



Welcome to HSINMUN!

As in previous years, International Bilingual School at Hsinchu-Science-Park is ecstatic and honored to host Hsinchu's very own Model United Nations conference—HSINMUN XIX—in October. HSIN-MUN's journey started as a small, local conference, but it has grown to achieve tremendous heights over the years. Not only has HSIN-MUN become a substantial international MUN conference with schools all over Taiwan and even abroad gathering here in Hsinchu, but it has also earned the distinction of being the only conference in all of Taiwan to gain the prestigious THIMUN affiliation. As a THI-MUN-affiliated conference, HSINMUN XIX epitomizes irreproachable quality, which the diligent team behind the scenes has relentlessly strived to uphold in the months leading up to the conference. HSIN-MUN engages all delegates in global affairs dealt with by the United Nations, provides a myriad of opportunities for students to voice their opinions on critical issues, and offers an unparalleled caliber of debate for those attending. This year, committees will be examining and addressing topics concerning the theme—Reaching the Far Ends of the Spectrum: Decreasing the Polarization of Conflict—alongside some of the brightest students in the nation. Participants will engage in dialogue from diverse perspectives, often in opposition, and work towards the common goal of finding a solution that is feasible for all parties. Ultimately, every tick of the clock spent at HSINMUN XIX will contribute to an exhilarating and unforgettable experience.

350+
total attendees

22
schools

Conference





Written by Megan Lu | Layout by Daisie Lee Edited by Celine Chen and Michelle Lee

Introducing

Holding a plethora of experiences spanning various fields is this year's keynote speaker, Mr. Ian Rowen. After graduating from the University of Colorado at Boulder in 2016 with a Ph.D. in Geography, Ian currently serves as an Associate Professor in the Department of Taiwan Culture, Languages, and Literature at the National Taiwan Normal University. Previously, he also served as an Assistant Professor of Sociology, Geography, and Urban Planning at the Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. Rowen has accumulated extensive experience ties all over the world, including those in China, Germany has been invited to talks at respected institutions such as

ban Planning at the Nanyang Technological University,
Singapore. Rowen has accumulated extensive experience from universities all over the world, including those in China, Germany, and Taiwan; he has been invited to talks at respected institutions such as Stanford, Harvard, UC Berkeley, SOAS University of London, and NYU Shanghai. Interestingly, Rowen has also dabbled in other careers, such as being a journalist, musician, tour guide, hotelier, and even an entrepreneur.

Outside of typical university work, Rowen demonstrates his prowess as a text editor and translator due to his impressive language abilities; he is fluent in Chinese and proficient in Bahasa Indonesia. For instance, he was the lead translator of Tibetan Environmentalists in China: The King of Dzi and the editor of Transitions in Taiwan: Stories of the White Terror. In addition, Rowen has participated in translation for films such as Splendid Float and Spider Lilies.

Rowen's book – One China, Many Taiwans: The Geopolitics of Cross-Strait Tourism – was published just recently in January of this year. The book is a great reflection of much of his work, which often discusses the relationship between the People's Republic of China and Taiwan itself. In his newer works, Rowen focuses on global cultural movements such as the Burning Man and Occupy.

Remarkably, Rowen does not only specialize in academics as he is actively engaged in cultural and creative movements, such as the Burning Man. For the past decade, he has served as the International Meta-Regional Representative as well as a China and Taiwan Regional Contact for the Burning Man Project. Rowen has designed art and organized communal events for the project, which aims to create an inclusive but tight-knit community among its members through its 10 principles.

Aligned with the theme of this year's HSINMUN, "Reaching the Far Ends of the Spectrum: Decreasing the Polarization of conflicts," Rowen's work and contributions highlight aspirations to bridge the divides and gaps between diverse cultures and societies, enhancing understanding and empathy between the polarized worlds.

Al Weaponization & the Polarization of Conflicts

Written by Lea Lu | Layout by Ashley Van | Edited by Celine Chen and Michelle Lee



Image of AI created by AI-Source: European Parlaiment

"Artificial intelligence is the future, not only for Russia, but for all humankind. It comes with colossal opportunities, but also threats that are difficult to predict. Whoever becomes the leader in this sphere will become the ruler of the world."

– Russian President Vladimir Putin, 2017.

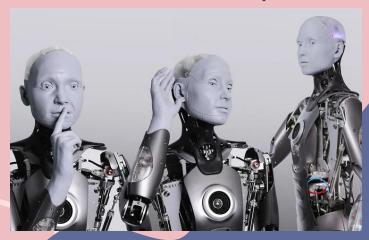
Artificial Intelligence (AI), the ultimate simulation of human intelligence in problem-solving and decision-making, will give its master the ability to survey, control, censor, and suppress. Major forerunners of this arms race include the United States, China, and Russia. Just in the past decade, AI has tapped into almost every industry from finance to healthcare, and the military-industrial complex. AI will soon replace the con-

ventional digital warfare of cyberattacks. It can manipulate, disrupt, and very easily escalate the already polarized divides of mankind, politically, economically, and socially, by exploiting the adversaries' vulnerabilities.

The strengths of this tool revolve around precision and speed, with its strongest domains in autonomous systems, decision-making systems, intelligence gathering, and target identification. AI can enhance strategic military planning by processing and collecting data at a mind-blowing speed. This allows military personnel to invest their time and energy in tasks that require human judgment and creativity. Additionally, AI algorithms identify and track potential targets with higher accuracy than human intelligence; AI can reduce the risk of civilian casualties and significantly increase the efficiency of a nation's military as a whole.

Furthermore, AI's natural language processing has given it the power to manipulate human emotion and extract personal information without ever hacking the user's account. It is not unknown either that powerful governments have control over tech companies that have access to user databases. According to the MIT Technology Review, humans are quite willing to voluntarily share sensitive information and spend long periods of time with AI designed to bond with humans. With this, utilizers of AI can spread misinformation and disinformation to manipulate minds in their favor, especially at a point in

Ameca, a humanoid AI robot Source: Esquire Middle East



time when over half of the world's population uses the internet. Misinformation, disinformation, and manipulation of a population's perception done through AI will become widespread due to its low cost and efficacious nature. Countries will be able to launch these attacks on others; currently, Europe and the United States are ill-equipped in defense.

