

XV ANNUAL SESSION | TEN YEAR ANNIVERSARY

The Outcome of the Fifteenth Annual Session
23 January - 28 January 2010
World Forum Convention Center
The Hague, The Netherlands

THE VOICE OF THIMUN YOUTH

Edited by THMUN Youth Network
15th THIMUN Youth Assembly
Participants, Coordinating & Presidential Team

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Fifteenth Session

The first THIMUN Youth Assembly was organized by the THIMUN Youth Network in January 2001. The Assembly is now held annually in the Hague. The fifteenth session of the Assembly was held from 23 - 28 January 2011 in the World Forum Convention Centre in The Hague. Over 20 participants from very diverse backgrounds came together to discuss and develop pilot projects. The committees that comprised this year's Assembly were Sustainable Development and Youth and Social Tension, Conflict and Youth.

THIMUN Youth Assembly 2010

President	Akua Nyame-Mensah
Deputy President	Angie Lai

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

Sunday, 23 January

09:00-16:00	Registration	(WFCC Lobby)
16:30	TYA Opening Ceremonies	(WFCC, Everest I & II)

Monday, 25 January

09:00-12.30	Committees in session	(WFCC)
12:30-13:30	Lunch Available	
13:00-14:00	Committees in session	
14:00-15:00	Guest Speaker: Nicolò Wojewoda	(WFCC, South America)
15:00-17:00	Committees in Session	

Tuesday, 26 January

09:00-12.30	Committees in session	(WFCC)
12:30-13:30	Lunch Available	
13:00-14:00	Committees in session	
14:00-15:00	Guest Speaker: Selene Biffi	(WFCC, South America)
15:00-17:00	Committees in Session	
19:00	TYA Participants Dinner	(Juliana's)

Wednesday, 27 January

9:00-11.00	Committees in session	(WFCC)
11:00-12:00	Guest Speaker: Stéphanie Moy	(WFCC, South America)
12:30-13:30	Lunch Available	

Thursday, 28 January

09:00-17:00	Working groups in session	(WFCC)
12:30-13.30	Lunch Available	

Friday, 29 January

09:00-12:00	Committees in session	(WFCC)
12:00-13:00	Lunch Available	
13:00-16:00	TYA Closing Ceremonies	(WFCC, South America)
16:30	THIMUN Closing Ceremonies	(WFCC Theatre)
20:00-24:00	Dance for THIMUN & TYA Participants	(WFCC)



Akua Nyame-Mensah,
15th Annual Youth
Assembly President



Angie Lai,
15th Annual Youth As-
sembly Deputy President



Bastiaan Bouwman,
15th Annual Youth As-
sembly Coordinator



Sven Livingston,
15th Annual Youth As-
sembly Coordinator

TYN was Established in 2001 and officially launched at the 35th Anniversary Session of The Hague International Model United Nations in January 2003.

THIMUN YOUTH NETWORK (TYN)

TYN is a youth –run and – organized subsidiary of THIMUN Foundation. TYN strives to facilitate and encourage youth to become aware and active; act as responsible stakeholders; and advance a spirit of collaboration, cooperation and participation among youth. The Network’s main annual event is the THMUN Youth Assembly.

Other TYN activities include delegations to international conferences, such as the UN Commission on Sustainable Development, (UNCSD) International AIDS Conference, and the Summer Symposium on the role of the youth as a major stakeholder in political forums and at the grassroots level.

MISSION

THIMUN Youth Network aims to facilitate and encourage youth to become aware and active, act as responsible stakeholders, and advance a spirit of collaboration, cooperation and participation among youth.



HISTORY

Rather than merely advocating for increased youth participation, TYN, through the THIMUN Youth Assembly, seeks to serve as a platform that enables youth to actively learn about issues, project management and development. TYN is a youth-run organization (16 – 25) developing individual projects, consulting with national and international actors, and playing key roles at international conferences.

