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MUNITY VOICE

Day 1

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Unity in Diversity

Farida Sallam
Qatar International School

“Although we come from different places in the world, we connect”—a statement from Inaaya, the Deputy Head of Press, that perfectly describes the THIMUN experience. While the distances between our homelands are vast, our experiences can be surprisingly similar. Many delegates always leave THIMUN with a little more knowledge and many more friends.

With almost fifty-five nationalities participating each year and nearly a thousand delegates, THIMUN proves itself to be a brilliant example of how diversity has the power to unite us. It plays its part as a beacon, guiding us all together. The value of diversity doesn't just lie in the number of people taking part and where they're from; THIMUN provides a platform for

students to discover themselves, make meaningful connections, and acquire different perspectives from all around the globe.

This multicultural environment fosters empathy, understanding, and sensitivity towards diverse cultures, religions, and backgrounds. It challenges delegates to question their preconceived notions and biases, opening their minds to new ideas and perspectives. In addition to this, THIMUN's diverse environment prepares students for the struggles of the workplace and the many interactions they will have with people of different mindsets, worldviews, and ethnic experiences.

Being exposed to a wide range of cultures, customs, and values creates a vibrant community where people may share knowledge and grow to appreciate the complexity of the human experience. In this sense, diversity serves as a bridge,



guiding us along a path of acceptance and understanding. Furthermore, diversity builds togetherness by bringing attention to our common humanity. People can form bonds that go beyond outward differences by recognizing the things that unite us, such as the need for belonging and a brighter future. People in different contexts frequently find that underneath the surface, our main differences are common goals and difficulties. There is something deeply moving about stepping out of

your comfort zone to expand your horizons and develop an understanding of the world around you. It never occurs to us just how underrepresented some countries may be, and THIMUN gives the students of these countries a voice. Knowledge is power, and a little awareness can go a long way.

Evidently, the main part of THIMUN that everyone looks forward to is socialising and meeting new people - and for good reason too.

Every person I've spoken to so far has spoke of tall tales of befriending international delegates and making unforgettable memories. Most of them are still close friends, even years later. THIMUN is - surprisingly - where you learn that Hansel & Gretel is an old Hungarian folktale about demons, that there are 32 variations of dabke (an age-old dance in the Arab region), and how you can get Grammarly Premium



Qatar's Hidden Treasures

Jaidaa El Gharbawy
Qatar International School

Welcome to Qatar, a place that blends rich culture and heritage with modern luxury. Qatar awaits your exploration as we embark on a captivating journey exploring the different attractions that make Qatar such a unique destination. At the heart of Qatar is Doha, a city with a skyline representing the history of years passing in Qatar. One of the main aspects of Qatar that makes it so appealing is its distinctive architecture, with towering skyscrapers that shape central Doha. Each building has significant value and is a testament to Qatar's past and history.

Delve into the culturally rich country of Qatar with me as I introduce you to the top spots that may appeal to you. The Pearl, a must-visit spot, offers a feast for both the eyes and the taste buds. If you are a foodie, you are in luck. The Pearl is a foodie's gold mine, as well as a place of glamorous pastel-coloured buildings with a waterfront with canals passing through. Its food options vary for all courses: breakfast, lunch, and dinner. You can enjoy a well-prepared meal with a charming view. The Pearl also offers a variety of options for different age groups; for the younger audience, there's Megapolis. Megapolis is a state-of-the-art indoor entertainment destination located in Medina Centrale. It has many different activities, which include bowling, darts, escape rooms, and arcade games. The Pearl isn't just a destination; it's an experience. Stroll along the vibrant promenade, explore the boutiques, and indulge in the vibrant atmosphere.

Experience the epitome of shopping delight at Place Vendome. With a whopping 580 stores featuring global fashion icons, this open-concept mall is a dream for every shopper. The classic French architecture is a unique setting for Qatar, illustrating the different scenes that make up the country. Don't miss the hourly dancing fountains from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m.,



complemented by a dazzling 3D laser show each night. It's not just about the deals; immerse yourself in the whole experience. After a long day of shopping, grab a bite at the canalside cafes and soak in Qatar's hospitality. Come for the finds, stay for the ambiance—Place Vendome crafts the ultimate shopping adventure!

Doha Expo 2023 is a huge event currently taking place in Qatar. Al Bidda Park, a park painted with hues of blue and splashes of green, a sight for sore eyes. This is the perfect spot to hold this event, with people coming from across the world to witness the eye-opening city that Qatar has become over the years. This event

isn't just about trees and plants; it's about saving our planet. The theme is "Green Desert, Better Environment," and it's a call for everyone to do their part against desertification. Ornamental gardens, live shows, and amazing food—all in one place. Lasting from October 2023 to March 2024, it's a six-month-long adventure into the technological progress of sustainability, innovation, and culture with something for everyone. Along with its easily accessible location right in the middle of Doha, With 57 countries in attendance and around 3 million guests expected, Doha Expo 2023 is where you want to access information on global gardening and saving the world.

