

# T RCH



## Murder Investigation Challenge

Are you ready?



Issue 3

### Committees Find Closure

Day three concludes with many clauses and compromises

### Chair Profiles

Meet the chairs of Senate, Crisis and OPEC

### What Could Go Wrong?

Things that happen in online conferences

### Socials

Was the murderer found?

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Press  
Releases



**Choosing the host nation for the 2032 Olympics: How hard is it?**

*By Ryan Tan Jing Min*

A delegate of Indonesia has represented the country in choosing the host nation for the 2032 Olympic Games in the International Olympic's Council (IOC), following an announcement from President Joko Widodo that Indonesia will bid for the 2032 Olympic Games as a host nation.

The conference, which has been going on for two days, consists of delegates from 46 different countries. The conference will continue to go on for the next two days, together with the discussion of the protection of athletes.

“A story or a movie will be interesting if there is a certain twist in it. This delegate believes Indonesia could be the plot twist of the Olympics’ history” according to the Indonesian delegate in a recent interview with BeritaSatu.

As a country that has never hosted, this is a major step for Indonesia in stepping into the world sporting industry.

**What are the criteria for choosing a host country?**

Some criteria were discussed during the conference, where some affect certain countries more than others.

One key factor that the delegates agreed on was that the internal, and external security of the nation is essential in making the Olympics happen. Countries that did not have adequate security were heavily objected to in hosting the Olympics while countries with good security were recommended to be the host nation of the Olympics.

Another key factor is sustainability. Sustainability in the Olympics can refer to environmental sustainability, long term infrastructure benefits and usage, and efficient management of resources.



Lastly, past incidents are also taken into consideration. When Beijing hosted the 2008 Olympics, there were boycotts, opposing China due to human rights issues. Such incidents were taken into consideration by the delegates in deciding the host nation to ensure similar incidents will not happen.

### **Which cities are candidates for the Olympics?**

As of the start of the conference, the following cities are candidates for the host the Olympics:

- Brisbane, Australia
- Shanghai-Hangzhou, China
- Rhine-Ruhr, Germany
- Jakarta, Indonesia
- Madrid, Spain
- North-Central Italy, Italy
- Montreal-Toronto, Canada
- Salla, Finland
- Budapest, Hungary
- Mumbai, India
- Rotterdam-Amsterdam, Netherlands
- Doha, Qatar
- Istanbul, Turkey

Currently, Brisbane, Australia and Shanghai-Hangzhou, China are the two most popular choices for the 2032 Olympics. Both countries are economically capable, sustainable and have tight securities in past events.

The main difference between Australia and China is that China has weak political ties with other countries and have had boycotts in the Beijing 2008 Olympics, as brought up by many delegates.

### **Is Indonesia capable of hosting the Olympics?**

As a country that has no experience in hosting the Olympics, why is Indonesia so confident?

Indonesia is economically capable of hosting the Olympics, with a GDP of 1.119 trillion USD, as compared to Singapore, with a GDP of 372.1 billion USD, a difference of 740.9

billion USD. With a GDP of 1.119 trillion USD, Indonesia is also not far behind from the top contender, Australia, with a GDP of 1.397 trillion GDP.

Together with the recent success from the ASEAN games, Indonesia has a long history of hosting sporting events in ASEAN and in the Asian region, most of which occur in Jakarta, where the President hopes for the 2032 Olympics to take place. With the experience and infrastructure, the Indonesian government is well prepared to host the 2032 Olympics.

Security in Indonesia has improved over the years. With terrorism being the biggest threat, the Indonesian government have taken steps to reduce terrorism in the country. The number of deaths in recent terror attacks has reduced drastically as compared to previous attacks, with 1 death in the last attack and 0 injured.

With all of these points in mind, it is no wonder that many believe that Indonesia is more than well prepared for hosting the 2032 Olympics.

### **Why is it taking so long?**

With day 3 of the conference ending, the discussions are still moving at a snail's pace, despite having not one, but two topics to discuss. This begs the question of why the discussions are taking so long?

As the discussion went on, it became apparent that the delegates were going in circles most of the time, often fixated more on attacking others and defending themselves.

Oftentimes, the discussion digressed from choosing the host nation to other topics, with delegates bringing political bias, stereotypes, human rights, congestion levels and extremism to the discussion.

Many times, the chairs have had to step in to lead the discussion back on track, a sight rarely seen in other committees and councils. Furthermore, there was constant misuse of key terms that are commonly used in conferences, despite constant reminders from the dais.

It was only until day three that the focus of the selection widened to other countries apart from China and Australia after the dais urged the delegates to do so.

In a few incidents, the formality between candidates disappeared completely during the discussion, showing the level of professionalism of the delegates.

All these factors severely hindered the selection of the host nation, bringing worries that there will be no time to discuss the second topic, the protection of athletics, which is arguably as equally important as choosing the host nation for the Olympics.

### **So, who won?**

Finally, after 8 rounds of voting and 3 days of discussion, Australia won the bid, despite the aggressive opposition from China.

