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COMMUNITY VOICE

Day 2

January 25th 2024

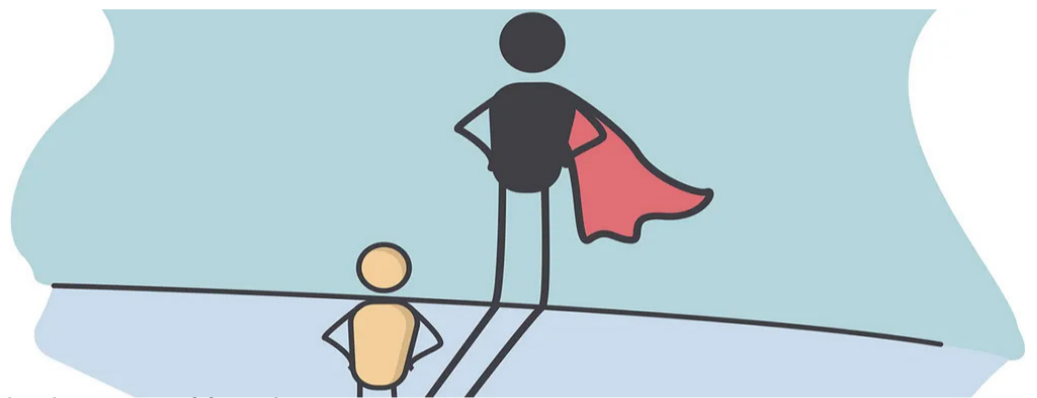
The Person in Charge

Jaidaa El Gharbawy
Qatar International School

In an interview with Shoug, the Secretary General of THIMUN, she shed light on her multi-faceted role in organizing the conference. Tasked with orchestrating the event, Shoug delves into the meticulous planning of initiatives and activities. From green-lighting activities like the pen pal exchange to coordinating the paired football event with Al Salam school, she ensures the conference's smooth operation. Crucially, her role extends to maintaining constant communication with teams like press and admin, fostering cohesion for a seamlessly run event. What truly resonates with Shoug about THIMUN is the unique opportunity it provides to connect with people from diverse

backgrounds. She recounts a memorable encounter with Japanese delegates during discussions on China's Uyghur Muslims. The unexpected stance taken by the Japanese, contrary to many people's beliefs on geopolitics, served as an eye-opener. It highlighted the refreshing realization that perspectives can differ significantly from preconceived notions. Shoug's journey with THIMUN commenced in 2018 as a delegate, transcending the norm by participating as a grade 8 student. Despite the initial nervousness of being younger than her peers, her abilities were recognized, allowing her to participate. Progressing through roles like admin, deputy chair, deputy secretary general, and now Secretary General, she reflects on her preference towards debate and discussion over her job as an admin member.

Shoug leads a team of four deputies, emphasizing the need for a more balanced representation with increased male participation due to her deputy team consisting of three females and one male. The dynamic she has within her team reflects both respect and a healthy dose of fear, essential for establishing authority. This year's THIMUN stands apart due to significant changes. The venue has shifted to the Qatar National Convention Centre



(QNCC), offering specifically designed rooms for these occasions, a huge difference compared to the previous school campus setting. The number of delegates has also tripled compared to the previous year, reaching a count of 1500, with both delegates and the 500 individuals working behind the scenes contributing to the event's success. Reflecting on the impact of COVID-19, Shoug emphasiz-

es the irreplaceable nature of human interaction in shaping the conference's dynamics. The shift to online platforms disrupted the natural dialogue that characterises THIMUN conferences. Shoug underscores the significance of seemingly small interactions, like complimenting someone's outfit, in contributing to the unique THIMUN experience.

Court Crisis: ICJ

Omar Hamdan
Qatar International School

It is well known that the pen is mightier than the sword. Diplomacy, the key to a peaceful future and united nations. A major part of this is the need for justice, and order. An important body to deal with this is the International Court of Justice, it serves as a beacon for bridging the gap between warring nations. Many cases have been brought forth since the court's conception in 1945 and the start of its operation in 1946. The ICJ holds a dual role: settling international disputes and giving advisory opinions to other legal bodies and agencies.

As the delegates presented their

case to the judges, the case of Armenia VS Azerbaijan, a territorial dispute between neighbouring states. Allegations of ethnic targeting flew across the room. Powerful opening statements sweep and sway the room's opinion from side to side. The defendants (Azerbaijan) showcased their skilled rebuttals and remarks to the strong arguments made by Armenia. With the tension slowly rising since the collapse of the Soviet Union, and leaving the disputed territory of Nagorno-Karabakh, so too does the tension rise within this courtroom. Many interesting geopolitical arguments and solutions are shown before the row of judges, and evidence is noted and taken into account with careful accuracy to ensure true justice is carried out.

