



MUNDIALE

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MUNDIALE, worldwide coming together to discuss topics of world wide importance with the view to a brighter future.

Welcome to DIAMUN 2009: First Annual Model United Nations Conference in the Gulf

By Yasmina Hachem

What do twelve different schools of the United Arab Emirates, the American International School of Jeddah (Saudi Arabia) and The Doon School (India) have in common?

They have brought their best delegates to Dubai International Academy (DIA) to debate in the first Model United Nations (DIAMUN) hosted in the Gulf region.

When one entered the reception area of Knowledge Village where the inaugural ceremony took place (Thursday, April 23rd) one could see people clustered around desks registering participants,

and caterers running around, preparing the area for those who wanted refreshments after the speeches. But what caught this reporter's eye were the groups of delegates from various schools standing together, trying to look cool and collected.

During the refreshment time period, however, one could finally see the delegates talking and laughing with students of other schools (in other words, *mixing and mingling*). In fact, some students from Cambridge International School said the inauguration was "very good" (Unaiza), "interesting", and "fun" (Nabeela and Hassan) with wide smiles on their faces. They were grateful for the introduction that familiar-

ized them with the procedures, and the extra time to find other delegates to support their resolutions. Some students found the idea of being a delegate for MUN quite "intimidating" (Aditi), but by the end of Day One, she grew much more comfortable.

Therefore, there was no need for worrying and fretting over looking like an outsider.

All of us at DIA wish all the delegates—novice and experienced—good luck and, of course, we look forward to "spirited debate" (Secretary General, Aahan Bhojani). You are all welcome to visit again!



Inaugural

by *Bharath Ramesham*

“Most of all, I want the students to have fun” said Poonam Bhojani, Executive Director of Dubai International Academy, amidst the blur of suits, skirts, scarves and ties, gleaming with pride as the schools possessing the politicians of tomorrow poured in.

The air was electric and the atmosphere was intense as the diverse crowd mingled after registration. The administration staff shuffled paper, filling forms by the second and tossing badges at the delegates. The chairs of each committee stared eagerly at the door, waiting for their member delegates to show up.

Then, as the administration caught their breath, the doors closed on the committees and the introductions began. The chairs courteously explained their roles in the debates and answered any questions the excited but slightly bewildered delegates had. I, myself being new to the experience was awestruck by the efficiency and the professionalism that all the students displayed in all facets of the pre-conference.

“The best thing about DIAMUN is that since there are no awards, everyone comes to learn rather than win,” said the MUN veteran, Narendar, from DPS Sharjah. DIA-MUN being the 6th conference he has been to, Narendar said that the organization was up to par with that of international conferences.

“I would have to say that DIA has done an excellent job and I’m having a marvelous time” answered Ronald Chinner Jr., the delegate for Libya in the Security Council when asked how DIA compared to other conferences.

Aman Ghose, the self-confident Vice President of Security Council, agreed that they were on par in terms of organization and coordination; he believes that this MUN will surpass other conferences with regard to the debate.

Following the initiation period, all those attending were then ushered into the presentation hall for the inaugural ceremony which was co-hosted by

the Chair of Human Rights Committee, the very bright, Ammar Keshodia, and the Deputy Chair of the Security Council, Athbah Al Roum. Several esteemed guests proceeded to talk to the delegates about the role of MUN and how beneficial it is.

A short AV presentation then elaborated on the focus of DIAMUN. Then followed an entertainment break, like music to our ears, it was the sweet sound of U2’s “The One” ably performed by DIA’s rock band. This was followed by the rhythmic stomping and stepping of the Shaka Zulu dance that transported us to the savannahs of Africa.

Tokens of appreciation were given to the honoured guests while Secondary School Principal, David Impey, delivered the vote of thanks to the many member of the DIA administration, teachers and DIA students who had contributed to the success of the evening and organizing this event.

Finally, our Secretary General, Aahan Bhojani took control of the stage and the assembly with his charismatic manner. Bringing down his gavel on the podium with almost regal finality, he declared the first DIAMUN conference open.

“ Most of all, I want the students to have fun. ”

The Secretary General



Name: Aahan Bhojani

Committee and Position: Secretary General of DIAMUN 2009

Age: 16

Previous MUN Experience:

MUNISH 2007

THIMUN 2008

Global Young Leaders Conference 2008

THIMUN Singapore 2008 – Chair

THIMUN 2009 – Chair

DIAMUN 2009 – Secretary General

What you hope to see at DIAMUN 2009: Constructive debate and students using this opportunity to voice themselves! I also want to see many smiles.