The Youth Assembly is how most of our participants become first involved with the THIMUN Youth Network. Here they learn the basics of project and programme development, consensus-building, and international dialogue. The Youth Assembly is a key area for long-term training of the leaders of tomorrow. Participants learn about global issues, networking and project implementation so when they go back to their home countries they will have the tools and the support of a global network to help them implement a project individually. These projects may be peer-to-peer, community, or national-level projects depending on their area of focus.

THIMUN YOUTH ASSEMBLY OBJECTIVES

1

Contribute to the capacity of youth to create, develop and implement community specific projects through interactive workshops designed and delivered by youth with experience in a relevant field, professionals and scholars.

2

Provide the opportunity for youth to network and learn from one another in a multi-cultural setting through informal learning and the sharing of experiences.

3

Educate youth on global and local issues, while emphasising the role of the youth as a stakeholder, through thematic workshops, lectures and discussions.

Here is a list of some of the past projects: have helped establish National Youth Councils in their home countries, held panels at schools on HIV/AIDS awareness, advocated and campaigned for green campuses, and initiated community newspaper article exchanges with partner schools in other countries.

TYA participants come from international high schools and universities from all around the world. This diversity gives our participants the opportunity to interact with people with different backgrounds and further develop their communication skills in English. TYA projects and activities have involved over 1,000 participants from over 80 different countries!

TYN activity alumni have gone to participate in international conferences, work for the United Nations and other NGOs, gain admission to competitive higher-level educational institutions and most importantly, implement successful grassroots projects.

Participants have had the opportunity to attend these international conferences and more:

- XVIII International AIDS Conference (AIDS2010) in Vienna Austria, 2010
- 15th Conference of the Parties (COP15) by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Copenhagen, Denmark, 2009
- UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD+17) in New York, USA, 2009
- 5th World Water Forum in Istanbul, Turkey 2009
- World Water Week in Stockholm, Sweden 2007

SDY

Sustainable Development and Youth

Committee on Sustainable Development and Youth

Coordinators

Bastiaan Bouwman

Angie Lai

COMMITTEE SUMMARY

The Committee on Sustainable Development & Youth provides a platform for youth from all over the globe to gather, collaborate and learn from each other. The emphasis is on working from the interests of the participants. They develop their understanding of sustainable development issues through various assignments, feedback from coordinators and finally the intensive collaboration during TYA itself.

Sustainability is a vast and multifaceted topic, which can make it seem intractable. But this committee takes the opposite view: precisely because sustainable development is such a diverse and wide-ranging subject, everything is possible. The committee looks at examples of innovative ideas that are being implemented on the ground, as well as the international politics that provide the larger framework. Sustainable development is a young and fresh field, having become mainstreamed only since 1992. This committee is our platform for learning how to grasp the many opportunities it presents.

During the two months of online preparation, the participants familiarized themselves with different approaches to sustainable development. Weekly assignments challenged them to rapidly develop a personal understanding and opinion of the issues. For example, participants wrote argumentative essays on complex issues such as the individual responsibility to inform oneself, the relations between economic growth and inequality, and the role of civil society in relation to international politics. Later, they worked to identify successful sustainable development initiatives in their own countries, with an eye to the design of their own projects later on.

During the conference itself, participants and coordinators worked together in a serious, dedicated but at the same time informal and entertaining way. From the first day on, different viewpoints and backgrounds made for lively discussion. As everyone got to know each other better, collaboration on each other's projects started, starting with draft project presentations and extensive feedback. The first three days were focused on developing a shared vision of not only sustainable development but also project design in general. To this end, workshops with experienced youth leaders provided the expertise necessary, and the participants had the chance to ask the advice of young people who are now where they might be in just a few years. During the last two days of the conference, all the insight gathered so far was turned into practice as the participants finalized their project proposals, the summaries of which are printed below. We look forward to seeing these bright ideas turn into reality!

