



BEIWATCH

BEIMUN XXVI

ISSUE 1

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Standing Up for Globalism

By Frank Cui



Secretary General of XXVI MUN Samuel Soh's opening speech

"Decide that it is time to care." Samuel Soh, Secretary General, opened the BEIMUN XXVI with a challenge for all delegates. In a moment of humble reflection, Soh called all delegates to not be "ignorant of ignorance" and to "learn something new everyday." "The true value of MUN," decried Soh in a *cri-de-cœur*, "lies in realizing just how ignorant we are and deciding to change. Deciding that the lives of others do matter. And that's what it means to be a global minded citizen."

In an truly awe-inspiring moment, Mr. David Munro, High School Principal of the International School of Beijing, asks delegates coming from all around the world to stand up and represent their regions. Such an impressive diversity is rarely observed beyond conferences of BEIMUN's level and embodies the global multicultural ethics that MUN embodies.

Setting the tone for this year's BEIMUN conference, delegates first welcomed the ISB high school orchestra. The delegates were entertained with two pieces: the first two movements of Vivaldi's Concerto No. 4 Largo "L'inverno" (Winter) and a cello concerto of "Ecstasy of gold," arranged and conducted by Michelle Jo. Vivaldi's concerto was gracefully performed "before the fire [of BEIMUN] to pass peaceful, contented days while the rain outside pours down" with Rachel Niu as the soloist. It was followed

by soloist Louisa Song whose epic rendition of a piece from the classic Western "the Good, the Bad, and the Ugly" evoked adventurous passion in the delegates, "tasked with the future of UN and the world," as Mr Munro stated.

Swiftly, the Deputy Secretary General Andrew Liu opened the ceremony. In a powerful and passionate voice, Liu welcomed the delegates the twenty-sixth annual BEIMUN conference and invited the delegates to relate back to their initiation into MUN. Highlighting the fruitful experience "[challenging him] to emphasize with the different viewpoints people bring ...that concern our convoluted and ever-changing global community," Liu called on the delegates to enlighten themselves and broaden their horizons to embrace "innovative and holistic approaches." Quoting the thirty-fifth US President John F. Kennedy, Liu declared that "BEIMUN, in its relentless determination and enthusiasm, 'is determined and cannot be deterred'"

After Liu, Minhye Kwon, Deputy Secretary General presented the theme for this year's conference to "highlight the rapid advancements of our world and the conflicts posed in the 21st century": Security, Sovereignty, and Sustainability. Kwon urged delegates to focus on issues that "that threaten our world today" and to re-evaluate global sovereignty. And finally, delegates will take direct action in enhancing

environmental sustainability beyond the negotiating tables. Delegates will "reflect the global awareness built through the MUN experience in [their] conduct."

To conclude the opening ceremony, a team of professional acrobats performed for the 400 delegates. From the hat juggling human pyramid to bowl acrobatics, the acrobats had the delegates on the edge of their seats, giving the delegates insight into the wonders of Chinese culture.



Lion dancers performing the Chinese traditional lion dance during the cultural ceremony

The grand BEIMUN opening presented a fantastic combination of moving inspirational speeches to soothing musical entertainment, an overture to the hectic and exhilarating three days to come.

BEIMUN XXVI, A YEAR OF TRANSITION

By Isa Pan

BEIMUN XXVI appears to represent a year of transition. As we say goodbye to some of our esteemed MUN staff, including BEIMUN Director Ms. Eileen Rueth and BEIMUN Webmaster Mr. Harold Daw, we are also welcoming our new MUN club advisor, Ms. Katherine Maloney, who is currently working alongside Ms. Rueth and will ascend to the role of BEIMUN Director in 2020.

HELLO, DIRECTOR MALONEY: AN INTERVIEW WITH OUR FUTURE DIRECTOR

IP: Can you describe your upcoming role in BEIMUN as director? What are your aims?

KM: Currently, I am helping Ms. Rueth with the middle school and high school MUN clubs, including facilitating their participation in CISSMUN and THIMUN. I've also been observing Ms. Rueth throughout BEIMUN's organization. What I would like is to expand the conference from the current 400 to around 700 students. I understand this will not happen immediately due to some challenges such as getting VISA's in China, but that is my goal.

IP: I understand that one of your goals was to draw more juniors and seniors into ISB's MUN program. What are some specific actions you're planning to take?