After 6 rounds of voting, sadly, Indonesia was eliminated from the selection of the host nation. However, the Indonesian delegate believes that this failure is merely a stepping stone for a future, with the knowledge and opinion from the delegates from other countries.





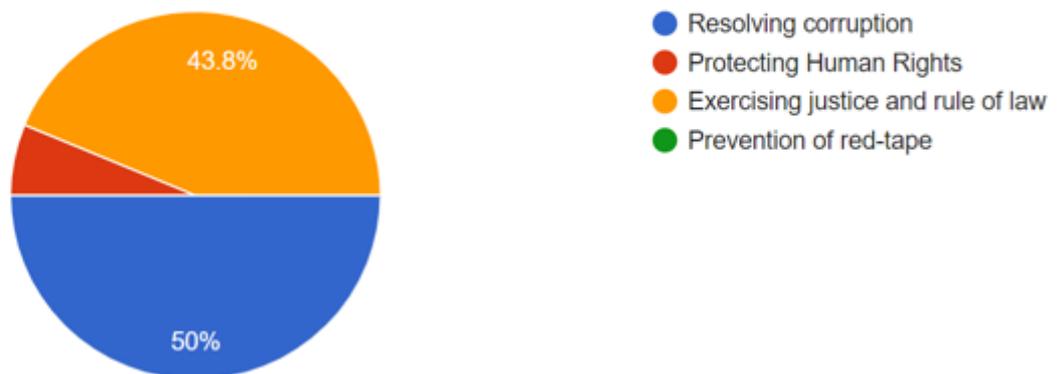
## **THINKING POINT: How strong is the African Union?**

*By Shana Lim and Wang Yuxuan*

At this stage where the African Union has failed to pass any resolution to good governance, the SABC takes this moment to reflect on the arduous journey that the committee has embarked on since the first committee session.

What is the most fundamental factor to achieving good governance for your country?

16 responses



*Polling results of the delegates on the most fundamental factor of good governance*

An opinion poll was done to assess the underlying motivations of the delegates as they argued for better governance in Africa. Half of the council aimed to resolve corruption by the end of the entire debate, while the other half aimed to protect human rights as well as exercise justice and the rule of law.

In spite of the common sentiments shared by many delegates, the council debate of at least fourteen hours over three days has made the union more divided.

*“Congrats Algeria you just played yourself”*

—South Sudan

*“Their proposals lack transparency.”*

—Kenya

The Tanzanian delegate, along with her bloc, constantly criticised the opposing side for their lack of consideration for Africa’s huge debt to the International Monetary Fund (IMF). On the other hand, Algerian delegate and his bloc attempted to defend themselves, and faulted their opponents on their flawed political agenda.

When we held a press conference with them, we specifically questioned the blocs on their efforts to gain citizen support for their policies, given the long track record of corruption that Africa is known to hold.

The delegate of Tanzania, supported by the delegate of South Africa and his bloc, fought for citizen empowerment, as they felt that the African citizens lacked a sense of belonging to the country.

They further substantiated this with the fact that Africans lacked a say in nation-building, and went on to promote one of their solutions in their working paper - the Road to Good Africa program.

They added that this program would inculcate civil responsibility in citizens through public education, encouraging them to voice out their concerns for the betterment of society, as well as reducing the influences of corruption in the community.

The opposing bloc, led by the delegate of Algeria and Kenya, aimed to engage citizens through the efforts of NGOs to reduce corruption. Though questionable, they wanted to fund their services through loans from the IMF and World Bank in a bid to eradicate the existence of corrupt individuals on a community level, so that citizens as a whole can contribute constructively to society.

However, the SABC believes that their solution to this civil engagement is not feasible and lacks legitimacy in the long run.

The SABC had insufficient time to deeply unpack the concerns of the working papers of both blocs in the press conference, but wished to point out that both blocs had neglected some pertinent aspects of the region. The agency stands for the well-being of Africans, and hopes that the council will take in our view should they decide to persist in debate on this matter.

The council was possibly blinded by their political motives, and their intention to pass their resolution, that they forgot to consider the likely receptiveness of Africans towards their policies.

This mainly stemmed from the fact that they lacked understanding of the cultural barriers, for example, the discrimination of women, when it came to public discourse and leadership.

Moreover, given the ongoing social issues occurring in the continent, for instance, child labour (that is detrimental to one's quality of life), more must be done in order to generate citizens' will to participate in nation-building despite their tormentuous circumstances.

Overall, the council's navigation to a final consensus on the steps to good governance might have failed, but the agency applauds the efforts of every delegate throughout the past three days.

The agency looks forward to seeing the delegates, hopefully, taking more humanitarian aspects into account, so that the African Union can remain strong politically in the long-term.

# ARAB NEWS

*The Voice of a Changing Region*

## ***OPEC's Resolution Passes with Few Waves, Unlike its History Multicausal Document Paves the Way Forward for Smooth Sailing***

*By Grace Cheong*

VIENNA: After lengthy discussion and debate, long-suffering countries have been able to make their desires for some solutions into a reality with the ratification of Resolution 1.1. Even though major players like Russia and Brazil were conspicuously absent from voting, it seems like the resolution sponsored by Saudi Arabia and its bloc was generally uncontested as various countries like Equatorial Guinea and Angola voiced out their support for the resolution which was deemed “extremely effective”, in line with most countries’ goals.