For the reasons above, countries are pouring millions if not billions of dollars into the advancement of AI. According to Brookings, the Russian government is estimated to spend \$12.5 million annually on AI research, the Chinese government will invest \$150 billion through 2030, and the U.S. Department of Defense alone puts forward \$7.4 billion to developing AI and related fields. To gain a foothold in this arms race will decide the geopolitical dynamics for the decades to come. Unfortunately, an arms race only perpetuates and exacerbates the existing ideological and political division of the world. In no other cases than an arms race do we see so clearly: every man for himself.

So far, there are still many obstacles against the complete weaponization of AI. AI technology heavily relies on the quality and accessibility of the data. Adversaries could manipulate and disrupt AI technology by feeding biased, incongruous, and incorrect information. Experts have also identified that AI systems could struggle to make prudent decisions under unpredicted circumstances, making them dangerous decision makers on the battlefield. Nonetheless, existing global tensions and conflicts guarantee the weaponization of AI somewhere down the line. Nations that avoid the development of AI,especially in defense, can therefore be easily taken advantage of.

The advancement of AI is only accelerating by the month. To fully prepare the world for the weaponization of AI, tech companies, international organizations, and policymakers should collaborate to set in stone standards for AI weapon usage in the prevention of polarization escalation. The weaponization of AI also raises ethical questions that need to be addressed in order to direct the world in the direction of peace and diplomacy. To combat AI manipulation, public awareness and education on critical thinking need to be widespread. Collaboration between nations and organizations is the way forward, to depolarize the divides. To take the opportunity of AI advancement for growth or for a colossal rift will be the greatest decision humankind makes in the 21st century.





Affirmative Action

Written by Rachel Lu Layout by Tara Kelly Edited by Celine Chen and Michelle Lee

Affirmative action, the practice of giving advantages and opportunities to minority groups,

has long been a controversial topic amongst college students and others in the educational field. Supporters of affirmative action argue that it allows students from disadvantaged groups to gain access to opportunities for better education. However, others argue that instead of ensuring equal access to education for all racial groups, affirmative action has made college admissions unfair. By allowing under-qualified students to attend prestigious institutions, other candidates who meet the academic standards of the school could potentially be displaced.

On June 29th, 2023, the Supreme Court ruled against affirmative action in the Students for Fair Admissions (SFFA) v. Harvard and the University of North Carolina (UNC) cases, stating that it violated the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment. The students claimed that they were discriminated against in college admissions due to their Asian American heritage and wanted to ensure that race and ethnicity are not a factor of consideration for acceptance. In a 6-3 decision, the end of affirmative action also marks the end of colleges and universities following the policy in their admissions processes.

The reactions to this decision, much like when affirmative action was still active, are extremely mixed. Most conservatives strongly support the decision, whereas liberals condemn it, stating that affirmative action is key to maintaining diversity within universities. President Joe Biden expressed disappointment over the Court's decision but hoped



that colleges would still consider maintaining racial diversity on campus to be a matter of utmost importance.

The term affirmative action was first coined by President John F. Kennedy in 1961 with the purpose of ending discrimination in hiring as well as expediting racial integration in American society. Since then, the policy has been adapted for college admissions as well, allocating a certain percentage of admission spots for students from racial minorities and other disadvantaged groups. The Supreme Court has historically been ambiguous about the topic of affirmative action; in the 2003 Grutter v. Bollinger case, it only narrowly defended affirmative action. The case challenged the application of the policy in the University of Michigan Law School admissions when a student argued that she had been denied admission because the university granted minority groups priority. This case, however, has been overturned due to the recent rule against affirmative action.

The end of this policy may signal a large-scale change in college racial demographics in the future. Many experts believe that Black, Hispanic, and Native enrollment will drop drastically. Although this is not always the case, these racial groups tend to have lower GPAs, test scores, and less diverse extracurriculars than their White and Asian counterparts. Due to the allotted quota given by affirmative action, students from these minority groups were able to be admitted into prestigious universities even if they were underqualified to do so. However, without affirmative action, opportunities for students of color will likely decrease. Forbes estimates that around 40% to 60% of Black students and 25% to 45% of Hispanic students will no longer be admissible, leading to a drop in campus diversity.

Although views on affirmative action's impact on college admissions remain complex, the policy has undeniably created college campuses that are more diverse than ever. With the recent Supreme Court ruling, however, the polarization between the educational level of students from racial minorities and others may continue to increase. If colleges and universities wish to continue promoting diversity and inclusion on their campuses, they will now need to find another way to do so.



MEET THE

Written by Jenson Huang | Layout by Daisie Lee Edited by Celine Chen and Michelle Lee

Parliamentarian



Cheng-Yuan Li, a senior at IBSH, will be serving as the Parliamentarian for HSIN-MUN XIX. Model United Nations has provided Li with valuable skills and mindsets that have allowed him to broaden his worldview. Furthermore, actively participating in MUN has brought Li in contact with differing worldviews, thus allowing him to develop as a global citizen. Outside of MUN, Li enjoys badminton and the fast-paced, strategic nature of the sport. Music is another one of his passions – he's played the violin since he was young and currently practices with IBSH's outstanding orchestra. Li believes that HSINMUN XIX is a conference made possible by the efforts of not just the Secretariat and Working Team, but also the participants that involve themselves in MUN. As such, Li hopes to see each delegate take part in the conference with a passion for MUN and a desire to look for ways to better the world. Finally, Li would like to encourage all participants to "Have fun! [Even if] Model United Nations may seem dull, or even intimidating, for those who have just started...every conference is filled with people just as passionate about changing the world as you are."

Ethan Skonicki is a senior at IBSH, and he feels very honored to serve as the Secretary General of HSINMUN XIX. Skonicki has gained great friends and memories from Model United Nations, and the most notable experience he has had was being tied up with electrical cords during PASMUN when he served as a witness for the ICJ committee. Additionally, he's gained a new understanding of modern global affairs, which has been invaluable throughout his high school career. Skonicki would like to note that while it may seem daunting to speak out and participate in debate, do not be hesitant to speak out because most delegates in the room are likely to have the exact same feeling. With this in mind, he wishes that delegates will be motivated to engage in fiery debate and superb cooperation. In addition, this year's theme has a special place in Skonicki's heart as he responded with "Cooperation is crucial at a time of radical polarization across the political spectrum. We must learn as people to come together and unite under the common cause to make the world a better place instead of fragmenting amongst ourselves".