KM: This event is an amazing opportunity for ISB students, so I'd like to raise the profile of BEIMUN school-wide, but also internationally. I'd like to see more posters around school, have more students speak at assemblies... We're also doing some re-branding. It's an amazing experience for kids, whether you're a press or secretariat. It's a student-led, student-run activity and it's academic in nature; real learning happens as a result of it. I just want more kids to experience it; and I know it will happen.

IP: I suppose that is what attracted you to the position in the first place?



Katherine Maloney, XXVI MUN new assistant advisor and future MUN director

KM: I loved working on MUN activities in the first place, and I knew I'd be working on MUN in some capacity. It just so happens to be that Ms. Rueth is moving into a different role, and is ready to hand over her role to someone else. And I'm here.

IP: Anything else you'd like to add?

KM: Ms. Rueth has done an excellent job. She has led the conference from the Crowne Plaza to the school campus, which is a major transition. So I have big shoes to fill — she's extremely organized. Most things are in place — so now we just build on what we have.

FAREWELL, MR. DAW: A CONVERSATION WITH OUR WEBMASTER

IP: Can you describe your role as webmaster of BEIMUN?

HD: I have two roles: my biggest role is to maintain the website. We're a fairly heavily digital conference,

so I need to maintain the website and make sure it works all the time. Second, I also look after the administrative tasks, such as making sure the payments are coming in and out and that everything needed for conferences is readily available.

IP: What attracted you to this position?

HD: Nine years ago, the director came to ask me if there was a better way to process this literal stack of paper that was the registration process at the time. So at first, the website handled registration and announcements. As the years went by, I realized there were many things we could digitize. What you see right now is that everything that was once done on paper is now done on the website. Registration, receipting, invoicing, resolutions... Now, once an officer presses the "passed" button, the resolution will appear on the main page for the whole world to see. We want to go as paper-less and green as we can. We spearheaded this digitization process; it's still ongoing, but we've come a long way.

IP: Do you have any visions for the future of MUN? Do you have any words you'd say to your successor?

HD: I'd say that the best advice is to keep thinking of ideas and keep trying them out. There were a lot of failed of experiments; for example, I was hoping to have a better resolution system built in. Currently, students have to type their resolutions on Word documents, upload, and wait for approval. I'm hoping we can skip steps and type directly onto the website.

IP: Do you have any final comments, as this is your last BEIMUN?

HD: I've really enjoyed it. It's been an amazing nine-year journey; when I look at where we were nine years ago and compare it to today, the change has been amazing. I've worked with three different directors now, and I've enjoyed every executive team I've been with. It's been a positive experience.



Harold Daw, the Webmaster of BEIMUN XXVI, giving advice to the delegate of Republic of China

COMMITTEE RECAP

GA1

By Will Zhou



(Left to Right) *Levi Choi* (Assistant President of General Assembly 1 from Cebu International School), *Ji Won Choi* (President of General SAssembly 1 from International School of Beijing), *Eric Xie* (Deputy Assistant Principle of General Assembly 1 from International School of Beijing)

At the turn of the twenty-first century, our society experienced a rapid surge in the rate of technological advancement. Interconnectivity has the capacity to empower people and assist them in achieving the previously unimaginable. These advancements, however, create unique challenges and perils. The rise of the digital era has blurred the lines between our human and digital rights. This ambiguity has created a digital space for cyberterrorists to recruit and organize. These groups often thrive on the political polarization that has accompanied the development of global interconnectivity.

As the first day of BEIMUN XXVI begins, delegates of the first committee of General Assembly (GA1) focus on these issues and how they challenge the concept of national sovereignty.

As the delegates gather and begin lobbying, *Jiwon Choi*, President of GA1; *Jun Hwan Choi*, Assistant President of GA1; *Eric Xie*, Deputy Assistant President of GA1 eagerly prepare for the engaged discussion and debates about preventing cyberterrorism and the reevaluation of global laws protecting sovereign boundaries.



