



H S I N M U N X V I I

CONFERENCE ISSUE

The Return of the Taliban

Written by Melody Fan | Layout by Nina Liu | Edited by Maxine Tseng and Cheney Lee

On August 15, 2021, the Taliban captured Kabul and resumed control of Afghanistan. This event took place shortly after the U.S. states declared their withdrawal from Afghanistan, following nearly two decades of war. Despite widespread criticism over the abrupt withdrawal, Joe Biden, the President of the United States, defended the United States' decision by stating: "Staying was no longer an option." Due to this series of events, thousands of Afghans, many of which are educated women, have fled the country. The Taliban have declared that they will not allow the continued evacuation of Afghans and urged the United States to halt the Afghan evacuation.

In the aftermath of the United States withdrawal and resumed Taliban control, much of Afghanistan's progress towards human rights and liberties have been reversed. Among some of the most concerning are the increasing restrictions on female rights and freedom of speech. Under Taliban rule back in the 1990s, women were banned from receiving an education, forced to oblige to strict dress codes, and heavily restricted from immersion in public life. As of now, the Taliban have reopened primary schools for children of both genders and allowed women admission to universities, given that they are segregated from their male counterparts. They have yet to allow girls back into secondary education. One Afghan girl told the Washington Post: "I miss everything about school, my classmate, my lessons, the dreams I had. Now, I can not dream anymore because the Taliban are back" (Raghavan). However, there is still hope for the continued education of these girls. According to Professor Michael Semple from the Mitchell Institution of Global Peace Security, and Justice states, "The population [the Taliban] have given themselves the challenge of trying to rule has doubled in size and expectations have gone sky-high compared to the 1990s. We can anticipate there will be reactions and maybe the Taliban will be forced to backpedal" (Semple). Beyond the academic sphere, the Taliban has also banned Afghan women from returning to work, citing temporary security concerns to justify this decision. So far, all protests against these restrictive policies have faced violent pushback from the Taliban.





Aside from restricting female rights, the Taliban have also worked to limit freedom of speech. As of September 2021, the Taliban Ministry of Information and Culture has issued media “guidelines” that restrict nearly all criticism of the regime. Associate Asia director of the Human Rights Watch, Patricia Gossman remarks, “The Taliban regulations are so sweeping that journalists are self-censoring and fear ending up in prison” (Gossman). Currently, at least 32 Afghan journalists have been taken into custody. While the majority were released with warnings or beatings, there is reportedly one journalist that remains in custody. According to one journalist, “Those who are still operating no longer publish anything critical. They mostly interview Taliban officials. Previously, they were active in criticizing the government” (Human Rights Watch).

At the present, there is limited intervention from the international community, despite the numerous human rights guidelines that the Taliban has violated. The United Nations Human Rights Council has expressed concern over the Taliban’s human rights violations, emphasizing the need for humanitarian aid. They also urged Taliban “to respect the right to liberty of movement and freedom to leave the country”, in response to the Taliban’s ban on Afghans leaving the nation. The UN Human Rights Council also stressed the need for other countries to keep their borders open to Afghan refugees.



Taiwan Tensions Raise Fears of U.S.-China Conflict in Asia

Written by Allison Liu | Layout by Michelle Lee | Edited by Maxine Tseng and Cheney Lee

39 Chinese military aircrafts flew into Taiwan's air defence zone on October 2nd, 2021. The tussle between Taiwan and China has been an ongoing issue, recently elevated to the "worst in 40 years," as Taiwan's Minister of Defense Chiu Kuo-cheng phrased it. China claims sovereignty over Taiwan and vows to "reunify" China, as Xi Jinping stresses that the "reunification of the nation must be realized, and will definitely be realized." The GA4 delegate of China explains: "China will stick to [the] one China policy." China insists that Taiwan is part of its nation, even hinting at its willingness to invade Taiwan in extreme scenarios. In response, Taiwan's president Tsai Ing-Wen has expressed concern over the unstable status quo in the Indo-Pacific region. During her National Day's speech, she asserts that in continuing to "bolster our national defense," Taiwan will demonstrate its determination in maintaining democracy "to ensure that nobody can force Taiwan to take the path China has laid out for us." The differing opinions on Taiwan's status continues to fuel the rising tension. Starting as a regional issue, with each nation taking its own position, the tension has expanded to an international issue, featuring the highly-involved Japan and the United States.

