



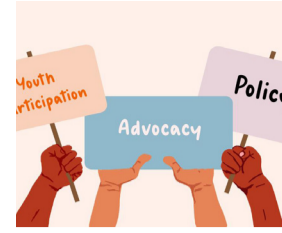
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# MUNITY VOICE

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## Meet the Deputy Heads of Press

Wadha Al Thani  
Qatar Academy Doha

In the complex realm of THIMUN Qatar, where press reports and diplomatic debates meet, Maryam and Hissa Al Mana have become prominent personalities. Their journey as the Deputy Heads of Press for the 13th annual conference has been characterised by development, cooperation, and a dedication to THIMUN's ideals. As Maryam and Hissa prepare for their last THIMUN conference together, this article explores their unique perspectives and experiences.

For Maryam, the role of Deputy Head of Press has been a profound personal and leadership journey. She emphasises the importance of continuous learning, stating, "This role is important to me personally because I get to learn new leadership skills and improve how I communicate with others more effectively and efficiently." Maryam's growth extends beyond personal development, as she actively contributes to the growth of her team members. Her approach involves fostering an environment where respect and kindness fuel motivation, enabling her team to have fun while achieving their goals.

Hissa echoes this sentiment, underlining the collaborative nature of their experiences. "My role in THIMUN Qatar is also Deputy Head of Press. This role is important to me because, during the conference, it's not just people learning and experiencing the press individually. Me and my press team get to learn together and develop new skills



collectively," she shares. This emphasis on shared growth reflects the spirit of teamwork that defines the deputy heads' approach.

Maryam and Hissa's involvement with THIMUN started while they were admins in the ninth grade. They progressed into other positions over time. "As Maryam mentioned, we have been attending THIMUN since the ninth grade," Hissa explains. We started out as admins and worked our way up to positions like photographers and videographers after seeing how important the press is.

Maryam's favourite thing about THIMUN lies in its diversity, both within the press team and across other committees. She expresses her enthusiasm for working with friends, making new

connections, and learning about different cultures. "THIMUN has been a great way for me to build on my skills and experiences and build on my passion for photography and press in general," she remarks. This passion for capturing diverse perspectives highlights the importance of the press in bringing the conference to life.

Hissa's favourite part of the THIMUN experience is how unique and memorable it is. "There are many memories that will be made throughout the years, not just during this conference, and THIMUN will always hold a special place in my heart," she says. Their outstanding characteristics demonstrate how much they value the unique learning, networking, and memory-making

possibilities that THIMUN provides.

As Maryam and Hissa approach their final THIMUN conference as Deputy Heads of Press, the sentiment is bittersweet. This year's conference is set apart by being held in the QNCC building, a departure from previous locations. For Maryam, this marks the end of her high school journey, and she eagerly anticipates seeing younger grades take over the executive team. The QNCC building becomes symbolic of the end of her THIMUN journey.

Hissa shares the sentiment, emphasising how this conference, as seniors holds

particular importance. "Experiencing the conference in the QNCC building brings us closer to the authentic THIMUN experience, creating lasting memories that we'll forever cherish," she reflects. The conference becomes not only a celebration of their growth but also handing over THIMUN to the next generation.

Maryam and Hissa Al Mana's journey as Deputy Heads of the Press has been one of personal and collective growth, highlighting the significance of teamwork, shared experiences, and a passion for capturing the essence of THIMUN. As they bid farewell to their roles, their legacy remains.

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# Pages n' Palettes Pioneers

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Omar Hamdan  
Qatar International School

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“Enriching the kids’ education inspired me to create more change in the community.”

Children are the pillar of our society, the pioneers of our future and the beacon of hope for many generations to come.

In a world where access to education and academic resources is not entirely equal for everyone, it is vital to take steps towards bridging this gap and providing opportunities for underprivileged children. This is exactly what TSR (The Student Reach) had in mind when they initiated “Pages n’ Palettes”. This is an ongoing project that is set to continue for the next one or two years, promising to provide hope and inspiration for children who might otherwise feel as though they’re missing out on the most key parts of childhood.

The idea for “Pages n’ Palettes” stemmed from the desire to step outside the boundaries of traditional educational platforms and provide a safe space for children to access and acquire the necessary skill sets needed for life. By combining paired reading sessions with arts and crafts activities, this event aims to not only encourage literacy but also ignite creativity and critical thinking in young minds. This helps foster a love for cooperation, patience and unde

Co-director Naima Bin Sameel stated that one of the



primary goals of “Pages n’ Palettes” is to “allow high school students to make a difference in their community and develop a genuine understanding of the struggles that underprivileged children face daily”. This eye-opening experience forges memories and forges friendships that transcend social and economic boundaries.

