



Cognizance

"The first step towards change is awareness"

-Nathaniel Branden



Model United Nations



Model United Nations is an academic simulation of the United Nations that aims to educate participants about civics, understand the inner functioning of the UN and multilateral diplomacy, develop skills of effective communication, and instill people to think globally. The MUN simulates a pattern similar to that of the UN where students take on roles as delegates of their respective countries. Like the UN, MUN consists of various committees like the General Assembly (GA), the Security Council (SC), the Human Rights Council (HRC), and the Economics and Social Council (ECOSOC). Goals are set for the year and countries work together to surface amiable solutions which are hypothetical, but if ever implemented could create a great difference (the very thought of it gladdens us). The MUN thus gives students the power to transform the world.

The students as delegates of various countries are expected to be aware of the foreign policies of the assigned country, know about the political history of the problem, statements and speeches given by leaders of that country, know the current position of the country and its allies, analyze and debate on issues pertaining to the problem, prepare draft resolutions and then vote on them.

The MUN also helps the students realize what it takes, to come up with solutions to world problems. The delegates are expected to strictly follow the code of conduct laid out by the UN. They are expected to maintain decorum and treat others with respect, courtesy and dignity. They are expected to address other delegates by the country they represent and not by their real names. I'm sure most of us have dreamt of that perfect world, devoid of all the problems-be it illiteracy, poverty or terrorism. The MUN gives us students the opportunity to take a step beyond. MUN helps mould the students into more responsible and aware global citizens having a great vision. It provides a great platform to students to express their opinions on world issues.

AIMUN- Ahmedabad International Model United Nations, Oct 2009.



Ahmedabad International School has been organizing the AIMUN (Ahmedabad International Model United Nations) for past two years now, each time proving to be an unforgettable learning experience. The third annual AIMUN (5th and 6th Oct 2009), as many say, was exceptional. It was an excellent opportunity for the students of AIS to develop skills which are vital for life. AIMUN which is driven by the motto, "It takes a world of differences to make a different world", helped them build up on skills of debating, communication, quick and critical thinking, negotiating, and resolving conflicts peacefully. It gave students an opportunity to leave behind their own identities and step into the shoes of diplomats, dealing with real world problems and coming up with possible solutions. This time along with AIS, we had four other schools participating in the event- Mahatma Gandhi International School, Navrachna International School, Delhi Public School, and the Galaxy International School who participated very enthusiastically. All agreed that this event helped them open up their minds to the world and gave them an experience of a lifetime.



The Committees

The committees worked towards numerous goals. They dealt with the issues of terrorism, volatile oil prices, ways to increase use of renewable resources, anti-terror laws affecting human rights, and many more....

Before moving on to what happened during the two days, let us introduce you to the different committees and the issues they dealt with.

The General Assembly-1

It is the chief deliberative body of MUN

Chair- Poojan Parikh

Vice-Chair- Prit Patel

Topic-1-Volatility in oil prices- deals with the different methods of how to alleviate oil price volatility.

Topic-2-Territorial question over Kashmir- asks for different views on how the ownership of Kashmir should be divided and dealt upon.

The General Assembly-2

Chair- Jwalin Patel

Vice-Chair- Kavin Mehta

Topic-1- Polarization of nuclear power- asks for different views on nuclear power.

Topic-2- Measures to increase the cost-effectiveness of renewable resources of energy and technology to reduce environmental degradation.

Security Council

In charge of maintenance of universal peace and security issues

Chair- Bansari Kamdar

Vice-Chair- Aashna Kothari

Topic-1- Energy crisis as a threat to security- deals with the escalating use of non-renewable resources and searches for alternative forms of energy.

Topic-2- Cross-border terrorism between India and Pakistan- debates upon the raging conflict between India and Pakistan since past many years.

Economics and Social Council

It promotes international economic and social co-operation and progress.

Chair- Bansi Vavadia

Vice-Chair- Anokhi Shah

Topic-1- The implementation of environment friendly strategies during disaster response and risk reduction.

Topic-2- Technical assistance for implementing the intervention, conventions and protocols related to terrorism

Human Rights Council

It is a body set up to investigate and protect human rights.

Chair- Dharmik Patel

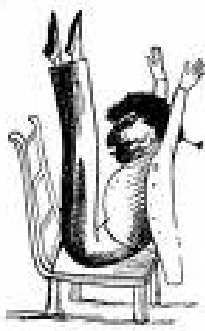
Vice-Chair- Ashna Desai

Topic-1- Human rights violation in Sudan- Discusses about the current situation of human rights in Sudan and suggests proper solutions.