Secretary Genera

eretary General



Jeffrey Wan is a senior at IBSH who believes that the saying "work smarter, not harder" embodies who he is as a person. Putting in long hours of work is definitely important, but to Wan, efficiency and productivity are infinitely more important than that. Wan's Model United Nations journey began in seventh grade as an admin at HSINMUN XV. At the time, Wan knew very little about the concept of MUN and was rather confused about the debate procedure. However, over the course of that weekend, Wan became entranced by the intense debate. Now serving as a Deputy Secretary General, Wan believes that HSINMUN XIX is a great opportunity for delegates to meet countless new people and learn to see things from different perspectives. Furthermore, this year's theme holds great significance in Wan's eyes, as he claims that "Peaceful problem-solving is essential in order for a more peaceful future, and this is an idea that we hope to instill in students at HSINMUN this year." Apart from MUN, Wan enjoys the game of basketball, playing the piano, being a member of the percussion section of IBSH's exceptional orchestra, and binge-watching meaningless TV shows.

SECRETARIAT TEAM

Ryoka Goto, a senior at IBSH, hopes to witness a strong display of teamwork at HSINMUN XIX. Goto believes that establishing one's viewpoints on various issues is becoming ever more important in a world that increasingly experiences polarization, yet being able to find common ground despite holding individual perspectives is still of utmost importance. Model United Nations has allowed Goto to enhance her critical thinking skills, and she has developed a methodical process that allows her to deal with the vastness of complex global issues. Even though many issues that delegates may be dealing with are rather serious, some of Goto's most memorable experiences are the silly amendments that delegates send in. Some of Goto's other experiences have taken place outside of MUN, such as visiting art galleries, playing with her cat, and buying books. Finally, Goto would like to motivate all delegates with a brief message: "I know this sounds a little cliche, but don't be scared! I'm definitely a more shy delegate and I know it's intimidating to be standing in front of a room full of people. But, you've done the research and you know your country the best!"



Secretary General

secretary General



As a junior at IBSH, Shannon Yen demonstrates incredible passion and talent for public speaking. When asked about her interests outside of Model United Nations, Yen responded, "Debate, debate, debate, and more debate." Furthermore, Yen has an avid interest in current events and reads the news daily, which has empowered her throughout her MUN journey. Although sometimes Yen did not find doing research to be the most entertaining activity, she still believes that MUN sparked her interest in international relations and politics. Yen believes that this year's theme is an incredible opportunity for delegates to address the challenges faced by people from various regions and nations. Futhermore, the theme highlights the current state of the world, which is marked by increased polarization. As a Deputy Secretary General of HSIN-MUN XIX, Yen hopes to see all delegates making new friends and going out of their comfort zone in debate, and urges everyone to "Have fun and speak out for yourself!"

"Keep your face always toward the sunshine-and shadows will fall behind you" is a saying that Hannah Fu, a junior at IBSH serving as a Deputy Secretary General of HSIN-MUN XIX, lives by. Fu was once the delegate of Qatar, and Qatar's views clashed with those of Denmark. However, through discussion and numerous amendments, they were able to come up with an effective resolution for both countries. Through Model United Nations, Fu has learned how to communicate effectively with other delegates and chairs, a major skill that she has utilized throughout her journey. Fu hopes that all participants at HSINMUN XIX will be able to gain valuable experience either in debating, writing resolutions, chairing, and much more. Hosting such a large conference is no easy task, and Fu hopes there will be fruitful discussions, collaboration, and something to bring back as a result of the Secretariat and Working Team's efforts. Outside of MUN, Fu's hobbies include listening to all kinds of music, skiing, sailing, and crocheting. She is also passionate about mental health and psychology-related topics and is currently taking a few online courses to pursue this particular interest.



Deputy Secretary General

Working Team Layout by A Edited by Celine Chen and M Team Team

Michelle Lee, a senior at the International Bilingual School at Hsinchu Science Park, takes up the responsibility of being the Editor-in-Chief of HSIN-MUN Press. Ever since seventh grade, Lee has participated in MUN through being either a delegate or a press member. Thus, she finds value in leading the press team to success, believing that published conference issues allow delegates to "revisit and relive their cherished memories of HSINMUN." As EIC, Lee needs to handle press deadlines and guide press members whenever assistance is needed; additionally, she communicates with the secretariat team to ensure that deadlines and goals are met. Beyond her dedication towards MUN, Lee has watched Hospital Playlist, a Korean medical drama, five times.



Stater in Chief

Michelle Lee



Wei-Hsi Mar

After being a press member at HSINMUN for two consecutive years, Wei-Hsi Mar, a senior at the International Bilingual School at Hsinchu Science Park, expresses her utmost honor to be serving as co-Editor-in-Chief. Her first experience with MUN began in seventh grade, stationed in committee rooms for admin work; since then, she remained impressed with how "professional, serious, passionate, and humorous" all the delegates were during debate. Since switching to press work, Mar has found incredible value in press, as it is able to "create a physical memory of all the bits and pieces that make up an entirely new and enriching experience," like a first time at a conference. Outside of Mar's MUN commitments, she indulges in scrolling through Instagram reels, a popular pastime for many teens these days. She also enjoys playfully teasing her siblings as well as expressing her inner creativity and expression through art.

Serving as co-Editor-in-Chief is Celine Chen, a current junior at the International Bilingual School at Hsinchu Science Park. Chen has participated in MUN-related activities since seventh grade, and has found a passion for designing spreads and editing articles. Having made the transition from delegate to press recently, Chen finds that the press team "plays a crucial role" in the whole conference by "highlighting key events" and "[showcasing] press members' talents." While accepting a leadership role may be daunting, she emphasizes that communication and collaboration, especially for such a large conference, are the definite keys to success; with proper coordination between all gears, Chen is determined to head a smooth-running conference. Outside of MUN, Chen also enjoys dancing and creating infographics.



Celine Chen

Heidi Yeh, a current junior at the International Bilingual School at Hsinchu Science Park, serves as an administration coordinator. She describes herself as a "voracious bookworm" and a rather "confused and tired" person. Ever since participating in MUN as an unassuming admin and eventually a delegate, Yeh found herself "drawn to helping create life-altering experiences for other like-minded students from all over the country" and eventually worked her way up to serve as the administration head this year. As an admin head, Yeh needs to provide delegates with a safe and comfortable experience at HSINMUN through organizing merchandise and coordinating tasks within the admin team. Without her hard work, the conference as a whole would not be able to function as smoothly.