Broken down into three main articles about the stabilisation of global demand, the stabilisation of global supply and the diversification of the economy, various mechanisms were listed to tackle these worries, including the Triple SD Framework (Framework for Sourcing, Securing, and Stabilising Demand), OPEC MSR System (Market Supply Regulation System) and OPEC-IPTC Innovative Solutions Conference, or the OPEC-IPTC ISC for short. Another key facet is the sovereign wealth fund under Article 3 which aims to prioritise countries that need money for development most by using funds from oil producers’ and exporters’ revenue.

Clearly, countries are starting to come together and recognise the need for greater cooperation as advocated early on by capstone member Saudi Arabia. The fruit of this was realised in various clauses which supported cooperation with other OPEC members and non-members, including smaller organisations at the state level. Under OPEC-IPTC ISC, collaboration with the International Petroleum Technology Conference (IPTC) seeks to encourage multilateral dialogue and cooperation between OPEC and OPEC+ members and stakeholders in order to promote best practices and innovation in the production of oil, protecting their profits.

This marks a step forward in the history of OPEC, possibly forced by the unpredictable pandemic, but its efficacy in the long run once again remains up to question as OPEC already faces difficulties in ensuring nations adhere to measures like quotas and production cuts. A commendable effort, this could very well support Riyadh's wish to prevent a recurrence of the 2020 Saudi-Russia Price War by avoiding the translation of geopolitical feuds into oil market fluctuations, as fair geopolitical representation were present here.

The emphasis on market supply and demand however should also raise a warning in countries' minds, to remember that oil reserves are not infinite and diversification should be the long term goal, even if Baghdad says that it should not be supported at this point in time since diversification competes with oil and could potentially harm its value even if that day is far in the future.

The committee is reminded of its commitment to protecting members' profits even as most members have already ratified the Paris Climate Accord and is encouraged to continue working beyond existing measures, even those listed in the resolution, to seek long-lasting solutions and effective cooperation from both OPEC members and non-members alike.

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# Sovetskaya Kossiya

## Council Directives: A breakthrough in our economy?

By: Jaye and Felicia

Mikhail Gorbachev has hailed the economic liberalisation reforms as the first-step of his perestroika policy to incorporate market elements in the Soviet centralised economy. However, the move has not been particularly effective in reducing the Soviet informal economy due to citizens' fears of corrupt bureaucrats and reluctance to be subjected to the country's porous tax legislation.

The 1985 Presidium of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) has been engaging in fruitful discussions regarding pressing issues of the Soviet Union. After 2 days of heated debates, the committee has come up with council directives which aim to resolve and mitigate the current problems. We will be focusing on two council directives, which will focus on economic reform comprising several solutions, as well as tightening tax legislation and eradicating corruption within the USSR.

### **Economic Reform: Socialism with Russian Characteristics**

1. **Reforms** the economic narrative through all Soviet-issued propaganda materials which will preach the cruciality of perestroika in terms of reforming Russia's economy to bring about progress for the motherland (against)

We do not agree with continuing to preach for the Perestroika reform as it will eventually bring more harm to the Soviet Union. Perestroika goes against the communist ideology that our Soviet Union should closely abide by. Hence, by continuing the policies of the Perestroika, we would slowly drift away from communism, leading to the eventual weakening of the communist government.

2. **Mandate** that couples produce a minimum of 2 children
  - a. This would allow able workers to be contributed to the Soviet workforce, thereby advancing the economy and decrease the risk of an ageing population
3. **Establish** a child support plan across the USSR where a child's basic educational needs are free of charge and supported by the state

We believe that it is important to increase the birth rate of the Soviet Union as it provides more manpower in the workforce. Raising the birth rate is also an important step to prevent an ageing population in Soviet Union. It is also crucial to subsidise the education of children to further encourage Soviet citizens to have more children. Moreover, when the younger generation is given the opportunity to further their education, they are able to contribute more towards Soviet Union.

4. **Puts into place** for the reform of the collectivization of agriculture

Collectivisation is a more efficient way to agriculture and crop yield will increase. Moreover, machinery and pesticide shall be given to farmers to allow greater crop yield and lowering the manpower needed for agricultural purposes. Hence, more manpower can be allocated to the industrialisation plans of Soviet Union to allow it to continue to progress.

### **Tightening Tax Legislation and Stamping Out Corruption**

1. *Calls upon the Government of the Soviet Union to establish an Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) in its attempts to move towards transparency*
  - a. *The ACB will consist of individuals with a background in forensic accounting, reporting directly to Chairman Gorbachev (against)*

We do not agree with the following solution. As previously mentioned in our articles, it is more than obvious that Gorbachev cannot be trusted after all that he has done. Hence, reporting directly to Chairman Gorbachev is not exactly the brightest of ideas now, is it? We seek that the ACB reports such information to someone the people can trust.