Topic-2- Anti-terror laws and their effects on Human rights- Deals with different countries views and current situation regarding anti terrorism laws.



Our Chairs



The Secretary General: Jwalin is the most serious guy you can possibly find (have not really seen more than one expression on his face). I must say that he was one of the few chairs who had researched enough for his topic. He managed to handle his committee quite well. Although shy and soft spoken, he can turn strict and stern when required!



Vice chair of GA 2: Kavin is a fun loving guy, rarely serious. It was a surprise to see him command the delegates with authority. Who can forget his brightly colored shirt and his tie filled with all the colors of the world and the wackiest cartoons you can imagine!!



Chair of GA 1: Poojan (the vilayati munda), known to be a sincere guy, liked by all, takes his work seriously. He was, I guess, the most involved chair. One thing we observed was that whenever asked to pose for a photo, Poojan made sure his smile was big enough to fit the world!!



Vice chair of GA 1: Prit...I am actually at a loss of words to describe him. He was only too happy to get Poojan as his chair. He is known to be very restless, not at all afraid to put his point forward. He handled his committee with ease... In spite of the sleepy look on his face, he was found to be quite enthusiastic and attentive, all through.



Chair of SC: Bansari, a frivolous and peppy girl, is known for her ready smile. Her ever-blushing cheeks only became too red as she tried her best to handle her chaotic and wild-spirited committee. In spite of all the shouting and screaming of "Delegates decorum", her committee turned out to be her worst nightmare!!



Vice Chair of SC: Aashna... in spite of the rest of the committee way out of control, this girl was found to be calm and collected (got to admire her patience); she was either too bored or too tired to take control of the situation.



Chair of ECOSOC: Bansi, is usually quite a serious guy, but can be unintentionally funny and can make his committee burst into sudden spurts of laughter. Him as the chair and Anokhi as his Vice, worked well together. The interesting part was that both of them turned out to be in the same colored shirts both the days respectively (was it a coincidence or.....??)



Vice-Chair of ECOSOC: - Anokhi is a good-hearted person, passionate about her work...was one of the few girls who were dressed smartly, though she did have a little bit of trouble with her heels. I think she and Bansi surely did a fantastic job together...



The Chair of HRC: Dharmik is known to crack the most ridiculous jokes of the world. Many people felt that he was hilarious, though his vice chair deemed him as 'the most irritating person on earth'. His quick sense of humour did lessen the tension in the committee.



The Vice Chair of HRC: Ashna is a helpful, sincere and hardworking gal who takes her work seriously and is often known as a perfectionist. She was at constant loggerheads with her chair and god knows how two completely different people managed to pull off one of the most peaceful committees.



Logistics Head: Maleka, the bunny faced gal was the one who did all the running around; making sure the event went on well... In spite of all the pressure, she kept her cool... Thanks Maleka for making this event a big success!



The First day of MUN

AIS had a fresh look this day. It was a sight worth seeing, with all students smartly dressed with ties, suits and boots, with an air of dignity, brimming with confidence. Unlike other days, the students were very conscious of their behaviour. Well.....this good behaviour would often take a backseat, their excitement would take over, and their hooligan selves would come back to the forefront...but they would soon realize that they were here to do some serious work.

The opening ceremony started off with a Kathak dance from AIS's very own Ramya Palavajjhala. Her beautiful and extremely graceful movements charmed the audience. This was followed by a brief introduction about AIMUN given to the students by Anjali and Dwani. The chief guest for the event was Dr.



Shilendra Mehta who talked about respecting another person's point of view. As the students listened attentively, he said, "If only people learnt to understand another's point of view, then the world would have been a more peaceful place." He narrated the story of the six blind men. Each one touched different parts of the elephant and each had a different understanding of what an elephant is. It is only if they would have learnt to accept the other's point of view, that they could have attained a higher level of understanding. This was what MUN was essentially about. In spite of all the differences, coming down to a solution mutually, was what the delegates had to learn to do. Jwalin, the Secretary General then officially declared the event open. The students were asked to proceed to their respective committees.

The session began with the opening speeches of the delegates. There was a never-ending discussion with each one trying to make their point emphatically. After this, lobbying took place, followed by a general discussion monitored by the respective chairs. There was confusion for the newbie's of MUN on "who do I merge with?" .

After everyone had a rough idea of the draft resolution they headed for the photo session and finally proceeded to have lunch (thank god! I was famished after all that running around).