Heidi Yeh

Deputy Administration Consinctor



Kai-Hang Seow

Kai-Hang Seow, a senior from the International School at Hsinchu Science Park, takes up the role of deputy administration coordinator. As a leader, Seow spends a great chunk of his summer deciding upon HSIN-MUN merchandise and preparing his team members for admin work. Additionally, during the conference, he is responsible for ensuring that committee rooms are all prepared with all necessary equipment. According to Seow, finding suppliers for merchandise has been the most difficult task so far due to "budget and the massive order for all participants." Like many others, he joined MUN at first simply because "all [his friends] joined," but soon became engrossed in how MUN developed his world knowledge and allowed him to become a more confident leader. Aside from MUN,

Shiue-Lang Chin, a senior at the International Bilingual School at Hsinchu Science Park, serves as the IT coordinator this year. In his free time, he loves participating in physical activities such as sports, believing the experience to be extremely refreshing. Having been a tech admin since seventh grade, Chin holds ample experience with MUN and technology used during conferences. Although most conferences seem to run smoothly without fail, Shieu-Lang emphasizes that a lot of background work is needed to ensure a successful conference. For example, the IT team prepares lanyards and placards for delegates and ensures that all technical equipment is functional. In a high-stakes environment, such as being mid-debate, the team also needs to identify all technical problems efficiently and solve them without fail. Despite the heavy weight on his shoulders, Chin seems confident in his own capabilities, calling HSINMUN "the best MUN conference in Taiwan."



Shiue-Lang Chin

Written by Lea Lu | Layout by Ashley Van | Edited by Celine Chen and Michelle Lee



Chair: Kyra Dean (HIS)

With a burning passion for MUN, Kyra Dean, a rising senior from Hsinchu International School, assumes the role as Head Chair of General Assembly 1. Dean displays appreciation towards the intellectual vitality and networking opportunities that HSINMUN offers. She especially holds HSINMUN close to heart, because HSINMUN was the first conference Dean has ever attended. Through Dean's experience in 20 conferences with 10 charings, she admits that the debate experience at HSINMUN is some of the most rewarding she has had throughout her MUN career. With ample experience as Deputy-Secretary General for HIMUN VII last year and Secretary General for HIMUN VIII this year, Dean is more than qualified to assume the role of Head Chair. One valuable lesson she has learned throughout her numerous MUN debates is to "[not] fight the validity of your argument, but to listen and understand the perspectives of others to come to a mutual agreement." Regarding the issues of her committee, she believes that artificial intelligence (AI) can boost a country's security and capabilities to a level never seen before. However, such power requires the international community to set the bounds of AI usage. As for the other issue, she feels the utmost urgency to discuss the political and military developments of the Indo-Pacific region, which she believes dictates her future. To maximize the quality of the debate, she will push delegates to consider all aspects of their solutions by disagreeing with the delegates during lobbying.

Having been to seven conferences, Tongtong Tseng from Ta Hwa High School in Taoyuan is going to be co-chairing General Assembly 1. Tseng's MUN career highlights the potential of MUN to nurture global insights and understanding among young learners. As a passionate delegate and chair throughout her MUN career with unforgettably embarrassing moments on the podium, she believes that support for both delegates and chairs alike encourages them to perform their best. In her opinion, delegates should fully utilize the theme this year for growth by "building bridges [with various parties] and working together towards sustainable solutions[.]" Within GA1, Tseng desires to encourage an open and inclusive environment that inspires freedom of thought and expression, innovation, and exploration. This is especially important because measures to ensure peaceful development within the Indo-Pacific region will determine the territory's economic prosperity for decades to come. "The expansion of the Asia-Pacific region has proved its vital role in the global economic market based on geographical location and massive population. It is an urgent priority to ensure peaceful development within the region to sustain economic prosperity," Tseng comments. When asked to provide advice to aspiring chairs, Tseng encourages them to "take every opportunity to improve [skills such as] effective leadership." She highlights the significance of aspiring chairs utilizing online resources that facilitate the sharing of knowledge and expertise from experienced chairs to hone their skills.



Co-Chair: Tontong Tseng (Ta Hwa)

Written by Lea Lu | Layout by Ashley Van | Edited by Celine Chen and Michelle Lee



Chair: Amy Lin (DIS)

Having attended about 12 conferences and been Deputy-Secretary for DISMUN twice, Amy Lin, representing Dominican International School, will be chairing General Assembly 2 for HSINMUN XIX. As a MUN enthusiast, she has cultivated the skill of quick improvisation, which she believes has helped her succeed beyond Model UN. HSINMUN marks her first conference outside of school, making it incredibly memorable. Reflecting on her previous experience, she comments on the invaluable assistance offered by the chairs. By the second day, her confidence in public speaking had greatly improved, allowing her to answer any and all Point of Information questions. This year at HSINMUN, she will be encouraging delegates to talk to each other in order to overcome the biggest hurdle: delegates approaching each other during lobbying. To her, this year's theme is particularly relevant and urgent. "As polarization becomes increasingly prevalent, it is crucial to recognize the detrimental effects that it can have, hindering progress and exacerbating conflict," Lin comments. When asked about her advice to aspiring chairs, she suggests aspiring chairs to make connections and gather shared advice, often done through interacting with other MUN devotees. Furthermore, she hopes that aspiring chairs can start with smaller conferences, apply to as many conferences as possible, and be fearless in the face of rejection.

Jonathan Huang is a senior from International Bilingual School at Hsinchu Science Park, and it is his utmost pleasure to serve as the cochair of General Assembly 2. Huang started his MUN journey as an admin for HSINMUN, so it feels amazing for him to come full circle and return as a chair in the 4th HSINMUN that he is attending. He praised the HSINMUN Working Team as "astoundingly talented and hard-working." When asked about this year's theme, Huang stated that "I believe this year's theme, 'Reaching the far ends of the spectrum - decreasing the polarization of conflicts, to be something that we should keep on our minds even after the conference. With most of us living fortunate lives, it's important to remind ourselves of those suffering and living in poor conditions. By reaching the far ends of the spectrum, we can close the gap of inequality and be one step closer to global harmony." Additionally, he will be actively providing his thoughts on the issue of "addressing the issue of digital divides and promoting universal access to information and communication technologies," because Huang himself regularly maintains a close grasp on global issues and the digital divide. However, rather than directly providing his thoughts, he will be providing and guiding delegates in GA2 with facts or information that facilitate them in generating innovative solutions.