The United States does not recognize the legal status of Taiwan. Although the US and Taiwan maintained an unofficial relationship under the Trump administration, evidenced by the Trump-Tsai call when Democratic Progressive Party won the presidential election. However, the Biden administration turned toward a different policy. Biden's first a hundred days after his inauguration delineates his priority in securing ties with China. On October 5th, Biden reaffirmed the "Taiwan agreement" after meeting with Xi Jinping, officially recognizing Beijing over Taipei. In GA4, the delegate of the United States of America asserts that, based on current situations and the intense political atmosphere, its delegation is unlikely to openly admit alliances with Taiwan. However, he also concludes that this decision is dependent





The geographical position of Japan in East Asia pulls the nation amidst the boiling conflict, as Japan recently shifted its ties with Taiwan. Japan has donated millions of vaccines to Taiwan and held virtual talks to discuss shared security concerns with the unprecedented joint drills, Taiwan and Japan form strong political ties and deterrence against China. Chinese navy vessels have entered Japanese water, and are persistent in further presenting threats and warn-

ings. In an annual Japanese Defence white paper in mid-July, Japan described Taiwan's importance to international security, and expressed its willingness to aid the Taiwanese military if China demonstrates any form of aggression against Taiwan. Japan highlights the urgency of paying close attention to this crisis, strengthening its alliance as tension rises.

The only official recognition of Taiwan is the "Taiwan Policy." As worldwide nations remain vigilant on this issue, the conflict has spurred political alliances between Taiwan and China. The split opinions on such issues makes it uncertain to determine what will occur in the near future, but many experts fear for potential warfare if the tensions don't resolve peacefully.





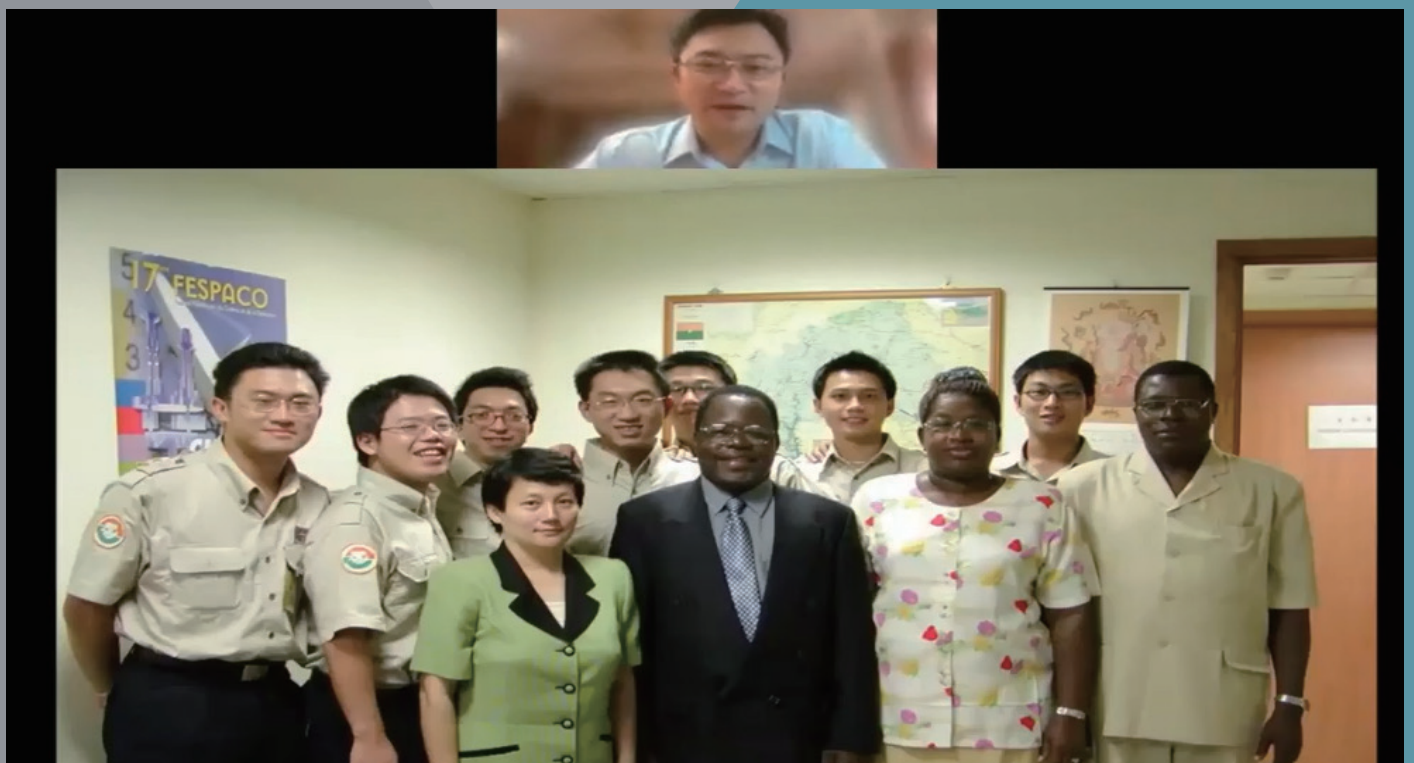
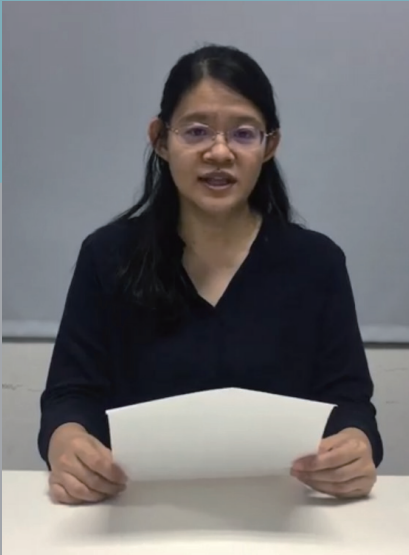
Preparations for Hsinmun XVII

