

Teamwork
Voice Diversity
Diplomacy

Youth Assembly

THIMUN SINGAPORE 2006

Handbook

Dreams

Empowering the next generation

Vision

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Welcome from the Presidents

Welcome to THIMUN Singapore Youth Assembly 2006! My name is Soobin Kim, and I am currently a senior attending the International School of Beijing. It is my honor to be able to serve as one of the Co-Presidents of the inaugural session of THIMUN Singapore Youth Assembly along with my colleague Gideon Ong. My involvement with youth assemblies started with my participation as a delegate in The Hague International Youth Assembly in 2005. Ever since, I have worked for various different youth assemblies, such as for THIMUN Youth Assembly as a committee chair, and BEIMUN Youth Assembly, BEIMUN-Asia Youth Assembly and Korea International Youth Assembly as a president. This is the fifth youth assembly conference for which I am leading as an executive officer, and I truly look forward a successful and productive conference.

Youth Assemblies are meaningful in the sense that they mainly discuss what youth's contribution to dealing with global issues might be. The outcomes of Youth Assemblies, Action Papers, are sent to THIMUN Youth Network, which use the Action Papers as background papers upon their participation in international conferences, and other relevant NGOs. Because the Action Papers focus on practical solutions that can actually be carried out, some of the plans made during the conference are actually carried out by the past participants. Youth Assemblies in that respect can be considered as a platform for youth participation. Currently there are six youth assemblies in the world, including THIMUN Youth Assembly, BEIMUN Youth Assembly, Turkish International Youth Assembly, BEIMUN-Asia Youth Assembly, Berlin International Youth Assembly and Korea International Youth Assembly. THIMUN Singapore Youth Assembly, as a formal affiliate of THIMUN Youth Assembly, will be another addition, bringing THIMUN Youth Network one step closer to its long term goal of having one youth assembly in every country. THIMUN Singapore Youth Assembly is also significant in that it will be the first conference to introduce a formal debate setting as part of youth assembly to further improve the dynamics of the conference.

Lastly, I would like to encourage those whom may not have been part of the Youth Assembly in the past to join this forum in which your words would have the chance of translating into plausible action. With this I conclude and wish you all the best of luck. Thank you.

Soobin Kim
President of the Youth Assembly
Thimun Singapore 2006

Welcome from the Presidents

My Name is Gideon Ong and I am honored to have been chosen as one of this year's president of the Youth Assembly in Thimun Singapore. Soobin Kim and I will be working together, overseeing the Youth Assembly. I am currently a senior at the International School of Beijing and I have been involved in MUN all my high school life, attending conferences such as IMUN, THIMUN and BEIMUN. I was also the Deputy President in the inaugural BEIMUN-Asia Youth Assembly this year in February and Deputy President of BEIMUN's Youth Assembly. Being a past Editor-In-Chief of ISB's high school newspaper, it is needless to say that I will be expecting a certain level of quality in this year's action papers in terms of language and content. I will be willing to help you anytime so please do not hesitate to ask! I hope to be able to work with you and your respective chairs so that as a team, produce action papers that will truly impact to the global community at large.

The topics of discussion we have chosen this year are extremely relative, not only to the youth community but the global community as well. Needless to say, your hard work is quintessential. We strongly emphasize the need for constructive debate and team work. With everyone's active input and collaboration, we hope that each committee will be dynamic and fruitful in producing fresh solutions. I would like to also stress the importance of pre-conference work as it is an essential part of the conference. In order for the discussions to take place, all the delegates will have to be confident in speaking about their topics. This should not be a problem as committee chairs should be checking research assignments frequently. Communication between you, your group and chairs is also vital in order to ensure that all delegates are working according to the schedule set forth by the chairs.

I have utmost anticipation for the upcoming Thimun Singapore Youth Assembly and hope to see you there at the conference. If you have any question or comments, please feel free to email/msn me at onggideon@hotmail.com. With this I wish you the best in your preparations.

