

2

Under the MUN light

*A journal covering the 16<sup>th</sup> DSAMUN-  
Conference on a daily basis*



# The heat turns up!

The hammer falls and everyone gets busy! The participants are full of enthusiasm and the days goes on – hopefully without rain.

The positive spirit of the conference has started in the opening ceremony with twelve remarkable speeches and Hatzidaki's music, played by the school's orchestra. The delegates are bustling in their committees with lobbying and debate will rapidly begin after that.

In addition to the many photos and the article about the “unknown heroes” of the conference, this issue also features an interview with Mr. Kaiser.

Good luck, delegates and use all the positive spirit you have for fruitful debates!

Peny Galanou, Emmanuel Spanoudakis

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- *Interviews*
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# Contents

**Heads of the Press team:**  
**Galanou Peny**  
**Spanoudakis Emmanuel**

**Journalists:**  
**Chaspari Roza**  
**Gaitanou Athina**  
**Louvrou Katerina**  
**Lymperopoulou Nancy**  
**Megali Alik**  
**Papakonstantinou Leda**

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**Petmeza Vera**

Opening ceremony  
by: the whole press team p.

Committtees day 1  
by: the whole press team p.

The many “little heroes” behind the scenes of the MUN  
conference p. 8  
By: Alik Megali

Interview: Ralph Kaiser, DSAMUN Director p. 10  
by: Leda Papakonstantinou

Photos p. 11

Sponsors p. 12



The lights go out in the school auditorium except for those pointing the Secretariat and the podium. The Opening Ceremony has already started. The podium will host twelve passionate speakers for the next few hours...

**Mr. Thomas Fischer, Headmaster of the Deutsche Schule Athen**

Mr. Fisher welcomed everyone to this year's MUN. He stressed what a promising event it is since 37 schools participate and it centers on women's rights, a very crucial issue. Although many actions have taken place in order for the genders to be qualified as equivalent, women are still thought to be inferior to men. According to many researches, only a few countries have a minimum gender gap, something very alarming. Therefore, extensive research should be carried out on the factors that prevent women from being seen as equal to men. Moreover, Mr. Fisher talked about the fact that only a few crimes committed met the public eye. To support this, he gave the example of an Indian woman, who in 2012 was beaten to death. Then he quoted Ban Ki-Moon and said that violence against women should be neither expected nor excused. In addition, he warned that we should be more concerned about the daily problems women have to face. Last but not least, Mr. Fisher asked the delegates the following question: "Aren't the daily troubles more pressing issues?" and stated that the delegates will be discussing about it. To conclude, he said that everyone should respect their partners.



**Mr. Wolfgang Rechenhofer, Head of the Department of Culture and Mass Media of the German embassy**

Mr. Rechenhofer started his speech by welcoming the house to a "great event", the 16<sup>th</sup> DSAMUN Conference, where important world topics are to be discussed. He pointed out the topic of the Special Conference, the Advancement of Women. He continued by instructing the students not to be afraid, if a problem seems unsolved, and that at the end of the day a solution will be found. Finally, he expressed his understanding of the problems of negotiations, which nevertheless contribute to the development of additional skills.



**Music: Manos Hadjidakis, To feggari einai kokkino**

**H.E. Mr. Jebran Soufan, Ambassador of Lebanon**

Mr. Jebran Soufan, the Ambassador of Lebanon, gave a wonderful speech. He began his speech by emphasizing what a beautiful country Greece is. Then he talked about international organizations and stressed the complexity of the issues the organizations deal with. He also mentioned their duties to be objective and contribute to the process of finding solutions. He talked about the difference between right and wrong and pointed out, that every single interest can be a step to a contribution. Moreover, he addressed all global citizens to work hard in order to reach international peace and security, to prevent terrorism and poverty as well as to provide education. In order to realize those goals he suggested to train the national skills and then make efforts on an international level.