Bastiaan and Angie
Coordinators

PARTICIPANTS

Da Hyun Kang

Shreyam Desai

Albert Reymann

Samah McGona

Vanessa Kitching

Yuri Han

Carlos Tapia

Gabriela De Jesus

Pelin Asa

Chia Ni Wu

George Herodotou

NEED OR GREED

Da Hyun Kang

Greed drives many economic and social problems and in order to tackle this issue, this project will establish a 'Need or Greed Week' during the school year. This week will be devoted to educating the students, teachers, and parents on sustainable development and teaching them how to take action. The broad goal of establishing this week will be to change their mindset towards taking responsibility of the actions we carry out. The week will begin with a guest speaker speaking on the issue of sustainable development to educate the student body. Throughout the week, posters (newspapers) with writing to promote sustainable development will be put up, and donation booths will be set up to collect items that people bought as a result of their 'greed'. The items donated will be delivered to an orphanage, and through reports and photos, people would be able to see the difference their donations made to the children. This project strives to achieve an important aspect of sustainable development on a small scale: social equity. As a result, people will feel they can make a difference and get more involved in sustainable development related activities, and reflect more on their demand for material things, and think twice as to whether a product is what they truly 'need', or if it is what they 'desire'.

PROJECT SYNERGY

Shreyam Desai

The aim of Project Synergy (PS) is to create awareness of sustainable development outside of organized conferences and lectures. It is a means to bring developmental know-how to the common man. My school is part of a league of seven international schools throughout Mumbai, where "Bases" will be established at each of the seven schools. (A base is synonymous to a knowledge information booth). The booth will be a hub of flyers, brochures, and information about sustainable development. Each base school will submit proposals to a rotating seven-member central committee every cycle of three months. The proposals will be first filtered to a seven-member committee in each school. The members will be divided into the three pillars on which sustainable development is based on the economy, the environment, and social structures with one additional tech managers. The central committee meets at the end of three months to decide on which projects are most viable. The projects that are accepted have to be implemented on the three months scale and have to be approved by the target parties towards which the projects are based on. Synergy is basically being "together." What makes this project distinctive is that even though one school may not have a project approved they still have to send volunteers for projects approved that were initially formulated by other schools in the league. The short-term aims include getting many sponsors in addition to the fundraising for the implementation of Project Synergy. The long-term aims include getting an Ashoka fund and being invited to the World Economic Forum. Also, another objective is to garner media attention to proliferate awareness in addition to a current partner, The Frankfurt Globe.

SPEAKERS CORNER

Albert Reymann

The aims of project Speakers Corner are to use The Frankfurt Globe® student news analysis magazine to raise awareness on matters of sustainable development, assume the role of a serious forum for the discussion of the topic among youth, and act as a respectable platform to voice their opinions. The Frankfurt Globe® is an open, independent and uncensored news magazine, allowing youth from all over the world to have their ideas and opinions recognized. Also, the target audience of the magazine (young people aged 14-25) allows it to be an extremely effective platform to raise awareness on issues such as sustainable development.

In addition to this, it could also prove invaluable as a fundraising medium for all sorts of other projects related to sustainable development, and could offer special priced advertisements for such worthy causes as improving living standards in slums in South Korea or Microcredit organizations in India (see Project Synergy). Overall, Project Speakers Corner is very ambitious and involves many risks, but if successful will make an impact on the lives of students all over the planet.

GREEN IS KEY

Samah McGona

My project is an educational and interactive program aimed at providing young students with a basic understanding of current environmental issues and simple ways to alleviate the problems. The program will be initiated through collaboration between a high school club named Key Club International and a university club called Circle K International (CKI). Volunteers from Key Club and Circle K will receive information on environmental sustainability and be expected to donate time to the program. The program is targeted at young children, aged five to 10, and shall be implemented in schools, daycare centers, as well as other establishments. By introducing students to environmental sustainability at an early age, they will become adaptive to a more sustainable life style in the future. The program will begin with a video on environmental sustainability. Videos with plain ideas on Sustainable Development will be played to convey the respective messages and would contain examples of good environmental practices; project facilitators will play a game with students where they will be tested on their knowledge of their environment and positive initiatives, e.g. recycling and reusing items. Finally, students will work together to build a butterfly garden, where each of them will be in charge of planting and taking care of the garden for two months. After the 2-month period, volunteers will revisit the participants in order to reiterate ideas of environmental sustainability; after 12 months, the program will be reevaluated and data will be shared by Key Club and CKI clubs to other parts of the world. I believe “Green is Key” will be a great success because both the idea and implementations are designed at a straightforward manner and targets at young children coming from all backgrounds.