Gideon Ong
President of the Youth Assembly
Thimun Singapore 2006

Committees & Topics

The Committee on Environmental Issues

- Youth's contribution to dealing with the problem of global warming

The Committee on Millennium Development Goals

- Increasing youth contribution to the promotion of the MDGs

The Committee on Racial Discrimination

- Combating discrimination against people of middle-east Asian background

The Committee on International Relief Programs

- Youth's role in the collective international response to natural disasters

[Topics above are currently still pending and are subject to change with notice to all confirmed Youth Assembly delegates, chairs and advisors]

Thimun Singapore Youth Assembly

Thimun Singapore Youth Assembly

Ever since its establishment, THIMUN Youth Assembly has strived to increase the number of youth assemblies around the world to better represent the voice of the world youth. So far, six THIMUN affiliated youth assemblies have been established, including BEIMUN Youth Assembly, Turkish International Youth Assembly, BEIMUN-Asia Youth Assembly, Berlin International Youth Assembly and Korea International Youth Assembly. This year, as an official THIMUN affiliate in Asia THIMUN Singapore Organization has decided to join this cause by creating the first-ever THIMUN Singapore Youth Assembly, the fourth regional youth assembly of THIMUN Youth Assembly. In its inaugural session, THIMUN Singapore Youth Assembly will invite approximately fifty talented and motivated students through a competitive application process.

Thimun Youth Assembly

THIMUN Youth Assembly was established in 2001 as a part of THIMUN. Ever since its establishment, THIMUN Youth Assembly has served as a forum for world's youth to analyze and present solutions to various worldly issues. Unlike other conferences, the outcome of THIMUN Youth Assembly, an Action Paper, is sent to the United Nations and superior conferences such as World Water Forum 2003 in Kyoto, Japan and World Conference Against Racism, Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance 2001 Durban, South Africa. Moreover, THIMUN Youth Assembly has been carrying out actual youth projects.

The Committee on Youth Participation of THIMUN Youth Assembly 2005 has developed an action plan for establishing a portal website for youth participation activities which will be known as "Everybody's Doing It" (EDI). The project is being carried out by two past participants of the conference.

The project "Hug Don't Hate" was created by Committee on Education against Discrimination of THIMUN Youth Assembly 2005. The project involves self-sufficient anti discrimination campaigns against various types of discriminations, ranging from gender-based to race-based. The project has already established its first activity group in East Timor.

Pre-Conference

Conference Structure

This year's THIMUN Singapore Youth Assembly involves four distinct committees, each discussing solutions for different global issues. Committees will be limited in size to ensure adequate opportunity to participate for all participants. Each committee will be comprised of two committee chairs that will be in charge of the workings of the conference, and 10 to 12 participants.

Research

Unlike Model United Nations conferences, Youth Assembly requires team work. Prior to the conference, the committee chairs will assign each participant of a specific research task. Usually it will comprise of a comprehensive research on one country regarding a certain topic. The composition of research assignments may vary according to the topic in question. The research papers written by participants will be compiled by the chairs into one document and distributed among the committee for reference.

Action Papers

After the research assignments have been completed, each participant will be assigned to certain subtopic areas, on which on which he/she will write up potential solutions. For example, a participant assigned to the subtopic of fund-raising will devise ways to raise fund for any youth actions that will be carried out to deal with a certain issue. Several participants will be assigned to the same subtopic area, but they will be working individually. The action papers produced will be in the MUN Resolution Format as designed by THIMUN Singapore, in order to make it readily accessible during the discussions. The action papers will also include the analysis section structured similarly to the preliminary clauses of MUN resolutions, which will be used to explain details behind the solutions suggested. The action paper will also include bibliography in the MLA format. The committee chair will review the action paper and make suggestions as necessary, particularly to ensure the practicality of solutions suggested.

Online Discussion Forum

During the preparatory phase, the participants will be encouraged to make use of the online discussion forum to keep in touch with other participants in the committee and bounce ideas around and keep in touch with the committee chairs. Online discussion forum will also serve the function of keeping those outside the Youth Assembly informed of what the youth assembly's work entails.