- 2. Citizens may also utilise the soon-to-be established Anti-Corruption Bureau to report instances of tax officials mishandling money or unfairly taxing them (not feasible enough)*

Allowing citizens to report instances of unfair taxing or mishandling of money does not seem to be a feasible idea. There are some limitations to this solution. What if people lie just to get an official they dislike into trouble? This again points to the issue of giving the people too much power, tying to the Glasnost policy.

- 3. Establishes a specific department for the taxation of SMEs, "Internal Taxation Services" (ITS)*

On the other hand, this would be much more feasible and effective in eradicating corruption. Those handling monetary matters will be hand-picked for their integrity and experience. I believe we can trust the Communist government to pick the best candidates for such an important job and put an end to the corruption

## **Conclusion**

In conclusion, the council directives have certain solutions that will definitely help mitigate the economic and corruption issues. At the same time, there are also a few solutions that we strongly disagree with and believe are not feasible. Generally, the economic reforms target various areas and sectors and will be more effective in helping boost our economy. As for the tightening of tax legislations and corruption policies, they will definitely help reduce the citizens' fears of corrupt bureaucrats and reluctance to be subjected to the country's porous tax legislation. Hence, we want to reinforce our stance that the USSR proceeds with the new economic reforms but abolish those regarding Gorbachev's policies. The overwhelming majority of the population of the USSR has no intention of abandoning socialism at all, so why are Gorbachev's policies still being put in place? This is pure contradiction! We believe that the USSR will do what is right for our motherland.

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# Charleston Courier

## **Light at the End of the Tunnel: The Senate finds some direction**

*By Nabilah Saiful and Enya Samuelle Oh*

In what must be the busiest and most hectic day of the conference thus far, the Charleston Courier (CC) was able to, as per usual, sit in on the day's council sessions. However, the Charleston Courier was also able to conduct our very own press conference, a joint effort with the people of the New York Daily Tribune (NYDT).

### **A Recollection of the day's Council Events**

We started the meeting with the Chairs dishing out some truths to the delegates on what they have been doing well and poorly on. Fortunately, the senators seemed to be much more sure of the stance today, with some retracting their previous stances and providing a clearer outlook on the issue at hand.

There has been some talk about the industrialization of Texas, which was heavily supported by Senator Jabez Huntington and heavily opposed by Senator George McDuffie. The possibility of this is quite slim, from the perspective of George McDuffie due to the cost of transitioning from slavery to machinery. He reasonably states that "Transitioning to industrialization will take time, and will [Senator Jabez Huntington] be bearing the cost of the transition to machinery?". The debate on the possibility carried on, and the chances that the delegates will come to a common consensus soon are slim.

It is presumed that the senators spent much of their time in unmoderated caucuses (which they enjoy very much, seeing as they call upon it frequently) discussing their new resolution. We all look forward to seeing the new and improved one as the previous one was less than satisfactory.

### **The Inefficiency of Senate**

Something that the senators have consistently struggled with over the past 3 days is their inability to have a productive debate. There was much brought up about how senators "should not be looking for quick solutions", summarised from John M. Clayton's speech, but not much actually done to provide clarity that the senators desperately needed.

As the debate burned in flames with over-enthusiastic senators who joined the council meetings late and motions for unmoderated caucuses made left and right, the senators are still far away from coming up with a decent resolution. Despite somewhat coming to the consensus of annexing Texas, the reliability and quality of their resolution is still uncertain.

For this, the Charleston Courier, for lack of better word, condemn the Senate. The past three days have been spent almost entirely in vain, as we watched the debate go endlessly and aimlessly in circles. The Charleston Courier is appalled at the lack of efficient and productive conversations in the senate. The Senate still seems far from reaching a consensus on the issue, and for us, we hold out on the hope that it can only go up from here.

Thankfully, we are starting to see the light at the end of the tunnel as the senators seem to have come to their senses and reorganised their thoughts. Although debate has started almost entirely from scratch, we think it is a much wiser decision than trying to make sense out of incoherent chaos. This is one thing that the Charleston Courier commends the Senate on, as their maturity and ability to admit their mistakes to reestablish a more fruitful discussion is a decision that is tough to accept, and even tougher to commit to.

### **The Press Conference**

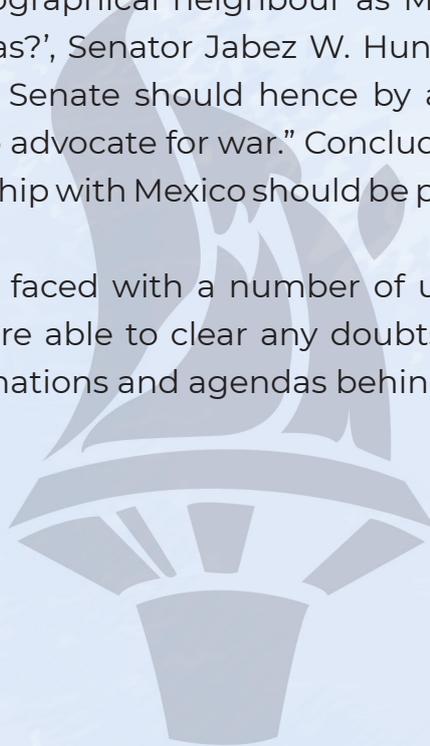
At the beginning of the 7th council session, the Charleston Courier was lucky enough to be granted the opportunity to conduct our very own press conference, in which we were able to pose questions to the senators, as well as clarify our doubts on their stances and agendas.