With the opening speeches over. Armenia is left on the defensive, with allegations of genocide and cleansing against the Azerbaijani people in the region. Mountains of evidence presented from geographical arguments to previous UN resolutions to justify the actions of each side.

When speaking to Priscilla Agbozo she commented on her experience as President of the ICJ "It has been a great learning experience, educating myself about the case through the research and preparation brought forth by the applicants" "You can genuinely feel they are passionate during their presentations". Vice president of ICJ Khaled Al-Marri "As this is my last year in THIMUN, I am delighted to



be spending it in my favourite committee: the ICJ. I thank my fellow panellists Priscilla and Waseb for being here with me."

A highlight of the session was when Azerbaijan called up Vaughan Lowe, A professor of international law. In an emo-

tional testimony Mr Lowe provided his expert opinion on the case; creating vivid imagery of the current situation in Nagorno-Karabakh and how he expects the future of the issue will seem if this issue is not dealt with.

Carpe Diem: Seize Every Opportunity

Omar Hamdan
Qatar International School

Regrets. The things we would've done, the people we could've been and the words we should've said. All of us have days we wish could've gone differently. January 24th is International 'Just Do It' day. A day dedicated to overcoming obstacles, setting goals and being productive. In our fast-paced world, it's easy to

get caught up in our daily routines and forget to pause and reflect. We often find ourselves going through the motions, sleepwalking through life, and allowing precious opportunities to slip through our fingers. How many times have we put off plans for the sake of staying home? Freezing a gym membership because we lost motivation? 'Just Do It' Day offers a powerful anti-

dote to the venom of regret. It encourages us to break free from the shackles of life and responsibility. It urges us to confront our fears, silence our doubts, and take action towards the life we truly desire. Whether it is starting a new project, pursuing a dream, or mending broken relationships when you put your mind to it nothing is out of reach. The power of this holiday lies in its simplicity. Often, we find ourselves overwhelmed by the enormity of our dreams and

aspirations. We become paralysed by the fear of failure or rejection. We convince ourselves that the timing isn't right or that we're not adequately prepared. But on this day, we are reminded that every journey begins with a single step. By taking that first step, no matter how small, we unlock the momentum required to propel us forward. Overcoming procrastination is a key aspect of 'Just Do It' Day. Procrastination, the enemy of progress, often stems from a myriad of factors: fear,

perfectionism, lack of motivation, or simply not knowing where to begin. The beauty of this special day is that it catalyses breaking free from the chains of procrastination. It empowers us to take immediate action, however small, and gradually build the momentum required to achieve our goals. So dig through your closet for those old running shoes, buy those painting supplies and write down your bucket list.

AFCON Mania

Anas Boukheffa
Qatar International School

'Tis the season for football frenzy, dear reader. With the 2022 World Cup behind us, there is a new cup on the horizon: The African Cup of Nations. Subsequent to Morocco's triumphant performance on the global stage, many African countries are looking to replicate the same success in this continental battle of the nations. This year's edition of the tournament is taking place on the southern coast of Africa - specifically Ivory Coast. The land of cocoa beans and rich culture will welcome the fierce competition and rivalries from the north-

ernmost tip of Africa to the bottom.

The reigning champions of Africa will be looking to capitalise on their recent form, cruising past Gambia with a three goal performance. It didn't take them long to make a statement at the tournament, with Pape Gueye breaking the deadlock after some fancy footwork from the former Liverpool star Sadio Mane. Finally, The Lions of Teranga capped off their dazzling performance with a poetic first time shot rendering the goalkeeper useless. On the flip side, the for-

mer Champions of Africa have not been so lucky. The Fennecs tried relentlessly for three points, but ultimately fell short with two points at the group stages, following a hard-fought battle against Burkina Faso. Baghdad Bounedjah worked tirelessly to salvage a point for the Algerians, who scored in the dying minutes of the game. To their disappointment however, they suffered a monumental loss against Mauritania, who made history by claiming the first AFCON win in their history. Following a

successful campaign in 2019, the Algerians crashed out of the group stages - a bitter moment for the Fennecs to say the least.

Staying on the topic of defeat, this year's cup organisers have similarly suffered surprising losses at the hands of smaller footballing nations. From the glory days of Didier Drogba and Yaya Toure, this version of The Elephants has surely come a long way since then. Shockingly, the Ivorians were tactically and physically outplayed by Equatorial Guinea, who were looking to draw blood. Emilio

Nsue bagged a brace, bringing his total tally for the tournament so far to five goals. In an underdog story somewhat similar to that of Morocco's in the world cup, Equatorial Guinea can safely say that they caused the biggest upset of the AFCON so far.

