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EDITOR IN CHIEF'S LETTER

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the 2019 edition of TORCH!

We are extremely excited to present to you the work of our Press delegates, editors, designers and photographers in this publication! We hope that you have as much fun perusing the pieces as we did crafting them.

This year, we hope to provide reports that are both compelling and credible, especially in an era where the proliferation of fake news has become a ubiquitous reality. This compendium promises an interesting array of pieces by delegates from Agence France-Presse, Al Jazeera, Mothership.sg, The New York Times and The Onion. The pieces have mostly been retained in their original form, as much as possible, in hopes of providing an unadulterated look into our delegates' thoughts and views.

You can also look forward to new and old faces in interview features with members of the Secretariat, who will be revealing troves of exclusive insights about themselves and their experiences! Other exciting additions include reports on Press Conferences, through which we hope to convey greater clarity on delegates' views and stances.

Be it through inspiring speeches made during committee debates, or provocative pieces found in this TORCH publication, we hope that you find some form of resonance with the body of words that will make their way around the halls of this conference.

For the next few days, we hope you strive to seek discomfort by throwing yourself into the abyss of the unknown. We hope you use your words to fight boldly for the underprivileged, the disillusioned and the marginalised. We hope you use your words to inspire and empower as you rally around the commonalities that bind us.

We hope you use your words for good.

Sincerely,
Ashley Tan
With and on behalf of Press Corps

Opening Ceremony: *The Greatest Threat to Global Security*

Mr Mohammed Sinan Siyech speaking onstage



By: Rachel Quek, Press Editor

In May of 2019, UK Members of Parliament approved a motion to declare a state of emergency on the environment and climate change.¹ The UN termed it “the defining issue of our time”.² This urge to take matters of global warming and environmental degradation seriously will surely resonate with delegates after the Opening Ceremony of SMUN 2019.

With his expertise on international terrorism, it came as a surprise when Mr Mohammed Sinan Siyech, Research Analyst at the International Centre for Political Violence & Terrorism Research (ICPVTR) of the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), Nanyang Technological University (NTU), wagered that climate change was a far greater threat to anyone than terrorist attacks. Drawing attention to the potential that climate change has to shape global politics, Mr Sinan challenged delegates to examine the interconnectivity of issues such as global inequality, technology, politics and the environment. In particular, he outlined how governments should be incentivised to tackle climate change as an essential aspect of domestic security.

Following his speech, Mr Sinan engaged SMUN attendees in a Q&A session moderated by the conference Secretary General, Mr Royston Long. Delegates and chairs alike took the valuable opportunity to raise pertinent questions regarding Mr Sinan's opening

¹ “UK Parliament Declares Climate Change Emergency.” BBC News. May 01, 2019. Accessed June 11, 2019. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-48126677>.

² “Climate Change.” United Nations. Accessed June 11, 2019. <https://www.un.org/en/sections/issues-depth/climate-change/>.

speech, with diverse issues spanning from the Yemeni Crisis to the structure of the UNSC being posed.

During the Q&A session, a delegate from the World Health Organisation raised the issue of energy subsidies. Indeed, government subsidies of fossil fuel production contribute greatly to the rising rates of greenhouse gas emissions. This means that a strong political will by governments to prioritise the environment, in spite of the fossil fuel industry's prominent economic influence, is required to make long-term strides towards sustainability. Mr Sinan stressed the need for governments with great influence on the global stage to make marked changes in their approaches towards the oil industry in order to signal a change and push for more sustainable energy sources. However, the speaker highlighted that the ability to achieve this ideal has been hindered by superpowers such as the United States, which recently expressed its intent to withdraw from the Paris Agreement.³ Furthermore, as the Trump administration has taken at least 94 actions to "undermine and reverse climate protections" in 2017 and 2018, the direction that the world leader has set for other countries is certainly unsettling⁴.

However, there is still a silver lining to all of this. As evidenced by the gathering of delegates over the course of this conference, the youth are willing to make their voices heard. As highlighted by Mr Sinan, student demonstrations, rallies and movements have played an indispensable role in the shifting conversation about climate change, even directly having a hand in influencing the decisions made by UK Members of Parliament. As expressed by Mr Jeremy Corbyn, who tabled the motion to declare the state of climate emergency, "This (climate protest) can set off a wave of action from parliaments and governments around the globe."⁵

And for those of us that picture ourselves in the UN or government sector in 30 years? Perhaps now is the time to make a change in the environmental crisis, lest our planet is gone by then.