# Opening Ceremony





### **Mr. Arnaoutis**

Mr Kiriakos Gerodopoulos, the Debuty Minister of Foreign Affairs, was supposed to talk in the opening ceremony but unfortunately could not be present due to business in the Parliament. However, Mr Arnaoutis, director of diplomatic relations, represented him. Mr Arnaoutis congratulated the German School of Athens and then proceeded to talk about the issue of development. At first, he reported of three issues that were raised in New York: The first one was a session generally on development, the second one was entitled disability and development and the third one immigration and development. Moreover, he talked about human rights as well as their importance and advised people to try and contribute on this issue. Last but not least, he said that the main idea is to work together in order to achieve prosperity. In the end, Mr Arnaoutis wished that all the delegates participate in the MUN successfully and might also take part in future discussions.

### **Mrs. Melitta Schubert, Ambassador of Austria**

To begin with, Ms. Schubert welcomed all the participants of MUN and thanked the German School of Athens for the invitation. She pointed out the importance of the topics that are going to be discussed and focuses on the following issues: the refugees and the right to education in hosting countries as well as the empowerment of women in the context of political transition. What was very interesting about Ms. Schubert's speech was a story that she recited to the audience: A friend of hers had visited a country where the role of women is undervalued and as he walked into a hospital he saw a woman who had just thrown her young born girl from the sixth floor, only because she was afraid of her husband's reaction. The Ambassador of Austria wondered if the high level of Europe's social security is going to be ensured for the next generations. She closed her speech by proposing the finding of a common ground for solutions of these important issues.



### **Mr. Ioannis Panagiotopoulos, General Secretary of Mass Media**



Mr. Ioannis Panagiotopoulos, the General Secretary of Mass Media, despite of his delay, gave a short but very inspiring speech. After excusing himself for his delay, he emphasized his hope to mobilize the young generations to create a better future. Moreover, he broached the fact that in order to solve crucial problems, such as the financial crisis, we have to be aware of their existence and get familiar with them. He closed his speech urging us, the young generation, to take action and to improve the current situation!

### **H.E. Mr. Peter Michalko, Ambassador of Slovakia**

Peter Michalko, Ambassador of Slovakia, gave a very interesting speech. After thanking DSA-MUN for extending the invitation, he made a brief historical recursion into the success of the UN in dissolving conflicts as well as fighting social and economic problems. He then pointed out that MUN is of equal importance for young people. Slovakia has contributed a lot through the years to the UN and it is a proof that not only the size of the country counts, but its will and contribution. The significance of the MUN can also be found in the accelerating problems of today's society. MUN is unique to help youngsters understand that no matter what the problem is, solutions can be found. Closing up Mr. Michalko wished all participants all the best in their studies and future.



### **Dr. Mohammad Hossein Mozaffari, Cultural Counselor of the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran**

The sudden but welcome participation of Dr. Mohammad Hossein Mozaffari, cultural counselor of the embassy of the Islamic republic of Iran, began his speech with greetings. He especially underlined the fact that everyone can distinguish the bad from good but the point is to choose the better one instead of the only good. In the end he used an Islamic leader's quote in order to support his thesis.



### **Mrs. Maria Yannakaki, Member of the Greek Parliament**

The speech of Miss Maria Yannakaki, Member of the Greek Parliament, deals with the empowerment of women globally. As far as the evolution of the role of women is concerned, a progress is underlined mainly in the context of political transition, which during the last years has been easier to be acquired. As an example she referred to the 57 first female national leaders. However, the gains of women do not come universally, whereas many people have to face (inter-)cultural discrimination in specific regions that are highly bound to society. The sexual harassment has not stopped, consequently women are victimized. According to some statistics, immigrant women suffer from social discrimination of the locals specifically those, who are between 14-25 years old, are prostitutes or jobless as well as homeless. Despite the fact that the above situation causes a big threat to society, no serious attempts have been made in order to solve the problem universally. This is attributed to some European countries that are not willing to help eradicate the problem. To sum up, we need to focus on the elimination of discrimination of women in a global perspective



**Mr. Dimitrios Fatouros, Communication Officer for Greece and Cyprus of UNRIC**

Dimitrios Fatouros, communication officer for Greece and Cyprus of UNRIC, started his speech by expressing his own idea of how the world should be. At the beginning, he mentioned that the ideal world stands in front of his eyes. Between the delegates he sees no hunger, no poverty, no cruelty. The life “we” enjoy should be a privilege to every single human being on the planet. However, he also emphasized the delegates’ capability and responsibility to vanish the problems of their countries (unemployment, poverty etc.) and this constitutes the aim of the UN as well. United we can do things that affect a change not only of the state of the world but also of the state of (the) human being.