The impact of “Pages n’ Palettes” extends far beyond the boundaries of just reading and crafts. The participating children are provided with a sense

of hope and inspiration, as they now have something to look forward to each month. This consistent engagement with literature and creative expression boosts their self-esteem and encourages a love for learning.

Looking towards the future, the organisers of “Pages n’ Palettes” have plans to expand their reach and impact. By partnering with more schools and organisations, they hope to extend this opportunity to a larger pool of underpriv-

ileged children. Additionally, they aim to incorporate more varied activities to cater to different interests and talents, ensuring a holistic development for all participants.

Many members of the TSR executive teams have also pushed themselves to join the leadership and exec teams of other organisations such as THIMUN Qatar, we hoped to speak to Sara Said; THIMUN exec and deputy director of the student reach “It started small, an impossible dream

between friends and now we’ve got members worldwide.” We also wished to get an outside perspective on the work of TSR, so we spoke to exec Hajira about her experiences with TSR and how she believes it’s the best way of “Empowering our youth to achieve great things”.

# UN Plenary

Farida Sallam  
Qatar International School

The United Nations (UN) Plenary, the pinnacle of international diplomacy, stands as a powerful platform for fostering global cooperation and addressing pressing global issues. As societies grapple with challenges such as the deportation of migrants, the engagement of youth in politics, and the spread of misinformation, the UN Plenary holds immense potential to steer us towards a fairer and more inclusive world. In this article, we delve into the urgent need to protect the rights of migrants, empower the youth, and combat propaganda, while also exploring ways to enhance migration quality and provide better services for those in need.

THIMUN'S UN Plenary enlightened us with crucial topics, unearthing global issues that are often overlooked. Most notably, the issue of migration. In recent years, the



issue of deportation has captured global attention. To truly address this challenge, a comprehensive approach is essential, with the UN Plenary playing a central role. By leveraging this platform, member states can emphasise the importance of respecting the rights and dignity of migrants. Increased awareness and education about migrants' rights, both within migrant communities and the general population, can help combat misinformation and prejudice. Furthermore, the UN Plenary can advocate for the

establishment of stronger legal frameworks that protect migrants' rights and ensure fair and transparent deportation procedures.

The voices of young people are crucial in shaping a more inclusive political landscape. The UN Plenary must recognize and actively encourage youth engagement from an early age, creating avenues for participation in decision-making processes. By fostering youth involvement in politics and social movements, the UN Plenary can empower a generation that holds the potential to drive meaningful change. Through mentorship

programs, capacity-building initiatives, and the inclusion of youth-led panels and dialogues, the UN Plenary can pave the way for an equitable society built on the aspirations and ideas of tomorrow's leaders.

The spread of propaganda thrives in an environment where individuals lack the necessary tools to discern truth from falsehood. The UN Plenary can champion educational initiatives that promote media literacy and critical thinking skills. By investing in comprehensive educational programs that equip individuals with the ability to navigate through

the complexities of modern information ecosystems, the UN Plenary can undermine the foothold of propaganda and disinformation. Informed and discerning citizens are better equipped to scrutinise sources, challenge false narratives, and contribute to a well-informed global community.

Ensuring better migration quality calls for a concerted effort to address the challenges faced by migrants, both before and after their arrival in host countries. The UN Plenary can urge member states to enhance their services and support mechanisms for migrants.



# GAIA Awards

Anas Boukheffa  
Qatar International School

With this year's edition of THIMUN Q comes another much-anticipated event - GAIA Awards. Schools from all across the nation are tasked with the responsibility of coming up with the most innovative and creative community service project. The main purpose of the GAIA award is to supplement THIMUN Q's vision of simulating the United Nations by inspiring real change in our communities.

The GAIA award is meticulously judged on a multitude of factors, including organisation, sustainability, real-life application, impact, creativity and innovation. The application must be submitted in the form of an engaging five-minute video, which may then be shortlisted into the finals. Once a team has qualified for the finals, the videos are shown to delegates in committee rooms, where they vote for the best video. Annually, submitters fight through break-neck competition for a chance to

earn the lucrative prize of 3,000 QAR in first place.