In response to a question posed by the CC's very own Enya S. Oh, 'Given the considerable feedback on some senators being inconsistent with their party values, how are senators now seeking to mend this gap?', Senator Robert M. T. Hunter responded that he was not of the opinion that the matter would be a major issue, stating that it was a product of the misunderstanding of information by some senators in the council. He stated that he had a positive outlook for the rest of the debate, seeing as most of the senators had managed to gain clarity as to their stances on the issue (The Annexation of Texas). He ended his response saying that he believed that the Senate would be able to have more productive council sessions in the future as misunderstandings were resolved and mistakes amended.

In response to a question by the NYDT's Parijaat Jain, [Huntington] has raised the suggestion of having other states purchase land from Texas at a price and industrialising Texas. How would you proceed if Texas was unwilling to participate in such sales, considering that they are a mainly agricultural state?' Senator Arthur Pendleton Bagby replied that the Democrats do not support the plan, with the reasoning that Texas is a more agricultural state, and hence to industrialise the state would be a threat to the Texians' livelihood. He then offered an alternative solution, which was to go ahead with the annexation without industrialisation, as the Texians are Americans, thus, their wish to be annexed should be respected and taken into account.

In a question posed by the CC's Nabilah Saiful, 'Does the Senate think that the international relations with as close a geographical neighbour as Mexico can be compromised for the sake of a stake over Texas?', Senator Jabez W. Huntington replied that as much a neighbour as Mexico is, the Senate should hence by all means, try to forge bilateral relations. "We are not here to advocate for war." Concluding her speech, she added that she believes the U.S' relationship with Mexico should be preserved to the best of its ability.

The press conference, albeit faced with a number of unprecedented challenges, was overall a fruitful one. We were able to clear any doubts we had, as well as gain more valuable insight to the explanations and agendas behind the Senate.





Today's Feature

Historical Committees

# **Interview with Senate Head Chair, Heqin**

**By Desiree Wee, Press Editor**



## **1) Hi! Tell us abit more about yourself and give us a quick rundown of your past MUN experiences**

I'm 18 this year and I'm currently in NS waiting to be posted out. My first Model UN conference was in 2017. Since then, I've staffed several conferences including SMUN 2019 about 2 years back.

## **2) What is the Senate committee about and what makes it so special?**

The Historical US Senate simulates past sessions of the Senate, which is the upper chamber of the US Congress. In order for legislation to pass, both the House (the lower chamber) and the Senate must approve it. In addition, the Senate has the sole power to ratify treaties, confirm Presidential appointments and declare war. The Historical Senate in particular is special because participants have to take on not one, but two portfolios dealing with America in 2 rather different time periods - One during the years when the Union was still consolidating, and another where the Senate is pushed to make a major decision about its present and its future.

**3) It is not easy to be a delegate in a historical or crisis MUN council, lest the Head Chair. What made you decide to take on the challenge for yourself?**

I just found the Senate's topics interesting, really. I think the only major difference between present-day and historical simulations is that there's a need to reconstruct at least most of the context at the time.

**4) What is the toughest challenge that you faced so far in your preparation for SMUN 2021?**

Maintaining a functional work schedule for a conference during BMT wasn't easy, since you can't bring in a laptop or even a keyboard. Most of what I wrote in the study guide was actually typed out on my phone, and my co-chairs had to help me out with citations a lot. I have to thank them for chipping in so much when I was out of action.

**5) What is the one thing that you enjoy most about being part of a historical MUN council?**

Historical councils are just a refreshing change from regular councils, and you can operate on different sets of rules. You can learn a lot not only as a delegate but also a chair.

**6) Out of all the different councils that SMUN 2021 has to offer its participants this year, why did you think your delegates have chosen to join the historical MUN council?**

I think they're here because they have an interest in the topics, which is to say an interest in the history of the United States and of the Senate.

**7) As of this interview, SMUN will be kicking off very soon, how do you feel?**

My co-chairs and myself are excited to see our work over the past half a year or so pay off! We look forward to meeting our delegates.

**8) And finally, what do you want to say to the readers who will be reading this article?**

Enjoy yourselves at SMUN. Make it a learning experience, but also don't forget to make friends along the way.

# **Interview with Crisis Director Choong K-Ron**

**By Adiba, Press Editor**

20 years old, K-Ron is currently serving his national service and when not at work, you can find him slaving away at the computer or wasting time and money at the arcade hitting the washing machine. Together with many others, he constantly question why he still partakes in MUN, and wonders if he will ever escape the black hole that is crisis. Having said that, you can rest assured that he will see you at the conference and hopes to bring you an enjoyable experience at SMUN 2021, besides being an academic one.