BOOK REUSE

Vanessa Kitching

My project entails collecting old and disused textbooks and all books from students and staff at school. Firstly an assembly will be held with a presentation from READ International explaining my project and how the charity works. This is to raise awareness of the project which will be supplemented by emails reminding the student group. In implementing this, numerous ‘drop off’ points will be created around school: in the library, in the common room, and one in each of the ten boarding houses. These will be staffed by MUN and environmental officers. At each point there will be a stand with leaflets and pamphlets giving easy ways to live sustainably and the school’s environmental policy reiterating what is on offer to help our community. All of the books will be collected after each scholastic term and packed into cardboard boxes by the student officers and the boxes themselves are supplied by the charity. READ International then collects and transports these books to schools in Tanzania and Uganda, as they use the same English curriculum. After each collection a report from the charity will be sent to the school and made available to all students.

UN-HABITAT PROPOSAL

Yuri Han

Hwa-hweh Maeul is a slum and home to about 80 families. Although the government of the Republic of Korea planned to designate Hwa-hweh Maeul as a “temporary village for the underprivileged,” the government for the past 30 years has largely neglected the slum. Because of the slum’s inconvenient location next to the Bokjeong sewage system and the slum residents’ financial circumstances, the residents lead difficult and unsustainable lives. As for water, many slum residents rely on the polluted Tanchun River and the iron-high water from underground. For warmth, they rely on coal, which is provided by a charity that visits the slum on a weekly basis. Through the funding and resources provided by the UN-HABITAT, the Seoul International School Habitat for Humanity chapter will initiate a project to raise awareness on the slum’s living conditions, create sustainable sources of sanitary and clean water for the residents’ use, and introduce greener less hazardous energy sources to the residents. The Seoul International School is a 10-minute walk from the slum, and the students have been visiting the senior citizens at the slums every week since last year. The project’s objectives are to work towards the seventh Millennium Development Goal to achieve environmental sustainability, while improving the lives of the slum residents.

TURN OFF

Carlos Tapia

I live in the Dominican Republic where the climate is always hot and humid. Most private schools have air conditioners in each classroom, but mine even has one in the kitchens, hallways, offices, etc. For every 0.5 degrees Celsius lowered than 24 degrees, it consumes 8% more energy. My school sets the air conditioners temperature to the alarming temperature of 16 degrees. It is unbelievable that even though the rooms are empty, the air conditioners are still on and also because most windows do not have (decent) shades, the sunrays heat the rooms, making it feel hotter than it really is.

My project is designed to reduce energy use and give the school a better image, an image that the world is moving to - green.

With my project, I plan to turn off air conditioners during recess and periods that the classroom is not in use. Also places shades in every room to reduce the actual heat, as well as sets a universal temperature in every classroom (during winter: 23-24 degrees – during spring and summer: 21-23 degrees).

With these regulations and implementation, the school will conserve energy leading to saving money and helping to preserve the environment.

CARIBBEAN AID

Gabriela De Jesus

Caribbean Aid began serving the Caribbean community in January 2010, after the terrible earthquake that affected the Haitian community. Our goal is to foster solidarity amongst Caribbean nations, assist countries that have been affected by natural disasters, promote development towards education and serve as a platform to achieve sustainable development in the Caribbean. With my participation in the THIMUN Youth Assembly, I am looking forward to create a program to foster the involvement of young adults in the education sector of the Dominican Republic. The idea is to create summer camps where both Dominicans and international volunteers can experience the effects of a low-level education system, and at the same time students spend three months alphabetizing students in both English and Spanish in a public school located in the community of Jarabacoa, Dominican Republic. At the same time they will engage in reforestation programs sponsored by the Ministry of Environment. Participants will also experience life in the Dominican Republic. Caribbean Aid can count on the support of various organizations including Transformative Global Learning (TGL), the Association of the United Nations of the Dominican Republic, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of the Dominican Republic.

