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THE COMMUNICATOR

Pre-Conference Issue

Bridging the Divide to Unity and Equality



*A conference run by youth, for today's youth,
to benefit the youth of tomorrow.*

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INTRO TO THE 33RD MUNISH THEME



The Model United Nations at The International School of The Hague, known as MUNISH is a youth-guided international event ISH hosts annually with great pride. This event allows students to be inspired and involved with global issues relating to the topics discussed by the United Nations. It gives students the opportunity to develop a wide range of skills that will prove vital in future careers, such as leadership, critical thinking, and communication skills. Each annual MUNISH establishes its committees and issues around a unique theme. This year's MUNISH theme is

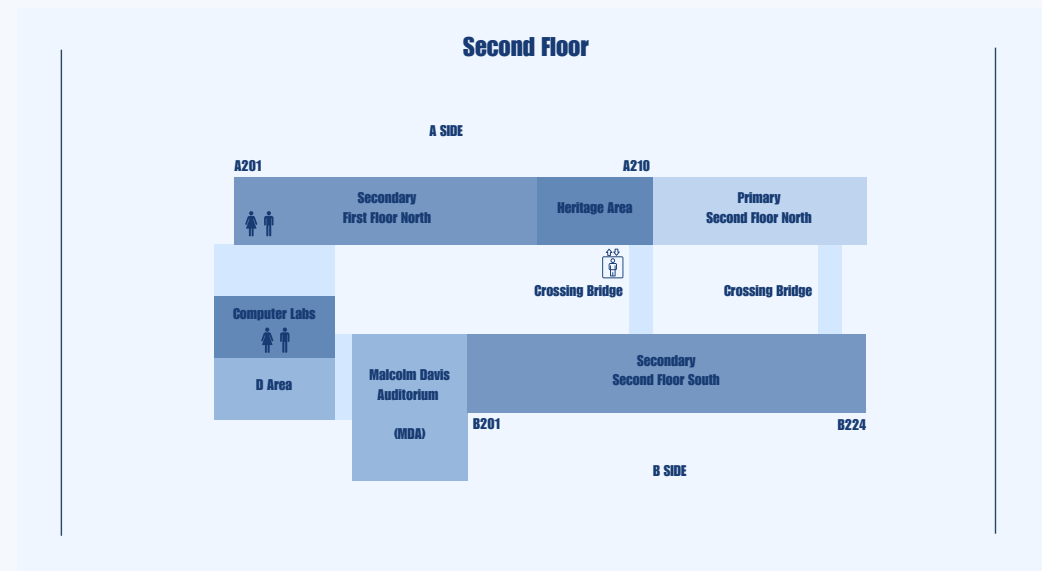
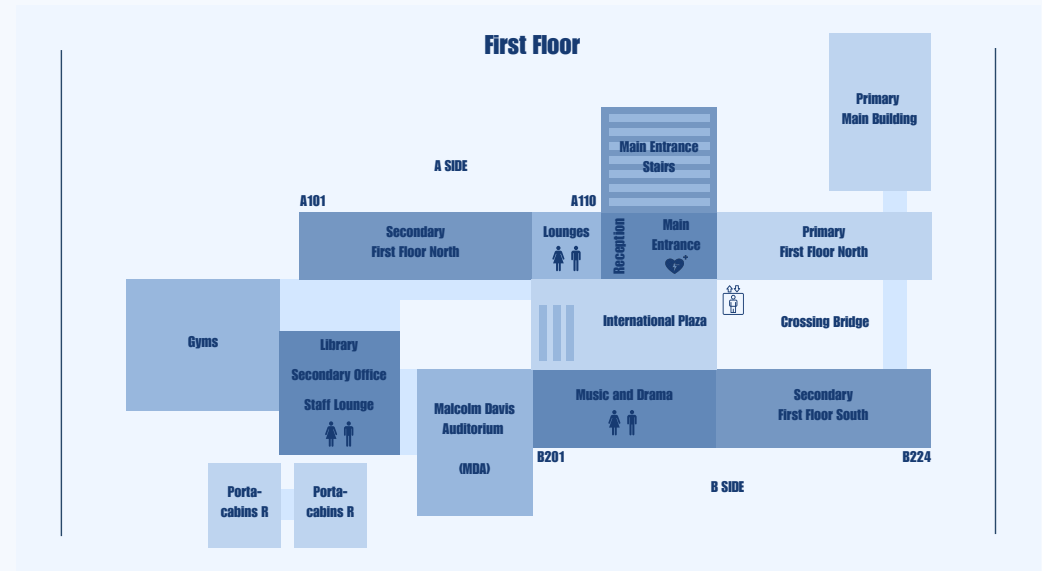
which aims to address the deep-seated divisions and disparities that exist within modern societies. This theme promotes empathy, collaboration, and commitment as the tools to dismantle barriers and encourage justice. By highlighting the significance of unity and equality, this theme also aims to inspire students to promote positive change through questioning existing systems. From the political dictatorship crisis and inequalities for women in Iran to the unstable freedom and safety of journalism in Mexico and Haiti; the essence of this theme is to encourage inclusive thinking and solving global issues through methods that prioritize justice for everyone. This principle must be incorporated into the discussion of, for instance, the ongoing national uprising in Iran which divided Iran's conservatives who possess all three branches of government, and the rest of the population. This is because Iran's sectors must be united to avoid additional conflict, as political or economic change must be agreed upon unanimously to please all factions. Through this year's theme, MUNISH encourages students to cooperatively work towards a world where differences are celebrated and disparities are minimized.

