

LA VOICE

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 2

28TH JUNE 2014

Opening Ceremony

As the hall was filled with exuberant MUNers, Shubham Moitra, the Co-Chair of SPECPOL and Tanvie Ghadge, the Chair of UNDP compered the opening ceremony. The Secretary General, Akshay Aurora introduced the Secretariat and shared his ideas and expectations about VHMUN 4. A video on VHMUN's journey since its inception made the experienced delegates nostalgic, as many smiled and chuckled.

The Director of VIBGYOR Group of International Schools, Ms. Kavita Sahay, gave the welcome note. The keynote speakers included illustrious personalities. Ms. Anamika Chakravarty, the Cultural Affairs Officer at the US Consulate gave a speech on the importance of speaking skills and of being confident and cordial, which really prepped up the delegates for the coming days. Mr. Sanjay Jha, the Executive Director of Dale Carnegie Training, India addressed the delegates and spoke about the pressing issue of sustainable development, and how the future is determined by the choices we make. They garnered enthusiastic applause from all and were felicitated. Yasmin Faruki, the Global MUN Ambassador, Georgetown University, was our pre-conference workshop trainer this year and stressed on how important MUNs are and how they can make a change.

The Director General, Raghav Makharia expressed his thoughts, giving the delegates an insight into his journey as a MUNer. The Secretary General then officially announced the much-awaited VHMUN 4 open, which was followed by our respected Principal, Mr. Shim Mathew, proposing the Vote of Thanks. The delegates were now all set and eager for three days of extensive and fruitful debate.



HSC

- Mamata, Ojasee, Sobia

There were two 'mods' discussing working paper 1.1 and 1.2, the names were just as usual.

Israel even more confident on day two put-forth many valid points that made the majority of the delegates actually come on his side, however his tone could have been a little less loud.

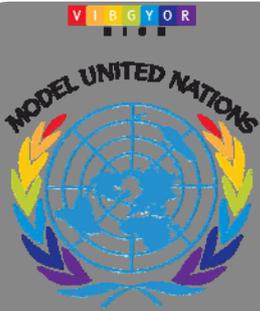
UK just keeps walking around the committee while speaking, gets overly excited when the guest delegate of USA (the Chair) supported points made in the working paper of UK and Argentina.

The most efficient and cooperative committee this year, the HSC after manifesting their countries stance, quickly moved to making working papers on their first day. However despite the generous amount of time given by the Chair for a moderated caucus to discuss working papers, there was unsatisfying work. The committee, nonetheless had an intense debate over them to make amendments.

Day 2 the delegates were more comfortable and had lots more to speak about. There were chits passed around stating how one country is upset with the other. The six day war shocked the world and presented an extraordinarily tense situation in the middle east, which explains "Egypt annoyed at Israel" written in a chit that was passed in the committee.

The resolution "MUNUN" mocking the chair, Manan, was passed after a few amendments.





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SPECPOL

- Jahnavi, Anitej

SPECPOL, filled with first timers in the crowd saw repetition of rules excessively. The chair was very casual, and seemed more interested in her cellphone than the speeches. The punishment for being late (based on the degree of unpunctuality) was having the males speak in a female voice and the females in a male voice. 10 points for creativity!

Discussing the topic of the South China Sea Territorial Dispute, he was willingly cooperating with other nations but refused a treaty with Malaysia for a 50-50 split. However, the same could not be said for the Delegate of Malaysia. He was completely overreacting and refused to cooperate during the course of the session. He was barred by the chair for not "paying attention to the speeches". When asked what he thought of this, the answer was that the chair's decision was senseless and that since he was one of the "key speakers", he should not have been barred. A later argument with the chair gave him a reprimanding from the SecGen. Our session also had a political blame game, reloaded. China felt that it was being insulted, and the Vietnamese delegate actually said that they should stop playing the "blame-game". Talk about maturity. Besides this, we had a lot of neutral countries such as Australia, Switzerland, Russia, etc. The two main bodies in this were USA and China, and we found parties on either side, although the US clearly had more allies. Many delegates stated that they wanted "peaceful negotiation" and did not want any country to "threaten their sovereignty". Hungary tried a new approach and stated that the islands in the SCS are inhabited and they might be able to become a free state. Over all session ran smoothly with a lot of entertaining speeches.