GREEN DESIGN

Pelin Asa

A step that we can take before recycling, one of the first suggestions that people give to be environmentalist, is reusing. It is not a new concept to amend the things that we do not need anymore into new things that can be useful to us. Yet not many people do this, and they find it easier to throw everything that seems to fill its life span into the bin. The aim of this project is to inspire people to find new ways to benefit from this 'garbage', design products that are eco-friendly alternatives to the existing ones, and thereby to reduce the amount of thrash that pollutes the environment. A green design workshop will be organized in the school with the help of the industrial design students and professors from Istanbul's Kadir Has University, which hosts free design workshops. The students, the teachers and the employers in the school will be asked to bring the things they do not use anymore and create new uses for them. Also, a competition where people will submit their ideas of a green design or something they have actually built will be organized. Hopefully, sustainable design will make people more aware of their effect on the earth and of sustainable development.

REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE

Chia Ni Wu

Using the concepts of reduce, reuse and recycle, this project aims to fulfill all of the three “Rs” in an environmentally friendly way, which all youth can implement in their daily lives and spread awareness about throughout the community. To reach this goal, a group of three students, in collaboration with the Global Issues Network (GIN), will organize a week during which an assembly, relevant activities, and presentations for the middle and high school students, teachers and the school community as a whole will take place. During the week, there will be grade level competitions on recycling and other positive incentives. Apart from such competition between grade levels, this will also be implemented for teachers between classrooms to reduce the amount of electricity used. In addition, the use of public transportation will be promoted through various ways around the school, to reduce the amount of CO2 emissions. Moreover, as a school, the use of reusable paper and materials (eg. scratch papers) in classrooms should be reinforced during the week. Above all, these activities on educating the student body on the importance of sustainable development along with their participation and involvement will help spread awareness not only throughout the school but also the community.

GREEN SCHOOL

George Herodotou

My project is aiming to raise awareness amongst the young Cypriots and to make my school function in a greener way. Through this project I am aiming to improve, even in a small scale the situation in my school. Firstly, by placing recycling bins in many places of my school and by encouraging everyone to start recycling. Secondly, I will convince our professors to start using the email instead of the paper. And thirdly, by organizing events, (“all you can bring week”, “reforestation festival”) that will not only help those in need, but will also serve as a fun way to raise awareness amongst the students. I came up with this project because even if we can't modify the structure of our school by installing solar panels or applying insulation I believe that we can still go greener by adopting an environmentally friendlier character. This project is a small step towards raising awareness, showing the importance of sustainable development in our days, and making our school serve as an example for other schools in the future. This project is not big, but I believe that it is simple and achievable as it does not rely on budgets, and because students and professors are already willing to go green and this could be the start for them.



STCY

Social Tension, Conflict and Youth

Committee on Social Tension, Conflict and Youth

Coordinators

Sven Herreman

Sven Livingston

COMMITTEE SUMMARY

There is one week in the year, where a group of youth come together to tackle issues all over the world; whether it be a conflict they encounter in their own community or a problem that burdens the society as a whole. Participants of THIMUN Youth Assembly came together from all around the globe and spent a week together exchanging thoughts and ideas in two committees.

