



# BEIWATCH

MINIMUN

SEPTEMBER 9TH, 2017

## GOING NUCLEAR



By Mina Kang

Interviewer: "How about we throw away all our nukes into the ocean?"

Yoonho Cha (Secretary General): "What about the marine life? The environment? Your sushi?"

Currently, the news on North Korea's progress in building a working inter-continental ballistic missile dominates just about every news agency's front-page. As North Korea continues to advance its nuclear technology, the tensions between North Korea and the U.S are at an all time high. Currently, North Korea conducted its sixth nuclear test on the third of September, causing huge panic in the global community. Based off of the recent events, it seems evident that North Korea will not halt its continued missile

threats until the U.S. withdraws its hostile policies against the Kim regime.

Despite this issue being viewed as a matter between the U.S. and North Korea, it further entails the possibility for other future threats to global security involving nuclear weaponry. Hence, the executive team believes that it demands discussion from a global perspective to prevent any potential conflicts. Therefore, the discussion topic for this year's MINIMUN conference is the non-proliferation of nuclear activity in North Korea.

In regards to the topic, the executive team intentionally dispersed many of the relevant ex-nuclear states and current nuclear states into various committees. By doing so, they hope to promote thought-provoking debates, especially from those

representing countries that are pro-nuclear weapons. Furthermore, concerning the deactivation of these nuclear weapons, Yoonho Cha, Secretary General of the UN, addressed the importance of the Environment Commission and the Disarmament Committee in this pressing issue.

The committees within the MUN team hopes to actively participate in tackling the issue before any potential threats become a reality. As Cha emphasized, this issue necessitates every committee constituting the United Nations to gear towards a feasible solution for the disarmament of nuclear weaponry. By choosing this issue, he, on behalf of the executive team, challenges all delegates to think critically of current affairs and to take a step towards becoming a global citizen.

# MEET THE EXECUTIVES

By Mina Kang



**Yoonho Cha:**  
**SECRETARY GENERAL**

Yoonho Cha began his MUN experience in sixth grade as an enrichment. He has come a long way, now upholding the position of Secretary General of the UN. Having overseen the middle school branch and the intricate process of preparing for future conferences, Yoonho hopes to pinpoint a few stellar delegates, potential chairs, and candidates to carry the torch for ISB's MUN future. When asked about what he looks forward to in this year of MUN, he stated that he is especially excited to see the middle schoolers he had taken under his wing excel in high school conferences. Additionally, he shared his goals for a more parallel power structure in the executive team with an equal share of responsibilities.



**Terry Zhao:**  
**DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL**

Terry Zhao joined MUN during his sophomore year by recommendation from his seventh grade humanities teacher. With a deep interest in speech and debate, he thought it was worthwhile to join in his final years of high school. As Deputy Secretary General of the UN, he oversees the coordination of delegates, chairs, and admin affairs. Closely monitoring the new delegates, he hopes that they can take MINIMUM as an opportunity to adapt to the MUN process and become the next generation of quality delegates that can carry ISB's reputation to future conferences.



**Eden Liu:**  
**DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL**

Eden Liu, Deputy Secretary General of the MUN, is responsible for the weekly meeting coordination and the approval panel. She began as a member of the debate club and found a passion for global politics in her middle school years and thought that MUN was the perfect activity that encompassed all of these interests. Having been to various conferences all around the world – Malaysia, Paris, and Singapore – she believes that MUN is the “window” to meet new people from different cultural backgrounds. She hopes that delegates will learn to become more global-minded, viewing the perspectives of others through a different lens.



**Laurina Ye:**  
**DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL**

Laurina Ye, Deputy Secretary General of the MUN, takes responsibility for outreach and general information such as contacting guest speakers, inviting schools to Beimum, liaising with the Beiwatch Press Team and managing the ISB MUN Facebook page. She became a member of MUN in middle school and continued to pursue her interest in global events after her first MINIMUM conference. Just as she grew to become a skilled delegate, she hopes to see many newcomers build their confidence, speak out, ask questions, and make compelling speeches. In addition, she advises them to use this as an opportunity to get accustomed to the structured debating procedures.