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Bridging the Divide to Unity and Equality

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MAP



HOW TO BE A DELEGATE

As summer fades into fall, and August moves into September, a new academic year begins. Along with tests, homework and catching up with friends, a certain conference is on many peoples minds. As MUNISH approaches, you can't help but overhear talk about the preparations diligently being made in order to make this year's conference memorable. There is talk of great collaboration and perhaps some minor disagreements. Student Officers are being selected, and research reports are being demanded. However, through all this chaos, it is important not to forget those who will define this conference. Delegates are the diligent students that debate resolutions with diplomacy, submit carefully crafted amendments and step into the (very important and painfully formal) shoes of a representative of a country. Without any delegates, MUNISH or any MUN conference for that matter, would not function. Representing a country, no matter how big or small, no matter its political status in the world or its economic power, is an amazing responsibility. When done right, the experience of being a delegate can offer so much more than practice in public speaking. Being a delegate can teach you valuable skills in negotiation, diplomacy, and consensus-building, as you work with others to find common ground and advocate for your countries interests on a larger stage.

The process of getting the most of the experience can be a bit tricky. It requires a certain amount of confidence and determination, but it is all worth it in the end. To get an idea on what delegates should be focussing on, we spoke with Elia Boya, one of the two BOD members in charge of delegate affairs. We asked her what her own tips are for this year's delegates.

What advice would you give delegates that are completely new this year?

"One of the crucial steps to becoming a confident delegate is to familiarize oneself with the Rules of Procedure (RoP) and specific vocabulary pertaining to MUNs or your committee. This can reduce the initial stress of the fast paced transitions in debate, allowing you to follow and participate more actively in the debate. Additionally you can always approach or send a note to your chairs for any questions or fears you may have, as they are experienced delegates and they themselves have at one point been in the position you are in."



Have you been a delegate before? If so, what did you do to ensure you would be able to speak and be heard?

"I have participated in a range of MUN's as a delegate including MUNISH, THIMUN, and HMUN, and Initially when I began I struggled with capturing the house's attention. I have found that the best way to be heard is to make concise, clearly structured speeches, utilising an assertive tone. Personally I prefer to plan out my speech in bullet points instead of whole sentences in order to make the speech more natural, capturing the essence of my speech."

How would you advise delegates to get the most out of their experience?

"It may sound redundant, however the best way to get the most out of your experience is to challenge yourself and make lots of speeches and relevant Points of Information (POIs). Executing a perfect speech is difficult, but it becomes easier and more intuitive with practice. Do not be intimidated by others, as although delegates' experience varies, everyone is there to learn. To make the most out of the debate, engage with other delegates, collaborating with them to build constructive resolutions with feasible solutions."

How would you advise delegates to best prepare for the conference?

"I would advise delegates to do background research on their delegation's policy statement to ensure they represent their delegation's perspectives accurately. General research for all topics is crucial to be able to participate actively in all debates and form well-supported arguments. An alternative route that some delegates prefer is to research one topic in depth and be more actively involved in that debate, potentially main submitting a resolution. Although challenging, I like to use the UN's

archives to find resolutions relevant to my topics, in order to draw inspiration for my own clauses and resolutions. Finally, read the research reports written by your chairs; they usually contain lots of relevant information for each topic, including timelines and major parties in the issues."

And finally, any last words of motivation to the delegates this year?

"Model United Nations is not only a simulation, but such a beneficial and enjoyable experience, expanding horizons. It is an opportunity to meet new people, develop critical thinking, and enhance leadership skills in a fast-paced, stimulating environment full of people of different backgrounds. Initially being a delegate may seem intimidating, but it is important to remember that everyone starts as a beginner, and through experience one is able to progress not only as a delegate but to different functions such as Student Officer."

Along with all of these excellent tips, it is important to note that all extensive delegate guides are available on the MUNISH website. Using these would be extremely beneficial to a delegate's performance and actually getting the most out of the three-day experience.