³ McGrath, Matt. "Paris Climate Pullout: The Worst Is Yet to Come." BBC News. June 01, 2018. Accessed June 11, 2019. <https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-44330709>.

⁴ Adler, Dena. "U.S. Climate Change Litigation in the Age of Trump: Year Two." State of the Planet. June 10, 2019. Accessed June 11, 2019. <https://blogs.ei.columbia.edu/2019/06/10/trump-climate-deregulation-tracker-2019/>.

⁵ "UK Parliament Declares Climate Change Emergency." BBC News. May 01, 2019. Accessed June 11, 2019. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-48126677>.



A Disaster Looms in SOCHUM

By Arya B Vijay
The New York Times
10/6/19

In the United Nations' Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee (SOCHUM), intense discussions with regards to safeguarding populations displaced by disasters commenced this evening during the first committee session. Delegates representing various nations delivered speeches with the intention of clarifying their stances and solving the issues at hand.

This issue of safeguarding displaced populations is especially important in present day society, with approximately 68.5 million people displaced globally.¹ About 40 million people have been displaced from their countries², and are therefore unable to obtain the status of 'refugee'. This creates a large problem: these internally displaced people often end up living in inadequate conditions. SOCHUM recognises the problems faced by the displaced population as a whole, and delegates have been demanding urgency in attempting to solve this widespread issue. Whether or not they manage to solve the problem, however, is a whole different ball game.

In their opening speeches, delegates made it clear that they wanted to achieve a suitable resolution to the problem at hand. There was a general consensus that safeguarding populations displaced due to disasters is of utmost importance, especially with the alarming rate at which international displacement has been occurring. Delegates also agreed that international co-operation is imperative, and discussed possible approaches to ensure the safety of populations displaced by disasters.

The delegate of America conveyed the points made by various delegates during their opening speeches perfectly. In an interview, he said, "America is in favour of obtaining a visa, passport or permanent residence status for refugees. We are not in favour of illegal immigrants." In essence, delegates believe that refugees and people displaced by disaster should receive aid, but not through illegitimate means. This is great progress as having similar agendas gives the committee a good foundation to discuss the topic.

Despite this ostensible consensus, however, the committee seems to be divided very early on. In an unmoderated caucus, which refers to an unofficial discussion during which delegates can discuss the topic openly, delegates were seen engaging in talks within their blocs. In fact, in a summary of the unmoderated caucus, the Russian delegate commented that delegates should have a more inclusive discussion in order to ensure that progress is made. But why is it that while everyone agrees that international cooperation is pivotal, they still fail to show cooperation when it really matters? This is a question delegates in SOCHUM need to ask themselves in order to truly solve the issue.

¹ "Figures at a Glance," About Us, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, accessed June 10, 2019, <https://www.unhcr.org/figures-at-a-glance.html>.

² Ibid.

This is not the time for acting in self-interest. This is not the time to neglect the situation of the internationally displaced people for the sake of 'winning' debate. The entire point of the United Nations is for delegates to come together with viable solutions to genuine problems, not to form insignificant blocs just to strongarm the opposition into submission. SOCHUM must remember this. Their discussion in the coming six sessions must not descend into fruitless debate due to the formation of alliances.

There is still time for SOCHUM to redeem their discussions. After all, the session today merely discussed their stance and their consolidation of solutions. Let us all hope, for the sake of the internationally displaced, that SOCHUM gets their act together and begins meaningful discussions soon.

It is only when differences are forgotten and compromises are struck that the possibility of safeguarding populations displaced by disasters can be ensured.

Inequality and Risks Between States Regarding Their Health Technologies and Healthcare

Discussions in the World Health Organization (WHO) are still locked on the progress of states regarding their healthcare systems.

*by Fransiskus Gabriel, Al Jazeera
10 June 2019*



The World Health Organization (WHO) is currently gathering the Member States to discuss the challenges regarding emerging health technologies.

During the first discussion, the Chairs of WHO let each delegate speak for 1 minute to voice their countries' concerns and progresses about the issue.

From the discussion itself, there is the bitter truth of a big gap between More Economically Developed Countries (MEDCs) and Least Economically Developed Countries (LEDCs).

MEDCs are more likely to be concerned about the risks of the connectivity of health devices, which may create a higher chance and possibility of vulnerability from cybercrimes, while the LEDCs are still lacking the resources to fulfil their population's health needs.

