



The Orchid School Model United Nations

in association with
Pune Model United Nations

NEWSLETTER



“The United Nations is our one great hope for a peaceful and free world.” -Ralph Bunche

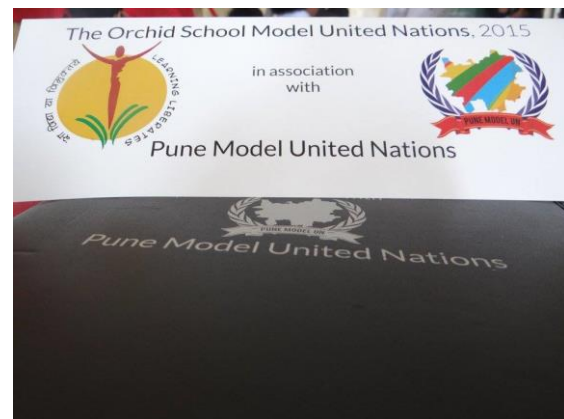
The Orchid School Model United Nations is back! TOSMUN'15 saw a brilliant effort put in by delegates, the International Press members, the Executive Board members and the Organizing Committee.

Participation in a Model UN has its countless benefits and the TOSMUN delegates are an impeccable example of this. The beauty of being a representative of a country lies in the fact that one feels magnificently responsible and powerful to bring about a change!

The Executive Board members were extremely encouraging and guided the delegates very smoothly.

The Organizing Committee were the back bone of this entire conference and their diligence impressed everyone.

Here is a quick glance into the two amazing days of The Orchid School Model United Nations 2015.



HEALTH- A NECESSITY IN THE CONTEMPORARY WORLD

Trisha Welde

The Member States of the **World Health Assembly** have made significant progress in achieving the millennium goals as set by the World Health Organization while formulating plans for further sustainable development goals. France is one of the only European nations that have made impressive development in the healthcare sector by reducing child mortality rates, improving maternal health and combatting non-curable diseases like cancer, HIV, AIDS and so on. These achievements are in alignment with the health development goals as set by the WHO. Many African countries have been able to battle the various issues related to sustainable development of health despite the fact that they face severe socio-economic issues. The committee, through a number of speeches, has identified three major areas that need a great deal of attention – mental health, inequity /discrimination in health and universal health coverage. The delegate of Sweden stated that an unhealthy person especially in terms of mental health becomes a liability thus affecting the economic conditions of the country. The delegates of The Democratic

Republic of Korea, Somalia, Mexico and the Member States of the African bloc stated that establishing equality in health and sanitation was a very difficult task and required cooperation of all member states in order to be able to achieve universal health coverage. Keeping these targets in mind, the committee aims at drafting a resolution that would maintain equilibrium between the interests, policies and development opportunities of all the Member States.



Meeting the Chairs!



In conversation with Nishant Bidichandani, the Chairperson of International Atomic Energy Agency-

Can you explain the agenda to the reader in simple terms?

The agenda is about the Democratic Republic of Korea- a very secretive country. The Non-Proliferation Treaty allows only five countries to have nuclear weapons. DPRK quit the NPT and started developing nuclear weapons privately. The International Atomic Energy Agency and the Security Council are trying to get rid of these nuclear weapons and get DPRK to sign the NPT again.

Has the agenda been addressed properly? Have there been any problems faced by the committee so far?

Since, the agenda was very limited and targeted towards one country; the committee has been progressing very slowly. It is difficult to understand what can be done to solve this problem.

How has the quality of the discussion and debate of the delegates been so far?

Acknowledging the fact that most of the delegates are first-timers and that the topic for discussion is very limited, the quality of the discussion and debate of the delegates has been very good.

How has your experience of being a Chair in this committee been so far?

I found chairing this committee an extremely challenging task because of the fact that most of the delegates in my committee are first-timers and that the agenda is difficult.

What is the role of the IAEA in the UN?

The IAEA acts like the police. It carries out regular inspections in various countries and keeps a check on the nuclear weapons a country possesses.