Explore Qatar's unique mix of tradition and modern luxury. From the iconic Doha skyline to the vibrant experiences at The Pearl and the diverse shopping at Place Vendome, there's something for everyone. Don't miss the ongoing Doha Expo 2023 at Al Bidda Park, emphasising sustainability and global collaboration. With warm hospitality, lively atmospheres, and a commitment to a better future, Qatar welcomes you to a journey of rich history, innovation, and culture. Come and discover the dynamic experiences that make Qatar a must-visit destination.

Pioneers of Community Outreach

Anas Boukheffa
Qatar International School

Trailblazers, changemakers, go-getters; The Student Reach is an entirely youth-led organization with the primary aim of providing enriching experiences to young people across the nation. Since 2023, The Student Reach have been able to impact over 500 people, ranging from volunteers to students and organizations. Their most successful event to date was their desert cleanup in cooperation with DEAP Qatar, which saw over 120 volunteer sign-ups, and over 2.5 tonnes of waste being collected during the expedition. Naima, the co-director, described the experience as a “fun” and “engaging” one.

Desert cleanups aren't the only thing The Student Reach are capable of, their arsenal is equipped with much more than that: 'Pages N Palettes', a monthly event in collaboration with the First Assalam School, oversees various events from paired reading to arts



and crafts. They hope to enable the Assalam Students with progressive mindsets and skills that they can hopefully carry with them to later life. This event is largely received very well within the community, as The Student Reach reportedly enjoys sign-up numbers of over 70 volunteers per event. Over the last few months, volunteers

have been able to foster meaningful relationships with the students, and have watched them grow out of their shells as they rekindle their love for education.

As all pioneers do, The Student Reach have their eyes set on the future. Their indefatigability,



coupled with their infectious passion for the community is a recipe for guaranteed success. “We're just a group of friends with a vision”, Naima says. Their relentless pursuit for improvement has consequently left The Student Reach a revered organization in the realm of youth leadership in Qatar.

Ultimately, they have paved the way for aspiring students to make a change.

Fortunately, The Student Reach are coming into THIMUN Qatar guns blazing, doing what they do best: pushing the boundaries for youth opportunities. Make sure to keep your eyes peeled for the Bidyanondo pen pal activity on the 24th of January!

Joy Kim
Parkhouse English School

Every year, when the winds get colder and we start looking for our coats hidden at the back of our closets, our welcome companion, THIMUN Qatar, comes back around. With students from all around the world participating, THIMUN has never failed to present us with wonderful memories and precious friends.

Dating back to 2011, THIMUN Q has been working towards the goal of providing key educational opportunities that may have not been available in normal circumstances. Through THIMUN, students have been able to network with people all around the world. From sharing valuable experiences and thoughts of diverse cultures to even finding people working towards the same goal and mission, Thimun has been an eye-opening experience for students in Qatar. Hosting the conference with thousands of delegates, all from different backgrounds and holding their own stories, THIMUN has been a fierce arena of debate. Delegates entering the

arena may have been weak individuals but not one left without becoming passionate warriors, ready to fight the battles ahead. That is what THIMUN does. It changes us. It changes us individuals to become a stronger person and somehow brings out the best in us.

However, THIMUN's impact does not only happen within the committee rooms, or within us but also reaches the community around us. Annually, THIMUN holds a crucial competition called 'Global Act with Impact Awards'. GAIA requires participating teams, representing their schools or institutions, to come up with a service project that positively impacts the community around them. GAIA over time has produced outstanding projects. “Project CommUnity”, “Food for Future”, and “Cups for Change” are just some of the past winners. All projects of GAIA were distinct and unique but if you look deep within the core of these projects, you will notice that they all have the same heart and urge of students to change the community around them in a

THIMUN'S Past and Future

better way. THIMUN unites us and our communities. It brings us together and builds the bright future we work towards.

THIMUN has always been in action since 2011. However, it had to come to a halt in front of an unexpected obstacle. Covid. The unexpected and unwanted guest was a problem but it could not stop the passion and spirit of THIMUN. Through times of dismay, THIMUN continued to spread its influence. Camera to camera, microphone to microphone, Covid could not stop the student's excitement. Now, with nothing in our way, students are more than ready to jump into action. Delegates are more than ready to debate and the staff are more than ready to get the conference to them.



The Theme of THIMUN 2024

Mind Enrichment: Quality Education

Omar Hamdan
Qatar International School

“A quality education is the foundation of a better future” a sentence that speaks volumes. With the THIMUNQ conference on the horizon, we begin to ponder this year’s theme: quality education. What differentiates low quality education from high quality education, and the effect of this on the students of today, and how can we seek to embody this theme and ideal.