For example, Lebanon, a country in Middle East, still faces a lack of health resources and facilities for the population. This is evidenced by a recent viral story about a Palestinian boy dying after

being refused from 3 hospitals due to limited beds.¹

Almost the situation is present in Iraq. The delegate of Iraq stated that the country is lacking resources and is still facing the uncontrolled spread of HIV/AIDS.

On the other hand Qatar, one of the wealthiest countries in the Middle East, is ranked first in healthcare within the Middle East.² Furthermore, The Delegate of Qatar stated that Qatar is currently investing and expanding their biomedical research.

This shows how, in a region, countries are not likely to face similar situations in healthcare. The gap between Qatar, Iraq and Lebanon reflects the importance of the distribution of funds towards LEDCs so that every person is able to access to primary health care.

However, the mechanism towards the funding and the reason motivating the funding from MEDCs to LEDCs created contention in the council.

Some countries like Singapore, Brazil, and Greece share the same perspectives towards the urgency of and ability to ensure funding. Their delegates view that there is no benefit to funding these LEDCs since these LEDCs are mostly unstable and likely will be unfavourable.

It remains to be seen how the delegates in WHO will discuss collaboration to distribute resources and needs to create equal and fair healthcare for all countries.

Should these technologies be questioned?

Besides the funding contention and inequality of the healthcare situation in each country, all delegates are able to agree on the inevitable risk of cybersecurity.

Singapore's SingHealth attack shows how a country with resilient cybersecurity and health technologies is also vulnerable towards cybercrime. 1.5 million patients' data, including Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong's personal information, were stolen by professional hackers.³

While this incident happened to a country like Singapore, it also shows that there is a high possibility that another country will face the same situation and that such unpreparedness may bring uncountable loss to a whole country.

With the increasing use of connectivity and technology in the health sector and medical devices, countries should be aware of the risk of misuse of personal data or the vulnerability of connectivity. Just as the Delegate of Greece raised in council, "The emerging healthcare technologies can be dangerous. We believe that the regulation and use of health technology could be implemented after education and capacity of the human resource is enough, to prevent such risk of cybercrime."

¹ "Lebanon: Palestinian Boy, 3, Dies after 'Hospitals Refuse Care.'" Accessed June 10, 2019. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2018/12/lebanon-palestinian-boy-3-dies-hospitals-refuse-care-181223081520826.html>.

² "Qatar's Healthcare Ranks First in the Middle East." Accessed June 10, 2019. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2018/03/qatar-healthcare-ranks-middle-east-180318093735085.html>.

³ "Medical Data of 1.5 Million Singaporeans, Including PM, Stolen | Singapore News | Al Jazeera." Accessed June 10, 2019. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2018/07/medical-data-15-million-singaporeans-including-pm-stolen-180720151009876.html>.

Hopefully, the council's debate will turn to more pertinent issues such as improving security and implementing fail-safe measures on the use of Internet of Medical Things (IoMT) and Artificial Intelligence.

Curing Death

by Dilmin Bandaranayake

10th July 2019

(AFP News)

Artificial Intelligence is the use of complex algorithms and software in the analysis of complicated medical healthcare. The use and implementation of AI is considered to be a God-given gift according to the delegates' thoughts. The countries are working hard diplomatically to use artificial intelligence to solve hard dealt issues in the modern world. The real inquiry remains unanswered by the delegates in the WHO council. Development of the AI Industry has benefits to all users, but what is unknown by a majority of the delegates is the long term backfire of this man-made technology.

A major factor in the process of healing patients in the medical sector is the human touch. The natural human touch in the medical sector is lost in the modern world. The delegates are heading the wrong direction of success in the medical sector without realizing what is yet to come. Patients around the world are not being taken care of in the required measure. "Less time, more patients" is one line which can be heard quite often in many developed countries such as the USA. All countries work with the aim of reaching economic efficiency by any and all means, and in this context, it is achieved through the medical sector. The medical sector in modern times is a risky method of empowering ones' national economy. Governments of nations praise technology as the benefits it provides instead numbs the user to the more adverse effects of technology. The delegates raised the comfortable lifestyle of doctors in the medical field due to the new and developed technology, however, none included the patients' view on the new technology.