## DIGGING DEEPER: STORY OF THE CHAIRS

By Ellie Lee

### What are your experiences with MUN?

“Throughout my experiences in MUN, I have improved my public speaking skills, met new people, and broadened my views toward issues around the world.” - Sang Young Lee

“I first joined MUN in seventh grade, starting with MSMUN, which I have participated in as a delegate for two years. In ninth grade, I was engaged in CIS-SMUN and BEIMUN, and as of now I am looking forward to this year's MUN conferences.” - Rachel Kim

“They have been a very positive experience for me. I think the main experiences I have got from MUN are diplomatic skills, and to put my personal opinions aside.” - Justin Zeng

“I started MUN in seventh grade and attended several conferences since then.” - Dong Min Kim

### What do you like most about MUN?

“During last year's BEIMUN conference, I met new people and developed friendships with delegates that are not from our school, which I really enjoyed.” - Sang Young Lee

“I like how us students can debate about current issues that we are interested in, as well as representing a particular country.” - Rachel Kim

“I think the idea of putting myself in someone else's shoe was interesting for me.” - Justin Zeng

“I like that I can communicate with new people, as well as immersing myself in international events.” - Dong Min Kim

### What prompted you to join MUN?

“My mom.” - Sang Young Lee and Dong Min Kim  
“I always wanted to get involved in a debate, and

my interest to work in United Nations in the future strongly encouraged me to join MUN.” - Rachel Kim  
“I always looked up to people who understood world issues, as well as eloquently presented in front of the public, which I wanted myself to be.” - Justin Zeng



# LOOKING FORWARD TO BEIMUN



By Hyoree Kim and Austin Kwok

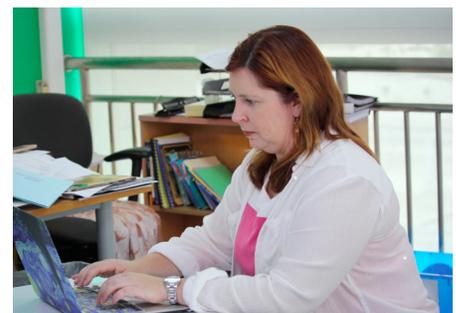
As the final amendments are made, and delegates begin to retreat from the English hallways, the first MUN conference of the year has officially come to a close. Although the debate has ended, the air remains tense as young delegates lock their eyes on the 25th annual BEIMUN conference. The BEIMUN conference will be held from March 15th to March 18th, 2018 for the second time at the International School of Beijing. Delegates will be given the opportunity to attend the conference to tackle the topic of sustainable development in this age of globalization. In a world where we are becoming increasingly interconnected, the resulting conflicts of interests and ideologies of different nations and cultures have generated a whole new set of social issues. This results in a generation of people who will face challenges more complex than ever before. Putting its best foot forward, ISB will be sending up to fifty different delegates, each representing a different nation, in hopes of bringing a fresh perspective to the discussion of how we, as a generation, can face these ever growing challenges.

Through MINIMUM, delegates have been re-introduced to the MUN debate format in preparation for the upcoming BEIMUN conference. The conference's sustainable development focus will follow the official theme, "Justice and Equity in the Age of

Globalization," according to Eileen Rueth (MUN Director). Ms. Rueth said the theme is to be reflected throughout all issues debated in each forum. The executive team of 2018 is planning for the 25th BEIMUN conference to be an extension of last year's conference in the hopes of building on the strong foundation already laid. They have invited guest speakers and delegates from all over the world to engage in powerful debate. "We have approximately 700 delegates registered, and lots of guest speakers with real life UN experience to discuss what it's like in the trenches of the real world," said Ms. Rueth. Delegates, both new and old, have voiced their anticipation for this unique opportunity. Additionally, every year, Ms. Rueth makes an effort to offer scholarships to deserving schools who would otherwise not be able to attend. Last year, delegates from Fiji flew across the world to share their opinions on the issue of growth and duality. This coming spring, she has reached out to delegates from the Republic of Macedonia to hopefully take part in BEIMUN. She has also looked at other unique countries to invite; however, due to stringent regulations in place by the Chinese government, the job is not easy. All delegates are looking forward to this occasion and are anticipating a very unique experience. Many have said they excitedly anticipate meeting delegates from all over

the world and that they are honored to be given the chance to explore the different perspectives of each and every delegate. Yoonho Cha (Secretary General of the MUN) "wholeheartedly welcomes those entering the cordial and prestigious realm of MUN and encourages those who are already immersed in it to continue whilst evoking their primary motivations and hopes for MUN." He has expressed his enthusiasm and commitment towards MUN, and definitely encourages students to take part in this event and make a change in the world.