Co-Chair: Jonathan Huang (IBSH)

Written by Lea Lu | Layout by Ashley Van | Edited by Celine Chen and Michelle Lee



Chair: Weiwei Chao (PAS)

With an impressive record of attending 10 conferences, 5 as a Chair, Weiwei Chao, a senior from Pacific American School and chair of General Assembly 3, have become more attentive than ever towards global issues and the variety of perspectives people around the world possess. Her first HSINMUN conference experience took place online, where she represented one of the P5 nations of the Security Council. She claimed that the debate was especially enjoyable because of the veto power. Subsequently, Chao returned to HSINMUN the next year as a co-chair and found that the conference was highly organized and pleasant. She is excited about this upcoming conference because its theme pushes delegates to strategically evaluate all perspectives to establish common grounds and solutions. She believes that "regardless of our ethnicity, race, or gender,[...] we are [on] the same boat, navigating to reach peace and equality." Her extensive experience regarding climate change in previous chair reports assisted her in the crafting of her current chair report concerning the global water crisis. She was able to provide more complex, comprehensive, and feasible solutions. For the upcoming conference, Chao recommends delegates prioritize collaboration with their peers during lobbying to come up with creative and innovative solutions when addressing the issues in her committee. Moreover, she recommends aspiring chairs to be attentive to every delegate, actively provide support for those in need, and don't panic! To become a better chair, simply asking for guidance and observing other chairs are both helpful.

As a senior studying at International Bilingual School at Hsinchu Science Park, Jessica Kim will take on the role as co-chair of General Assembly 3. Kim was first introduced to the MUN community through HSINMUN and has acquired new knowledge from every HSINMUN conference. This year's conference will mark Kim's tenth MUN conference. Throughout her many conferences, Kim has served a variety of roles, including Delegate, Admin, Photographer, Press Co-Editor in Chief, and Chair this time. She believes that instead of treating MUN as just another public speaking extracurricular, we should see it as a place to strengthen our minds with knowledge on global matters. Growing up in a safe environment, Kim recognizes the privilege she enjoys which enhances her sense of responsibility to be aware of the struggles that people from different backgrounds face. For her, it is crucial for us to understand and mitigate the crises people in Yemen have been facing for over a decade. At this conference, she strives to broaden delegates' perspectives and ideas as the co-chair of GA2 in order to facilitate delegates in thinking creatively for innovative solutions.



Co-Chair: Jessica Kim (IBSH)

Written by Lea Lu | Layout by Ashley Van | Edited by Celine Chen and Michelle Lee



Chair: Miya Kao (TAS)

Having held a variety of positions including Delegate, Advocate, Chair, Mentor, and Deputy-Secretary General throughout her MUN career, Miya Kao, from Taipei American School is excited to return to HSIN-MUN this year as the Chair of General Assembly 4. Last year at HSIN-MUN, Kao was an Advocate in the International Court of Justice. Kao comments that this year's theme is an integral part of GA4. She points out: "With ethnic conflicts due to colonial history, we must consider how different factors such as geography, economics, and religion can influence the scale of the issue. Furthermore[,] this entices questions surrounding the hypocrisy of western nations and the same imperialist values that fuel their involvement in 'decolonization." Kao expressed her fondness towards GA4, ranking it as one of her favorite committees along with the Security Council. Kao is also a philosophy enthusiast, especially concerning ethics and laws and colonial decisions, making her especially fit as the chair of this committee. When asked about her advice to aspiring chairs, she stated that the chair application process can be frustrating because it seems that experienced chairs have the higher ground. To increase one's chances, she suggested building a good reputation and networking in one's own school's club and at conferences.

Jim Wang, a senior at Hsinchu County American School, serves as the co-chair of General Assembly 4. One valuable insight Wang has learned throughout his MUN career is that "there is no such thing as a bad opinion." His MUN journey started as early as seventh grade, though he really gained momentum after a brief period of rest, self-reflection, and participating in conferences whenever he was available. Wang has made many friends from HSINMUN whom he still meets regularly. The vibrant atmosphere and the amazing people are two aspects of HSIN-MUN that he continues to contribute to. In GA4, he will ensure that there is a positive atmosphere where delegates can present novel ideas comfortably. Wang is quite fond of the theme this year. He comments that this year's theme "reminds us that conflict is rarely the result of a single person, ethnicity, or belief." Moreover, as Wang has experienced life in foreign cultures, he has much to share in the discussion on Rohingya migrants. Lastly, he recommends aspiring chairs to start by "assisting other delegates and tending to the needs of the debate," as it greatly facilitates his development as a chair when he practices with his peers in the MUN Club at school. As for research and drafting chair reports, he suggests browsing the UN digital library as there are many official resolutions and documents on virtually every topic one can come across.



Co- Chair: Jim Wang (HCAS)

Written by Rachel Lu | Layout by Ashley Van | Edited by Celine Chen and Michelle Lee



Chair: Aurora Huang (PAS)

This year's HSINMUN XIX General Assembly 6 will be led by Aurora Huang, a junior at Pacific American School. Her journey in the world of MUN began when she was first introduced to the MUN class offered at her school. As she began joining various conferences and in-class debates, she gained more knowledge about the world of MUN and thus became more confident. She chose to chair this committee largely due to her interest in the topics, as they are both controversial issues revolving around human rights. Therefore, they are likely to generate lively debates and intense back-and-forth exchanges. On especially controversial issues like free speech and terrorism, the debates are sure to be even more interesting. As a chair, Huang believes that her most important duty is to encourage delegates to push themselves out of their comfort zones and get the most out of each and every conference. For HSINMUN XIX, she would also like to encourage the delegates in GA6 to take risks and put themselves on the spot. While newer delegates may find impromptu speaking to be intimidating, Huang assures them that the "improved improv skills" they gain from the experience will be worth it in the long run.