(picture of SOCHUM council) (picture of US delegate)

The delegate of Japan slightly touched the agenda off-par with the actual issue at hand. The delegate mentioned in their speech that the State of Japan is more concerned with ethics than artificial intelligence, proving that Japan has not forgotten the cornerstone of the healing process: the human touch. Unfortunately, none of these issues were discussed during the session and no solutions were given, with delegates disregarding small unexplained proposals such as working together in harmony to overcome the issue, which is highly contradictory as no major issues were spoken of during the session.

The delegate of the Netherlands introduced the issue of cybersecurity during the session, although no solutions were given. The remaining time wasn't yielded for points of information by any of the delegates and therefore doubts were left in the minds of the delegates. The Netherlands has a need for development in the medical field with the aid of artificial intelligence but the Netherlands holds cybersecurity as a major doubt. The Netherlands' strategy of developing medical technology is questionable in light of the remaining obstacle of cybersecurity.

The nations must realize that humanity is directly implicated whilst they are using the medical sector for economic benefits. The P-5 Nations, in particular, must prioritise the issue and provide feasible solutions, which has not been done. If the issue at hand seems unimportant presently, it is because the nations have not realized the long-term impact of artificial intelligence.

Clear solutions need to be found by the delegates. Hopefully, with the combined research of all nations, solutions will be proposed and nations would be in global harmony.

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"Less time, more patients"
<https://youtu.be/Kykj3k2wBXg>

India Blames Smartphones for Digital Misinformation

by Radyani Prasasya

10th July 2019

(The Onion)

Digital misinformation: A new threat to the world. Undoubtedly, no one would reject the attempt to prevent digital misinformation. A noble intention and effort, isn't it?

Today, the UNESCO committee started off with an opening speech by each delegate, each expressing their noble intentions to combat digital misinformation. Every delegate discussed the need to fight for the prevention of very dangerous misinformation (at least, that was what they said). However, what if the spearheads of this struggle issued a statement that caused people to feel happy, sad, or even chuckled?

1. Poland – is the threat of misinformation a threat to governments, or to the safety of the people? These were the questions posed by the representatives of the Polish state. Several countries must have felt insecure since Poland opened their 'public' secret, that misinformation poses threats to governments. What are you doing, Poland?
2. China – It's good to be happy to work on improving this problem, said the delegate of China, as he answered the question from Portugal. Is this the great wall of China? We know how hard it is to fight for freedom on the internet in this beautiful region of East Asia. This statement can be considered as a potential breath of fresh air for the Chinese, revealing the possibility of the Chinese government opening up opportunities for freedom of expression.
3. Belgium – From Belgium's point of view, the root cause of misinformation is news agencies' faults. This statement successfully made The Onion feel guilty. We feel that it is not comparable to Facebook which was able to bring the United Kingdom to greater heights through Brexit. The Onion cannot afford to go that far.
4. Germany – The German government realizes that the people are not smart enough to sort information, which ends in the spread of digital misinformation. So digital literacy is a top priority in the focus of the German speech. It sounds so sad. But that's the way it is. How easy it is to copy the message and send it. Imagine writing a short essay about undercover planning on turning the United States Communist, with a convincing quote from an important senator, then sending it to the five groups you have. Wait a few moments, and that chain message may cause massive protests one day.
5. India – Here it is, India's claim that the smartphone is the one to blame. In his General's Speakers List speech, Indian representatives for UNESCO conveyed how all these problems started from the existence of smartphones. iPhone, Samsung, Huawei, and a lot more smartphone companies are now facing bankruptcy. Even Samsung, which has just opened

its world's largest smartphone facility in India, can sue the government if it ends in banning smartphones. The Onion feels sad that it can't greet our favorite readers through this website anymore which cannot be accessed from a smartphone.

Thank you, next.

Interview with *Secretary-General,* *Royston Long*

by Press Editors
10th July 2019

Royston is currently pursuing a degree in Biomedical Engineering at NUS, and aspires to work with biotech enterprises in addressing critical healthcare needs. Having been involved in the Model UN scene since 2014, Royston still vividly recalls his first Singapore MUN in 2015 as an inexperienced delegate himself. Vowing to step out of his comfort zone, Royston spent the following years actively improving his skills, even founding countless conferences in the process. More recently, he served in the SMUN 2018 secretariat, and has extensive background in conference management and finance for several MUN conferences in Singapore. Royston remains an ardent believer in the educational and life-changing value of MUN, having witnessed so many individuals being empowered by MUN to leave a positive impact in their own communities.