Although BEIMUN has run for nearly a quarter of a century, this grand 25th anniversary conference promises to be one unlike any other before it.



# At The Podium - Debate For Dummies

By Anna Brenner

“You have a mouth, you speak; you have ears, you listen; you have a hand, you raise it and express your desires.”

Yoonho Cha, Secretary General

Model United Nations is an extra-curricular activity in which students typically role-play delegates of the United Nations, simulating real debates about pressing global issues. A council consists of chair members that moderate the debate, delegates, and admin staff that ensures the committee runs smoothly. There are also Secretary Generals who act as the leaders of MUN. The role of the Secretary General is essentially a “world moderator,” making decisions with allegiance to no specific state but only to the United Nations as a whole. His or her role is to uphold the values of the United Nations.

Laurina Ye, Deputy Secretary General, describes a Model United Nations debate as being divided into two main events. The first being ‘lobbying,’ where all delegates bring prepared resolutions to discuss the merits of one another’s resolutions to create one final resolution. After the delegates reach a consensus, the

final merged resolutions are then debated in a committee, assembly, or council. During debates, delegates propose their resolutions, and other delegates can raise questions, as well as submit amendments when needed. In the end, the delegates of the entire council vote to determine if the resolution passes.

Eden Liu, Deputy Secretary General, stated that the entire process of MUN begins long before the actual conference. Delegates have to familiarize themselves with their assigned country and the theme of the conference, as well as write resolutions for the topics, and sometimes even write extensive topic papers. Preparation is especially important since delegates can be questioned about their countries and/or stance freely during the debate. Liu also expressed the importance of the diverse range of committees including the Security Council, International Court of Justice, Economic and Social Council, etc., which allows for more specialized cases to be explored in detail. For example, the Environment commission can explore pressing issues such as global warming, deforestation, and pollution more extensively than the other council groups.

“Long story short: You raise your placard, the chair calls upon you, you can ask questions or make a speech, and you write resolutions that are debated upon,” said Spencer Shia, Delegate of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea.



## Scouting Report: Top MUN Prospects

By Casper Suen

MINIMUN gives rise to an exciting new year for the ambitious crowd of ISB delegates. As returning members continue to demonstrate their excellence in discourse, new members are eager to make a name for themselves in the MUN community. Of the many newcomers, two distinguish themselves from the big group.



Photos by Maya Lu and Christina Choi

Shawn Teh, formerly a timid, reluctant speaker, joined MUN in middle school to develop his debate and speech. Despite his status as a freshman, he seemed to instantly interface with the more experienced delegates, and did not shy away from expressing his views to the fullest extent. Even in times of mounting tension he remains unfazed, expertly exchanging ideas with the venerable juniors within his council, standing among them as an equal. He makes his stance clear; the situation in the Pacific Rim involving a certain inflammatory Korean sovereignty is an “issue of the ages,” and “must be solved now.” Many of the current chairs are vocal about his potential as the reincarnation of his brother Gordon Teh, who lit up the MUN scene in previous years. And perhaps, in time, Shawn may even eclipse his older brother as the de jure MUN monarch.

Jun Ha, who represents Japan in the North Korean Nuclear Nonproliferation Commission, is another leading freshman delegate. Oddly enough, this is his first foray in MUN, his only previous experience in an activity of this nature being a brief stint in World Scholar’s Cup. When asked about his decision to join MUN, he responded with a thoughtful pause, followed by: “I don’t actually know.” Regardless, the chairs are optimistic about his future within the program; his passion and dedication are already apparent. Despite his relative inexperience, he “is ready to meet and hopefully surpass” expectations. Regarding the issue of North Korean aggression, Jun pro-

vides an interesting take on the controversy. “North Korea has every cause to be alarmed,” he said. “The constant pressure applied by foreign nations leaves North Korea little choice but to flex its military assets.” We look forward to hearing of Jun Ha’s future exploits at BEIMUN.