Tenacity, passion and courage; these are the three words that sum up the shows that Mama Africa has put on for us so far. After a tumultuous group-stage performance, fans are left eagerly waiting for the knockout stages.

A Call for Justice

Jaidaa El Gharbaway
Qatar International School

Day 110. Calls for a ceasefire have been vetoed. Aid is still struggling to get in. Twenty-five thousand killed and sixty-five thousand wounded. Many of them are children who haven't yet turned one. Graves have been desecrated and corpses have been stolen for ridiculous reasons. As the situation grows out of control we must remind ourselves that these are not numbers. These are people with lives, families, interests and hobbies. People with aspirations, who had dreams and ambitions. People who would've changed the world if given the chance to do so. October 7th 2023 marked the beginning of a cruel 100-day ethnic cleansing. In support of Palestine, people worldwide have taken

it upon themselves to boycott brands supporting the genocide of Palestine. The boycott is based on people using their purchasing power to avoid these specific brands. This movement is called the BDS movement (Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions); it has become a powerful expression of global solidarity, drawing attention to the injustice happening in Palestine. This movement is a form of peaceful resistance against Israel, addressing these issues and rectifying them in support of the suffering that the Palestinians endure. Additionally, to fuel the flame, a week-long global strike from the twenty-second of January to the twenty-eighth has been called by one of the remaining journalists in Gaza, Bisan Owda.

Bisan has dedicated her heart and soul to covering the ethnic cleansing of Palestinians in Gaza since the aggressions began on October 7th.

As boycotting rampant throughout the Arab world, educating others and remaining vigilant to any brands that may be supportive of the colonial cause is vital. Some notable brands are McDonalds, Starbucks, Pepsi co, and Coca-Cola. However some of these companies have been so deeply embedded in our lives, and so it becomes increasingly difficult for us to boycott these organisations. For example, eating at Roost or Birdys to replace the world-renowned KFC. Get your morn-

ing coffee from the coffee bean and tea leaf, or drink Kinzo cola instead of drinking the running blood of innocents they call cola.

Another example of a boycott is the Rosa Parks boycott. It unfolded in response to the racial segregation on public buses in Montgomery, Alabama, during the mid-20th century. Triggered by Rosa Parks' courageous act of refusing to give up her seat to a white passenger, African American residents united in a determined effort to challenge racial injustice. Commencing on December 5, 1955, the boycott involved individuals abstaining from utilising public transportation, opting

instead to walk or car-pool, regardless of the considerable distances involved. This stand against discriminatory policies showcased the unwavering commitment of the community to the principles of equality and justice, illustrating the profound lengths to which people were willing to go in their pursuit of rights. This boycott moved people worldwide and caused a monumental change.

Boycotts are one of the most underestimated methods of pressure. Governments often forget that the power lies within the people, the power to influence and change.

Bidyanondo's Pen Pal Activity

Anas Boukheffa
Qatar International School

Following TSR's successful football event, Bidyanondo combined their efforts with the student-led organisation in order to bring the event into fruition.

Cooper, an American delegate residing in New Delhi, described his experience as a "humbling" one. He described similar experi-

ences back in India, where he was also able to volunteer for the community. Mohamed Yasser was one student he helped write a letter with, and he expressed his delight with the event saying: "I feel very happy that I was able to make a new buddy all the way in Bangladesh." And "My pen pal was very similar to me because we both liked science and football."

The pen pal activity sought to bring together THIMUN del-

egates and Assalam School students to foster bonds with orphaned children in Bangladesh with the help of the Bidyanondo organization. The activity started off on a heartwarming tone, as the two parties got to socialise and get to know each other more. Each group was assigned a pen pal to write to, and the creative juices immediately started flowing. Popular themes shared between most of the students and delegates were: sports, hobbies

and food. Students were filled to the brim with questions for their pen pals, and were especially eager to hear back from their new friends!

Underneath all of this, the activity showed us how a little compassion and understanding can go a long way. We learned the values of kindness and integrity, as we escaped the stresses of day-to-day life to sit down and really get to know each other.