The Social Tensions, Conflicts and Youth committee began the week with a set of icebreakers to get past the silence that is present when meeting new people. On the agenda were two truths and a lie and a combined group speed dating. The following day, we began constructing each individual project outline beginning with a small packet to fill out containing project organization, budgeting, and potential risks. After both coordinators read over each outline and gave feedback and suggestions, each participant revised their original draft to create a final draft outline, which was then discussed amongst the group for further suggestions. Wednesday was a shortened day but was packed full of brainstorming. Each participant had some questions that needed to be answered regarding their projects such as logo and name ideas. As a committee, we sat together and brainstormed answers to each question. From there on, it was finding the individuals and organizations that we needed to contact. Participants spent a couple hours searching the internet for the individuals and organizations they wished to contact and actually getting in contact with them; sending emails, writing down phone numbers, and remembering names. As the last day rounded the corner, projects were coming to their final form. Projects varying from online forums to public presentations to public fairs began to take form and completion.

Within the span of one week, participants organized, constructed, and created feasible project outlines to tackle each issue they chose. Through collaborating with each other and helping each other focus their thoughts and ideas, everyone was able to accomplish a high-quality project outline.

Sven and Sven
Coordinators

PARTICIPANTS

Roxane Verhoeff

Kelsey Hoffman

Ogun Yurdakul

Carolin Firsching

Jose de Mondesert

Ege Yumuşak

Nina Yun

Lu Yue

Eleni Lynpoura

Idil Franko

Eugene Foo

The social tension I've chosen to focus on is "KnowledgeCrisis" taking place in my country. The government has changed and is changing the laws on higher education. Students that study longer than one year extra of the prescribed amount are required to pay a fee of 3000€ extra. This fee does not only apply to the students, but also the institutions that will have to pay 3000€. Many people, not only students, disagree with this new law and there have been several demonstrations, including a big one in The Hague on the 21st of January.

My project is to create an Internet forum where people can discuss the issue and finally find the best possible solution and present it to the government as soon as possible. People should be able to create their own topic and be able to discuss other already created topics. This week I have found the final idea for my project and set up an offline draft website. I'm planning on finalizing the draft website and get in touch with interested people by the end of the week.

TRAFFIC JAMMER

Kelsey Hoffman

The UN Palermo Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish trafficking in Persons of 2000 states: trafficking is the "recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons." Sex trafficking specifically is the involuntary sexual exploitation of people. Perpetrators use coercion and deception to kidnap and forcibly harbor victims by means of physical and emotional torture. Approximately 800,000 persons are trafficked each year. An estimated 10 billion dollars are generated from trafficking worldwide. Although sex trafficking is the one of the most progressing crimes in the global community, many are blind to this atrocity.

My project is to propagate awareness of sex trafficking in my community. In the U.S. alone approximately 20,000 individuals are trafficked. My event will contain guest speakers from International Justice Mission, local domestic abuse advisors, and presentations on the issue. STOP (Sex Trafficking Of People) will be my slogan, and "Traffic Jam" will be the name of the event. This week at TYA I have contacted IJM in the hopes of obtaining a speaker. I have also been working on getting grants to help fund the project, t-shirt ideas for the event, and other great suggestions from my fellow TYA members. I am extremely passionate about this subject and can't wait to execute my vision.

COMPUTER INFRASTRUCTURE

Ogun Yurdakul

The issue that I wanted to tackle pertains to eastern parts of Turkey. In Turkey the technology is not really developed and the number of schools that have computer labs are very low when compared to the ones in western Turkey. This causes an imbalance between the students in the eastern and western providence in Turkey. Students in eastern Turkey have a lower chance of being succesful due to the lower quality of education that they receive.

My project focus on finding sponsors that can provide computers and to fund our travel, accomodation, and catering to provide the computers to the schools. I am planning on establishing computer labs in the needy schools of eastern Turkey, and teach the essentials of a computer and the most common used programs to the local students. In order to it, I need students that volunteer to teach in the east and sponsors that can fund the computers, accomodation and the transportation. TYA helped me to organize the cirriculum of the education, provide me some contact informations of the people that has done similar programs in the past or the people that might sponsor my projects and also to decide on which age group should I be focusing on.