Layout by Sabrina Chen

# What's The BIG DEAL?

By Anna Brenner

Why is MUN one of the largest activities in ISB? Why do so many students choose to join it and what is its significance?

According to Spencer Shia, the delegate of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, MUN is meaningful in that it is a live simulation of world events. It provides students an opportunity to comprehend the nuance and complexity of defining world issues. Spencer believes that mental stimulation is the most important aspect of MUN: being placed in a situation where you have to think and argue on the spot and be constantly challenged. Delegates come from a variety of different cultures, proposing ideas that others may not agree with. Despite this, Spencer believes that this is the quality that makes the MUN experience special: different perspectives and values can be recognized, opposing ideas can reach consensus. He concluded his remark by stating, "without freedom of speech, we can never truly have a world that is open, diverse and innovative."

Laurina Ye, the Deputy Secretary General of the UN, believes that MUN is valuable because of its cross-disciplinary nature. For example, one can

apply knowledge obtained from Economics class and theories from Global Politics to develop a more compelling claim. Yoonho Cha, Secretary General of the UN, also recognizes MUN's intersection with academics and states that personally, MUN helps him in classes that require critical thinking such as Theory of Knowledge.

Additionally, Yoonho expresses a concern regarding the lack of knowledge students possess about global matters. They might follow the headlines, but they do not understand the complexity of the story behind the headlines. Not only does MUN challenge delegates to learn about the world's most pressing issues in more depth, it encourages them to explore possible solutions for these issues.

Many delegates also expressed how MUN allows them to become more confident. Eden Liu, Secretary General of the UN, stresses how MUN taught her how to voice her opinions more clearly, and steadily eased her fear of public speaking. Newcomer Jun Ha, delegate of Japan, also joined MUN with hopes that it will help him become a better speaker.



# MUN MAKES YOU SMARTER!



By Debbie Fu

Want to change the world? Through advanced role-play, participants of MUN are assigned the roles of ambassadors of the United Nations to imitate important issues, a sure-fire way to bring them many steps forward in creating an actual impact on the world. And while it is common knowledge that MUN is the dream extracurricular for thirsting freshmen and tiger mothers alike, what you may not know is that MUN actually makes you smarter.

It all begins with learning to English good. By referring to themselves through third-person and using serious words such as amendments, students embody the roles of the real government officials that dedicate their lives to representing their countries at UN meetings, culminating in a more professional-sounding person. Want to seem smarter? Even outside of MUN, delegates are always easily identifiable due to their excessive use of long words, indubitably, amirite? Through practice forming resolutions and proposals, MUN will teach you to string together unconventionally long words in the most casual of situations, which will irrefutably im-



press your peers.

Beyond that, there is actually empirical evidence that suggests the increased intelligence in MUN delegates. In 2015, a study conducted by the sponsors of Model UN showed that students displayed an average increase of 10 IQ points after simply joining the club. More in-depth research showed improved test scores, increased likelihood of selective university acceptances, and scale-breaking grade point averages.

International School of Beijing senior William I.V. Leeig claims he joined MUN to become a world leader, and to enrich his college apps with this truly unique extracurricular activity. He is confident that universities will be interested in the way he completely shut down another delegate's resolution to look cool in front of his peers, appropriately asserting his academic prowess.

Another satisfied consumer of MUN, Des Parate, claims that participating has made him an "objectively better person": well-rounded with modesty, humility, and more modesty. In a recent interview

with Beiwatch he stated, "being a former D&D player really helped me during my MUN career. Instead of fighting deadly dragons I was fighting global issues and saving millions of lives one resolution at a time."

Time and time again, MUN has proven to produce some of the world's most brilliant students. With its students boasting a 100% increase in cognitive processing after joining MUN, the future looks bright for both the students and the program.





Photos by Christina Choi, Sean Bai, Maya Lu, and Austin Kwok

Layout by Annie Yang

# SPOT THE DIFFERENCE!

LEFT

RIGHT



Artworks by Janice Jeong and Helen Shu

Layout by Annie Yang

## BEIWATCH PRESS TEAM

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