Article by Zoe Liu | Layout by Patricia Hung | Edited by Cheney Lee

The preparations for HSINMUN XVII began in January 2021, ten months before the actual conference. The preparations went as smoothly as previous years, until the second COVID-19 outbreak in May obstructed the flow of preparation. Debating whether or not to cancel the conference out of the worry of hosting a low quality one, the secretariat team figured that “it would be even worse to simply give up when things become difficult,” thus choosing to move the conference online.

After making the conference online, the secretariat team was compelled to change a few aspects of the conference. While people can physically communicate and socialize with each other directly in a physical conference, people may face technical difficulties in an online conference. To minimize such an issue at the conference, the secretariat team tested a few different platforms, including Google Meet, Zoom, and Cisco WebEx, finding Cisco WebEx as the optimal solution due to its accreditation by the Ministry of Education. Moreover, as opening and closing ceremonies will also be hosted online, the team decided to pre-record the ceremonies, including the keynote speech, in order to prevent livestreaming technical difficulties. On another hand, hosting an online conference is much cheaper than hosting a physical conference. This led to a reduction in participant fee, which only includes registration fees and the Cisco WebEx purchase this year.

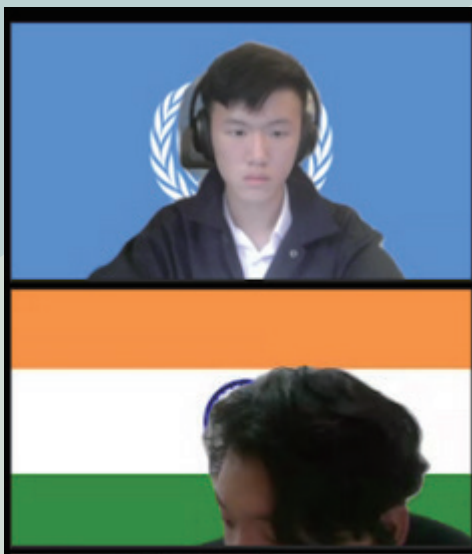
Successfully launching HSINMUN XVII, the secretariat team is impressed with their ability to deal with the sudden changes caused by the COVID-19 hit, and how they brought the HSINMUN experience to all participants despite COVID-19. As this is their first time carrying out an online conference, they also appreciate their team dynamic and specialization, with each member responsible for a certain part of the conference -- Parliamentarian Mollie Cheng manages meeting agendas and overall logistics, Secretary General Ellen Ryoo organizes the Approval Panel and other specialized committees, Press, and monetary affairs, Deputy Secretary General 1 Alex Chen looks over the technology, with Deputy Secretary General 2 James Lee responsible for email responses, and Deputy Secretary General 3 Sophia Zuo handles General Assembly committees and admin staff -- they were able to pull together HSINMUN XVII, providing participants with their best efforts.



GA1 & GA2

Written by: Zoe Liu and Abby Young
Layout by: Anneena Lin
Edited by: Cheney Lee and Patricia Hung

This year, General Assembly 1 has been assigned with the issues (301) Demilitarization and Stabilization of the African Region, and (302) Fostering the Peaceful Development of Outer Space. Victor Kang (PAS, 8) witnessed a debate on Issue (302) between the delegates of the United States and China. While the delegate of the United States argued that the resolution submitted is invalid because it doesn't address anti-satellite weapons as one of the problems, the delegate of China tried to counter the argument by responding that the United States also has anti-satellite weapons. Although the conference is held online, hence encountering some technical difficulties, the delegates have shown their passion in MUN and actively participated in the debates. "I like how the delegates argue with each other on the amendments," said Victoria Jen (PAS, 9), "the delegates are willing to discuss and [contribute] to the resolution in each bloc." Moreover, she mentioned that the committee had a debate regarding whether creating a new organization, as written in the resolution, is necessary. While the submitters of the resolution wish to create a new organization dedicated to this specific issue, some delegates believe that this creation will be redundant. Along with these debates, the delegates communicated their ideas with each other and improved the resolution altogether.