Natalie Peterson, Delegate of France from Frainternationella Kun-skapsymnasiet



Special Speaker *Trym Sonstad*

GA3

By Hyoree Kim

We are at the period where social, humanitarian, and cultural affairs are the topics of heated debate among people of all ages, gender, and status. Today, on the first day of BEIMUN XXVI, the delegates representing nations from all over the world gathered assembled together to debate, discuss and hopefully resolve issues facing our world today. In the third committee of General Assembly (GA3), the delegates will attempt to draft resolutions regarding three concerns that they were addressing: LG-BTQI+ rights in Uganda, improvement of women's education and rights in the Arabian Peninsula, and the protection of Rohingya refugees from threats of land mines. During the day, delegates of GA3 will focus on lobbying and taking their resolutions to other delegates to try to gain support for their ideas. Upon discussion, they will have the option to merge resolutions once they find another delegate with a similar proposal. *Luca Coben*, President of General Assembly Three; *Alan Wang*, Deputy Assistant President of General Assembly Three; and *Reina Zhang*, Deputy Assistant President look forward to hearing the brilliant ideas of their delegates for another year of fruitful debate. Hopefully, today will be the start of a successful conference that will raise awareness of the social, humanitarian, and cultural affairs of the world.



Delegates engaged to *Trym Sonstad's* speech

GA6

By Sally Kim



Zoe Obler and *Sunny Zhang*, Delegates of Algena sharing ideas during break

Delegates in GA6 convened to discuss white collar crime and the danger social media poses to free and fair elections. These issues have an added sense of importance following the 2016 U.S. Presidential election which many delegates believe highlighted the twin dangers of corruption and the intentional dissemination of misleading information. Delegates began their meeting by gathering ideas about how best to deal with these pressing issues.

To combat the malicious use of social media, the delegate of China, *Kim Hyegy*, and the delegate of Thailand, *Zoe Obler*, are approaching this issue aggressively by proposing resolutions which would allow governments to work with social media companies to educate the public about the potential dangers of fake news.

The world has also been facing a major corruption problem, where people with a high social status commit crimes with impunity. Many believe that the gap between rich and poor has exacerbated these problems. To address the severity of this matter, delegates have been proposing solutions such as implementing new laws regarding white collar crimes and educating students and the public about these crimes.



Mahmur Bang, the delegate of Angola

COMMITTEE RECAP (CONTINUED)

HRC 1

By Sally Kim

As the first day of lobbying commences, delegates in the first committee of the Human Rights Council discussed civil right issues in the hopes of reaching reach a unified consensus. Gathered in small groups, all delegates proactively contribute in forming ideas to effectively approach these topics. Pressing world issues were examined during lobbying, from internet usage to political imprisonment, every delegate spoke up to defend their stance and to mold their group's resolution.

Cyber sovereignty has been a priority of the conference, especially for a very private and technologically isolated country such as Myanmar. Although the debate topic is entirely centered on one state, the delegates have shown initiative in forming effective solutions regarding cyber sovereignty in other countries in today's debate. Delegates have also suggested providing financial aid to Myanmar in order to provide basic electricity to impoverished areas, thus allowing them access to the internet and establishing cyber sovereignty for the nation.

Additionally, delegates are addressing the operation of political prisons in North Korea. The unlawful jailing of citizens for seemingly trivial reasons was criticized as a violation of fundamental human rights. Delegates hope to engage these issues and others for the next few days, and hopefully reach a diplomatic resolution



(Right) Emma Zhang, the delegate of Philippines

ENV 1

By Hyoree Kim

BEIMUNXXVI has officially kicked off and delegates are hard at work lobbying their resolutions. With an overarching theme of mitigation of tension between countries, Environmental Commission One will be developing resolutions for resilient coastal settlements against issues arising from climate change, promoting the establishment of a globally sustainable recycling program, and facilitating the research and development of an affordable renewable energy.

Rachel Kim, the President; Kevin Cha, Deputy Assistant President; and Catherine Lin, Deputy Assistant President of Environmental Commission One will be facilitating the discussions and debates in hopes to pass countless resolutions in another successful year. Delegates will work to reach a con-

sensus on the most reasonable and feasible solutions in response to the massive and detrimental ramifications of previous human exploitations of the environment. The guest keynote speaker, Mr. Matthew Yamatin, has come to speak about his stance on various environmental issues that we face today, as well as effective solutions like recycling, to further enlighten delegates of its impacts. The presentation has influenced delegates to take a closer look at possible options and take action.



