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MUNITY VOICE

Post Conference Issue

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Mubarak Nawaf Al Thani
Qatar Academy Doha

It is official! The Qatar Leadership Conference 2022 has successfully come to an end. The weekend was productive in many ways, including the formation of new relationships, the acquisition of new experiences, and obtaining new abilities. We would like to extend our gratitude to everyone who was involved, from those who took part in the event, to those who spoke. It is quite evident that this conference was both a successful endeavor and an educational opportunity for each and every one of us. As we come to the end of this conference, it is our sincere wish that everyone of you will leave with meaningful life experiences that you will be able to carry with you for the rest of your lives.



Mubarak Nawaf Al Thani
Qatar Academy Doha

The goal of quality education for all people has come a long way since 2000. In 2015, the global percentage of children not in school decreased by nearly half, while the overall enrollment rate in developing countries reached 91%.

Additionally, there have never been more girls in school, and reading rates have dramatically increased. These are all outstanding accomplishments.

Due to extreme poverty, violent war, and other calamities, progress has also met difficult obstacles in developing regions. Due to persistent armed conflict, more kids are staying home from school in Western Asia and North Africa. This pattern worries me.

Large gaps still exist despite sub-Saharan Africa having made the biggest gains in primary school enrollment among all emerging regions, going from 52

Quality Education

percent in 1990 to 78 percent in 2012. The likelihood of children from the poorest households not attending school is four times higher than that of the richest households. There are still significant differences between urban and rural locations.

Realizing universal access to inclusive, high-quality education confirms the idea that it is one of the most effective and reliable engines of sustainable growth. By 2030, all boys and girls will have had free elementary and secondary education, thanks to this aim. In order to achieve universal access to high-quality higher education, it also seeks to equalize access to cheap vocational training and to do away with wealth and gender inequalities.

One of the 17 Global Goals that make up the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a quality education. Progress toward the various goals requires an integrated strategy.



Roudha Al Attiyah
Qatar Academy Doha

Fatima El Mahdi, current head of THIMUN Qatar, works to make it a kinder, more inclusive space. After being conference manager for two years and becoming the head of the program, she states that her genuine role is to make it “A space where we can have as many opportunities for many people as possible.” When she was asked about her role’s affect on her individually she explains that she’s a generally shy person who had come to terms with coming out of her shell whilst taking this executive role. Fatima says, “I really don’t enjoy public speaking. I have never been interested in headship or taking charge or being the one in the spotlight. This role has forced me to accept more praise and rewards and accolades that I have ever cared for in my life. I still dislike it, but I recognize that when I am head of THIMUN Qatar it’s not about Fatima it’s about THIMUN Qatar.”

Throughout this QLC 2022 she expresses her response to the weekend by mentioning others feedback, “Everywhere I go, I am stopped by participants and teachers talking about how transformative QLC has been for them, how they have learned new things and made new friends and connected in ways they did not ever before, to ideas they did not know they were ignorant of, their mindsets have been expanded and their friendship groups have been expanded. Having completed QLC 2022, she says that a word which will best express this conference to her is “Transformative”.

Having attended six QLC’s Fatima clarifies that her newer skills and talents do not really come from the sessions anymore, but the people that she encounters. She explains that by saying “At this point, the QLC does not offer me new skills, which is like the benefit of it for the participants that we have. It’s not that for me at this point. It’s my sixth QLC, I’ve had many years of training and all sorts of things. It’s the people that I take with me. It’s the students. The way they think, I find that endlessly interesting and fascinating. It’s my calling I think. To work with people, get into their heads and find the thread and

Head of THIMUN Qatar: Fatima El Mahdi

pull it.” When asked about something that has stuck with her throughout her full experience working with THIMUN she immediately described Bidyanondeo. A non-profit organization which was created by a former CEO of Google creating one penny meals, doctors and schools. She explained it passionately saying, “He created schools which make sense to them to actually address their needs, in a way that was better than the UN. This inspired me because I BELIEVE in non-profits, I BELIEVE in community impact projects, I BELIEVE that no one can tell the people who are not the people how to develop. It cannot come from our side. Bidyanondeo are absolutely fantastic, we’ve partnered with them, they set up a job program for refugee women to help them use garment making skills to make money as entrepreneurs. They would give them the resources they needed, but the pieces they were making were not very fashionable. So we partnered with our students to give them designs and they composed the most beautiful fashion wear which sold amazingly because it became well made and fashionable. We have partnered with them in so many different ways. I think that is something I will never let go for the rest of my life.”