During the Conference

Semi-Formal Presentation

The conference will begin with semi-formal presentation of participants introducing their action papers. Following each presentation there will be a brief question-and-answer session during which other participants can ask for clarifications and make suggestions.

Merging

After the presentation session, participants who have been assigned to the same subtopic will get together and start discussions to merge their action papers into one collective paper. The merged action papers will be in the format of MUN resolutions for ready access during the debate process. During the merging process, the committee chairs will work with individual subtopic groups as necessary.

Debate

The merged action papers will be presented by subtopic groups and a supporting speech to explain the logics behind the solutions (10 minutes max) will be made for each action paper. Then the floor will be open for debate, during which the participants will ask for clarifications and make amendments as necessary. In order to make an amendment, the participants will make a supporting speech for an amendment. The voting procedure will be used only when deemed absolutely necessary by the chairs, and in general any amendments will require the agreement of over eight participants. The entire debate will be chaired by the committee chairs. The debates will be carried out in a semi-formal fashion, and thus though the participants will be allowed to refer to themselves in first person, they will be allowed to speak only when recognized by the Chairs, and all communication among the participants will be done in note forms. The maximum length of speeches will be 3 minutes, while the length of Q & A sessions will be entirely up to the chairs. Participants are allowed to make statements in the Q & A session, and non-speakers will be allowed to answer questions as well upon the recognition of the chairs.

Discussion Sessions

Whenever the committee chairs deem it necessary, or when motioned by one of the participants and deemed necessary by the committee chairs, the committee chairs will allow for informal discussion sessions of set time lengths. The discussion sessions will be used to resolve the debate deadlocks, and during these sessions participants are free to converse in informal fashion on the topic in question, though they will not be allowed to leave the room. Committee chairs may intervene in the discussions to guide the process.

During the Conference

Approval

During the debate, one of the committee chairs will make amendments and changes to the existing action paper. Final adjustments will then be made by subtopic groups, and the final compilation of action papers will be approved by the entire committee. The compilation will be in the MUN resolution format.

The Plenary Session

After the debate sessions within individual committees, the similar subtopic groups from different committees will get together to participate in the plenary session. The main purpose of this session is for groups to share ideas and make improvements before finalizing the action paper. Each subtopic group will present its action paper, and there will be semi formal question-and-answer session chaired by the presidents. During the plenary session, participants which are currently not engaged in the primary discussion may choose to ask for clarifications and make suggestions through motions. More detailed procedures regarding the plenary session will be issued and introduced to all delegates during the conference. Committee chairs may decide to hold more debate sessions to make further adjustments based on the findings made during the plenary session.

Writing the Action Paper

As the action papers need to be presented both to THIMUN Youth Assembly and other relevant youth NGOs, it has to be of utmost quality. The paper needs to be written in prose forms. For details on how to write an Action Paper, please refer to the “Guide to Action Paper” section. Each subtopic committee will be required to write part of the action paper. After the final action paper is completed, it will go through an approval process by the entire committee. Only minor changes will be made during the process, and this will involve revision for grammar as well.

Closing Ceremony

During the Closing Ceremony, the committee chairs will give formal presentations on their Action Papers to the entire Youth Assembly. Awards will also be presented during the closing ceremony; there will be two Best Participant awards and one Best Committee award. Prior to the closing ceremony the committee chairs will be asked to write one page summary of their committees’ Action Papers. The compilation of summaries will be distributed to all participants during the Closing Ceremony.

During the Conference

Evaluations

During the conference participants will fill out the conference evaluation form as well as the committee chairs evaluation forms. The committee chairs will also compile participant evaluation forms. These evaluations will be used to compile a final report on the conference after the end of the conference, and will be the basis for selecting the officer team in the future.

Post-Conference

After the conference, the Action Paper will be further revised by the officer group and will be sent to participants for final checkups. The final version of the Action Paper will be sent to the THIMUN Youth Network, THIMUN-Singapore Foundation, the participating schools and relevant Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs).