(Left to Right) Evan Kim (Delegate of Sweden from Seoul International School) and Peter Ha (Delegate of Poland from Korean International School)

SC 1

By Kathy Liu

The United Nations Security Council was established on October 24, 1945 with the primary goal of seeking solutions to problems that could threaten peace



(Left to Right) Amaria Jatisambogo (Delegate of Equatorial Guinea from Xiamen International School) and George Su (Delegate of Cote d'Ivoire From Sha Tin College)

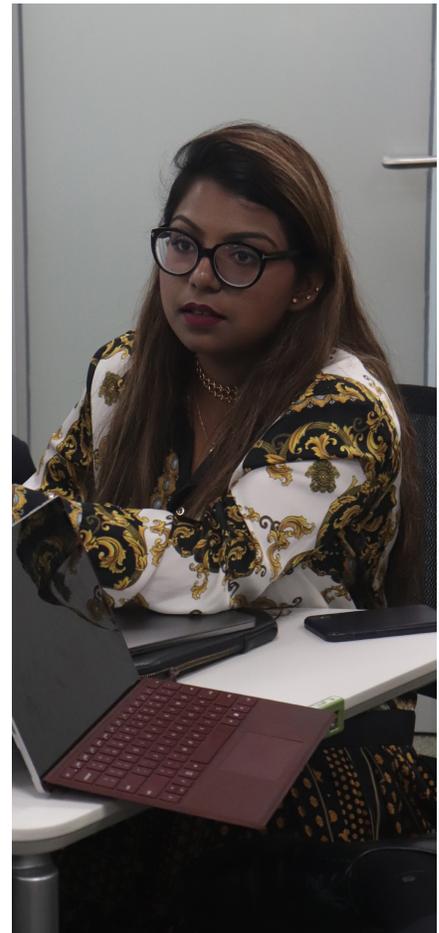
and security. Now, nearly seventy-five years later, fifteen delegates from over 10 different schools have gathered to simulate the UNSC with the intent of addressing the contentious issues shaping our world. Delegates will discuss and debate the power struggle over the South China Sea, tensions between Russia and member states of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), and the seemingly intractable problems of the Israel-Palestine conflict.

Delegates from a wide array of countries are looking forward to working together to form resolutions that tackle the complexities of these difficult issues. Delegates are considering designating the South China Sea as an international waterway. This designation would allow all countries to enjoy the

economic and political benefits of a less contentious South China Sea. This solution, however, has not been received warmly by all delegates in the committee. According to Sophie Zhang, the delegate of the People's Republic of China, "China intends to maintain its historical claims over the area while working with other countries to find a solution."

Delegates representing France, Equatorial Guinea, Bolivia and the United States are diligently working together to mitigate the tensions between Russia and NATO member states which have been simmering since the annexation of Crimea in 2014. These countries are working together to introduce new peacemaking efforts in the area. Delegates hope that their efforts will facilitate the slow phasing-out of Russian troops in Ukraine.

Over the next three days, delegates will continue to work together and find multilateral compromises and policies that are effective in addressing some of the biggest disputes shaping our world. These conversations have allowed delegates to forge friendships and build community in the hopes of making the world more peaceful and secure.



Fariyah Ahmed, delegate of the United States from American School of Dhaka

UPCOMING BREXIT DEADLINE

By Evelyn Chen

As March 29, the deadline of Brexit, approaches, this two-year-long trial that has spawned intense and bitter debate around the world shall soon reach its end. A soft exit seems to be the optimal solution for both sides. Nevertheless, due to hardships in reaching an agreement on the Brexit deal, the March 29 deadline may not allow enough time for Britain to ease their exit. This most recent vote by the Members of Parliament allows Prime Minister Theresa May more time to construct a deal, which implies a delay of three months to June 30, 2019.

Brexit is an abbreviation for "British exit," referring to the U.K.'s decision in a June 23, 2016 referendum to leave the European Union (EU). "Leave" won the June 2016 referendum with 51.9% of the ballot, while "Remain" received 48.1%. The referendum was

brought on by a variety of factors, including the European debt crisis, fears over globalization, ISIS attacks, and the massive inflow of immigrants. Moreover, with the UK's history as an unconquered island nation - in recent history - an ingrained nationalistic culture isolates it from the rest of European nations: it never opted into the European Union's monetary union, remained outside the Schengen Area (common visa policy for EU nations), and has long been wary of the European Union's projects. Nevertheless, Britain will have to weather the fallout from this radical decision: a weakened economy and political destabilization. While for the EU, a vote by a Member State to leave is an immense blow to the Union's self-image, global standing, and vision of the European project.