UNDP

- Evita, Parmeshwari

"DELEGATES NO CROSS TALKING" and the tale of long-lost decorum.

The ubiquitous black clothing greeted this delegate on entering the UNDP where the proceedings had begun. This correspondent was startled to know the Chair's incognizance regarding the pronunciation of "Bosnia and what's-that?" The agenda was unanimously set to the "The Involvement of women in government policies". The GSL provided the delegates to voice their opinions but many strung the same chord: "Women understand more than men".

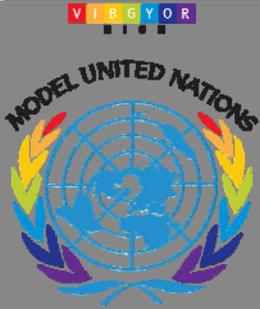
"Quack, quack." – resonated an interjection from the Chair's table. Soon the moderated caucus had begun that pleased the Syrian delegate to the extent of him blowing a celebrity-style flying kiss. This delegate particularly snatched our attention and instantaneously reminded this delegate of a 'Draco Malfoy' swagger. But the delegate of 'Her Majesty', with his overly articulated and gesticulated speeches (obviously employed to veil the average research), also successfully seized this delegate's attention; he, in fact, was so 'LOUD' that the co-chair of SPECPOL was compelled to mellow him down privately.

It was refreshingly good to be greeted by colorful traditional dresses on day 2 by the adherent delegates. BARRED: The conceited delegate of Syria was barred (after flaunting his Japanese language) for blatant indifference. The floor gradually welcomed fresh speakers. Yay?

Soon, the highly vague, extremely irrelevant and definitely questionable draft resolution by the obnoxious alliance of the Syrian, Irish and American delegates was sparingly favored. (#RandomFact: The co-authors did not even know its contents!) "Amateur, one of the worst. Disappointing"- Secretary General. The truth has been spoken.

Unmoderated caucuses were ALWAYS a disaster recipe for this committee considering the consistent, ensuing chaos. Despite the routine GSL, more working papers by why-are-they-even-working-together?! authors and co-authors (Foreign Policy was totally down the drains), the delegate was further irked to be called 'anti-social' by the rather arrogant delegate of UK who was advised to give a creative title to his working paper for the luxury of a rare laugh in the quite jaded committee.





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ECOSOC

- Aishwarya, Mamta, Ruchira

The ECOSOC was one of the fastest and most productive committee on Day 1. As the committee unanimously set its agenda to Topic A - Promoting Economic and Social Prosperity in Post-Conflict countries, by the end of the session, there had been over 5 moderated caucuses and one unmoderated caucus.

There was some impressive debate from the delegates, who had done their homework and knew what they were doing. At one point during the session, due to the reluctance of delegates to ask questions, the EB had to step in to stimulate debate. Working Paper 1.0 was explained by the Delegates of UK and USA, who agreed to provide financial aid to the countries in need. However, their generosity backfired on them as they were targeted for being the two countries with the most amount of debt. Ironic.

But the one who really stole the limelight was the Delegate of UK. Not only did he raise his placard every now and then, but he also frustrated other inexperienced delegates with his impromptu questions. Finally, the Chair was so fed up with him, that she refused to let him speak.

Meanwhile, we saw some young, untainted, innocent love blooming between two delegates. A shy delegate of Kuwait "indirectly" sent a chit to the Delegate of Germany saying that she was very beautiful. Soon, on being questioned about the topic by the Chair, the delegate of Kuwait went blank which led him to getting barred. Well, let's say that as love has its perks, it also has its pitfalls!

The committee picked up pace gradually on the second day. The delegates were finally lively and energetic for the motion of entertainment. They came up with amusing ideas like 'delegate of Ethiopia feeding bananas to the delegate of Germany', 'delegate of china -physical activity?' and 'we want to see out chair laugh, she seems to b strict. i want her to crack a joke!'