After having what seemed to me an excellent lunch (thank you logistics) all the delegates headed back to their committees well fed and watered. After what seemed to be an eternity, finally the draft resolutions were ready (phew!). This was read out to the entire committee and was argued upon. While some delegates participated with utmost enthusiasm others vehemently denied fellow delegates' resolutions, pointing out even the most trivial mistakes. After the voting and the amendments, the exhausted, brain dead delegates finally submitted their merged resolutions when an unexpected surprise burst in for them! Their snack break! The logistics team placed 2 huge bottles of coke and a packet of wafers for each delegate. This break was greeted by a general whoop of cheers. And this, my friends put an end to the first day of MUN. (I was glad, my feet were screaming for mercy)



MUN trends



The clacking boots, the high heeled shoes, the sparkling white shirts, the well set hair and the very uncomfortable blazers, we are sure most of you would have spent a good time dressing up for the two days, ensuring that you looked your formal best. And truthfully all of you looked smashing and dashing, adding a twist of your own style to these boring formals.

The clip clop of the heels definitely turned our heads towards these towering footwear (god knows how they walked in them?). You could hear them grumbling the word “shoe-bite” one too many times, and don’t forget the ties! Some made them longer than required while some kept it short and smart. Some of the horrible ties did catch your attention if not your admiration.


This year everybody did not follow the sober dress code. Instead they came out with all flashy colors such as cherry red and sunny yellow. You could see a few more frills, broader belts and even hair-bands had come back into fashion. Check out the pics and see for yourself....!!



The Second Day

AHHHH ...!! Another beautiful day of MUN began with a cloudy sky adding to the calm, soothing atmosphere. All the students arrived surprisingly early. Today was the day all the delegates would finalize their resolutions and pass it on to the general plenary. This day, we got to see a lot more than the previous- a few loud screams, a few 'restricted' words(you know what I mean), many more people barred from the committees for bad behavior, but more active participation...I guess, all their shyness had faded away. The statement "Delegates Decorum" which usually maintained the peace within the committees, had no effect whatsoever, on these wild, arguing delegates. It further added to the frustration of their chairs and vice-chairs who were ready to pull out every single hair on their head. Though whenever asked they would put up a hundred watt smile and a ready reply "they are very hard working and co operative and we were happy to have them in our committee".

It was HRC(human rights council)that finished the draft resolutions first, with a beaming vice chair, Ashna, telling me how wonderful and friendly her committee was (after all they had to be ! it was HRC!) and an equally pleased Chair,Dharmik, telling

me his committee was, and I quote "awesome". 

The General Plenary took place in the auditorium where the resolutions were voted upon by all members of each committee. Almost all resolutions were passed except the 2nd resolution of the Security Council but as Amar Ambani pointed out, the topic (Indo- Pak cross border terrorism) was a very delicate one that had not been solved for many years though many people tried to resolve it. (cheer up SC people!).

The Chairs and vice chairs felt tongue tied when they read out their oh so formal and important sounding resolutions being given wacky names such as "pani puri", "road runner", "spider" and "Mojo jojo"(that one made us laugh!). It gave a sense of humor to this ceremonial event and also reaped a few laughs from the delegates alike. After receiving certificates, a representative from each of the visiting schools came up and gave an account of their experience at the AIMUN. The secretary general then

declared the AIMUN officially closed. This last statement was greeted by a united round of applause (which we feel was the pinnacle of the entire event). The AIMUN was indeed a big success, proven by many of the schools promising to return the next year.



The preparation of the draft resolutions



Reading of draft resolutions



The voting in the General Plenary



Reading of the final resolutions

A few memorable words.....



“It was a very good learning experience, and was carried out well. The chairs and the vice- chairs were very helpful.”

- *Representative from DPS*

“We had an excellent time here, we got the opportunity to make friends and meet kind, helpful people. We will definitely be back next year! “

- *Representative from Galaxy International School*

“It was a beautiful experience and we have so much to take back home. It was wonderful to see people from so many different backgrounds come together to rid the world of its problems.”

-*Representative from Navrachna International School*

“It was an enjoyable experience and we hope AIS continues hosting this event year after year. Thank you AIS.”

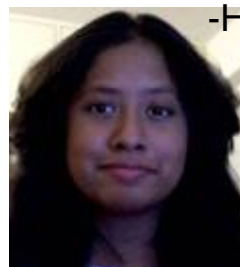
-*Representative from MGIS*

“It was a truly exceptional AIMUN and we learnt that debates can go on forever. Jokes apart we learnt that we have the power to change our world, our lives.”

-*Representative of AIS*



-Ramya Palavajjhala
(Head of Press Corps)



-Harini Natarajan
(Press Corps)