**Ba Ki Moon, Secretary General of the UN**

*Message For the International Day for the eradication of poverty (read by the Deputy President of the GA Gürçan Gülersoy)*

17 October 2013

This year’s observance of International Day for the Eradication of Poverty comes as international community is pursuing twin objectives: intensifying efforts to reach the Millennium Development Goals, and formulating the next set of goals to guide our efforts after we reach the MDG target date of 2015. This post-2015 agenda must have poverty eradication as its highest priority and sustainable development at its core. After all, the only way to make poverty eradication irreversible is by putting the world on a sustainable development path.

We have much work ahead. While poverty levels have declined significantly, progress has been uneven. Our impressive achievement in cutting poverty by half should not blind us to the fact that more than 1.2 billion people still live in extreme poverty worldwide. Too many young people lack jobs and the skills that respond to market demands. Rising inequality in many countries --both rich and poor--is fueling exclusion from economic, social and political spheres, and we know that the impacts of climate change and loss of biodiversity hit the poorest the hardest. All of this underpins the need for strong and responsive institutions.

We need to do more listen and act for those whose voices often go unheard –people living in poverty, and in particular among them indigenous people, the elderly and those living with disabilities, the unemployed, migrants and minorities. We need to support them in their struggle to escape poverty and build better lives for themselves and their families.

If we are to realize the future we want for all, we must hear and heed the calls of the marginalized. For the last year, the UN has been doing just that by spearheading an unprecedented global conversation on the world people want. That dialogue must continue –and lead to the active and meaningful inclusion of people living in poverty – as we chart a course to ending poverty everywhere.

Together, we can build a sustainable world of prosperity and peace, justice and equity – a life of dignity for all.

**Music: Manos Hatzidakis, The Wals of the Lost Dreams**



**Mrs. Rania El-Ambassy, Head of Educational Programs, Amnesty International**

Mrs. Rania El-Ambassy, head of Educational Programs, Amnesty International stated that this year’s conference is a strong symbol for the collaboration between the U.N. and Amnesty International. The organization’s role is to give voice to the less privileged people and communities, whose requests otherwise would stay in the dark. Its aim is not to watch the problems but to work more closely with the affected and try to solve diplomatic issues. In conclusion, she invited us all to know the organization better, support its ideas and global

role against poverty and urged the delegates to take advantage of the day.

**Mrs. Aleksandra Billeskov, Secretary General of the 16th DSAMUN**

The Madame Secretary General introduced us to her speech with a row of dilemmata. She addressed the audience and questioned the meaning of democracy nowadays, the role of politics and the respect Man has shown towards the environment. She then elaborated on the challenges the world faces and brought by examples from the issues discussed in the committees. She finished her speech by mentioning youth’s potential in changing the world and by addressing the participants as the youth to be able to do so.

That was it actually: The hammer falls and the 16th DSAMUN Conference officially starts...





# Committees Day 1

## General Assembly

### Political Committee

After the ambassadors' speeches at the General Assembly, the delegates of the Political Committee discussed with great enthusiasm and excitement their resolutions and were cooperatively preparing themselves for the next day's debate. The delegates had a fruitful conversation about their resolutions. We're sure that the debates will be very interesting!



### Disarmament and International Security Committee

On the first day, three topics were raised in the disarmament and international security Committee conference. The first one was the "Embargo in Cuba", the second one the "Illicit of arms trafficking" and lastly "Mongolia's international security and nuclear weapons status." The delegates had enough time to work on only two issues, the "Embargo in Cuba" and the "Arms trafficking". They lobbied for one hour and thirty minutes on the issue of Cuba and then, after lunch break, for forty five minutes on Arms trafficking. The delegates formed three alliances which consisted of European countries, countries with a high status like the United States of America and the countries of the eastern bloc and Russia, and represented different interests. They also wrote resolutions and handed them in. Moreover, the delegates managed to take four D-numbers and two A-numbers. As a result, they only need one more D-number. Last but not least, the issue of Cuba raised a lot of controversy and is expected to be quite controversial on the second day, too. To conclude, it is evident that a very important part of the process of the MUN was completed on the first day, while the next day the discussions are going to start.