Overall the committee was very serious and few of the delegates were well versed with their content. The delegate of Ethiopia got the chair annoyed with his clumsy ways and lack of content and he was barred from the committee. Altogether the committee was intense.

HRC

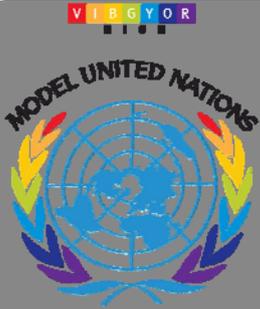
- Sakshi, Ashna, Niharika

The committee was a mix of inquisitive as well as disinterested delegates. The delegates were not able to maintain the decorum frequently causing irritation to the USGs. They or the delegates needed frequent reminders to pay attention even after which they seemed disinterested. As the committee moved forward, China apparently started feeling sleepy and sent a note to her fellow delegate, which said, "I told you I'm sleepy! Should I sleep?" A few speeches later, the delegate of Somalia was found doodling a picture of Batman. The delegate of Russia raised a Motion For A Moderated Caucus and forgot what topic she was going raise. Norway was fluent, clear and his content made sense but every pro has its cons. Unfortunately, he had the voice of Gru's Minions and the face of Megamind. The delegate of USA had no clue about the full form of NSA (Obama will be proud). Apart from this, the committee has an official Rap-Goddess in the delegate of Sri Lanka. Seriously delegate, slow down, you still have 40 seconds left.

By the end of the second day, they had reached their second topic with Delegates like the Delegate of Yemen who burped loudly during committee session causing disturbance. To sum up in a nutshell, this committee is a mixture or combination of the inquisitive or the ones burning with curiosity and the unprejudiced ones. The delegate of China has a serious case of bad General Knowledge. Quoting the delegate, "We the people of the United States of America think that this should be resolved as soon as possible. Thank you for informing us that China is a part of USA. Yemen succeeded in getting himself barred from committee owing to his "inappropriate behavior" and was escorted out by the security members. In the interest of world peace, UK also extended its peace for the world initiative by exchanging a note stating. China debated world security eloquently and put forward note worthy points, at the same time promoting hair shampoo keeping in mind trade benefits.

All in all, HRC certainly didn't fail to entertain us with it's Pandora Box of delegates





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SC

- Raghav, Sakhi, Rutuja

With the delegate of Germany helping the Chair to start up the computer, which the delegate announced to be worthy of a place in the museum, and being promptly awarded a toffee by a relieved Chair, the pre-session scenario was a sight to behold. Just as the delegate of China finished joyously exhausting his Chinese vocals, the committee was finally brought in order by the EB.

The delegate of the USA, thoroughly prepared as she was, seemed to have a particular fondness for 'Right to Reply'- raising one on behalf of a country which wasn't a part of the SC and moreover raising one on an explanation given by the Sec-Gen himself! (Respect, delegates!). By 4 o' clock, the rights to reply had drawn so much flak that they were banned by the Chair. At several points of time it seemed as if a majority of the committee was ganging up against the USA, following the lead of the German delegate and quite a few petty altercations were witnessed.

The discussions weren't stagnant and myriad topics were discussed. A certain delegate (no RUSHING with the name) blatantly confessed that blacks in the USA can't be trusted (honestly delegate, racial tolerance much?), while the German delegate (invigorated by the tea, no doubt) took to French to express his feelings via chits. Things seemed to take a less formal turn as the German delegate volunteered to be the delegate of Chad's CHADdi buddy and the Sec-Gen flicked the back of the Chair's head playfully; finally ending the day's session on a merry note.

By the 2nd day the flustered delegate of the USA demanded respect and three written apologies(!).

'Unmods' are no doubt the committee's personal favorite and a source of great entertainment. Germany urging the chair to hijack the HSC, UK flying paper planes, the French delegate yelling 'ab ki bar modi sarkar' and the Chinese taking the spotlight by pouting and putting on his 'Chinese eyes' and claiming that the South Africans can't afford footballs and have to suffice with coconuts- the press was entertained. The atmosphere heated up as the German and the French delegates fumed at the USA for breaching their privacy; no wonder the chair shrugged and remarked that he was sitting in the middle of the storm.