This year's General Assembly 2 is debating on the measures to promote a green global economy (401) and promoting sustainable foreign investment in underdeveloped regions (402). During the opening speech, most delegates seem focused more on talking about the first issue. "The first one seems to be appealing to a lot of delegates, including myself" the delegate of the United Kingdom shares. The expert chair for the first issue also gave detailed feedback per clause, modifying their resolutions before sending them to the Advisory Panel. Elaborating on the lobbying experience, the delegate of Singapore remarks that "the chairs pointed out what specific clause in GA2 cannot be written as it is not a legal committee." This helps her understand to what extent can each committee implement solutions and reminds delegates of the importance of wordings, especially the preambulatory phrases. Delegates highlighted a special moment during debate when an amendment modifying "a single word" was on the floor. The delegate of the UK explains that although it was a one word change, it allows the clause to loosen its restriction. After the first day of the conference, she states that she looks forward to tomorrow, excited to debate on the resolution and amendments of other delegates.

This year, the delegates of GA3 (Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural Committee) are discussing issues (501), ensuring humanitarian conditions in penitentiaries, and (502), methods to increase aid and resource accessibility for those suffering from mental illness. According to the delegate of Japan (Bernado Lin, AAIA), the committee of GA3 was the second fastest committee to pass a resolution. The delegate of Philippines (Julia Cao, NEHS) has also shared her experience: even though she was initially pretty shy, the delegates of GA3 were all kind and helpful throughout the conference. She noted that “I really have to appreciate all chairs, staff, and delegates from Hsinmun. Without their efforts, the conference won’t be this successful and I won’t have had such a wonderful experience either.” The delegate of China (Loren Meehan, KAS) and the delegate of Egypt (Keira Chen, PAS) both agreed that the conference flowed smoothly despite it being held online this year. The delegates also enjoyed being in a conversation “with everyone being represented and active,” having an overall “fruitful conversation” throughout the experience. The delegate of Singapore (Cindy Wu, HAS) also stated that when delegates were discussing their country stances, everyone was able and eager to speak despite the conference being held online. Delegates were all cooperative and helped out each other when needed, the reason for their productive completion of their resolutions in a short amount of time. The delegates of GA3 have shown great teamwork and all believe that the conference has been a great experience so far.

GA3



GA4



The General Assembly 4 is tasked with dealing with regulating the legitimacy of foreign intervention to foster safe and secure election processes (601), and revision of peacekeeping operations in light of corruption and violence (602). According to the delegate of Saudi Arabia, though lobbying was initially chaotic, once the delegates were assigned to each bloc according to their stance on each issue, “the delegates were very eager to begin discussing and merging resolutions,” Co-chair Allison comments. She also highlights some funny moments, like: “the delegate of Germany [asking] for weird numbers of POI (24 POIs or 36 POIs)”. The delegate of Myanmar, as a main submitter, shared his experience interacting with the advisors in the advisory panel. The directors “gave me detailed suggestions, making my resolution more well rounded and understandable,” he adds. As he tackled the issue of securing election processes, the advisors suggested practical solutions to resolve several foreign intervention-related issues. If she would use an adjective to describe this year’s experience of GA4, Allison would describe her committee as “detailed”. She remarks that “they really care about every detail of each resolution. During amendments, they ask constructive questions to really understand each other’s points of view.” These points of views in addition to the amendments being made is what allowed the committee to form and pass comprehensive resolutions.

GAB & ECOSOC

Written by Zoe Liu and Allison Liu | Layout by Nina Liu | Edited by Maxine Tseng, Cheney Lee, and Patricia Hung

General Assembly 6, the Legal committee, is discussing the topics (701) Development of an international framework to address gender and protect the LGBTQIA+ community in a legal context, and (702) Strengthening legal measures to regulate the use of Artificial Intelligence weapons. During lobbying, the chairs divided the committee into two groups based on the issue the delegates prepared for and further separated the delegates into different blocs based on geographical locations. Debating on Issue (701), the committee discussed clauses that seemed to be contradicting other clauses within the resolution. In an attempt to minimize the contradictions, the committee passed a few modifying amendments. Moreover, the committee also debated on the controversy over human rights and religion. While some delegates believe human rights is a part of human nature that has to be protected, some delegates hold that religious belief overrides human rights. Having debated about a few disputes, the committee reached an agreement on the issue and passed the resolution.



During these past two days, the Economic and Social Committee (ECOSOC) is debating on the “Measures to promote affordable housing and address the increase in homelessness” as well as “Countering Trafficking of Children Worldwide”. After putting in countless hours of work to build their resolutions all delegates have been making meaningful arguments. According to Cosmo He, the delegate of Germany, “Almost all delegates have been participating and speaking, [and] amendments have also been very meaningful and helpful.” However, as anticipated, there were some technical difficulties because of the switch to an online conference. In hope for a normal conference next year, He says “I have faced many issues like connection problems and being online takes away from the original experience in person.” Despite the hindrances, Amy Wang, the delegate of Brazil, states that “everything is going much better than I expected, it is going smoothly and everything is working as expected.” Overall, both the delegates and chairs have been working proactively together hard at work striving to construct the best resolution the committee can create. Jaida Dean the President of ECOSOC says that “There hasn’t been just one moment that has been memorable, so far this whole experience has been quite memorable thanks to the amazing delegates in ECOSOC as well as my co-chair, Kai-Hang!”