STIGMA AROUND AIDS

Carolin Firsching

People suffering from HIV/AIDS are often affected by discrimination. This may be due to misconceptions and fear of being infected through casual contraction or as a result from prejudice that exists against groups that are at higher risk of infection (such as sex workers and men who have sex with men). Having a mentality based on misconceptions can lead to: women being chased out of their homes, children not being admitted to schools, and health workers refusing to treat HIV/AIDS patients. A stigmatism or fear of HIV/AIDS can discourage people from getting tested, disclosing their HIV status, or making use of available health services. Additionally, treatment and preventive methods are not being used effectively, raising the risk of further transmissions and inhibiting efforts to fight HIV/AIDS. Tackling the misconceptions associated with HIV/AIDS is an essential to helping others, and is often underestimated part of fighting HIV/AIDS.

I am creating a website that will feature and present information about HIV/AIDS, and tackle associated stigmas with HIV/AIDS. This website will include various questionnaires, allowing visitors to reconsider their own stigmata/misconceptions about HIV/AIDS. The outcomes of these questionnaires will reveal which types of stigmas are most common amongst users, allowing me to aim the information more specifically at the predominant issues. A forum will enable both people living with HIV/AIDS and those not affected by it to interact, thus hopefully helping to reduce the silence and taboos that exist around this disease.

NEIGHBOURHOOD TRAFFIC

Jose de Mondesert

Project: Create organization/committee that looks for solutions

My neighbourhood suffers from disorderly traffic that represents a threat for residents in my residential zone. My neighbourhood is density populated and should have a tranquil traffic, which family members of all ages should feel safe. After analysing the traffic situation, I understand that the best way to solve the problem is by creating a committee composed by residents of my neighbourhood that will be in charge of looking for solutions to solve the problem. By having residents of my neighbourhood be part of the committee, I will have the best and most accurate observations, as well as the best solutions for everyone.

At the beginning of the process, I will promote and advertise the traffic committee, and seek better and more effective ways to spread new ideas. Once people get to know my committee, I will perform a survey to gather information and combine the ideas in order to prioritise the most common observations. After these events the organization will start to formalize, and I expect it to be two to three months before the committee starts to implement new measures. This committee should really be the missing piece for the proper organization of traffic in the community.

BLOGGING TOGETHER

Ege Yumuşak

The Kurdish population is distributed throughout the Middle Eastern, current estimates that there are 10-15 million living in Turkey alone. The Kurdish population accounts for roughly 20% of Turkey's population. In Iran, there is approximately 10 million Kurds living in Iran and around 16%, in Iraq, Syria, and the Caucasian region. Democratization in Turkey has progressed but overall improvement between Turks and Kurds relations, since the Kurdish question and terrorism have become entangled. Some recent developments are giving rise to hopes for democratization to include the cultural, linguist, and political rights of Kurdish people.

By addressing the issue in a constructive manner, a hostile atmosphere of paranoia and fuels fanaticism on both parties will be less prevalent. I believe that prejudice plays an important role in this issue. Therefore, I devised a project that focuses on the education of the youth by making them see that apart from the things that set us apart, yet there are many things that unite us. I aimed to bring together the young people from those areas of conflict by connecting the students via a blog, which will have a selection of pieces of literature or commentaries on popular TV shows, etc. This will be posted so others will be able to share comments, or things that they have written in response to given questions or themes. Thus, people from different areas will be able to get to know each other, and all participants will receive a login user name that will hide their ethnicity so that participants realize that the difference is not evident at all.

CENSORSHIP

Nina Yun

Censorship, the control of the ideas and information circulated within a society has been a problem for ages. Censorship issues originate as early as 300 AD in Ancient China. Handling censorship is a tricky topic because most agree that some form of censorship is necessary, many disagree on how much is needed. While there are several forms of censorship, this project will focus on censorship within schools, and more specifically, censorship at SIS (Seoul International School) in Seoul, Korea. Many students are aware of the censorship problems at SIS and complain, but very few choose to take any action. Most students are apathetic about the issue and while they do not agree with the heavy censorship rules imposed upon them, they do not take action. As a result, I want to create a campaign that raises awareness on the problems of censorship and encourages students to take action. During the weeks after TYA, I will get started on the campaign. Upon my return, I hope to create a committee of people who also feel passionately about this issue. I also want to organize an open meeting where students, parents, and staff can come together and have an organized debate on the censorship rules at SIS. I hope this project encourages activism and less censorship rules.

