



Dear MUN Directors,

February 2014

Thank you once again for your support of THIMUN Qatar 2014. It was our privilege to welcome you and your students to the conference. We hope that we will be able to welcome you back to THIMUN 2015.

Below are a few follow-up items regarding the conference and future THIMUN Qatar events: Please feel free to contact us at any time throughout the year.

Digital Badging/Certificates

The window of opportunity to sign up for digital certificates is rapidly closing. Please ask your students to complete the following form by Wednesday. Badges will be issued early next week.

The form can be found at bit.ly/TQbadge. And sign up for your own badge as well, so you can see the process delegates will be asked to take. You may contact Lisa Martin at lisa.martin@onlinemodelun.org if you have additional questions.

Video Links

Please check out our THIMUN Qatar press page www.thimunqatarpress.org for opening and closing ceremonies videos. There are numerous student Facebook pages with photographs of the event. In addition we will be sharing select photographs in the coming days.

Dates for THIMUN Qatar 2015

We are planning on keeping the conference on the last week of January in 2015. We will be finalizing the date as soon as the Qatar Supreme Educational Council releases the 2014-15 academic calendar. Please plan on attending THIMUN Qatar from January 26-29 2015.

Director's Feedback Forms

We appreciate the compliments and the constructive feedback that was given during the Director's meeting. Most of the feedback that we received was highly complementary and encouraging. We are constantly striving to make our conference better and meet the needs of our participants. Below are the main comments and or questions raised during the meeting or on the feedback forms.

1. **Note Passing:** Concern was raised about note passing distracting from the debate rather than a tool of delegate communication. In particular, note screening by the administration staff did not appear to be consistent.

Planned Action Step for 2015: We want to protect the authority of the student officers and the head of the administration staff. At the same time, we recognize the need for greater oversight in this area. Depending on volunteers, we ask for a small number of MUN directors to work with the teacher director of administration staff to help monitor that note passing procedures are being implemented.

2. **Dress code:** A large number of directors wrote compliments regarding our increased efforts to ensure delegates were dressed in diplomatic attire.

Planned Action Step for 2015: Continue with monitoring of dress code at entrance of QNCC. Clothing will continue to be provided at the registration desk with a deposit. Photographic examples of dress code for girls will be made clearer.

3. **Transportation of Student Officers:** Concern was raised regarding student officer transportation and supervision of student officers as they are on a different time schedule than delegates.

Response/Planned Action Step for 2015: Supervision of all students must be in alignment with individual school policies. THIMUN Qatar is not responsible for the supervision of any student including student officers. If schools are planning on having students apply for student officer positions, they need to take into account school policy and any added costs for separate transportation arrangements.

4. **Bus Service:** Concern was raised about sharing of buses and some schools being on time.

Planned Action Step for 2015: Increased bus services (each school having their own bus) would result in increased cost for THIMUN Qatar. Currently the bus service is provided for free. We could consider increasing delegate fees to cover the additional expense of private buses. For the 2015 conference, we will encourage schools to book their own transport through their hotel if they wish to have a private bus. We will continue to ask MUN directors to adhere to the posted schedules.

5. **Reading of the Holy Quran during closing ceremonies:** Concerns were raised regarding reading of the Holy Quran in stimulation of the United Nations. Concerns focused on about UN religious neutrality and following UN protocols.

Response: We have decided on having the reading of the Holy Quran for three main reasons:

1. For our international guests to be able to experience an important religious and culture aspect of Qatar and the Muslim world. The teachings of Islam at times can be portrayed negatively by some international media. The reading is designed to show the life affirming and positive aspects of Islam.
2. For our Muslim students, the reading is a powerful reminder of the need for individual action. The responses and solutions to global issues are not "Western" but are also deeply rooted in the teaching of the Holy Quran. The principles underlining the United Nations have universal application.
3. Throughout the conference and all THIMUN Qatar programs, we try to communicate an expectation that delegates can/should take concrete action steps towards solving global issues. In other words, we have a mandate not only to debate issues but also to act. The

Holy Quran, which provides the guidance for individual action for many of our delegates, is included to reflect the need for personal responsibility.

Planned Action Step for 2015: This issue will be an agenda item for our THIMUN Qatar Advisory Board and the 2015 THIMUN Qatar student executive team. If included, we will do a better job of communicating our rationale for the reading.

Thank you once again for your support and a great conference.

Yours truly,

The THIMUN Qatar Team