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Celebrity College Scandal

By Harry Xiao



This Tuesday, nearly 50 people, including celebrity actors Felicity Huffman and Lori Loughlin, were charged in one of the largest US college admissions

fraud schemes in history. Called a \$25 million scam to get the children of wealthy Americans into elite colleges, even highly respected and prestigious institutions such as Yale and Stanford have been caught in an investigation that has uncovered bribery of Division I coaches, cheating on the SAT and ACT tests, and even photoshopping athletic photos to misrepresent applicants. For example, Loughlin allegedly paid bribes totaling nearly \$500,000 to have her two daughters recruited into the University of Southern California's crew teams.

The uncovering of such a scandal has unleashed a wave of anger among parents, students, and admissions experts alike, and rightfully so. Ordinary citizens are upset at how their dedication and achieve-

ment in academics and extracurricular activities have been undermined by the wealthy. A member of BEIMUN mentioned in a disappointed tone, "I think there needs to be more transparency in the college admission system."

This scandal is but the latest in a series of cases in the world of college admissions. Less than two years ago, four Chinese nationals were charged in the US for attempting to sit the TOEFL exams for other applicants, showcasing just how close to home this form of cheating is.

In the incredibly stressful and competitive environment of elite college admissions, we have been reminded of the importance of maintaining integrity in the application process.

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THE DEADLY 737 MAX 8

By Harry Xiao

Following crashes in Indonesia and Ethiopia that claimed the lives of over three hundred people, airlines and regulatory bodies worldwide have taken action to ground the Boeing 737 MAX 8 aircraft until investigators can ascertain what caused the planes to crash.

Investigators suspect that the new anti-stall flight-control system, known as the Maneuvering Characteristics Augmentation System (MCAS), may

have caused the accidents. The MCAS was designed to push the nose of the plane downward to increase airspeed and prevent aerodynamic stalling. Investigators fear, however, that the system may have interfered with the pilots' ability to control the plane when attempting to raise the nose to enter a climb.

This assessment is consistent with the early evidence from the respective crashes. Both occurred soon after takeoff following a request from the crews

to return to the airport. Analysis of the cockpit recorders should help investigators verify this initial hypothesis.

As the investigation continues, Boeing has lost more than \$25 billion from their market value, but there are hopes that Boeing will identify a solution for the 737 MAX 8 fleets as soon as possible.

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An Inside Scoop on the Activities of the Admins Behind the Scenes

By: Will Zhou

At every BEIMUN conference, among the throng of countless advisors, delegates, and chairs donning formal attire stand out a group of students wearing vibrant T-shirts – the administration, or admins. Comprising passionate, humble volunteers from the International School of Beijing, the admin team work behind-the-scenes, tirelessly ensuring that every visiting teacher and student knows how to navigate the school’s labyrinth of hallways and rooms. They also monitor committee debates, making sure things remain PG-13 (sometimes, PC). Essentially, they smooth the way for a successful BEIMUN conference.

Despite the endless research, lobbying, and debating that the delegates must carry out, the admins face perhaps one of the most demanding tasks at BEIMUN. Davy Zeng, the head admin of BEIMUN,

emphasizes that “being head admin was probably one of the most intense experiences I’ve had in high school. From waking up at 6 to nearly falling asleep when walking between committee rooms.” Zeng would find himself caught in the conference’s pandemonium of activities and debates, often taking place at polar opposite ends of the school.

While the job of every admin is daunting, the experience is equally rewarding. As put forth by Shawn Quek, first-time admin, “Everyone seems passionate; the delegates, chairs, and advisors.” Although he is not a delegate himself, Quek expresses that he feels like he is part of the BEIMUN community, one “that aims to shape our world into a better world.” Jeffrey Wang, a fellow rookie admin, shares a similar sentiment, noting that “meeting new people” has been most exciting so far.

The job of an admin extends far beyond ensuring that students and advisors are all in check and where they need to be. The most important contribution of the admins is their involvement in committee debates, specifically in moderating the delegates and reporting of the chairs. Zeng finds that every admin “brings a feeling of expertise” despite being uninvolved in the debates. The admin team is, without a doubt, quintessential to BEIMUN. Their endless, incessant effort turn the gears at every conference.



What Suits You?

By Evelyn Chen

As the first tender breeze rouses the land from its winter slumber, seedlings burgeon under the vernal sun, and buds bloom amid the sweet sound of songbirds. In this season of rejuvenation, we welcome all delegates and directors visiting ISB for the 26th BEIMUN. The excitement of delegates can be seen from their gelled hair and neat suits, to their ironed shirts and shined shoes. The professional looking dress is on display everywhere this weekend. But the individual expressions of each delegate’s style choice is as unique as his or her political views.