On the surface, being a delegate could seem tiresome or unimportant. However, delegates allow MUN to be an accurate simulation of the real world path to peace. Delegates have the opportunity to tackle demanding world issues, and while they are just acting, the UN membership that sits in those (very real) halls and raises those (very much real) placards are changing our world every day. And perhaps one day, the young delegates of the 33rd edition of MUNISH will sit in those official seats among them.

UNITED NATION'S GREATEST ACHIEVEMENTS AND FAILURES

The United Nations is an international organisation that plays a pivotal role in the global spectrum, created to provide a global forum for all nations for the purpose of discussing and tackling global issues. It was initially founded in 1945 following the events of World War II as an attempt to promote global stability and peace after the tragedies of the war. The ideologies MUNISH is founded on are identical to those presented by the United Nations to keep the event as authentic as possible. For over 70 years, the United Nations has had five predominant goals: maintenance of international peace and security, human rights, humanitarian aid, sustainable development and climate action,

and upholding international law. Across the decades of its existence, the UN has been involved in a wide range of global initiatives in order to achieve these goals. Despite efforts, the organization has experienced a mix of successes and failures, demonstrating how fundamentally complex and challenging its mission is. The objective of this analysis is to glorify the UN's successes while analyzing and reflecting on its weaknesses to ensure they don't repeat. It allows MUNISH to discuss and debate on these implications and conclude within its conferences what went well/wrong, how we ensure this does/doesn't repeat, and how each nation would have an impact upon it.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Maintenance of International Peace and Security - One of the foremost successes of the UN was its contribution to the prevention of international war and consequential bloodshed, most notably with its role in preventing the Cuban Missile Crisis. During this crisis, the Kennedy administration relied heavily on Secretary-General U Thant and the UN in the prevention of nuclear war. That would advance the “non-invasion for missiles” formula which formed the basis of the final agreement between Cuba and the United States among crucial communication between the nations. This highlights how fundamental the UN is in maintaining peace and security on an international spectrum.

Declaring International Human Rights - On the 10th of December, 1948, the UN proclaimed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), which is internationally viewed as a revolutionary document in the history of human rights. It has become a standard in the overwhelming majority of the world as the permanent fundamental of human rights. Without the UN promoting this document globally and advancing the protection of human rights, this astonishing achievement wouldn't have been possible.

Global Peace Operations - The UN organised numerous significantly successful peacekeeping missions around the world in a multitude of applications, most remarkably its deployment in El Salvador. Since 2016, the UN has provided El Salvador with an abundance of revitalising assistance. From monitoring the population's Human Rights Agreement to post-conflict support through the protection of its citizens, the UN played a critical role in ensuring El Salvador got back on its feet.

FAILURES

Lack of Process in the Sustainable Development Goals - Despite efforts, the UN has struggled to effectively address the majority of Sustainable Development Goals. Their original 2012 goal was to achieve all 17 goals by 2030 which seems implausible over 15 years later, especially since not a single goal has been achieved. However, as stated in their latest annual sustainable development goals report, the weak progression towards the goals is justified to some degree by the impacts of the climate crisis, the war in Ukraine, the weak global economy, and the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. On the other hand, progress remains to be made with no end in sight, thus this failure will perhaps turn into success in the future

Insufficient involvement throughout the Vietnam War - The Vietnam War, which occurred from 1955 to 1975, was a catastrophe for the United Nations in view of its avowed objectives: “to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war” and “to maintain international peace and security”. It saw the deaths of an estimated 1 to 3 million deaths throughout its nearly 20-year duration. The United Nations did not directly intervene in the Vietnam War, opting to play a role in diplomatic efforts to find a peaceful solution to the conflict. While their assistance did undoubtedly end up helping the withdrawal of United States forces, the lack of direct involvement cost many lives.

Inability to Intervene in the Rwandan Genocide - The Rwandan Genocide took place between 7 April and 15 July 1994 throughout the Rwandan Civil War. This event saw an estimated 500,000 to 662,000 deaths and 250,000 to 500,000 women raped during the genocide. According to the UN, its inaction stemmed from its desire to avoid getting engaged in a potentially risky mission for public relations that could harm future Global Peace operations. This claim was based on the 18 UN troops who had been killed in Somalia, despite the sheer number of UN troops which had the potential to save thousands of lives.

Despite the astonishing global efforts the UN has made in its lifetime, it's important to stay critical and reflect upon the mistakes the organisation has made. The vital role the UN has served in averting major conflicts throughout history should be valued and reflected on to the same extent as its inability to prevent major crises. MUNISH effectively addresses both achievements and failures by giving students firsthand experience of tackling these global issues and understanding the different perspectives involved with them. Furthermore, this gives students opportunities to reflect, criticise, and praise decisions made throughout these events to become more engaged global citizens.



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The student board team knows
how to make the conference
fun and enjoyable
for their fellow peers.
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James Ward

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