTS RUNNING AROUND AND EATING BANANAS? IS IT PART OF NUS'S ORIENTATION SEASON" "YEA EATING BANANAS...PART OF ORIENTATION GAMES. THEY CLEARLY DON'T NEED TO BE VERY INTELLIGENT. OR VERY SUBTLE."

CONVERSATION BETWEEN ONE INTERNATIONAL AND LOCAL CHAIR

"I rather interview girls, they're easier to talk to." "ONLY BECAUSE YOU ARE A MAN WHORE."

Conversation between Press Corps members

AND some notes are just more noteworthy than others.

Chairs: To China, is there something funny?

China:
Dear Chairs,
Today is a wonderful day,
Full of light and honey,
Butterflies fluttering in the bay,
Your voice sounds full of money.
Is this but a dream?
So full of cream.
Your smile bewitched me into bed,
Oh so pink and red.
I miss your gentle caress,
Water flowing down your dress,
I put my dreams beneath your feet,
Oh please!
Please catch my meat.

Bitchfest

"MY DELEGATE SPELT CAUCUS AS CACTUS, HELP."

CHAIR OF PRESS CORPS OVER LUNCH



Dear Crisis Cass

Help! I am hungover from SMUN. What do I do now?

Dear Delegate,
I would love to believe that you are hungover in the emotional sense, rather than from your F-Club escapades or drinking sessions from last night. However, I will provide solutions for the two possible scenarios (SMUN-lovesick or dead-ass drunk) for your benefit.

Firstly, if you're missing SMUN as much as I am, fret not because we all are. It is only natural to feel 'hungover' as you reminisce all the funny moments, passionate debating, complaining about the food, bonding with your committee, laughing over crazy things - I am sure the list of things you're thankful for in SMUN is a long one.

Channel these emotions to strengthening your resolve to keep in touch with your new MUN friends, pursuing your passion in diplomacy and global affairs, and to keep MUN-ing. There is no surefire way to cure an emotional hangover, which will definitely fade over time and heal itself. What is more important is to cherish these memories before you tuck them away into a corner of your memories, before it becomes merely an achievement you document in your CV. Remember how you've debated, improved, laughed, and felt fiery passion in your heart - so that this memory remains forever accessible to your soul.

To those who are legitimately hungover, go back to sleep. You shouldn't be reading this when you're hungover. But I applaud you for your fervor, insanity and ability to live in the moment - because that is the slight tinge of color that we sometimes forget to add to our ordinary, mundane lives.

Signing off,
Crisis Cass



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