Education: a fundamental human right. One that cannot be neglected and dismissed as a luxury. Education is a necessary tool to push the youth to new fields, aspirations, and hopes. Education becomes the pathway we walk on towards the journey of the future. THIMUN’s recognition of the importance of such a gift is what led to this year’s theme.

Year by year we take our ability to learn and better ourselves for granted. Many currently suffer from a lack of suitable education. From insufficient funds to a deficit of experienced teachers. They seek what we have had for our entire lives, and this in turn should serve as a purpose to



aid those struggling nations to get to an optimum schooling program.

In some of these struggling nations the lack of quality education emerges from multiple different issues and problems; ranging from corruption to natural disasters to a bloody history of colonialism leaving said country vulnerable and weak. It becomes our responsibility, and moral and ethical duty to aid these people and aim for an improved, more fair future where all of the human race can work together and

solve issues on the same level across the world, raising the mean global intelligence quotient by a significant factor.

Across the world, education is hailed as the backbone of successful nations and prosperous futures. Education in the hands of the populace is a weapon. Ignorant dictators fear an educated population as it allows for new ideals to grow and develop. For future generations to envelop themselves in a web of hopes and dreams brought on by a healthy learning environment. Statistics nowadays show a rapid

increase in literacy rates around the world as the percentage of literate students increased from 20% in the 1900’s, to 42% in the 1960’s, and finally achieving 70% in 1983. This steady rise suggests future improvements. However, in recent years with the appearance of the pandemic in 2020, worldwide learning was brought to a halt. Online learning took over and in doing so, a lack of standards and focus.

An impeccable example of how an uneducated population can crumble a nation is South Sudan, their low educa-

tional standards allow for an emergence of problems to pop up without suitably prepared experts to deal with them, whether it is a poor economy or military threats. The UN has implemented a 2030 plan to achieve free education to all boys and girls globally. In recent times, they have attempted to help less economically developed countries to improve their infrastructure and be able to hire proper staff. With these steps and benchmarks in place, we as a species can hope for a brighter future for our upcoming generations.

STOFF training

Omar Hamdan
Qatar International School



The first day of THIMUN culminated with a variety of projects presented by a plethora of diverse groups all aiming to present solutions to an important and diligent issue surrounding our world. With the GAIA awards at stake many groups, schools, and organisations have joined together to speak about raising awareness for certain problems. When we spoke to Mikayla Said - Head Chair of Historical Security Council - she described her chair experience as: "it was really fun seeing their perspective, and how they reacted being in Qatar". When asked if she enjoyed it she said "Yes, that's why I'm doing it for the second time". She also stated her excitement for interacting with international delegates from around the globe.

Empowering youth through debate

Wadha Al thani
Qatar Academy Doha

Debate is an important tool for developing critical thinking skills. Through the thorough research needed to participate, delegates get the chance to research complex global issues. This process that they have to go through not only helps them gain a deeper understanding of global issues but also helps young delegates improve their critical thinking skills which is important as it helps them overcome obstacles they may face in the future.

Effective communication is crucial for youth empowerment, and debates provide an opportunity to practice negotiation. Participants in THIMUN go through tough committee sessions where they must state the position of their country, negotiate with others, and work together to reach an agreement. These experiences help develop their social and public speaking abilities, enabling them to persuade others of their ideas on a global stage. These skills are important not only in THIMUN but also in academic and social situations outside of the conference room.

THIMUN creates diverse viewpoints and brings together delegates from various backgrounds. Debating fosters cultural understanding and awareness of various issues. Their ideas and perspectives are broadened by being exposed to many points of view, which also helps foster compassion and a dedication to working together to overcome global concerns. As a result, THIMUN turns into a representation of the interconnected world, educating



the youth to understand and negotiate its differences.

Debate goes beyond the confines of the conference room, particularly in the setting of THIMUN. It turns into a life-changing experience that enables participants to take on the positions of leaders and diplomats. The need to form groups, develop resolutions and engage in negotiations, are all part of actual diplomatic difficulties. Young people get to learn leadership skills including reaching an agreement and strategic thinking through these events.

Debating is an effective tool for developing young people's

leadership abilities which allows them to prepare to tackle significant issues they may face. These future leaders get to develop their skills at the THIMUN conference which addresses important global concerns. It aims to promote intellectual development and social awareness in addition to gaining knowledge and transforming people into leaders. As the world becomes increasingly complicated it is crucial to be able to comprehend challenging topics, communicate clearly, and recognise different points of view. THIMUN serves as a training ground, allowing participants to equip themselves with the necessary skill sets. THIMUN fosters global



responsibility and offers practical skills through realistic diplomatic activities that involve discussions and cooperative problem-solving.

chair
communication
debate
conference
delegate
education
global
leadership
resolution
thimun

Y P P Z P C N O S I H I E K L
E E H C I P U K G D P T R E R
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