Last year's edition of the tournament saw Qatar International School, Birla Public School, and Delhi Public School go neck-to-neck in their community projects that pushed the boundaries further than ever before. QIS' submission, named 'Project CommUnity', aimed to contribute to achieving SDG1 and SDG2. Fortunately for them, they went back home with gold. The other two projects, 'GoCoEquality' and 'Move!', focused on achieving SDG10 and SDG3 respectively.

With THIMUN on the cusp of denouement, delegates, press and admin members are eagerly awaiting the winner of the renowned award.

The award isn't all about winning, though. GAIA awards hope to foster an interwoven community and help realise the UN's sustainable development goals in the future.



# To The Top!

Joy Kim  
Park House English School

Two weeks into the Asian Cup 2024, the group stage of the Asian Cup 2023 has come to a conclusion with 16 teams qualifying to go up to the next round. 32 teams, representing each of their countries proud and tall, fought with devotion and power to bring joy to their families and friends back home. 36 fierce games happened the last 2 weeks, each game filled with passionate players and an even more passionate crowd.

On the 12th of January 2024, the opening ceremony of Asian Cup 2023 took place in the Lusail Stadium. Holding almost 80,000 people, the opening ceremony was said to be a huge success. Marking this as a start of a journey, Qatar's streets and stadiums have been filled with excitement of people rooting for their home teams. The first to qualify to the round of 16 was Qatar. As a part of Group A, Qatar recorded three wins. Not even allowing one goal to all three opponents, Qatar seized a perfect win. The perfect win reflected the determination of the Qatari players to rewrite the winning history that Qatar achieved in the last Asian Cup, especially in their own home



country.

Countries that qualified for the round of 16 include: Qatar, Tajikistan, Australia, Uzbekistan, Iran, United Arab Emirates, Iraq, Japan, Bahrain, South Korea, Saudi Arabia, and Thailand. The additional four best third-placed countries were: Jordan, Palestine, Syria, and Indonesia. There have been 87 goals in the 36 games that have happened over the two weeks,

averaging 2.42 goals each game. Each and every goal came with intense roars of overwhelming fervour knowing that the players worked tremendously hard to present this unforgettable experience to the audience.

Qatar's air is currently filled with the patriotic pride of the people. The first game of the round of 16 happens on the 2nd of February 2024. The antic-

ipation for the next few games have reached its peak with people buzzing to see which groups qualify to meet the next opponent. The Asian Cup has been the glue to our community. The community in Qatar has come back to its lively, spirited atmosphere that we thought we would never see again after the World Cup. Let this be the time that we all come together to rejoice and celebrate the unification of diversity in Qatar.

# ICJ Eruption

Omar Hamdan  
Qatar International School

The International Court of Justice is a heated environment, and the likelihood of drama is always there. Recently a flair-up occurred when tensions arose after questioning a witness; the defendants and prosecution began a heated argument leading to further drama and discourse. Although these reactions may seem extreme, in ICJ incidents are destined to happen. The continuous erroneous objections, coupled with the long sessions, alongside the stress of judicial opinion and judgement, the load was far too much to bear leading to the so-called eruption. Order in the court became nothing less than a statement.

However, despite this slight setback, it was inevitable, in the spirit of THIMUN cooperation the issue was resolved hastily. This in my personal opinion is the greatest example of real-time problem resolution. With the quick



thinking of authority figures and admins, issues were ironed out and tension was brought back to a standard level. Many situations like these raise many issues and increase heartache; especially if one is not mentally prepared and confident in their mediation skills.

Additionally with two more days of THIMUN Qatar excitement; this will only be the start. We hope to see the passion in the eyes of the delegates every day, however, to let that passion burn and burn

down your surroundings are different. Yet, the love of debate and mediation remains strong, truly this conference holds endless possibilities, and infinite opportunities to set yourself out there to a bigger stage and bigger audience. To be at a point in time where we are all able to appreciate these experiences is truly an unparalleled blessing. With events such as these, I and many others can say that without a shadow of a doubt, the ICJ's first appearance in THIMUN will be one of the most memorable committees and groups, its participants leaving with an overflow of great memories.



# Shrinkflation

Anas Boukheffa  
Qatar International School

It is no secret that the economy has been experiencing levels of inflation rivalled only by the Great Depression. A simple definition of inflation is the steady rise of goods and services over a period of time. Inflation is one of the primary causes of an economic recession, as it contributes to the increase in prices of essential goods and services like food and healthcare.