“I hope that the conference causes an attitude shift that carries on. We call it a QLC high and as much as I love QLC 2022 back in person, QLC has always been like this. At the end of every QLC, they call it the QLC high.”

Anyone can have an idea, but it takes a community to make an idea matter



A Message to Past, Present and Future Presenters: Noora Al Muftah

Roudha Al Attiyah
Qatar Academy Doha

Noora Al Muftah is one of the conference coordinators, a part of QLC 2022. Essentially her job consists of bringing in presenters and training them. "This includes giving them feedback on whatever weaknesses they might have shown in our practice sessions and overall just bringing presenters in to make sure they're of the highest and best ability they can present and share information in the conference," she says. This weekend is Noora Al Muftah's first time being in QLC. She is the president of QADMUN and has been the vice president for the past three years. In addition to that, she has been a DSG (Deputy Secretary General) in MSMUN. Noora has also been a student officer in multiple conferences in the previous years.

After her experience in training this year's student presenters for QLC 2022, she says that it was "Really Refreshing. Especially being the first time in person in a very long time, so it was very very very refreshing to come back and be face to face with some of the presenters I was assigned. We basically sit with them, have proactive conversations on how you rebuild the skills that were lost in the past 3 years with covid and it is a very exciting experience because it feels like we haven't been in person forever. Especially THIMUN and the MUN world comes back to life when we're in person. We



focused a lot on the skills lost during covid which is also the theme of the conference."

Her hopes for this conference were to communicate and take risks. "My hopes were to have conversations. To have people take risks. To have people come out of their shells which describes the themes that the secretary general and the coordinators team have chosen." She goes on to further explain these themes and how all events that took place during the weekend connect with said themes. "We have sort of planned everything to work with those themes, and all our hopes were to have those aims and goals for each day to come to life. Whether it's Doha Debates Portal where you wanted people to have conversations about taking risks, resilience, and action. Also the sessions themselves

highlight the most critical part of the conference, they were truly just to give information. Give information on how to create your own projects, how to get out of your comfort zone, public speaking skills, and all of those things that we hoped would stick with the participants. Just to have a fun conference. Just being in person is all we wished for. And all our planning and hardwork is to have the best conference we can." The coordinator says that she hopes to see her trainees come back next year, "We hope to see the student speakers and even the adult presenters come back with fresh ideas, or even re-doing their workshops. To have conversations, and come back with workshops to share with our participants. And maybe even seeing them in the executive team next year, if they hope to do so."

She shared a message to people that are aspiring to become speakers, "The most important message is to take the step forward. You're obviously going to feel lost, you aren't going to have all the information, you might not have all the expertise or resources. But as executives you have people that can assist you and guide you. We are always open to questions, having sessions with you to practice. We are here to help you. The participants that are there to attend your workshops are there to support you. No one is against you, that is the biggest piece of advice that I can give you. Everyone is there to guide and assist you, whether it's press or admins, to build your confidence and skills. To perform to the best of your abilities."

President of the General Assembly: Nathan

Aljohara Al Subaey
Qatar Academy Doha

Nathan is a member of the THIMUN Qatar and his role is being the president of the general assembly for this year. "This is a role that gives me the responsibility of running the global act through the impact awards, which is an opportunity for all students to take part and really turn advocacy and discussion into action by running different projects".