Structure of an Action Paper

Action Paper will be the final outcome of THIMUN Singapore Youth Assembly. Action Paper is a prose-style document of what the Committee believes should be done in order to deal with the issue in question.

An Action Paper usually consists of the following sections:

- Introduction will discuss the This section will be written by the committee chairs during the conference.
- Mini Action Paper #1

Subtopic groups of a committee will each write one mini Action Paper pertaining to their subtopic. The mini Action Paper will include the analysis section and the solution section.

-Analysis section will discuss mainly the current problems and analyze the current attempts to solve the problem. The Analysis section will take up about fifteen percent of the entire Paper.

-The Solution section will take up the rest. The Solution section should be the outline of the solutions, and should also be able to serve as a guide on how one can actually carry out the solutions suggested. The Solution section should also explain the logics behind each solutions suggested. Aside from the actions that can be taken by youth themselves, the actions that the committee believes that other social institutions should take to deal with the issue can also be discussed briefly.

-Examples can be discussed, yet should not become a main part of the paper.

Mini Action Paper #2

Mini Action Paper #...

Conclusion will take the form of a kind of a petition letter, a final statement on the effectiveness of the action suggested, with the purpose of convincing the reader, potentially an NGO activist or any student, to take the actions suggested in the action paper. This section will be written by the committee chairs during the conference.

There is no limit to the length of the Action Paper, yet it is recommended that the superfluously lengthy Action Paper be shortened by reducing the Analysis section rather than the Solution section. Citations should be in the MLA format. Action Papers should be written in formal English, to be appropriate for professional uses in the future.

How to Write a Good Action Paper

Good action papers includes specific and practical solution to problems. For example, an action paper would not include statements such as:

Youth Participation is an extremely important issue that should be brought into the attention of the entire society. This could be done through increasing the government funding in various schemes to improve youth participation. Youth should also play their part in the process; they should prove themselves to be worthy enough to be listened by the adult society in a serious manner.

A good Action Paper would, in this case:

- Explain why exactly the entire society should focus on the issue of youth participation,
- Lay out the arguments that can be used to convince the different social institutions to focus on the issue of youth participation,
- Not rely the suggested actions too much on the possibility of the government funding, as such are hard to obtain particularly for NGOs or students,
- Explain how NGOs or youth could effectively convince governments to divert its spending from other areas to spend on the field of youth participation,
- Explain how youth would be able to “prove themselves to be worthy enough,”
- And/ or explain why the Committee believes that most youth would actually be willing to prove themselves to be worthy enough.

As a basic guideline, the following should be kept in mind when writing an action paper:

- An action paper should be very well researched, so that it will be practical enough to be carried out. Everything that is written in the action paper must stand on solid practical foundations even if it contains youthful idealism.
- Proposed actions and solutions should be highly practical, specific, concrete and feasible, so that any determined youth can actually carry out projects based on an action paper. Ask the question, if I were to carry out this project, will I be able to do so just with the information provided here?
- Proposed actions should not rely on the United Nations, as practically speaking, it is extremely difficult for a young person or even an NGO to convince the UN to adopt a certain scheme. Therefore the committees must keep in mind other methods of executing action, such as the NGOs, student bodies, governmental Youth Councils, etc.

[Past THIMUN Youth Assembly Action Papers are available for download in www.youthassembly.org]

What Happens to An Action Paper

The final version of the action papers will be completed after the conference. They will be published on the THIMUN Singapore web site and sent to THIMUN Youth Network, THIMUN-Singapore Foundation, participating schools and relevant NGOs. Ideally, the participants could help put their action paper into action after the conference.

Appendix

THIMUN Singapore Foundation
The Hague International Model United Nations
THIMUN Youth Assembly (TYA)
Turkish International Youth Assembly (TIYA)
BEIMUN Youth Assembly
Korea International Youth Assembly (KIYA)

<http://www.thimunsingapore.org>
<http://www.thimun.org>
<http://www.youthassembly.org>
<http://tiya.youthassembly.org>
<http://www.beimun.org>
<http://www.youthassemblykorea.org>

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