During the opening ceremony, Dr. Allen Lien mentions the notion of climbers and breaking the rules. In order to bring progress to a multicausal world, one must learn to remain unmoved by internal pressures and respond adequately to external pressures, such as global conflicts. This idea can be reflected by the fast-paced discussion during the Security Council conference. A delegate from the Security Council has to be confidently prepared to comprehend clauses, verifying them with his or her stance, composing amendments, reacting to the house's concerns, and preparing to veto threats. Guan Jhen Wu, the delegate of China, observed the growing problem of human rights violations in the United Nations, which was further complicated in discussions by the unfair SC Permanent 5 veto policy. To prepare for his role in the committee, delegate Guan Jhen exposed himself to The Question of Myanmar, and The Issue of the Insurgency in Cabo Delgado. Furthermore, with the assistance of HSINMUN officers, Alex Chen and Cheng-Yuan Li, the delegate was able to gain a comprehensive understanding of the nuances of China's perplexing stance towards Myanmar's junta. Although the online experience affected the participants' interaction, the success of the conference remains unhindered.



ICJ



HRC

Article by Matthew Lai and David Tang
Layout by Wei Hsi Mar
Edited by Maxine Tseng and Patricia Hung

The committee of the Human Rights Council focuses on addressing topics such as the “pandemic of femicide” in the context of Covid-19 (201), and protecting ethnic minorities and cultural traditions in Eastern and Southern Asia (202). These topics surround the debates over gender equality, under the historical context of cultural norms enforced on women in a degrading and condescending manner. They also dive into issues regarding ethnic minorities that are neglected due to their race or culture. They believe the government involvement and policies are most important to solving these issues, and that rigid laws need to be put in place to ensure justice and hold perpetrators accountable. They believe that these topics are interesting as they both require much cooperation and effort from the delegates. While there were some technical difficulties, the meeting went through smoothly as the delegates were extremely diligent, enthusiastic, and creative regarding the subjects and had fruitful discussions during lobbying.



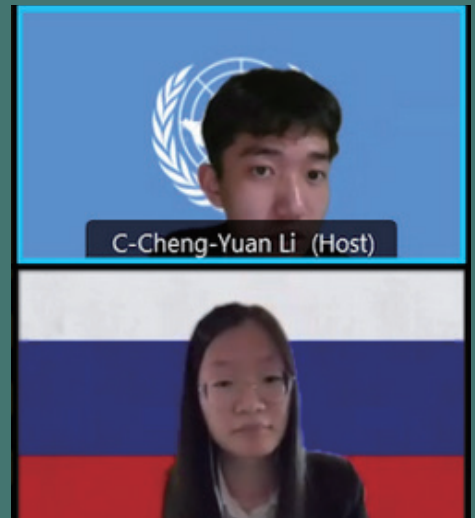
Environment



In the environment committee, the delegates of USA, Singapore, and New Zealand shared their views on what has and continues to make HSINMUN unique and an exciting experience. The delegate of the US explained that she wanted to improve upon her performance from last year, which was not expressed to the best of her ability, while the delegates of Singapore and New Zealand expressed their passion for the MUN experience, a place where discourse over international issues are “hyped” and valued. It’s interesting that they pointed out “maybe making [the conference] online this year makes it easier for people to talk,” and to craft more creative solutions through cooperation from all delegates. The delegates really appreciate the organization and friendly community that has enabled every participant to feel included in HSINMUN, as well as the working team’s effort in reaching out to more schools, encouraging approachable yet serious participation.