1. How did you get involved in SMUN, and why did you join SMUN again this year?

I was first involved in SMUN as a delegate in 2015 and 2016, before I served as Head of Crisis backroom in 2017. Last year, I served as an Academics Director, and this year I'm Secretary General!

In terms of why I wanted to join SMUN again this year... Well, the clichéd answer is that SMUN has a place in my heart. The truth is that I've come back to SMUN because I feel that I have a duty to improve the quality of SMUN year after year, both for the delegates as well as those running the conference, to hopefully leave it in a better shape for the next generation.

2. What are your hopes for this SMUN, for chairs and delegates?

The theme I'm going for this year is to explore the unknown. To me, this means not only learning about what you don't know, but also about what has been holding you back from being a better version of yourself. This applies to both delegates and chairs.

For delegates, exploring the unknown means challenging themselves in debate. I would encourage delegates to develop their own voice on the topics they're discussing and use SMUN as a platform to discover what they're passionate about and what they want to fight for in this world.

We've selected chairs based on their attitudes, experience and academic rigour, but we want them to challenge themselves not only academically, but also socially and emotionally. We hope that they will develop not just as moderators, but also as mentors to their delegates.

3. What are you most excited about for this iteration of SMUN?

I'm actually quite excited about the dialogues for the opening and closing ceremonies. We chose the dialogue topics very carefully because we wanted them to reflect the most pertinent issues that we're grappling with today. For instance, we've invited Mr Mohammed Sinan Siyech to speak on the global environmental crisis for the Opening Ceremony. Mr Sinan has presented at the actual UNSC, UNODC, Interpol and in front of various Southeast Asian governments, so he's an academic who's also heavily involved in advising governments and international organisations to help advance their agendas and policies. I believe that this will help delegates understand how the issues they've learn through SMUN manifest themselves in the real world.

Our Closing Ceremony will explore the topics of terrorism and political extremism, and we've invited experts like Ambassador-At-Large Ong Keng Yong to offer insights into different aspects of these issues. These massive topics cannot really be discussed in committee sessions because they're so big and weighty, but these experts will likely be able to impart the urgency of the issues to delegates through their insights during the dialogue.

4. What are some things you enjoy doing during your free time?

(Pauses and squints) ...What free time?

(Laughter is elicited from the room)

Unfortunately, as an engineering student, I don't have a lot of free time. But I do like reading lots of non fiction books, such as biographies of notable individuals... Or just learning about things in general!

5. What are you currently reading?

I just finished reading Tall Order: The Goh Chok Tong Story (Volume I), but I have a feeling that Volume II will be better.

6. If you could travel to anywhere in the world at any point in time, where and when would you go?

Because I'm a History buff, I would like to visit the immediate years after WWII. I think it would be really interesting to study the development of the early years of the Cold War as they are happening, and how perspectives might be different from what we understand in hindsight. But I would like to travel back to this era as an observer, not a participant.

7. If you could have a drink with a public figure (dead or alive) who would it be? What would you drink?

I would pick Gorbachev (laughs). I'm quite fascinated by his will to do what he felt was right



and see it all the way through, even though it went against the opinions of everyone around him. There's something interesting about the way that Gorbachev saw things and why he decided to, quite literally, overturn the entire Soviet society.

(To find out what Royston's go-to drink, Press will be following him around during Socials on Day 3. Stay tuned.)

8. Speaking of food and drinks... What is your opinion on pineapples on pizza?

Yes, definitely! That's the way it should be.

(It shall be noted that the aforementioned view is not reflected by the Press Team.)

9. Lastly, when are you going to retire?

No comment. Goodbye.



Interview with *Under-Secretary-General for Academics, Caleb Karim*

by Press Editors

10th July 2019

Despite studying Electrical Engineering in the National University of Singapore, Caleb still has a love for history and current affairs, often trying to explore various issues to understand their causes and effects. Naturally, he has a disposition for crisis, but generally enjoys delving into complex systemic issues that sometimes challenge governments and institutions. He hopes that delegates will be able to better appreciate the challenges facing the international community and hone their diplomatic skills, while not forgetting to make new friends during the conference.

1. Why did you join SMUN?

I feel a need to help out and contribute to the MUN community, and I wanted an opportunity to train the next batch of chairs and academics for the Singaporean MUN Circuit. I also wanted to help maintain the high academic standards SMUN prides itself on, and its reputation for challenging its delegates. This is why we gave our committees lesser-known or lesser-covered topics, with each committee taking its own unique twists on the issues being discussed.