Favourite MUN moment/saying: When I addressed a congregation of 400 young leaders at the United Nations Headquarters in New York as part of the Global Young Leaders Conference. When I was chosen to chair a large MUN simulation.

Favourite Food: Far-eastern food – Thai, Indonesian. I like food in general =)

Favourite Movie: Slumdog Millionaire

If you had one wish, what would it be: Everyone to pursue their dreams.

Meet The Chairs



Name: Anja Gullerfelt

Committee and Position: Deputy Secretary General, Security Council President

Age: 16

Previous MUN Experience:

In SC for MUNISH 2007

In GA4 for HMUN 2008

In GA2 for THIMUN The Hague 2009

What you hope to see at DIAMUN 2009: I'd like to see students grow as people as they come up with innovative global solutions to age-old problems.

Favourite MUN moment/saying: The opening ceremony of THIMUN in The Hague, when the flag of Egypt was handed over to me, the Ambassador of Egypt at THIMUN, from the actual Egyptian Ambassador. It was a very powerful symbolism of the responsibility youth are given at MUN.

Favourite Food: Italian

Favourite Movie: Pearl Harbour

If you had one wish, what would it be: World Peace.

Reflections on the Opening Ceremony

By Cara Armstrong

Dubai International Academy (DIA) has created its own place in history, not just by building an International Baccalaureate World School, but by holding its first Model United Nations Conference (DIAMUN).

Twelve International schools are participating, two of which are joining us from India and Saudi Arabia and over hundred students are coming together to give their time and dedication to gain skills, a new look at life, and most importantly, to meet new people and maybe even make friends for life.

The opening of the conference was held at Knowledge Village on the 23rd of April 2009. Many thanks go out to the University of Wollongong in Dubai for being DIAMUN's generous sponsor.

As delegates arrived, they were welcomed into their committees. They met with their Chairs and fellow delegates whom they would be working with during this conference. DIA students and teachers put together an outstanding opening ceremony with presentations, guest speakers, as well as a musical and dance performance to show that we are all here for a purpose: to stand for United Nations.

It was truly great to see that we as students have so much support from outside influences. A few of these influences were our guest speakers: Mr. Osman, a founding board member, called us the "future leaders of the world!" It's truly wonderful to see how many people are proud of us as members of the Model United Nations and how they are there supporting us.

Ms. Owais the second secretary of the UAE mission to the United Nations, too was proud of us and hoped that we find ourselves empowered and continue to bring new opportunities to the world. Mr. Mythen who has been running THIMUN for 9 years, was able to join and support us in our very first DIAMUN. One thing that struck us all was Mr. Mythen's supporting words, "DIAMUN, is the first stepping stone for MUN in the region." We can only hope that in the future there will be more MUN conferences

within the region. Mr. Curran who reminded us that there are starving children out there unable to get a good education. His speech was very touching and I hope we can all stand together and create the support those children and families need. We as MUN delegates' need to put an end to starvation, because without food these children cannot concentrate and "poor education leads to a poor future." It's not about feeling guilty, but about doing what you can to change it.

“
Education is the
most powerful weapon to
change the world.”

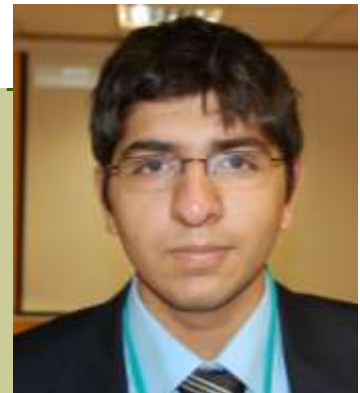
Aahan Bhojani, Secretary General and one of the masterminds behind DIAMUN Dubai, opened the conference with a bang and the words "education is the most powerful weapon to change the world" lingered in our minds. "DIAMUN, empowerment through education, Conference now open!" As Aahan Bhojani said "if you can imagine it, you can achieve it!" and I think we have certainly achieved greatness as a start to our very first Model United Conference. It was a dream but now it's a reality.