Inflation is a response to the increase in costs of raw materials and input costs in the supply side of the economy. It aims to cover costs to allow businesses to continue operating, and increase cashflows. However, this comes at the expense of the consumers who have to fork out more of their disposable income for necessary goods.

Shrinkflation is similar to inflation in that it aims to reduce costs, however, it tackles this issue in a different way; instead of increasing the selling price, the size of the good/service is decreased,

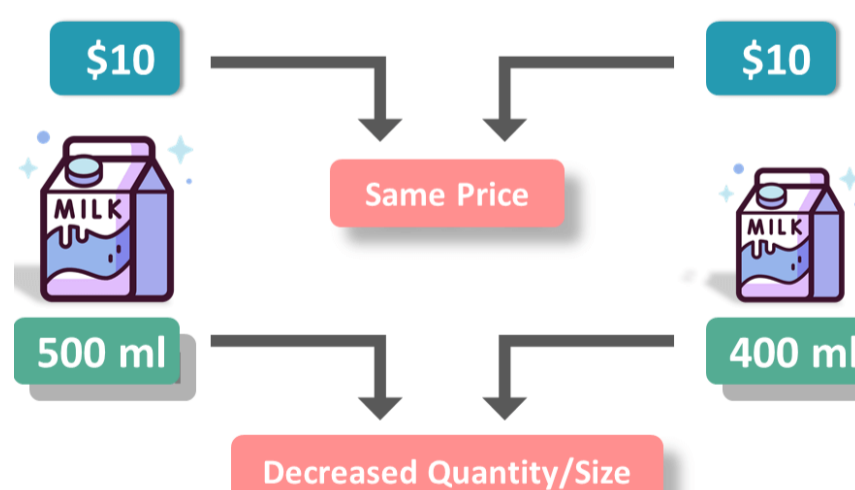


to decrease input costs. I am a strong advocate against shrinkflation - many childhood memories that I cherish so dearly involved a large chocolate bar somewhere. Nowadays, the average chocolate bar is about the size of a palm.

A popular case of shrinkflation is Toblerone's gargantuan eighteen per cent decrease in size, which came after a controversial executive decision from the mother company, Kraft. They achieved this by

widening the gap between each triangle and decreasing the height of each peak. Unsurprisingly, this was met with uproar from Toblerone's loyal consumers, who did not appreciate the abrupt change.

Shrinkflation is a very successful and sly tactic, which is the main reason why so many businesses adopt it. If implemented correctly, businesses can masterfully downsize a product over a long period to make it virtually unnoticeable.



# Embracing Change

Wadha Al Thani  
Qatar Academy Doha

With the world experiencing the worst recession in ninety years and growing inequality, the 13th annual THIMUN Qatar conference shines brightly as a source of empowerment and hope for the next generation of leaders. The subject for this year is “Embracing Change: Youth Advocacy in a Shifting World.”

The main goal of the conference is to give young delegates the resources they require. With a focus on topics like human rights, environmental sustainability, economic stability, and disarmament, THIMUN Qatar hopes to develop a new generation of young leaders who can successfully navigate the challenges of today’s complex world.

A notable highlight of this year’s conference is the incorporation of youth issues into each forum. Delegates will step into the shoes of youth delegates, addressing challenges that directly impact their generation. This change underlines the conference’s dedication to relevance and highlights the significance of raising the voices of young



people on the international scene.

The presence of crisis committees, which offer an actual simulation of emergency reactions, is one of THIMUN’s unique features. It will be necessary for delegates to think quickly on their feet, adjust to changing conditions, and work together to come up with answers. The goal of this involvement is to develop leaders who are strategic,

resilient, and able to handle the unpredictable events. THIMUN acknowledges the role that academic integrity plays in forming the next generation of global leaders. The order of priority of policy statements, issue videos, and research papers guarantees that attendees have a thorough understanding of the selected subjects.

THIMUN Qatar invites delegates to gather their young people’s voices

into a single paper in an innovative move. This collection will serve as a representation of the youth’s ideas and solutions as a whole, highlighting their creative responses to pressing global issues.

The theme of THIMUN Qatar 2024 is embodied in “Embracing Change: Youth Advocacy in a Shifting World”. The conference is evidence that young people can be successful ambassa-

dors for a more hopeful and equal future if they are equipped with knowledge, critical thinking skills, and a collaborative mindset. As the conference progresses, it has the potential to unleash a wave of youth-driven change that resonates with real-world diplomacy and decision-making, far beyond the walls of the committee rooms.

# TQ24 Recap!