2. What was your most memorable MUN experience and why?

Oh! My most memorable MUN experiences probably would be in crisis committees, which



have always had a special place in my heart because you can explore specific events be it in the present, future or past. I also enjoy the ability to be able to look at events not from the perspective of a history textbook but rather, from the lens of the people or groups of people involved in the event. It is only then that you can empathise and understand why the event unfolded, and the motivations for these events.

I would say that one of the crises I loved the most was a WW2 Crisis I attended a few years ago, where I represented Hermann Göring in the German Cabinet. Although the committee didn't focus specifically on the Nazi perspective, it focused heavily on the military aspect, and as a military geek, I really enjoyed that. Additionally, one of my opponents was my friend who is coincidentally the Secretary-General of SMUN this year, so I liked how I could challenge not only myself but also my friends and fellow delegates.

3. What was your favourite subject when you were in high school?

That is a very interesting question. Ironically it was—no, it wasn't Physics, that was my favourite science—history. In fact, I still really enjoy history and often read it for enjoyment, tracing it back to Crisis and understanding how situations happen. After all, our ability to understand cultural biases and principles is based on the histories of those societies. So, we need to look back and better understand these situations; everything from the past culminates in the present.

4. What do you enjoy doing during your free time?

Computer gaming. Yes, I'm a computer geek, and my love for gaming is quite strongly tied to my love for history. Generally, I enjoy playing historical simulation games such as Hearts of Iron IV and Europa Universalis IV. I love the complex stories of those games and

in fact, they were what made me interested in those periods of European history.

5. What animal do you think best represents you and why?

Very interesting question... Actually, I have no clue. The closest animal that I think I would probably resemble is a penguin or owl. Penguin because they just kind of wobble around and enjoy themselves, and owl because I like its dark connotation... And it's also one of my favourite animals!

6. If you were a university professor, what module would you teach?

It depends on what subject. If I were to continue in Engineering, probably something in computing because I think our future is going to be largely dictated by electronics. If I were to teach in any faculty, interestingly, I'd probably do something in Economics, along the lines of behavioural economics or psychology in the context of economics. If I could teach History, I'd maybe go into military history, but that's such a niche field and I think that there's nothing much to explore there after a while. Maybe if it were in the future (by the time I could teach), I'd teach something related to the 21st Century, or our present, because to us, this era is much more unknown, and by that time there'd be much more information and documents revealed for analysis. It's also closer to that future and hence more important.

7. When are you going to retire from MUN?

That's a very good question. Once I find a successor, then I will retire.

Interview with *Finance Director, Emily Tan*

by Press Editors

10th July 2019

Emily is currently school-less and waiting to enter the London School of Economics. In the interim, she is biding her time as an intern under the People's Association at an undisclosed community centre (so you know who to call for your next badminton booking). Emily believes SMUN 2019 serves as an amazing platform not only for the exchange of ideas and opinions but also of cultures and experiences. As such, she is excited to contribute to making the conference a great experience for all delegates in her own little way.