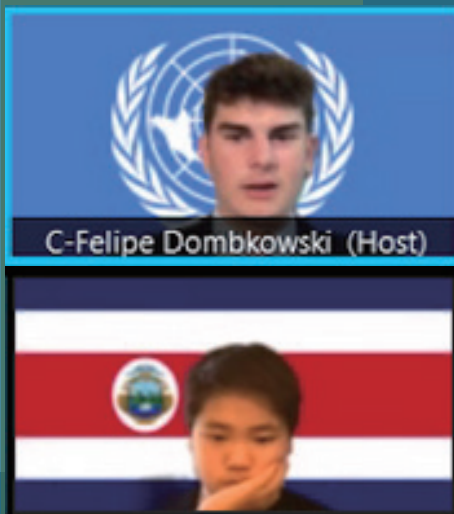
APOQ

In the Advisory Panel, a few topics have been discussed, including the forceful displacement of immigrant refugees and digital surveillance in the 21st century. Both issues are incredibly relevant to this year's theme, multicausality; as the world develops and becomes more interconnected and complicated, so do the issues. The delegates believe that both topics are equally important, as they both affect hundreds of thousands of people around the world. The complications of surveillance capitalism highlights the result of the spread and development of technology, and the issue of forcefully displaced immigration is a hot topic on the list of human rights debates. This year's HSINMUN discussions have proven to influence each member of the committee profoundly, as they begin to experience the conference through a different lens. Despite the new obstacles, the delegates have managed to tolerate different levels of flexibility not achievable in person. This year's conference hopes to broaden the committee's views and understanding of the world, learning how to deal with and respond to difficult and controversial topics, as well as how the APQ procedure works.



UNDP

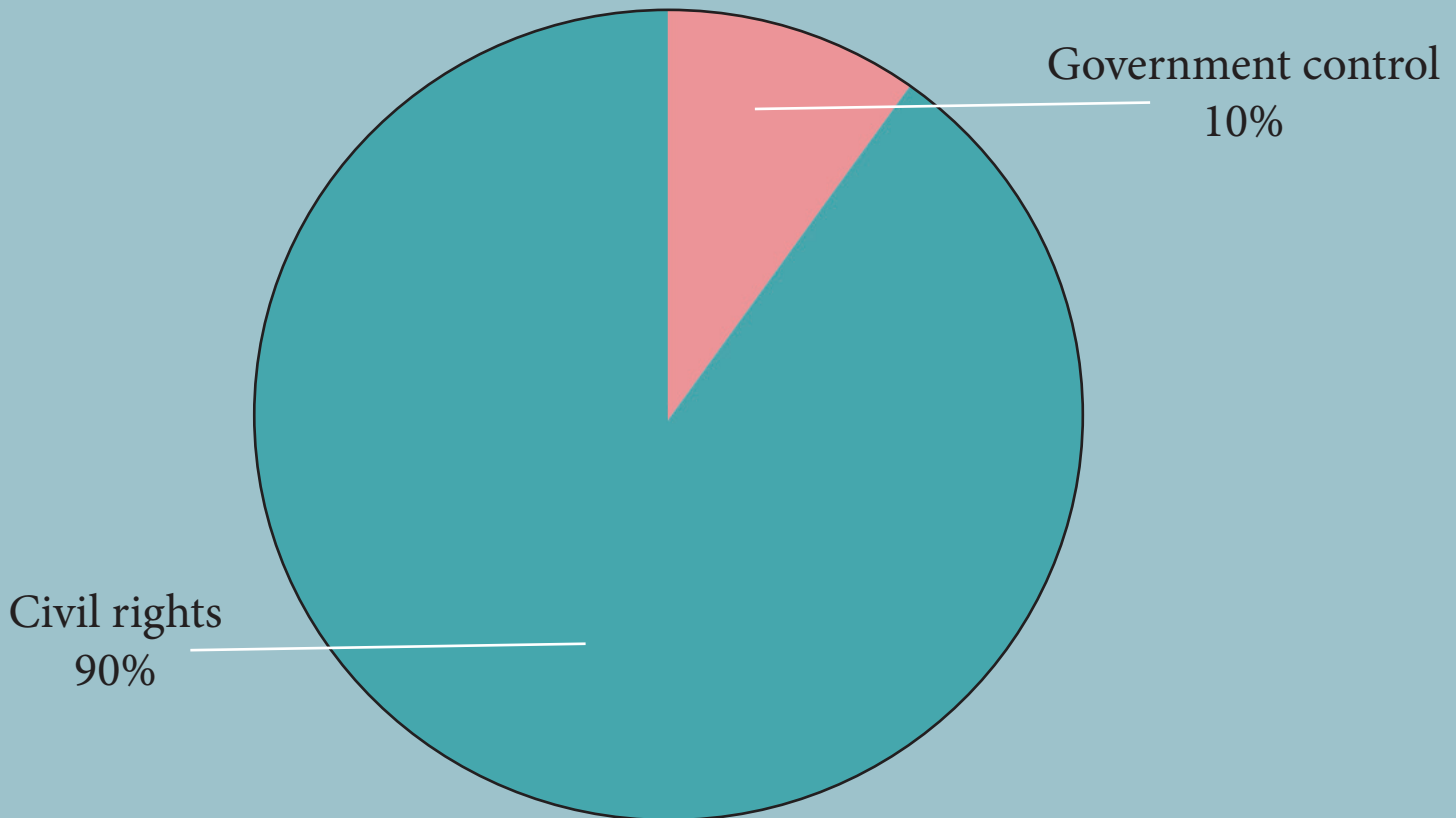
In UNDP, passionate chairs have shared their experience in MUN and HSINMUN specifically. Their committee focused on debating the topics (801) Measures to prevent the stockpiling of medical resources, and (802) Reducing global poverty in accordance with Sustainable Development Goals. Felipe explained his reason for coming back as it was his first chairing experience, whereas Heidi was excited for the high debate quality dedicated to discussing interesting topics that usually happens here. Although the conference is virtual, both chairs hope delegates to be more engaging, collaborative and constructive, to continue stepping out of their comfort zones through this experience. Specifically, Heidi commended the organization and efficiency of this conference despite its transition to an online platform. Felipe also appreciates the "professional yet welcoming environment" HSINMUN XVII has provided, which continues to make its debate competitive and exciting while allowing participants to remain comfortable when attending.