JOINING FORCES AGAINST DRUGS

Shreya Mohan

The commencement of the **United Nations Commission for Narcotics Drugs** was marked by an introduction of the agenda and procedure by the Chairperson. The total strength of the committee was 14 delegates.

The discussion started with the Delegate of Columbia giving a brief about the committee which started in 1997 and issues regarding the large scale production of drugs. The delegate of India said drug trafficking, money laundering and trafficking through online pharmacies is a global issue and international co-operation rather than isolation could be a solution. The delegates of Cuba, France, Argentina, Cambodia and Bangladesh spoke about the laws in their countries and felt the need to strengthen international co-operation. The delegate of the Russian Federation said the mobility to these drugs should be restricted and hopes to come to a viable solution. The delegate of Iran threw light on drug trafficking, the importance of monitoring trade routes and also mentioned the mechanism of the black market peso exchange in Columbia. The delegate of Afghanistan mentioned about the huge problem of the production of

drugs and terrorist groups. Afghanistan put forward a solution and asked the other countries to trust the Afghani government and help them financially to not hide the problem but completely eradicate it from the root level. The delegate of the United State of America spoke about eradication, drug addiction and related education and also extended full support Columbia and Afghanistan. China and Canada got up the issue of drug rehabilitation centres for drug users across the globe. South Asian countries have the geographical benefit to monitor the Pacific sea routes against drug trafficking activities, was another point highlighted by Cambodia. Training of local law enforcement agencies to combat drug and narcotics trade was a point most of the member states agreed upon.



PEACE AT HOME, PEACE IN THE WORLD!

Ritisha Goyal

The debate first session of the United Nations Counter Terrorism Committee began as the delegate of the Islamic Republic of Iran motioned to formal debate.

The delegate of the Russian Federation advocated cutting off financial support to terrorist groups.

A motion for a formal informal debate was then raised. Iran took the initiative to bring together all the Middle Eastern countries under the threat of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria and suggested that the focus of the committee shift to the consequences faced by them.



Countries such as Libya and Egypt were seen imploring the assistance of their fellow member states for resources to combat terrorism.

The delegate of Brazil gave importance to surveillance as she believed that huge congregations such as the FIFA World Cup of

2014, posed threats to the safety of the civilians. Iran stressed on the denial of finances as the key strategy to countering terrorism.



The session saw the formation of two blocs:

One was headed mainly by Iran and Libya who wanted the focus of the committee to completely shift to the Middle Eastern countries.

The other opposed the former bloc as their ideologies were considered too extreme. Countries such as France, Brazil and Australia were a part of this bloc and they believed that terrorism could not be eradicated; however the provision of resources to the terrorist groups must be stopped.



Meet the Chair of **United Nations Commission for Narcotics Drugs-**
Aman Shaikh!



What are your thoughts on the agenda?

When it comes to drug trade around the world, it's a major social evil which needs to be curbed. But in every trade there is a demand pull and a supply push. Money laundering is a major contributing factor to that pull. In order to counter this it's not possible for any one country to take the mantel. Therefore I feel the agenda is very valid.

What were your expectations from the delegates?

My main expectation was that they get their research right because 'drug' is a very factual topic. I also wanted to understand the problem from every aspect.

Do you prefer chairing or delegation?

I have only delegated once, but this is my fourth time being a chair. I like delegating but end up in chair positions.

How have the delegates been performing?

So far they have been phenomenal. The amount of research they came in with was brilliant.

GENDER EQUALITY: IS IT STILL A FARFETCHED DREAM OR A REALITY?

Apoorva

The **United Nations Commission on Status of Women** began with a special introduction to provide the delegates with a deeper meaning behind gender and how no country-developing, developed or under-developed is free from the clutches of gender inequality. The women in developed countries have their sets of struggles in the form of gender pay gap and glass ceiling whereas in the developing and under-developed countries injustices against women are more common and gruesome in nature.



The delegate of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia emphasised on the importance of education and how it is the key to eliminate the clutches gender inequalities. Saudi Arabia also provided the committee with a structure that was later followed by all the delegates. The delegate of United States of America stressed on the point that a woman is no less

than a man and the delegate of Kuwait mentioned the HE4SHE Campaign that was set up to eradicate gender inequality. The delegates of Russian Federation and People's Republic of China requested the committee to join hands and together come up with a solution that will bring substantial positive changes in the lives of woman throughout the globe.