"I also have the responsibility of organizing a number of service projects that lead up to thimun, which again leads to our overall goal of helping thimun to be a conference that is more focused on action, rather than simply advocacy and discussion"

He insisted that his experience led to his motivation to pursue a passion of his own. "I think what motivated me to pursue this role is my experience in a lot of different conferences and events that I have attended". Nathan was able to attend the youth for climate conference in milan. He proceeds by sharing his experience, "through this I was really motivated to take action as a student. This is because as meeting alot of global change makers and

innovators, I was able to see that even as people who may not have the most resources, we're still in an incredibly privileged position where we can take action within our communities for the betterment of our communities and this has motivated me to go towards the position in which I can facilitate action and help other students to also take action in their communities".

"I took part in many different conferences and other activities as much as possible and whenever I was given the opportunity, I made sure to take advantage of that opportunity and try my best to make a difference in whatever I did and this helped me to reach this goal".

"I believe that QLC is a conference in which different individuals are exposed to a number of skills which can help them develop as an individual and develop as a leader"

Nathan inspires the youth and younger generation to listen and learn while they are present in the conference and everyone who they get to meet through this amazing opportunity. "Everyone here comes from a wealth of experience and they all



have a number of skills which can be beneficial to you. After this conference, I would like you all to go out and use the skills you gained rather than the conference being the end. Try to employ the skills to actually make a difference!"

"As always, QLC is an opportunity for personal development for me. It is also an opportunity for me to find different ideas because as they say, you stand under the

shoulder of giants. If I'm able to take ideas and initiatives from a number of other people who have successfully run a conference or a project, I'm able to use these ideas to improve a conference, such as THIMUN. My motivation to be here is first to get the message of GAIA across and also to personally develop and find ideas for THIMUN".

"For people attending this event, I hope that they are able to find enrichment

and be able to use the skills that they gained to go out and tackle something that they are passionate about. I hope that they will be able to use any of the knowledge that they gained to start a project or participate in the GAIA event and have a platform that they can change".

Interviewing: Yassin Daymi, QAD (participant in QLC)

Roudha Al Attiyah
Qatar Academy Doha

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Yassin is a student from Qatar Academy Doha who has attended over 20 MUN conferences, some overseas such as Singapore, THIMUN and a few more internal conferences in Qatar.

Upon attending his first QLC weekend he says, “I hope to develop my leadership skills, also hope to develop some public speaking skills as well as hopefully some social skills also (meet new people, make connections).”

When asked about what he wishes to achieve throughout the conference this weekend, he explained that he aspires to be a youth advocate of some sort, inspired by the people present throughout the conference.

He also includes that he has hopes of bettering himself in general by attending workshops, “as well as becoming a better person overall.” Yassin Daymi also expressed his thoughts of how these skills would contribute to his life and the real world.

“Hopefully in the future, I’m planning on becoming a lawyer so a lot of the public speaking skills that I develop will improve, also a lot of the times leadership skills come in handy, for example THIMUN, I’m going to be a head chair so these skills will help me with THIMUN and other conferences.”



Report based on the GAIA Awards

Aljohara Al Subaey
QatarAcademy Doha

In the UN, the effort doesn't end with the discussion and argument when a decision has been adopted, this is as they strive to implement the decision.

THIMUN Qatar has diligently strived to establish itself as a forum for influence and transformation on a global scale. In that regard, the very first GAIA (Global Act with Impact Award) competition will take place during this year's THIMUN conference as a part of our MUN Impact program. There will be participation from all THIMUN Qatar participating schools. The THIMUN Qatar must be attended by participants in strategies to succeed.

Throughout the GAIA competition, people competing on behalf of their school must create a service project that advances a UN Sustainable Development Goal and its associated indicators. The programme aims to recognize that not every school has access to the same amount of resources, and this will be taken into consideration in the judging process. The overarching goal is to get kids interested in local problems and empower them to improve such problems and welcomes originality.

Each year, interdisciplinary environmental and sustainability science masters students are urged to present the findings from their research-based coursework or theses. A jury will decide on one item. The prize is intended to recognize work that has opened up new directions in interrelated and transdisciplinary environmental or sustainability research, has implications for significant societal transitions, or both. Further, the winner can be invited to submit his or her manuscript for GAIA publication. The GAIA Annual Meeting, which takes place every spring at various places, is when the GAIA Masters Student Paper Award will be given out.



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