Amy Wang, a junior at the International Bilingual School of Hsinchu, is the deputy chair for the HSINMUN XIX General Assembly 6 committee. In her free time, she enjoys reading and watching romcoms, as well as playing with her pet rabbit. This conference will be her seventh one and marks her first one as a chair. Much like her co-chair, Wang chose to chair GA6 because of the urgent topics that the committee will be discussing, such as the regulation of social media and international terrorism that have countless solutions, giving the delegates ample freedom on the outcome of the final resolution. Wang especially enjoyed writing her chair report on handling and eliminating crimes against humanity, as it "scoured the legal aspects of international politics" while also bringing into attention the "pivotal responsibility" of governments to take measures to protect their citizens against major threats. Because the committee is debating on such relevant topics that affect so many people all across the world, Wang is excited to see what ideas the delegates will propose. For delegates of GA6, she encourages them to always be open-minded to new possibilities and ideas when debating and to be unafraid to ask any questions they have about the topics, the committee, or the procedure.



Co- Chair: Amy Wang (IBSH)

ECOSOG

Written by Rachel Lu | Layout by Daisie Lee | Edited by Celine Chen and Michelle Lee



President: Joseph Wang (HCAS)

HSINMUN XIX's Economic and Social Committee will be chaired by Joseph Wang, a senior at Hsinchu County American School. During his leisure time, Wang enjoys watching movies. However, he has recently been preoccupied with academic demands from tests and college essays. Wang's passionate concerns towards the international economy and environment motivated him to chair ECOSOC, especially since the committee specifically addresses issues related to environment. Additionally, ECOSOC holds a rather special significance for Wang, as it was the committee that first introduced him to the world of MUN. MUN has allowed Wang to "develop a broader understanding of world concerns" through participating in various debates through different viewpoints. MUN conferences provided him with a lot of exciting experience, and he believes that working with "like-minded colleagues" not only allows delegates to develop strong friendships but also learn more about international diplomacy. For delegates of ECOSOC in HSINMUN XIX, Wang urges them to promote meaningful conversations and cooperate to find solutions to issues around the world. He hopes to provide a welcoming environment that encourages fruitful debates and allows all delegates to have worthwhile experiences that they can then draw from in future conferences.

Cosmo He, a sophomore at International Bilingual School at Hsinchu Science Park, will also be leading ECOSOC. Whenever he has free time, he enjoys scrolling on his phone, playing badminton, eating, and "definitely writing chair reports." Similar to his co-chair, He chose to chair ECOSOC because it was the first committee that he ever attended as a new, inexperienced delegate. His MUN journey started in seventh grade as an admin, and HSINMUN XIX will be his eighth conference, as well as his first chairing experience. His favorite part of attending MUN conferences is when well-supported, well-argued controversial ideas appear during discussions, as these controversial ideas are able to shed light on completely new perspectives for the resolution and fellow delegates. He believes that the core of MUN is constructive debate, and urges delegates to actively participate in speaking during the conference. For first-timers, He encourages them to speak up even if they may be in doubt of their ideas or intimidated by the complex procedures, as many others will also be experiencing their first ever conference. Instead, it is much more important to simply enjoy the experience and learn about the "true excitement and camaraderie that successful MUN debate brings."



Dep. President: Cosmo He (IBSH)



Dep. President: Kingston Chang (KCIS)

A senior from Kang Chiao International School, Kingston Chang will be chairing ECOSOC along with Wang and He. During his leisure time, Chang indulges in reading, cooking, and weightlifting, while having to balance his preparation for college applications. Chang first started his MUN journey in 9th grade and has since then fallen in love with the world of MUN. He enjoys observing people negotiate which allows both parties to reach a mutually beneficial solution as well as actively participating in debates himself. For this year's HSINMUN, Chang wishes to be able to aspire new delegates into enjoying debating as much as he does, leaving them captivated by the experience of MUN before he leaves for college. His favorite part about the conferences is meeting new people from various different cultures and schools and being able to befriend them. To the delegates in HSINMUN XIX'S ECOSOC, Chang encourages them to reach out if they have any questions, and not to be nervous about the upcoming conference, even if it's their first time. The chairs will do their best to make the new delegates feel comfortable with the complicated procedures and rigorous debates.



Written by Rachel Lu | Layout by Daisie Lee | Edited by Celine Chen and Michelle Lee



President: Hugo Chiang (AAIA)

A senior at Asia American International Academy, Hugo Chiang will be leading the Security Council in HSINMUN XIX as President. In his spare time, he enjoys playing basketball, cooking, sleeping, and listening to music. Having both participated four times as a delegate and chaired SC four times, Chiang holds a special fondness for the committee. One of his favorite things about the committee is how the debates occurring can sometimes be extremely intense, as it involves real-life situations that require practical, implementable solutions in order to be solved. Many of these situations are very sensitive in nature as well, requiring delegates and chairs alike to carefully consider every possible angle before finally deciding on a solution. Because of the intense nature of SC, Chiang wishes to make every delegate comfortable with the committee environment so that they are confident enough to speak up, even if they are first-timers or particularly shy. Although the SC procedure may take some time to get used to, as it is quite different from standard committee procedures, he hopes that everyone will come to enjoy participating in the debates and gain memorable experiences from this conference.

Coral Hazeldine, a junior at Hsinchu International School, will be chairing HSINMUN XIX's Security Council alongside Hugo. Her MUN experience has largely consisted of participating in the Security Council, largely due to the "intense and controversial debate style." One of her goals in this year's HSINMUN is to gain more confidence and knowledge about chairing, as this is only her second official chairing position. Much like her co-chair, most of Hazeldine's MUN experience has concerned the Security Council, which is why she naturally chose this committee when presented with a chairing opportunity. Although the nature of SC and its complex procedures may seem daunting for delegates unfamiliar with them, Hazeldine assures them that the challenge is "super worth it." She strongly recommends trying out the Security Council for delegates who wish to challenge themselves; they may even find themselves loving the committee just as much as she does. For delegates who do not have as much experience with SC, they are welcome to ask questions at any time. Hazeldine hopes that the delegates in this year's SC committee will learn a lot from the experience, and get the chance to make new friends from different schools in the MUN world!