“I am wearing this Slytherin tie because I admire their qualities of resourcefulness, shrewdness, and ambition. I want to be just as smart as them in BEIMUN.”

--Evan Bondurant, a delegate from Beijing City International School



“I understand that my outfit isn’t very formal, but it’s a representation of my country, South Africa. This outfit reminds me of my country and its culture every time I speak for it. [...] It’s important to remember where you come from.”

--Darren Kasanga, a delegate from Lycee Jules Verne French School



“I dressed up in a classy and comely shirt, which was influenced by the taste of fashion from my mother. She is a fashion designer with a prosperous business of her own. She is a successful and independent woman that I always perceive as a role model.”

— Zara Haque, a delegate from American International School Dhaka



“I wore a casual trouser and a professional top. I think comfortability always comes before formality. [...] I don’t need clothes to boost confidence. I use my speech to win respect.”

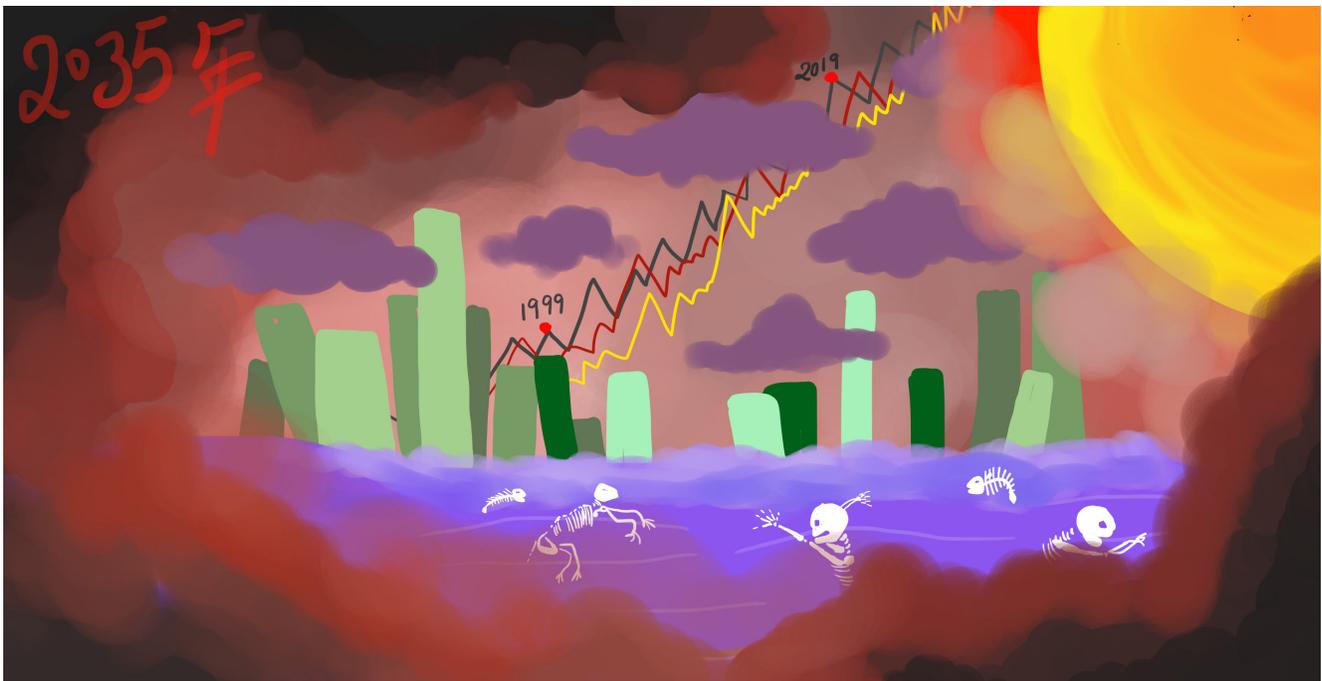
--Kelsey Fu, a delegate from International School of Beijing



“This blue dress reminds me of the confidence and composure from my first year as a delegate. [...] I hope this can bring a sense of tranquillity in the heated and intense discussions.”

--Cynthia Shi, President of Economic and Social Council





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