Congo's iPhone Labor

Farida Sallam
Qatar International School

Children. The perfect picture of innocence. The first image that comes to mind is often of carefree play and boundless curiosity. In the mines of Congo, that picture is painted differently, with strokes of deep red and youthful eyes aged by dust and fumes. The issue of child labour in Congolese mines, particularly in the extraction of minerals like cobalt and coltan, has gained international attention as a pressing human rights concern that needs to be dealt with immediately. However, in a world where greed rules us, the show must go on at any cost.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo is home to numerous reserves of raw materials, including lithium, copper, cobalt, and gold. These minerals are essential to our economy with the growing demand for newer and more advanced technology. Most notably, rechargeable batteries that are used in phones and

electric cars. Smartphones on average contain around 8 grams of cobalt, while a battery for an electric car requires 1000 times that amount.

"The mines are like poison, without any safety equipment," says Betty Bambi, who runs an orphanage in Katanga. The majority of those working in the mines are subjected to manual labour without any PPE (personal protective equipment) in unsanitary conditions at the constant risk of cave-ins and rockslides. Mining has numerous effects on the human body, including respiratory complications such as pneumoconiosis, asbestosis, and silicosis caused by inhaling fine particles from the large amounts of dust generated by mining activities. Now imagine the kind of damage this would have on the vulnerable body of a child. According to the International Labour Organisation (ILO), an estimated forty-thousand

of the current two hundred fifty-five thousand miners are children, some as young as six years old.

In a recent landmark legal case launched against the world's largest tech companies by multiple Congolese families who lost their children in the dark tunnels of the mines, a company was named in this lawsuit, one we are all too familiar with: Apple. According to research conducted by "The Verge" around 2 billion people use Apple products. It is worth noting that almost 60% of Apple users own 3-4 products, so that is 1.2 billion people, 4.8 billion products, and 38.4 billion grams of cobalt.

An iPhone lasts three to four years on average, seven years with battery replacements. You do not need to buy a new iPhone every year. Save your money. Save a child's life. These screens of glass and bone, batteries of bloodied lithium; a glorified corpse we call a phone.



Omar Hamdan
Qatar International School

Subsequent to the incredible success of the 2022 World Cup, reigning Asian champions Qatar returns for another fast-paced tournament: the Asian Cup! 6 groups, 4 nations each, reaching across Asia. With big name competitors that have been exuding dominant brilliance since their unforgettable performances in the World Cup; such as Japan, and Saudi Arabia. With the architecturally stunning stadiums dotting the nation, with some stand outs being Al-Bayt stadium in Khor with its bedouin design reflecting the beautiful culture of the peninsula.

With the group stages ending soon many teams stood out during this tournament. Notable mentions include: Iraq, Palestine and Oman. The atmosphere is electric, with an unrivaled ambiance; people showcasing support across Qatar in cafes, boulevards, and stadiums for their home country. Chants echo the halls and stands. Streets crowded with hopeful and eager

viewers, from around the world they ventured for a shot to become the champions of Asia. Flags continue to wave in the air, and although we have reached the round of sixteen and many teams have now started to make their disappointed journey home, the tension in the air is stubborn. Now more than ever we will be witness to the great performances ahead.

With only six games left of the group stages the most enticing matches, with the most vibrant crowds, and best gameplay are: Jordan VS Bahrain, Japan VS Indonesia, and Iraq VS Vietnam. These are sure to serve their fans with years worth of memories and a great deal of fun for the night.

What separates the Asian cup from other tournaments is the sheer passion behind the fans. No matter if it is the first kick off, or the last minute of extra time, the energy never falters. Continuous play, continuous action.

Asian Cup: Qatar 2024

Nevermind the post match vibes, as people head home or head off to get food, we're left with an unmatched feeling of happiness even if the team you support did not win. For it is these moments that shape our lives and how we remember the best parts of our childhood and holidays.

This tournament is not only a chance to experience thrilling occasions in person but a chance to bring down the borders that separate us, whether culturally or otherwise.



To Inspire My World

Joy Kim
Park House English School

Many say their dream is to inspire the world. They say that making an impact on people's lives is what they aspire to do. However, people must know this one crucial point to accomplish this goal. To inspire another, you must be inspired yourself.

To inspire is 'to fill (someone) with the urge or ability to do or feel something'. Now think back to yourself, am I inspired? Have I filled myself with the urge to live on with MY life? Sometimes, it may be a bigger challenge to inspire yourself than to inspire others. As students, lots of us feel that we are all just living the same life. Simply following the procedures everybody takes, we feel as though our lives at this point are not special or unique. Following the same old routine from morning to night, we are not inspired but rather sick and tired of the repeated cycle. At the back of our heads we think to ourselves, 'It'll get better when I get into university'. But why wait till then when you can do it now?