Dep. President: Coral Hazeldine (HIS)

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Written by Rachel Lu | Layout by Daisie Lee | Edited by Celine Chen and Michelle Lee



President: Cherry Chiu (IBST)

Cherry Chiu, a junior from the International Bilingual School at Tainan Science Park, will be the President of this year's International Court of Justice (ICJ) at HSINMUN XIX. In her free time, she enjoys reading Agatha Christie's detective novels, playing the clarinet, and of course, participating in MUN and debate. Unlike other MUN committees, where delegates strive to work together to achieve a peaceful resolution and take part in diplomatic discussions and compromises, the International Court of Justice committee adopts a more debate-like format, characterized by intense discussion and harsh procedures. Advocates aim to persuade judges to sympathize and vote for their side using witnesses and statistics. This unique format is also what led to Chiu's strong passion for ICJ, as she loves observing court hearings, hearing the advocates argue passionately for their positions, and watching the witnesses withstand fierce questioning from both advocates and judges. She wishes for all participating in ICJ this year to know that "MUN is not just dress-up"; it is also a great way for one to become global citizens. For the upcoming HSINMUN XIX, Chiu wishes to inspire advocates and judges to find their own places in the MUN world and gain confidence about their skills through the experience of ICJ.

Natasha Lee, a junior at Pacific American School, will also be leading the International Court of Justice as Deputy President alongside Chiu. Outside of her MUN commitments, Lee shares similar interests with her co-president, including a love for reading, watching detective shows such as Criminal Minds, as well as spending quality time with friends. Having discovered the committee in her freshman year, Lee has developed a profound appreciation towards this unique committee and especially enjoys the heated debates that often occur between opposing sides. HSINMUN was the first conference she attended, and she recalls being an inexperienced eighth grader who had no prior knowledge of MUN procedures. However, as she gained more practice and attended more conferences, Lee started to gain more confidence and eventually "found a love for intense debates and learning about new topics." For the HSINMUN XIX conference, Natasha urges participants to try their best regardless of their familiarity with the complicated ICJ procedure, and for newer, less experienced participants to ask for assistance whenever needed. Having personally felt the hopelessness that a lack of knowledge could bring about, Lee understands the frustration and wishes for others to have an easier time adjusting to the ICJ experience.



Dep. President: Natasha Lee (PAS)



Written by Megan Lu | Layout by Daisie Lee | Edited by Wei-Hsi Mar and Michelle Lee



President: Tammy Hsu (AAIA)

Tammy Hsu, a junior at Asia American International Academy, coins HSINMUN as the "kick-start of the MUN season every school year," giving both returning and new delegates an opportunity to reconnect with friends and accumulate valuable experiences for the year to come. As a veteran MUN-er with 6 chairing experiences and counting, Hsu first started off as a press member in 6th grade and gradually climbed the ranks to become a student leader. Resonating with HSINMUN's theme, she hopes that delegates will help curtail the polarization of conflicts through "[reaching] levels of consensus" and keeping opposing clashes to a minimum. Particularly, Hsu emphasizes the importance of HRC's issues, noting that female participation in politics and the refugee crisis are both topics that need to be addressed to prevent further polarization. By discussing meaningful issues and helping delegates out of their shells, Hsu finds the chairing role to be incredibly rewarding. Aside from MUN, Hsu indulges in various sports (volleyball and tennis) and takes part in directing a non-profit organization, Fridays for Future Taiwan (FFF Taiwan), which actively promotes climate activism through raising awareness. So far, the organization has successfully hosted a climate protest in front of a governmental building with over 200 attendees.

Celine Shih, a junior at American School in Taichung, enters her second chairing experience at this year's HSINMUN. Having participated in MUN since 8th grade, Shih has come full circle as HSINMUN was her first ever conference as a new delegate. Back then, she was afraid of speaking up as a delegate, barely able to go up to the podium to share her ideas; however, after attending multiple conferences, Shih gained leadership and speaking abilities that helped her grow into who she is today. On that note, she hopes that new delegates will be able to "tackle each conference" and "move further down the road," gaining skills that will aid them in future experiences as well. Shih adds that while addressing polarizing issues, delegates must ensure open communication in order to prevent detrimental setbacks between parties. If delegates refuse to communicate, Shih believes that there will be a "negative cycle" that prevents progress. With humanitarian issues that address the lack of representation for women and refugees, Shih encourages delegates, even those with opposing views, to consider cooperation as a priority, preventing further strife between those at the ends of the spectrum. Outside of MUN, Shih enjoys listening to Taylor Swift, reading, writing, watching dramas, and playing volleyball.



Dep. President: Celine Shih (AST)

EMI

Written by Megan Lu | Layout by Tara kelly | Edited by Wei-Hsi Mar and Michelle Lee



President: Yebin Kim (HIS)

Yebin Kim, a senior at Hsinchu International School, began her MUN journey as a middle schooler. Like many others, she was inexperienced at first, but eventually was able to become familiar with MUN procedures and become a student leader. This year's HSINMUN will be Kim's seventh conference and her third time chairing. According to Kim, MUN allows delegates to not only "broaden their knowledge about history" but also gain awareness about global issues, which may lead some delegates to occupy student leadership positions in the future. Especially in a world with "endless polarization," Kim believes that it is crucial for delegates to employ strategies such as "improvement in communication channels and establishment of forums, increase in understanding of [polarizing] sides, and strengthening the non-polarized party for mediation" in order to fully navigate the world's opposite spectrums. Attempting to decrease polarization for issues such as ocean acidification may be daunting to new delegates; however, Kim reassures new participants that she was once in their shoes, saying that "first is always the hardest!" She reminds them to have confidence in themselves and not be afraid to ask for her help if needed. In her free time, Kim loves binge-watching Netflix, reading webtoons, and visiting various cat cafes with her friends.

Emily Lien, a rising freshman at I-Shou International School, serves as the deputy president of her school's MUN club. In addition to being active in past conferences, Lien has participated in 9 conferences since sixth grade; this year's HSINMUN marks her first chairing experience. Since the environment committee is one specialized for middle school delegates (who are typically quite new to MUN), Lien realizes that some delegates may be afraid to approach public speaking, and may shy away from going up to the podium. However, she believes that delegates will eventually "adapt to the intense atmosphere while also enjoying [themselves] in debate sessions." Further, she believes that MUN is not only a place to practice debating and public speaking, but is also one that allows delegates to discover and form new friendships along the way. In line with this year's conference theme, the environment committee tackles two issues that Lien believes are "the world's most current and significant issues that require immediate attention from member states"; without opposing sides coming to a proper consensus, environmental damage done by corporations and ocean pollution will continue without deescalation. As a final note, Lien welcomes new delegates to contact her if they have any worries, and remember to enjoy themselves in MUN sessions.