CULTURAL TENSION

Yue Lu

In Vancouver, the social tension and conflicts caused by differing: ethnic, religious, linguist, and cultural barriers have plagued the unity of students in schools. Specifically, my school UHSS has different cultural groups, especially new immigrants who are unable or unwilling to communicate and integrate due to the aforementioned differences. By reducing the tension, I plan to start Project Co-operate, which will include a series of events and campaigns to break the ice in my school. Through out the THIMUN week I was able to work with the peers from the youth assembly to come up with an outline for the general project, proposals, and detailed plans. When I get back to Vancouver I plan to launch the project, and by the end of next year to hopefully expand it to city wide events.

PROJECT TITLE

Eleni Lympoura

My project is based on people with physical impairments. This vulnerable group in society struggles for equal opportunities and to find jobs. Individuals with disabilities lack sufficient access to public transportation and entertainment. Those with physical impairments are generally not always accepted by the society. Furthermore, there is a stigmatism attached to those who are handicapped and are socially excluded. The disabled suffer from stereotypes and prejudices. People with impairments (in some cases) require special care and attention, but they do not always receive it.

I am going to organize a fair that will be divided into two parts—educational and entertainment. For the educational part participants are going to learn more about disabilities, and also about the everyday lifestyle of such individuals. During the entertainment part there will be games, adapted to the needs of both people with and without impairments. They will have to make groups in order to play, so cooperation between them will be created. Another example could be a “deaf band,” with someone translating the lyrics of the songs into body language. As such these activities and numerous other adaptive entertainment options will help the community become more accepting of the impaired population.

HIGHER EDUCATION

Idil Franko

As a participant in the THIMUN Youth Assembly from Turkey, I am working a project pertaining to the inaccessibility of education, which is a very controversial topic in my country. Not only are the tuitions of universities in Turkey very high; being able to get into college is a very tough procedure for students. Therefore, the percentages of high school seniors who get attend a college in the next year have a significantly lowered chance of going to college given social-economic constraints. This naturally affects the education level of Turkey.

Consequently, I have decided to take action concerning this issue, which will include efforts of interning at a well-known Turkish NGO. During this time, I will focus on finding donators who will grant money that will award merit-based scholarships to qualified students to attend college. These students will be decided upon by their essays, which will be between 500 and 1000 words. I will also arrange teachers at my own school to work with students to help them learn the topics tested in the university entrance exams. This week, I have contacted the representatives of the NGO about the internship. I have also decided on the essay topics that will be asked to the participants.

CULTURAL AWARENESS

Eugene Foo

Mutual understanding, common ground, and peace: are all goals that Malaysia strives for and has thought to achieve after sixty years of independence. However, the truth is that the obscurely is covered up by the reality of the social tension existing between the three main ethnic groups. For generations, Malays, Chinese, and Indians have gone through arguments and conflicts with ever-lasting ferocious tenacity; ranging from defacing religious properties to unjust bloodshed. Thus only to leave the matter unresolved while spreading the false peaceful paradigm of One Malaysia.

Since current media technologies have been accessible to the youth at earlier ages, this has resulted in negative presented stereotypes between the differing ethnic groups. These stereotypes were created without evaluating the consequences, thus the aim of this project is to tackle the disease at its roots. The aforementioned project creates a friendly student-to-student interaction based on a series of guided lecture and teaching points on the importance of finding a common ground between all ethnicities. International students in Malaysia will visit communities on a monthly basis with the objective of raising their awareness, consequently crushing the ethical stereotypes, and allowing the youth to come to a mutual understanding. International students will be given a great opportunity to undertake a task that requires enormous efforts and diligence to give the Malaysian youth another chance to live in harmony.



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