Inspiring yourself can be very simple. One of the many simple answers is to find your passion. Within your boring days and never-ending weeks, find something that makes you intrigued, something that sparks a flame of fascination in your heart. Whether that be an instrument, a sport, or even an extracurricular activity like MUN, dive deeper into it. Let that be what makes your eyes open in the morning, something that makes you want tomorrow to come quicker and the thought that never leaves your head throughout the day. Solely having a passion may be the biggest change in your life. It will be your drive and energy to live. Never underestimate

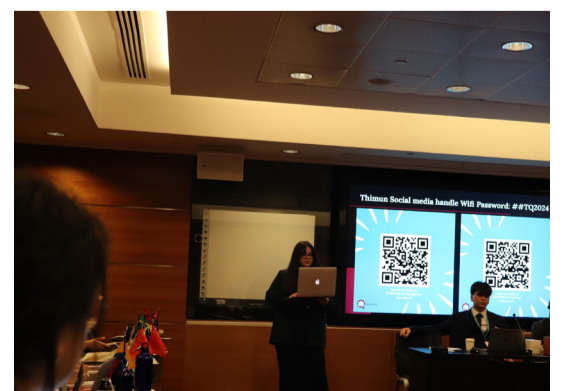


the person you could be with a passion.

Another way is to let yourself be inspired by the people around you. Let other people's success and stories inspire you. They may be people on a different path as you but they will be on their journey with the mind and dedication you will find applicable and valuable in your own life. Start small with your friends and family. The people you least expect may be the people with the craziest stories. Your parents, friends, families and even teachers will have their own tales to tell. And if you think the people around you aren't enough to give you that extra push, take a look online. Inspiration can be found in every corner and page of the

web. Ranging from youtube videos to instagram feeds, you will be able to find the perfect source of motivation for you.

We all are walking a different road, on a different journey and looking towards a different destination. You may feel that you are on this seemingly never-ending journey by yourself. But if you look around you, there are so many companions walking alongside you. With similar hardships and worries as you, they are also striving to find their meaning and inspiration for life. That itself should be a consolation for you. Knowing you are not in this by yourself will help you get through the hardships you will face in life. And believe that you are more than capable to be inspired and to inspire yourself.



THIMUN's Contribution To Cross Culture Understanding

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At its core, THIMUN is an international event that helps in cross cultural understanding rather than only being an academic conference. THIMUN serves as an example of learning through experience which goes beyond the education reserved in classrooms, encouraging communication amongst delegates which come from different cultural backgrounds. This article explores THIMUN's structure and the participants ongoing impacts to see how it greatly contributes to the understanding between cultures.

THIMUN's appeal is its global attraction as they gather students from all around the world. The conference welcomes a number of delegates each year, representing many countries, cultures, and beliefs. This diversity's is the core of THIMUN's appeal. Delegates the chance to interact with others whose experiences and backgrounds are very different from their own.

THIMUN emphasises the importance of the planning phase, making delegates investigate the countries they are representing. This requires an investigation of the countries culture, past events, and social standings and their political structures. In order to develop an in depth understanding of their culture, which is essential in diplomatic interactions.



When delegates appear to be diplomats and discuss international issues is an important part of THIMUN. Delegates must negotiate the intricate details of international relations which shows as a small representation of the real world. As delegates cooperate, negotiate, and occasionally dispute, committee interactions transform into an opportunity for cross cultural exchanges that shows the view

points present in the global community.

THIMUN developed a reputation as an international platform for intercultural awareness in addition to being a conference. THIMUN fosters an environment that goes beyond boundaries with its diverse representation. In addition to becoming knowledgeable global citizens, delegates who successfully

negotiate the difficulties of international relations also become ambassadors for intercultural understanding in a globalised society. THIMUN is proof of the ability of hands on learning that builds a future that is more open and culturally conscious. It is a journey that crosses cultural divides and work to create a more linked world. It is more than just a conference.

Day 1 Recap..



C D U F Z Y L O O I I O T U Q
B H H I Z O T T J O P S I U L
M I L T R D A I G N I T O V E
U O N Y E E D O R T Y H V B V
M Z J B Z R S N S O Y V X O A
Q E A S A A E O Z X J E X G R
J T I C P E Q H L L C A A B G
E P A M O T I O N U M S M M B
O L I Q J E J D R F T U N X R
P M K C T V Q K S J W I O P E
E Y Y B F F K N Y Z T T O G Q
P O S I T I O N P A P E R N O
A F D K E W R Y F K E C Z A V
W M C V X R T Q C Q B Y R B U

debate
motion
positionpaper

gravel
motion
resolution

majority
placard
voting