Dep. President: Emily Lien (IIS)

UNDP

Written by Jenson Huang | Layout by Tara kelly | Edited by Wei-Hsi Mar and Michelle Lee



President: Arthur Chen (DIS)

Arthur Chen is a rising junior from Dominican International School, and it is his utmost pleasure and honor to serve as the president of this year's UNDP committee. Given that Chen started his Model United Nations journey as a quiet delegate in seventh grade, he is glad to now be the one assisting other shy delegates who are reminiscent of himself four years ago. To Chen, MUN is not just a place to practice debate with other students, but a forum for the future leaders of the world to discuss critical global issues, share new ideas, and raise awareness of the problems in the world. At a conference, what Chen truly cherishes are the small moments: the speeches made by the quietest first-timers, and, of course, the chair dare at the end of each conference. Regarding the UNDP, Chen believes that the issues debated in this committee are probably the most relevant in the modern age, as delegates must cooperate and think of solutions for issues that have troubled many policy-makers for decades in order to further the development of the world. Besides MUN, Chen also enjoys playing video games, lying in bed on cold days, and playing volleyball. He hopes that MUN will not be just a debate activity, but a community where all can make friends with like-minded individuals.

Winston Chiu, the Deputy President of the UNDP, is a sophomore attending Taipei American School. To him, "The United Nations Development Programme is the UN's lead international development facilitator. Here, progress for the 17 SDGs are discussed, stable governing systems are created, and poverty is reduced. UNDP does so by connecting member states to resources they need, and ensures that solutions can last long without causing any future repercussions. Instead of deciding on treaties between major powers, UNDP fosters communication between small marginalized countries and the organizations that can help them. In today's world, UNDP is a platform where progress is constantly made." In Chiu's opinion, this year's theme strongly illustrates how only through finding common ground can the international community reverse some damage, although there will always be lingering damage. Chiu started his Model United Nations journey in seventh grade, He gradually came to love MUN as both a hobby and an academic pursuit as it helped him learn skills such as research, diplomacy, and leadership. Personally, Chiu finds it interesting how every committee eventually settles into a rhythm, despite any initial obstacles. Chiu is confident that every delegate will be involved in and understand any aspect of debate, however minuscule. Outside of MUN, Chiu likes badminton, reading, and gaming, while also being an environmental activist. He urges all delegates to not hesitate when reaching out to him.



Dep. President: Winston Chiu (TAS)

APQ

Written by Jenson Huang | Layout by Tara kelly | Edited by Wei-Hsi Mar and Michelle Lee



President: Sophia Wu (AAIA)

Sophia Wu is a senior at the Asia American International Academy, and she is honored to serve as the President of the Advisory Panel. MUN has given Wu the skills to look at issues from different perspectives. Through her experiences, Wu has been able to understand the decisions of each country and the reasoning behind them. Furthermore, Wu has developed an ability to think on her feet, which has been helpful in MUN, classes, and sports competitions. Recalling one of her most memorable experiences, she tells of playing pictionary and charades in the extra time during lobbying to ease the nervous tension between delegates. The games helped the delegates become more relaxed and willing to be aggressive and enthusiastic during their debates. Regarding the significance of this year's theme, Wu states, "I think one of the barriers of reaching an agreement in the present day is that many people believe that their opinion has to be at the end of the spectrum. This polarization makes it difficult for compromises to be made. Extreme decisions divide people and prevent them from working together...The theme is an important reminder to delegates that their countries' opinions aren't always on the opposite of the spectrum." Outside of MUN, Wu's other hobbies include playing volleyball, running, watching true crime documentaries, reading, and playing with her dog.

Yichia Lee, the Deputy President of the Advisory Panel, is a junior at the International Bilingual School at Hsinchu Science Park. The most apparent trait Lee has learned and fostered through MUN is her burning passion and what she brings to the table, but not to the point of being conceited. One of Lee's most memorable MUN experiences was angering an entire committee by objecting to a motion to move to the previous question on the very last resolution because she wanted to give a proper and flaming "against speech." Despite the entire committee whining about the shortening of their networking time, this experience was a great addition to the discussion at hand and redirected the focus of the committee upon the issue. One thing Lee is confident about is her ability to defend herself and her own values logically. When asked about the significance of the APQ committee, Lee responded, "The Advisory Panel, being a pretty special committee, is one of great importance to the UN's goal as well as the interests of the Security Council. What I find so unique about APQ is that it, true to its name, was established to aid the UNSC in resolutions and other solutions to issues." Finally, Lee would like to remind all delegates that through constant practice and attendance of MUN conferences, they will slowly be able to shed a once-shy demeanor while learning to embrace public speaking.



Dep. President: Yichia Lee (IBSH)

Dear Reader.

Welcome to HSINMUN XIX everyone! We are absolutely thrilled to see how everyone has come together to engage in constructive dialogue in order to produce potential diplomatic solutions to some of the world's most challenging issues. Whether you are a delegate, student officer, advisor, or member of the press and administrative team, we hope that this conference will not only broaden your understanding of the present world but also allow you to form new friendships to create some everlasting memories.

Since the beginning of summer break, our dedicated press team has spent numerous hours hard at work to present this Pre-Conference issue to you. In this issue, we aim to introduce several individuals who made HSINMUN possible, including our beloved secretariat team, working team, and student officers. However, we are just as delighted to meet everyone who is attending HSINMUN. Additionally, we are thrilled to share about our keynote speaker this year Mr. Ian Rowen. His diverse experience spans various fields, making him a truly remarkable individual!

As the school year begins, we hope that all participants use this opportunity to not only grow their global perspective but also use this conference to overcome their fear of public speaking. During our time together at this conference, we, the press team, hope to capture and commemorate your memories at this conference through three separate issues: Pre-Conference issue, Conference issue, and Post-Conference issue. The opening ceremony signals the beginning of HSINMUN XIX and the release of our Pre-Conference issue. As you are reading this, the press team will be diligently working on our second one, the Conference Issue, which will provide comprehensive coverage of exciting events that allow one to form everlasting memories. By the time our Post-Conference issue is ready for publication, we will have captured the essence of this HSINMUN conference through passionate debates and bonding from the participants. Furthermore, when our hard-working members of the press team visit your committee rooms, please welcome them and appreciate their hard work.

Collectively, alongside the diverse array of participants in HSINMUN XIX, we are confident that this conference will be an unforgettable experience for all!

Sincerely.

Michelle Lee, Wei-Hsi Mar, and Celine Chen Editor-in-Chief and Co-Editors-in-Chief









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