There was a sudden change of events when the delegate of Canada made an inapt statement which should not have been made which openly accused all countries following the Sharia law to promote domestic violence. This caused a heated debate between the Arab countries and Canada.

All the statements made by all the delegates of this committee talked about certain aspects of how de-facto gender equality should come about after several formal-informal sessions and speeches, the delegates finally decided to cover education, women and economy, health sanitation, safety security, political rights, family and martial laws and so on under its report.





“It is said that leaders don't force people to follow them; they invite them on a journey.”

And that is exactly what Mayur Ahuja, Founder and President of Pune Model United Nations and organizer of The Orchid School Model United Nations has been doing for the youth of Pune. An exclusive interview with him revealed answers to the questions that were on everybody's mind.

The first question directed towards the man behind the TOSMUN'15 was- How was it organising the TOSMUN'15? He answered by saying, “We organised TOSMUN last year as well. It is really amazing to come back because the kind of response I get from Orchid is something I always look forward to”.

He has an amazing team of organising members and volunteers and when asked what the best words to describe the team are, he very promptly replied, “Passionate and hard working.”

He has been a dedicated MUN organiser for almost 3 years and counting and when asked what the most unforgettable incident was that he experienced as an organizer, Mayur said- “A delegate from Indonesia had participated in Pune MUN 15 and just because I helped her out a bit she gave me a lot of things from Indonesia like traditional stuff and she wrote me a big letter. That meant a lot to me.”

When asked about how MUNs help develop someone's personality, he had this to say, “Not everyone is confident addressing a crowd or voicing their opinions, so Munning helps built up that confidence. So it is very important that students start seeing things from other point of views as well. All the research they do for the MUN is not easy; you won't get the content easily you need to read a lot, you need to research a lot. And this is what life is all about, it is tough. You need to find your way to get whatever you need.”

The last question asked to him was, “What advice would you give to someone who wants to organize a MUN in the future?” His reply, “Always ask your seniors and take their guidance. You may be passionate but don't take hasty decisions by yourself.”

THIS IS WHAT OUR DELEGATES HAVE TO SAY:

SWITZERLAND - UNCSW

What problems regarding gender inequality are being faced by people in Switzerland?

The main issue is unequal gender pay. Also, women in Switzerland are working more in the informal sector which means no job security. So Switzerland is working on bringing more of its female workforce into the formal sector.

How do you think the committee is going right now?

The committee is currently a little directionless as we are still debating about the structure of how the speeches should go.

What kind of solutions are you hoping for the committee to come up with?

Implementation of the proposed solutions is as important as coming up with them in the first place. Switzerland wants equal focus on both major and minor issues that oppress women.

INDIA - UNCND

Tell me about the committee proceedings.

I think the committee proceedings are going in a good manner. We're trying to tackle the small problems first then move to the bigger problems that need more attention and time.

What is the agenda that is being discussed by UNCND?

Our committee is discussing drug trafficking and money laundering and curbing these activities through international cooperation.

How many MUNs have you been to and one thing you like about Orchid MUN'15?

This is my third MUN. The one thing I really like is that you get your hear so many opinions and perspectives of different people and this is gives you a larger perspective of the world.

RUSSIAN FEDERATION - UNCSW

The committee has come up with a solution that ‘education’ is the key to solve the problems of gender inequality. How’s the education in Russia?

Education is a very broad matter and an integral part of every country. Russia is doing a great job as it is one of the most educated countries and provides equal opportunities to both the genders which it is very proud of.

What does equality mean to you?

For me, equality means people of a country enjoying the same and equal opportunities and there should be no discrimination on the basis of gender, race, caste, and other circumstances.

SAUDI ARABIA - UNCSW

So your country is probably the most controversial one when we talk about gender equality. Where does Saudi Arabia actually stand on Gender equality?