## **1. What is your name? How should we call you?**

My name is K-Ron, people usually call me that. But I have some other nicknames like Rae

## **2. How long have you been in the Model UN circuit? What pushed you to participate further in Model UN now as a Crisis director?**

I joined the circuit in OPMUN 2018, and I generally stayed because I found it fun, but eventually I stayed for the people (laughs). I have found interest in crisis as it requires more innovative and realistic solutions. In Crisis you also get to see the effectiveness of the solutions that you proposed, so it's quite dynamic and interesting.

### **3. What are you responsible for now in SMUN 2021?**

This year I took charge of ASEAN and Crisis. As an academic director, I get to see the other councils at work. I have always enjoyed seeing the innovation that comes during the delegates' debate.

### **4. How is Crisis different from other councils?**

Different from a regular committee, crisis committee's main difference is the shifting agenda and unrestrained goals for delegates to explore.

### **5. Can you tell us briefly how Crisis is conducted? Are there any important terminologies potential delegates should know?**

So, crisis has the elements of "frontroom" and "backroom". **Frontroom** represents the dais and the regular debate, while **backroom** processes the "world" of the crisis and processes the "directives". **Directives** are generally instructions to the subordinates of the crisis portfolios, while in regular committees you come up with solutions, delegates in crisis can try to implement said solutions. Directives shouldn't be limited to instructions to subordinates and some personages have strong personal influence that they can exercise as well. The backroom will then decide the effect and outcome of these actions on the world of the crisis. The backroom decides who will have access to this information and will inform those delegates accordingly, or they might update the council as a whole. In short, the backroom processes the world and how it changes as a result of the delegates' actions.

### **6. How to make sure that the Crisis is not a copy of "history"?**

Generally, the crisis team will strive to represent a unique world for the crisis, and every small action of the delegates' implements the butterfly effect and history will go down an alternate path instead.

### **7. Does that mean Crisis delegates have to be (or are more likely to be) history nerds?**

Crisis delegates don't have to be history nerds, actually. Just like in real life, there are all sorts of people in a team or council. There are the legislative experts, military generals and more. So besides the history buffs, anybody can try and find a link between their expertise to the crisis!

**8. What kind of delegates do you think would prefer Crisis over conventional councils?**

Generally I think crisis delegates are people that enjoy thinking on their feet and out of the box. They have to be ready for their ideas to fail and their plans to not succeed and still work with the result. So they have to be able to bounce back from failures.

**9. What would you say to yourself if you can turn back the time to when you were about to start your first Crisis as a delegate?**

I would say that there's no need to be afraid of the "power delegates," or the more experienced delegates. You won't be able to achieve anything if you don't try, so even if you might fail, just send in your directives without fear.





Special  
Report

# *The Pride of Youth Politics*

## *Interview with OPEC Head Chair Haiyi*

*By Jaden Ong, Press Editor*

Haiyi is a rare person. In a committee of Model UN delegates and chairs—ACJC debaters and polsci undergrads—the incoming PPE student has probably thought the most about the issues at hand. Though it might very well be the case, she doesn't assume she's the smartest in the room. Open to experience, she listens to the takes of every delegate, as she forms her own opinions, never kowtowing to any bloc or ideology.

As a MUN delegate and the current head chair of OPEC, Haiyi subscribes to a purer form of diplomacy than most delegates do. The ideal MUN delegate cannot be more removed from the ideal UN diplomat. Hyper-aggressive and uncompromising, the typical best delegate would find it hard to even be an intern at the MFA. Among all the skills that one gains at a MUN conference, diplomacy is not one.

Humble and mild-mannered, it's hard to believe that Haiyi has attended almost a dozen MUN conferences. Wherever she learned diplomacy, it certainly wasn't here. A true diplomat, she doesn't proselytise her politics, even outside of committee. When she isn't sure of something, she'll tell you only as much.

Unlike PolSci students desperately trying to prove their intellectual heavy weight, she's perfectly comfortable with saying, "I haven't thought about it." Rather than give half-baked on-the-spot analyses, she treasures deep and careful thought—thought that is nuanced, unemotional, and principled.

Her way of political thought is best described in terms often attributed to Singaporean ministers—pragmatic, sensible, and executive. Most MUN-goers subscribe to a single political system, proudly calling themselves democratic-socialists, neo-Marxists, intersectional feminists, and—very rarely but always annoyingly—nationalists. Haiyi doesn't identify with any of these. But it would be a mistake to think of her as apolitical; to know deeply, yet refuse a label is as political an action—if not far more so—than choosing to identify with any political group.

For the average individual, politics is about more than just policy. It's about social belongingness. In the same way that an individual turns towards their confidantes for

emotional support, the vulnerable mind is quick to detect and attach itself to ideology when it appears in a normal person.

All ideologies are able to attribute human suffering to political reasons. Without critical thought, a susceptible youth is convinced that it is capitalism, patriarchy, welfare, collectivism, or the “post-modern neo-marxists” that are to blame for the many societal and psychological problems that they encounter.