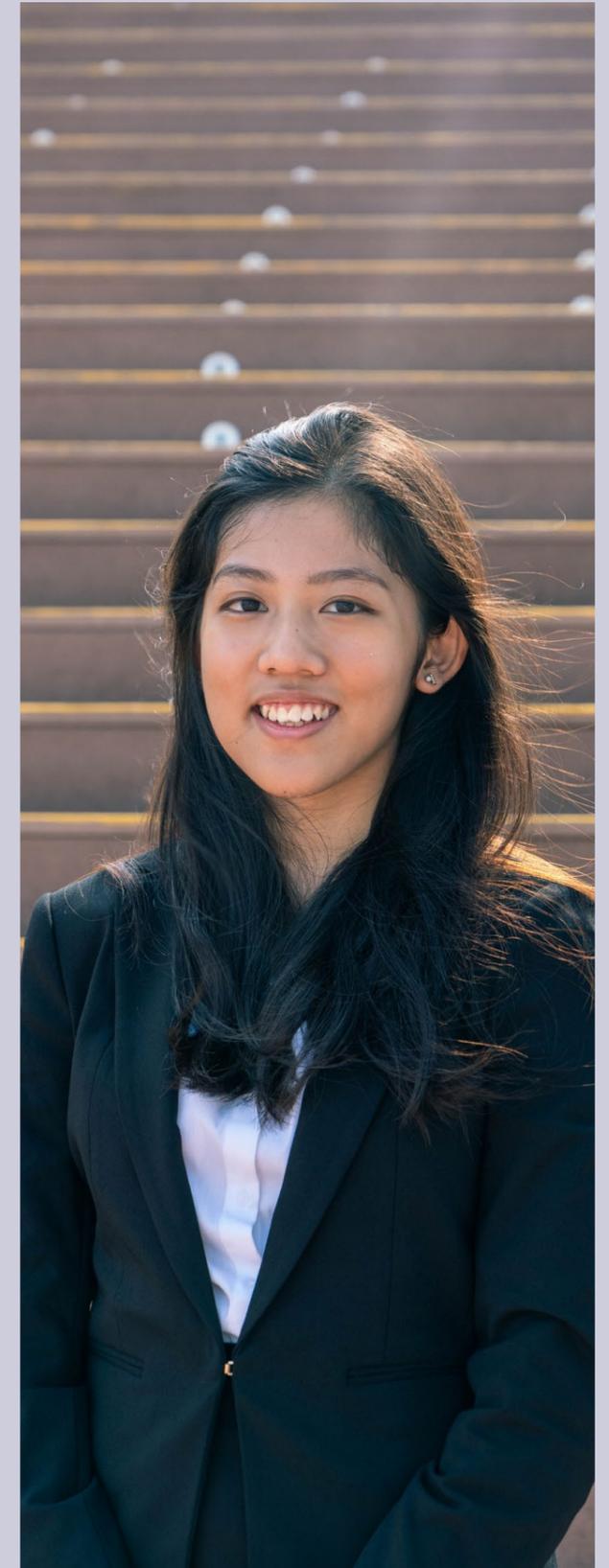
1. How did you get involved in SMUN 2019?

I had MUN-ed at a couple of conferences but stopped for quite a while. For SMUN 2019, Xuan (Outreach Director) was the one who asked if I would be willing to come and help out with finance. We had been setting up a new conference in 2017, and I was head of finance then. Though those plans fell through for various reasons, Xuan got in contact with me through that conference and invited me onboard for SMUN this year.

2. What are you most excited about for this year's conference?

I'd say just the level of intellectual rigour that the debate will bring. We have a very exciting and diverse group of topics and delegates, especially since SMUN is a very international conference. Of course, the delegates that we attract are also a little bit older, so I'm most excited about the quality of debate and discussion that we're going to have.

3. How has the journey for the Finance team



been so far?

I'd say it's been quite a rollercoaster! It's my first time having to deal with such a large budget because SMUN is such a big conference compared to other local ones. In the Finance Department, there's Shirley and me. I'm mainly in charge of allocating the budget and making sure we don't end up with a deficit. Balancing the numbers has been challenging but it's also an eye-opening experience. I've had to learn on the job and make critical decisions with literally no teacher supervision for the first time. But it's been an exciting and challenging journey, and one I won't regret!

4. What tips do you have for delegates wishing to save or invest their money?

I'd say start small and save regularly. Even if it's just a dollar or two every other day or week, it all adds up. Put it into a savings account. Banks have specific savings accounts with slightly higher interest rates. Put some money in every month and it really adds up and helps a lot in the future.

5. If you won a million dollars today, what would you spend it on?

Is giving it to charity too cliché of an answer? (Laughs)

Honestly, I don't have anything to do with a million dollars. I would give it to my grandmother, or people who need it more than I do. I'm pretty content at the moment.

6. What is your worst fear?

At the moment... The budget? (Laughs)

7. What about in general?

Um... Lizards and the unknown. I'm so scared of lizards, I've cried over being in close proximity to them before, I'm not even kidding. It's lizards and then the unknown second.

8. But what would be the scariest thing to go wrong in the budget?

Incurring any sudden damages to NUS property and having to pay for that, because that will run into the current surplus and may even cause a deficit. Really, any kind of major, unexpected payments to come out of the conference is bad. Maybe all of the certificates get printed wrongly or something like that. Having that extra cost would cause me a very big headache. Other than that, we're pretty solid at the moment.

9. What do you spend your time on when you're procrastinating?

Netflix! I've just finished *The Good Place*, which is great. I'm currently trying to catch up on *Modern Family*.

10. If you could only have one cuisine for the rest of your life, what would it be and why?

I'd say Italian food — all the carbs! Pizza, pasta, anything dough-related (Laughs)