Swiftly moving on to working on solutions, two working papers 'OMG!!! THEY KILLED KENNY' (Authors-Germany,China, and France) and '101' were discussed.

The delegates of China and Germany decided that it was the perfect opportunity to launch into the German national anthem (AGAIN) during the unmod.

USA was fondly nicknamed as 'Dora the RESOLUTIONer'.



DISEC

- Fathima, Garima

"Will you be my honey bunny?", read a chit passed on the first day of the conference in the voluminous committee of DISEC. However, it turned out to be a scam by the security passing chits shamming to be other delegates. This committee chair, more like the know-it-all to the delegates, felt a little intimidating to the first timers as he pointed out every nook and cranny of almost every delegate's blunder. All thought the committee was overpowered by the delegates of Russia and USA, all delegates despite being nervous, showed great potential and seemed to be well worded with their topics. Even after the challenging debate between delegates, they were seen to be yawning every once in a while as the GSL was dragged for longer than expected or needed. However, at the end of the day, the only highlight was the inappropriate chit passing caused by the security we hope to see the committee move faster and be more happening than seen today

"The only reason to take anything seriously is to make it more fun." The members of the committee DISEC bought this quote to animation. Committee sessions for DISEC, were very well-structured. Delegates were all ears during the committee sessions and actively participating.

It was noticed that the delegates were well prepared and had built their content after thorough research. They touched upon several policy issues related to disarmament. The impact of uncontrolled arms, ammunitions and weapons in today's world were addressed adequately. However, conspicuous by its absence was the adequate focus on the uncontrolled armament in the first world countries. The importance of this could also have been cited by quoting examples that shook the world.

On one hand the delegates were up to date on the content, nonetheless, on the other they visibly appeared intimidated by the chair, this was also evident somewhere by their body language. The chair was interjecting at several points which could have been avoided to keep the pace and the continuity of the delegate's point of view. It was very monotonous and structured as mentioned earlier.

On a closing note, this delegate strength lies in putting together the core content for their subject, adequate research of the topic, and focus on major disarmament issues.



MODA-RATED

- Noopur, Kashish, Hiya

Don't think we didn't see you scuttling around Forever 21 and Zara two days prior to the MUN. You're an international diplomat and we didn't think you'd pass the opportunity to dress the part. This year, VHMUN showcased everything from white-collar formals to traditional hues and sadly, everything in between. Some did catch our eye, for better or for worse. But it's better to do something imperfectly than to do nothing at all.

We were impressed with the boys who wore well-fitted suits defining their built shoulders and glad that the boys sported some fashionable ties and not their grandfather's hand-me-downs. Job well done! But those who built a home in their suits and have their pants collecting at the bottom, n'est pas la mode!

The traditional day was merely tolerable. Ladies, this is a MUN where power dressing is the key, it's not your third cousins wedding. A few things we will not miss in the next MUN are: leather shoulder caps, animal print, BLING, plaid, leggings used as stockings, polka dots, (so retro) crocs and floaters (its not even raining!) and when we say 'miss', we mean please spare us the assault on our eyes. Socks are *not* optional.

While others, didn't completely miss the mark, open toed shoes and printed stockings have to be done just right if you don't want to be victimized by the Fashion Police.

Surprisingly, the boys impressed us this year. There were more gentlemen than elegant ladies. Girls, looks like it's time to pick up your game. #sorrynotsorry. We commend your bold use of colours, but we recommend you experiment cautiously. The Press, Security and Admin delegates, are always sharply dressed. Year after year. Your efforts haven't gone unnoticed.

I hope next year you give us a lot more to write about. Until then, stay classy.



DO's



DON'T





Describe your experience in a few words.

- Hecka awesome.
- “Feet-killing” for the Press
- Naughty *winks*
- Half of the accents aren’t even real.
- You should’ve asked me before. I forgot.
- I’ll tell you but first, lemme take a selfie.
- Love taking people’s cases.
- Deutschland Deutschland Über Alles
- Über Alles In Der Welt
- Exhilarating. Awe-inspiring. *Waits* Effervescent.