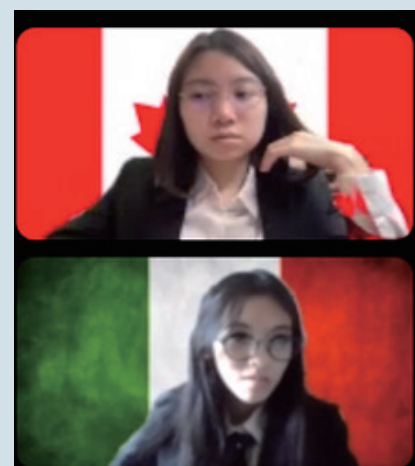
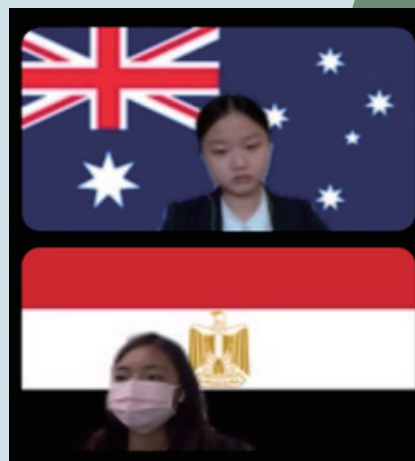
CHAIR POLL

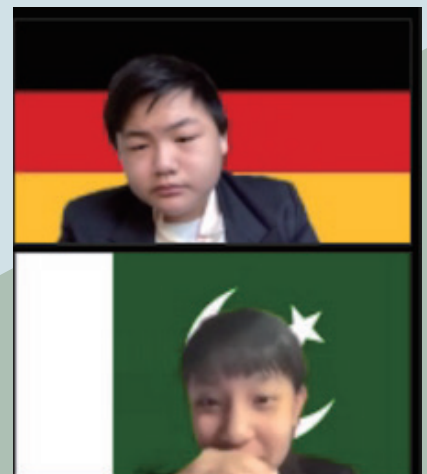
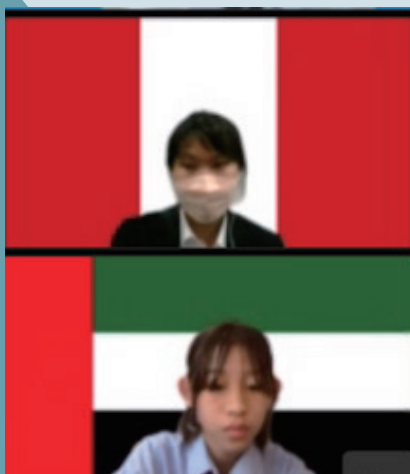
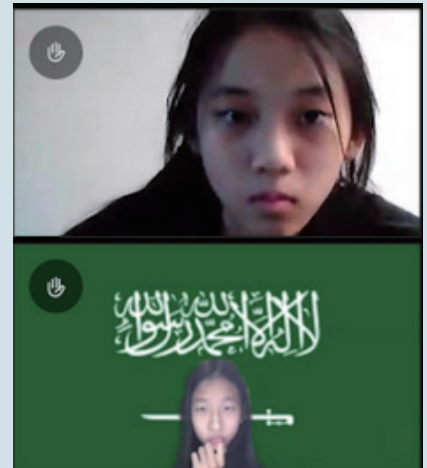
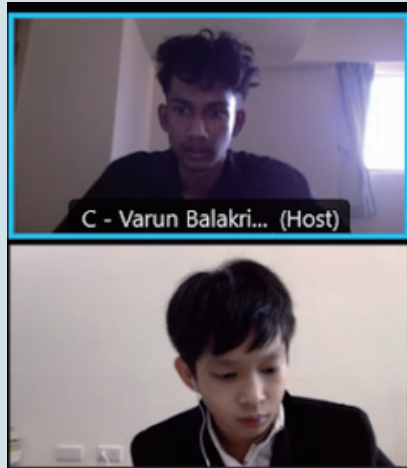
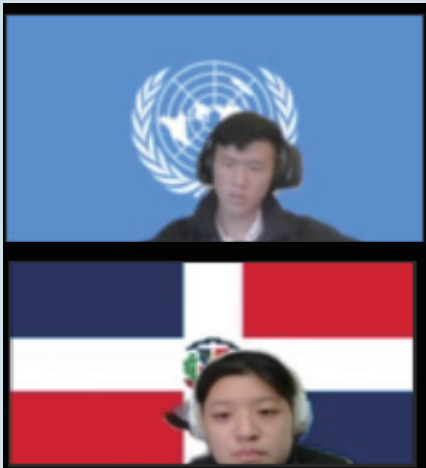
Layout by Wony Yu
Written by Abby Young
Edited by Maxine Tseng and Cheney Lee

Civil Rights or Government Control?