Youths, especially politically-aware youths that attend MUNs, are susceptible for many reasons. While the stereotype of the university socialist has existed since socialism itself, a new form of political propagation far more effective than any other social or communication system exists within the pockets of every student.

Modern social media algorithms are able to pick up on exactly the kinds of vulnerabilities that drive people towards ideologies by analysing by clicks, likes, and the time spent viewing each post. A form of propaganda driven only by consumption, these algorithms are indiscriminate in how the politics they serve.

They are positive feedback loops, latching on to a single vulnerability and forever rubbing it raw, constantly stoking outrage at what is and what ought to be. And if a person discovers they like Contrapoints more than Jordan Peterson, the algorithm adjusts only to keep the person consuming.

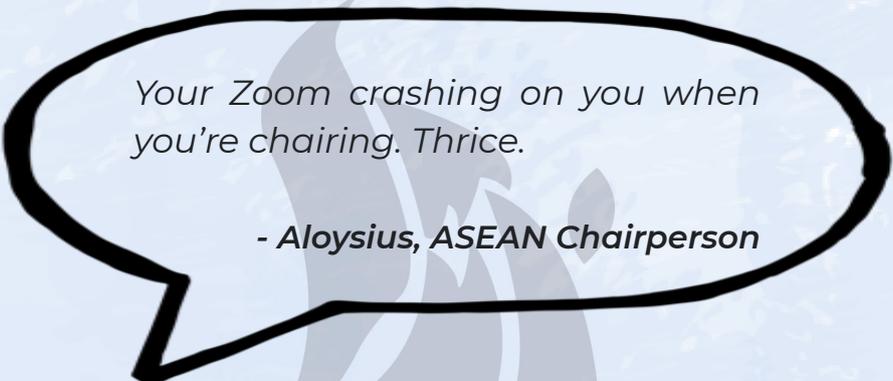
Somehow, Haiyi remains pure amidst all of this. Not pure like a flower that withers and wanes with the climate—pure like a diamond, forever crystalline and clear-minded, never scratched or sullied or dulled. Her political maturity is neither condescending nor impulsive, not the elder decrying the activist nor the activist decrying the system.

She doesn't believe in theory but in practice, in enacting principled solutions that lead to beneficial outcomes rather than in social martyrdom. Her down-to-earth political thought comes as a refreshing reminder of the frightening abstractions of political propaganda, as a reminder that politics is ultimately about doing good.

# **What's the worst possible thing that can happen in an online MUN conference?**

Today's report encapsulates the worst possible things that can happen in an online MUN Conference but many of these responses, embarrassingly for them, seem to be from personal experiences. So, as you read through the list of the many possible horrors that can take place during online conferences, have a good laugh and make sure that your mic is muted and your video turned off.

## **1. Zoom Crashing**



Your Zoom crashing on you when you're chairing. Thrice.

- Aloysius, ASEAN Chairperson

- Got disconnected during an important Unmod
- Your internet dying on you just as council session starts
- When you get too scared to say anything for half the conference, then when you do try and sign up for GSL or moderated caucus, your internet and zoom crashes
- Getting disconnected when voting on my own Reso

## **2. Unintended Flashing**

- Someone seeing you in a brilliant white shirt, immaculate blazer...and boxers
- Changing your clothes and realising your camera is not switched off

### **3. Things you aren't supposed to hear**

- Raising a point of personal privilege requesting to use the toilet while accidentally blowing it off before having the chance to mute yourself
- Have you ever heard someone literally moaning in the background out of nowhere during the middle of a speech? Yeah.
- Varying voices in everyone's microphones = automatic ear rape
- When you're giving a GSL speech on Chernobyl and your mic is on and your family members just decide to 'YUAHUHHHAHUH' so loudly in the background and the whole call hears it and questions if your family members are having sex
- When u accidentally on your microphone when shouting at ur sister :) !
- Del of France UNSC blasted "castaways, we are castaways" during an Unmod
- Exposing your plans through an unmuted mic