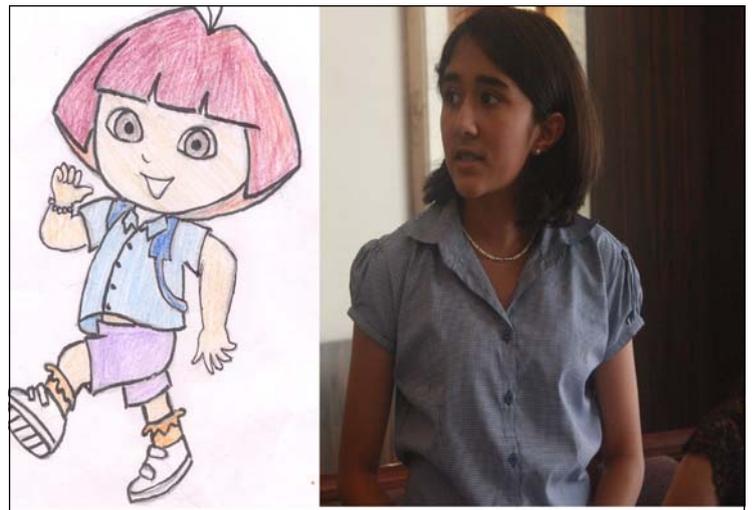
Any funny things you saw or heard?

- Let me think. Give me a while.
- “Togo do you want to watch Pogo?”
- The Yo Mama jokes.
- The delegate who sat on the floor in protest.
- I don’t know *Hulk voice*
- What happens at VHMUN stays at VHMUN
- Can’t disclose it

I do MUN because...

- I like checking out beauties with brains.
- To stay in the cool social circle.
- To keep my Instagram active.
- The Delegate Dance!
- Because... I do.
- Because it’s my dream to become a nun, with a gun, dancing under the sun, while on the run.
- Because Abki Baar Modi Sarkar.
- Because MUN is fun.

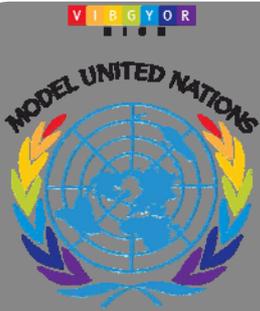
CARTOONISTS: ZOHA, SHWETA



WE LOVE DORA



CHAIR- ECOSOC



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Inside The Press Room

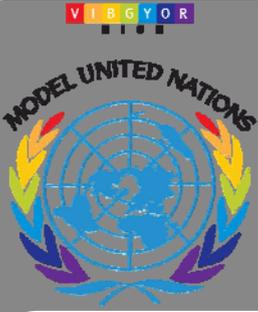
Ever wanted to know everything about the people who know everything about you? Those people you hardly noticed, creepily scanning you, noting down every embarrassing thing you say or do, flashing their cameras in your face? Welcome to the Fourth Estate, delegates!

You know you're in the Press Room when you see chits scattered everywhere amidst heeled shoes, people engaging in gossip, the perpetual laughter and the constant clatter on laptops and whirring of scanners. This place is nothing short of pandemonium. From Meghna's endless selfies and colourful pants (being a true VIBGYORite eh?) to Sreesha's occasional death stares, from Zoha getting picked on because of her accent to Manan's "Naughty" jokes, there was never a dull moment. We preferred to keep our bags on the chairs while we took a fancy to the floor, and panicked for everything right from losing the selfie stick to putting this issue together in time. Sobia joined the fellowship of the bling with her sparkling saree and the minions sat in a corner letting their creative juices flow out, occasionally stalking celebrities, while Sakhi indulged in getting dirty analogies of everything and got a little bro in Anitej. Oh and how can we forget a noisy carnival turning into a silent funeral when our adorable Press Head lost her cool?

Basically, we're the most happening committee ever and no matter how deranged you think we are, trust us, we know what we're doing. And if you were ever offended by anything we said, sorry but we're going to do it anyway.

The Press Corps
Signing out





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