Roza Chaspari

### Environmental and Cultural Committee

The main subject that was discussed and analysed by the delegates of the Environmental committee was our responsibility to protect the cultural heritage of minority groups which now face the threat of disappearance. First, however, let us take a closer look at this phrase (cultural heritage) to fully understand its meaning. The term 'culture' expresses all the spiritual and material creation of an individual or a group. 'Cultural heritage', on the whole, is the property that every generation passes on to the next one: It represents the past in the present, the way of living of a nation and can be divided into intangible, spiritual e.g. literature, material, monuments. Thereupon, the delegates came to a significant result which ended up being the main cause of the committee: Dominant groups have to prevail and the minorities must be forced to integrate. And why is this matter of such great importance? The committee comes with the answer that cultural heritage plays a huge role in the development of the humankind and the societies in general and this is why it is our duty to keep it safe.



Katerina Louvrou

### Social and Humanitarian Committee

Being present at the Social and Humanitarian Lobbying Process, we found it obvious that the delegates were having a fruitful discussion on their resolutions. The atmosphere was very cooperative and friendly. The excitement on the delegates' faces was obvious. So we're waiting for the debate process which seems to be very interesting.



Athina Gaitanou, Alik Megali

## **Security Council**

The main issue of today's debate was the situation in DR Congo. The delegates, after an interesting discussion, passed many clauses. The delegate of USA asked for a P5-meeting to avoid a Veto. Unfortunately, the clause was vetoed, since the proposal of the P5 countries on amendment offering financial assistance to Rwanda, failed.

Athina Gaitanou, Alikí Megalí



## **ECOSOC**

And the lobbying begins!!! The delegates started dealing with the first three issues and the last one. As the chairs mentioned they are cooperative and willing to follow instructions. They have already formed three alliances for the topic referring to the future of the welfare state and two for the other three which are being discussed today, since they are being described as very controversial issues.

Peny Galanou



## **Special Conference**

The first thing I noticed when walking into room 215, where the Special Conference was lobbying, was the number of female participants. They clearly outnumbered the males, which I think is reasonably based on the topics of this year's MUN conference. The committee started working on the topics and drawing up resolutions. The delegates seemed to work very efficiently together and from admission over the Student Officers of the Special Conference the result of their work is very impressive for the number of newcomers. All in all, the work of the committee is really promising and we expect to see more in the upcoming days.

Nancy Lymperopoulou



## **Youth Assembly**

### **Action Paper I**

This year the action paper I is about the International Year of water cooperation. The chair and co-chair (Nefeli Kousta – Ioanna Schuppert) decided – since all delegates were newcomers – to play some ice-breaker games, before further getting to know each other. At 10.30 am they all went to the auditorium, where the opening ceremony took place. After having made an introduction of the committee's topic, the delegates were separated into three groups, in order to write down the causes, the facts as well as the consequences and solutions of their main topic. By the end of the day, one specific action paper was the one, on which the next day's debate will focus on.

Leda Papakonstantinou



### **Action Paper 2**

This year's topic of Action Paper II is on Big Data. The chair (Vasiliki Pasalidi-Chautzi) and the co-chair (Kyriaki Papadimitriou) explained to the twelve newcomers, how a good delegate speaks and behaves. Moreover, each delegate introduced himself, which was an opportunity for him to yield the floor. There was an introduction concerning Big Data and then the delegates had to write the causes and solutions of the topic, after having been separated into four groups. The following day, they will debate as well!

Leda Papakonstantinou



### **International Court of Justice**

The trial on a maritime dispute between Peru and Chile started with the two opening statements of both the applicant (Peru) and the respondent party (Chile). Then the advocates of Peru presented their evidence extensively. The examining of the two witnesses of the applicant party, the ambassadors of Peru and Ecuador, was next on the agenda, followed by a process closed for the public, the deliberation. According to my sources, confusion occurred while the Court was deliberating, but the members finally managed to come to some conclusions.