Name: Nader Jouzy
Committee and Position: Chair of General Assembly
Age: 16
Previous MUN Experience:
 MUNISH 2007
 THIMUN Singapore 2008
What you hope to see at DIAMUN 2009: Constructive debate and an enjoyable time.
Favorite MUN moment/saying: The crazy after parties at both MUN conferences I've been to. I had amazing experiences with Sami, Aman, Sari, and Aahan.
Favorite Food: Chinese, Japanese, Indian, Italian, and Arabic
Favorite Movie: Seven Pounds, Coach Carter, and Grid Iron Gang
If you had one wish, what would it be: My one wish is to meet Pele and Cafu (Brazilian football players).



Meet The Chairs

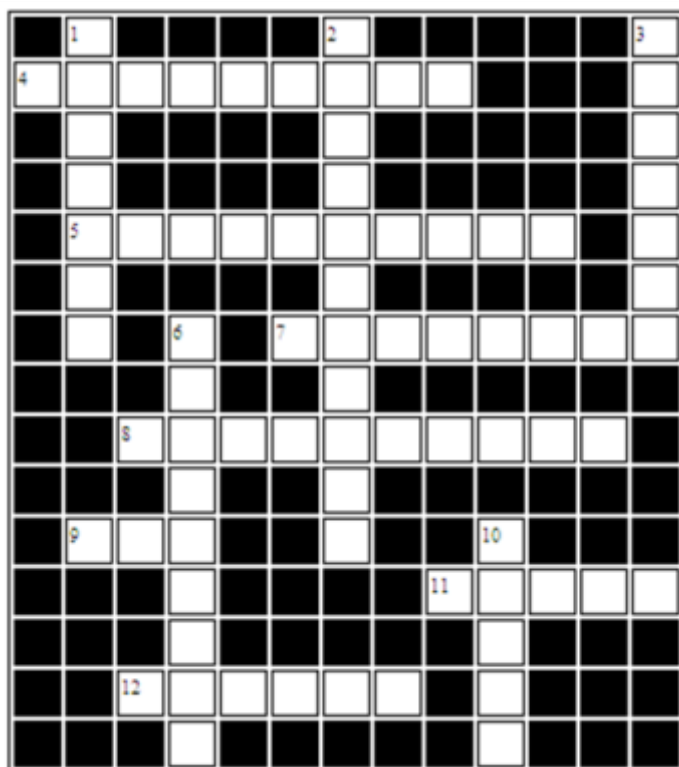
Name: Ammar Keshodia
Committee and Position: Chair of Human Rights Council
Age: 16
Previous MUN Experience:
 MUNISH 2007
 HMUN 2008
What you hope to see at DIAMUN 2009: I hope to see the delegates walk away from the conference more mature diplomatically, open-minded, and informed about global issues. I hope that they have an enjoyable experience.
Favorite MUN moment/saying: When I received a note asking: "Do you want to see my weapons of mass destruction?"
Favorite Food: Italian/Chinese/Indian
Favorite Movie: Memento
If you had one wish, what would it be: Perhaps to chair at the real UN one day.



.MUN FUN.

Crossword Puzzle:

All these words include "MUN". The spellings of some words have been changed ... "to protect the innocent". Have fun! :)

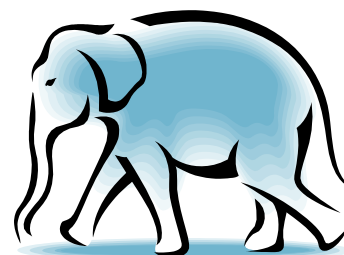


Across

4. What are MUN delegates' favourite Wizard of Oz characters?
5. An MUN delegate's favourite quote from this movie is "I'll be back".
7. _____ are a female MUN delegate's best friend.
8. What is an MUN peace-keeping delegate's worst nightmare?
9. What does an MUN delegate call a play on words?
- 11 What are MUN delegates' favourite fruit?
- 12 What is an MUN delegate's favourite day?

Down

1. What is hiding under MUN delegates' beds?
2. MUN delegates love 3_____ movies.
3. All MUN delegates feed their pet _____ bananas.
6. An MUN delegate's pet elephant is _____.
10. What do MUN delegates do for lunch?



Identify the pictures:

- A) Secretary General, **Ban Ki Moon**
- B) Minister Councillor Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs, **Ms. Claudia Valenzuela**
- C) Delegate of the Round House Kick.
- D) President of General Assembly, **Mr. Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann**