The west has a very muddled up opinion about Saudi Arabia and Sharia law. So the delegate of Canada claimed that Sharia law promotes domestic violence. That is absolutely ridiculous. So yeah it’s a misinterpretation. We are

approaching complete gender equality and see it’s not a overnight process ; you have to focus that we are a very culturally rich Islamic country and we have been for a hundred of years and we have taken great strides towards what we feel are our shortcomings in gender inequality. It’s a slow process but we’re getting there.

So now in the committee, tell me a little bit about its structure. Are there various blocs or just one fighting for a mutual cause?

The whole committee is agreeing on every issue apart from the delegate of Canada no one has really accused any other country of doing something. There’s total mutual cooperation.

Now as an experienced MUN participant, which was your absolute favourite MUN? And please don't be diplomatic.

My favourite MUN was the Utopia Model United Nations. It was actually my own MUN. I am the founder and president of Utopia. Everyone loved it and so yeah that was my personal favourite. Obviously!

BRAZIL - UNCTC

It's the second session of the conference, so tell me what is the committee debating about today?

Basically today we will be drafting our resolution. So today we are trying to club various issues faced by all the countries and get all of them together for a resolution. But it's not really working out because of some middle east countries who want to concentrate just on themselves and their issues are different from ours i.e the western bloc.

What is your take on the agenda as the delegate of Brazil taken up by the UNCTC?

Our agenda is counter terrorism in a regional aspect. Brazil does face a lot of terrorism because of drug cartels and drug trafficking as the drug money is a biggest fuel for terrorists and in turn the terrorist provides drug organisations with arms and ammunition. This is a deadly cycle.

What is your favourite thing about a MUN?

The fact that you have say in everything is what I like. We can declare and say whatever we want. It's a great podium to improve your public speaking skills.

SOUTH AFRICA - UNCTC

There are a few blocs forming in your committee. So which bloc is your country a part of and why?

In our bloc we have the Arabic League and the other Middle East countries. So the agenda being counter terrorism we wanted to help the Middle East countries from the ISIS. We look that forward that our agenda will help them in the future.

Are there any blocs opposing your proposals?

We don't have any countries opposing our bloc. There is a separate bloc for western countries because of some discrepancies and contradictions in opinions.

SWEDEN - IAEA

What does your committee focus on?

The countries in this committee focus on issues regarding the atomic energy used by the countries for their work.

Are there issues regarding atomic energy in your country?

No, not really. There aren't many issues regarding related to this as atomic energy hasn't been put to use yet.

Do you think it is necessary to produce atomic energy?

I think it is good to produce atomic energy as we may need different resources of energy production in the future.

Lastly, are you enjoying the discussion?

Yes, I'm thoroughly enjoying the MUN though I haven't spoken yet.

IRAQ - IAEA

Is this your first MUNing experience?

No, this isn't my first. This is my third time at a MUN.

Do you find the TOS MUN different or similar to the other MUNs that you've been a part of?

It has many similarities at the same time has quite a few differences too. But this MUN is very well organised, I am learning a lot!

RUSSIAN FEDERATION - UNCND

If you got a chance to choose another country or committee, then which one would you choose?

I really like UNCND but if I had to choose another it would be Security Council.

Do you feel this experience will help you in the future?

I'm speaking and interacting with some of the best speakers so this experience will definitely help me in the future.

UNITED KINGDOM - WHA

What is the major problem that you'll be facing?

The main problem that we have come across is the spread of diseases like Ebola, etc. at an alarming rate.

What exactly is going on in your committee at the moment in the first session?

The committee has been divided into two blocs where DPRK, China and Thailand are in a bloc and UK, India, Africa and the USA are in a bloc discussing the issues and trying to find a solution.

Where do you see UK in the next 10 years in terms of healthcare?

I think in the next 10 years, the UK would find a cure and also prevention for the diseases like Ebola, cancer and so on.

PHOTOGRAPHER - ARYAN

How has the experience of your first MUN conference been so far?

It was good. I would like to be a part of the delegation of a country next time so that I can improve my speaking skills as well as enhance and increase my confidence.

Why did you choose to become a photographer for this conference?

I chose to become a photographer because the primary work of a photographer is to capture people's expression at a particular moment. I like capturing people's expressions especially when they are off guard. I like to capture and analyse.

DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA - WHA

What is anti-bacterial resistance?

Anti-bacterial resistance is when the use of excessive antibiotics makes illnesses worse. For example, using antibiotics when you have HIV, aids only make those diseases worse.

How does anti-bacterial resistance affect your government?

Anti-bacterial resistance does not affect DPRK directly. It affects countries like Africa and USA. DPRK uses traditional medicines and generic medicines and urges the other governments to do so too.

This is the chair of United Nations Counter Terrorism Committee, Ziauddin Sherkar giving a glance into the committee



Leadership is unlocking people's potential to become better and Ziauddin, chair of UNCTC lived up to these words to the fullest!

The chairperson explained that their agenda was regional approaches to terrorism. He further explained that the UNCTC has been established by the UN Security Council after 9/11 attacks. It is fact-finding rather than a mandating committee. Their committee was looking for solutions that could be implemented region-wise and not globally.

When asked how the flow of debate in the committee was, he was pleasantly surprised by how well the delegates were researched. There was a smooth flow of debate and the whole committee functioned very well. The chair was happy to see the fact there were no delegates that overpowered the rest of the

committee and all the delegates played a magnificent role in the committee and everyone participated quite well. However, he did witness a few lapses as there were a couple of first-timers and they researched from a more neutral point of view.

When asked upon how was his experience as the chair of UNCTC at TOSMUN, he described it as a unique experience because of the simplicity of the procedure. As he could concentrate more on what was being said by the delegates during the GSL which also made their evaluation easier.

REPORTS AND RESOLUTIONS

UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON STATUS OF WOMEN

As a part of the committee report, the United Nations Commission on Status of Women covered the aspects regarding education, women and economy, health and sanitation, safety and security, political rights, family and marital laws and media. The committee focused on education suggesting reformation of curriculum for both girls & boys to cultivate gender equality. Other suggestions made were to increase involvement of women in education sector as this will help reduce pay gap will encourage parents to send

their daughters to school. Hotlines and call centres were suggested by the delegates that will receive reports of violence. An establishment of a media watch group to monitor media and consult with them to ensure women's need are properly reflected. Also encourage the media to refrain from showing women as sex objects and inferior. The only objections made were by the Arab countries in the committee regarding the divorce law.

INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

The focus of International Atomic Energy Agency shifted its focus to acquiring solutions for the given agenda- Implementation of NPT safeguards in DPRK- by the beginning of the second session. The delegate of New Zealand brought up the refusal of the Democratic Republic of North Korea to apply the nuclear safeguards. Afghanistan suggested diplomatic talks between the United States of America. Many delegates approached the agenda with solution related to surveillance of both cargo and storage. Burkina Faso suggested that the inspectors sent by the IAEA could belong to DPRK's ally states. DPRK said that the reason their application from the NPT had been lifted due to USA's failure to provide them with oil they had promised. However, he agreed

to the installation of tamper-proof cameras and nuclear shields. Saudi Arabia suggested the provision of oil in return for information about North Korea's nuclear reserves. Burkina Faso asked whether DPRK would go back on their problems if the UNSC fail to keep up their end of the diplomatic solutions. Afghanistan suggested the provision of food and medicine as they are exceptions to the sanctions of the UNSC.

WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

The report of the WHA deals with health in sustainable development goals post-2015. It urges taxation on tobacco and alcohol. It suggests that the World Bank could lend extra money to buy medicines and urges a stricter implementation of prescription drugs. Inclusion of advanced surgeries; mental health care in insurance; regulation of the prices of medicine; provision of medical equipment and other essentials for treatment; spread of awareness about tropical diseases; reduction of physical inactivity and sedentary lifestyle; management of non-communicable diseases are some of the solutions stated in the report which combat the factors that seriously affect the health status of a country. Member states must develop a national population based cancer registry and formulate strategies to combat it and to battle

the serious problem of teen drug addiction. Establishing more water purification plants and establish rural water schemes and sanitation technology in public sectors with the help of the private sector was suggested. The report states that nations must carry out stress level tests which will then provide them with a mental health analysis.