Emmanuel Spanoudakis



by Alik Megali

## The many “little heroes” behind the scenes of the MUN conference

Another MUN conference is taking place at the German School of Athens. Although the contribution of our school's students is fundamental for the orderly functioning of the conference, the significance of their work is not widely known to the participants of MUN. The reason why we collected some information about our personnel is to point out the magnitude of their role in the conference and to prevent any arrogant attitude towards them.



### Security Staff

Kostas Karakostas and Venizelos-Stavros Skafidas, the heads of the Security Staff, have been working for the past two months to ensure the security of the participants. Furthermore, the Security Staff is responsible for the escort of the ambassadors and has to deal with any case of theft. This year an innovation is introduced to the Security Staff: the use of walky talky, but only for the heads and the subheads. The contribution of Mrs. Theocharopoulou, who has spent many hours helping the staff, must be highlighted.

### Admin Staff

The Admin Staff makes efforts since the summer in order to organize the hardware: the budgets, the handbooks, the lunch tickets and the material for the conferences. They are also available for the delegates during the debates in order to help the proceeding. The heads of Admin Staff, Adriani Pitta and Anastasia Iliopoulou in cooperation with Mrs. Astrinaki, Mr. Birtachas and the Secretary General Alexandra Billeskov have managed to organize the personnel and their efforts are of utmost importance for the conference.





*Friday, October 18 2013*

### **Technical Staff**

Last but not least, the Technical Staff's jurisdiction is to set the microphones, make sure of the internet connection in every room, show Power Point presentations and connect the computers with beamers. John Oikonomidis, head of the Technical Staff, and Mrs. Theocharopoulou have managed to organize the audiovisual media in detail.



### **Under the MUN light—2<sup>nd</sup> Issue • 9**



### **Computer Staff**

The Computer Staff's competency is to classify and to keep files of the resolutions, as well as to enumerate the approved resolutions. On top of that, the Staff is responsible for correcting the passed resolutions and for helping the Press with the use of computers and printers. Mrs. Pliatsika has provided a great help to the members of the Computer Staff and the heads Spyros Koulouris and Thodoris Loupasis, seems to be managing the Staff successfully.

### **Fundraising**

What is interesting about this years' MUN is the fundraising for the Amnesty International. The stand is going to be in the hands of Stella Pitsini and Barbara Chantzistefanou in the Foyer of the school.



It is thus obvious that the Staff plays an important role during the MUN conference and should therefore be treated with respect. Since the DSA-MUN would not be able to function properly without the Staffs' contribution, we would like to express our deep gratitude to the participants and encourage them to make their best efforts for our conference.

Ralph Kaiser, DSAMUN Director  
interviewed by Leda Papakonstantinou

*Question: Tell us about your first MUN experience.*

Answer: You wouldn't believe it but my very first experience was DSAMUN 2010! So about 6 weeks after starting my job as a teacher at the DSA, I saw myself confronted with something that seemed like the "Encounter of the Third Kind". It had been a completely unknown and hidden world to me. But I immediately caught the virus and was basically diving into it. Now I still do remember my first conference really well. I was thrilled to bits that I was part of it. Furthermore, I was impressed by the devotion of the students.

*Q: Which is your favourite historical figure/quote?*

A: This is a rather difficult question as I am rather interested in issues than people. But I may say that former German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt comes close to what I think a politician must be like. Trustworthy, public-spirited and a man of principle. Favourite (funny) quote: "Wenn die Deutschen Revolution machen und einen Bahnhof stürmen wollen, dann kaufen sie vorher eine Bahnsteigkarte." (When Germans make a revolution and want to storm a train station, then they will first buy a platform ticket.)

*Q: Which piece of advice would you give to new-comers?*

A: As a new-comer you have to learn and understand so many things that it is hard to say what the most important thing is. However, from experience I can tell that you can only really enjoy MUN if you did your research on the issues thoroughly. I know, many new MUNers are primarily interested in the debate and delivering speeches, yet how will you be able to defend your opinion in debate if you haven't become an expert on your country and the issues?

*Q: Do you find a specific topic of this year's conference of special importance?*

A: Cuba. My favourite this year. Why? Because years ago I went to Cuba and was able to see what the embargo does to people. It ought to be lifted immediately.



# Interview

*Friday, October 18 2013*

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# Photos





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