The controversial topic of civil rights versus government control has been further prompted by the worldwide pandemic. When asked if they believed that civil rights or government control was more important, the majority of the chairs voted civil rights to be more imperative. Kai Hang Seow, the Deputy President of ECOSOC, believes that “governmental control could be easily exploited, and violate inalienable rights that everyone should have...[I]n contrast, civil flights are often represented as a voice of...and solely for the interest of the people.” Similarly, Heidi Hsu, the Deputy President of UNDP, claims that “civil rights should be prioritized to represent the people’s voice and carry out democratic ideals.” emphasizing the citizen’s rights to voice their own opinion. On the other hand, Jackie Huang, the Deputy President of the Environment Committee, believes that governmental control is more significant, quoting James Madison, “In framing a government, which is to be administered by men over men, the great difficulty is this: You must first enable the government to control the governed...[then] oblige it to control itself.” Moreover, because of COVID-19 governmental control has been a greatly disputed topic as it plays a crucial role in regulating and containing the virus. However, several individuals transgress against the implemented rules in order to fight for their civil rights even if it might put their health at risk. Therefore, the debate of civil rights versus government control still applies to this day.





MUN

Anecdotes

Written by: Melody Fan | Layout by: Nina Liu | Edited by: Maxine Tseng and Cheney Lee



Jackie Huang

Jackie Huang (Environment) from Pacific American School shared one of her most embarrassing moments in her MUN career. She recalled the time when she had a mock debate where she anxiously staggered towards the podium. After turning around, she was forced to look at the eyes of the delegates in the room. Shakily, she addressed the house and delivered her speech. Although she was nervous, she eventually got through the speech. She commented that when she looks back at the moment, she thinks it is “totally normal for an utter newbie to be intimidated by an audience of experienced delegates.” However, she also understands why she felt scared and embarrassed. She wants to address to all delegates out there panicking about public speaking that they don’t need to worry. It is their “first time trying anything that is most likely going to end badly. When you look back, you will realize that it is worth it and a heartwarming memory to retain.”

Anonymously, one chair shared her most embarrassing moments from the MUN career. Once when the delegate was chairing, the literal table collapsed on top of her and her co-chair. Everything on the table fell onto the floor when the committee was in the middle of an amendment. She stated that she is “fairly sure she lost any respect she had as a chair from her delegates.” She added another fun fact that at that same conference, her water bottle also broke and spilled water everywhere.

Mollie (HSINMUN XVII Parliamentarian) from the International High School of Hsinchu Science Park recalled one of the most embarrassing moments from her MUN career. While heading out to gather with the committee, she had to climb up the stairs, but her shoes were so big that one of them fell off on the staircase. A lot of people were behind her so she held up the line, and she thought it was embarrassing because people had to wait while she put her shoes back on.



Mollie Cheng



Ting Tsai

Ting Tsai (Security Council) from Hsinchu County American School shared multiple experiences in her MUN career. One of her most memorable moments in her MUN career was when she chaired for the first time because she began to see MUN from a different perspective. She has also added her greatest memories from MUN were the ones she made with delegates from all around the world. "Meeting all these people has really made me appreciate MUN conferences much more."

When asked about one of her favorite memories from MUN, Heidi Hsu (UNDP), from the International School of Hsinchu Science Park, recalled her first chairing experience at TAIMUN. She stated that the experience broadened her insight on different topics due to the extensive research and helped shape her into "a better leader who's willing to take initiative." She adds another highlight of this conference, which was the time when she got a free boba milk tea while chairing!



Heidi Hsu

Secretariat's MBTI

Logistician (ISTJ)

- Strategy: Confident Individualism
- Loves merging clauses for his block
- Always coming up with new solutions

Protagonist (ENFJ)

- Strategy: Social Engagement
- lead the discussions during lobbying
- makes emotional speeches

Debater (ENTP)

- Strategy: Problem Solver
- Loves to lead discussions
- Stimulates critical thinking



Protagonist (ENFJ)

- Strategy: Social Engagement
- Open-minded and idealistic
- Construct productive debates
- Care about and where conflict originates from within the resolution.

Protagonist (ENFJ)

- Strategy: Social Engagement
- Loves asking speeches
- Very assertive while debating

MASTHEAD

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