### **4. Things that just shouldn't.**

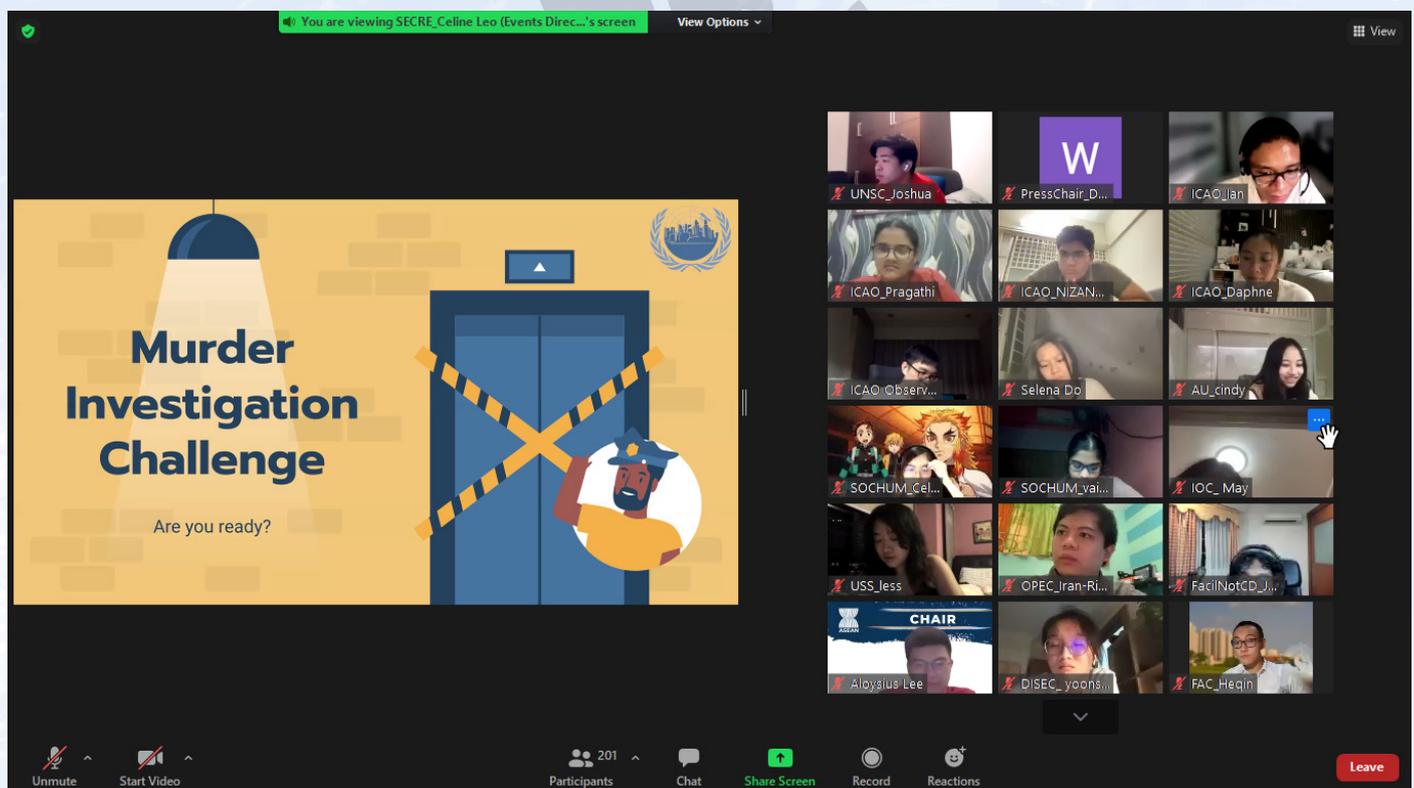
- Having your council memed on by a Press Del
- When your Whatsapp dais chat is accidentally shown to the dels discussing awards over Zoom
- When standard zoom reactions fail and you have to use the 🤔 emoji to vote in favour of a motion
- Clapping is now in order: Everyone: ...

# Socials 2021

**By Desiree Wee**

Socials undoubtedly has a place in every one of your hearts; from the buffet dinners to the loud music that we would rave to, socials are a breakaway from the formalities of debate and a potent drug guaranteed to leave you with a “high” by the end of the night (and almost too exhausted to attend council sessions the next morning). Where else would you expect to see the Delegate of the United States and the Delegate of Russia seeing eye to eye or your council chairs breakdancing on the floor.

However due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, the Singapore Model United Nations 2021 remained a purely online conference for the second year in a row. Nevertheless, SMUN 2021 kept Socials as a tradition.



Socials commenced at 6pm over zoom where the Murder Investigation Challenge was announced. The game was fairly simple; figure out who the murderer was amongst a group of suspects by watching a few videos with statements from each of the suspects which were laden with clues to solve the mystery. With that, delegates, in their assigned rooms, started discussion on who they thought the murder was based on the limited hints provided led by their chair facilitators.



## Instagram Spotlight



**"This delegates believes..."**



*"Delegates, delegates, delegates, it is with utmost conviction that this delegate expresses... "*

## Quotables

*"Delegates, would you be willing to sit in an oven?"*

- **Delegate of New Zealand, IOC**  
*(critiquing the bid by Qatar to host the 2032 Olympic Games)*

*"B\*\*\*\* I am the KGB"*

- **Anonymous, Crisis**

*"I don't peg bro"*

- **Vasily Petrov, Crisis** *(on pulling out of Afghanistan)*

*"The true Russian experience."*

- **Ivan Yakovlev, Crisis** (On eating 2 slices of bread for lunch)

*"We put the ISIS in crisis"*

- **Chairman of the KGB, Crisis** (on bombing an American embassy)

*"Imagine if Jeff Bezons ran for President"*

- **Delegate of Sweden, IOC**

*"We hold democratic elections so we can manipulate them"*

- **Anonymous, Crisis**



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**SINGAPORE MODEL UNITED NATIONS 2021**