

## SCHOOL TRENDS & EVENTS



### CSIA MUN: Novice Diplomats

By CHARLENE JIN

Model United Nations (MUN) is an academic simulation of the UN in which students come together in conferences as representatives of nations. The roots of MUN can be traced back to the League of Nations simulations in the United States as early as the 1920s. Conferences are still being held all over the world.



From February 19th to 26th, twenty-three students from KCBS, from grades 9 to 11, were led by Mr. Steven Bates on a journey to South Korea to participate in the Cheongshim International Academy Model United Nations 2012 (CSIA MUN 2012). This is the second MUN to have been held by the CSIA.

In preparation for the CSIA MUN, the 23 inexperienced students of KCBS received lectures from social studies teacher, Ms. Frankie Tsui, and from CSIA students. They also wrote an opening speech and a draft resolution to prepare for what would be required during the conference.

As 10th grade student Stanley Tsai said, "I spent almost two weeks (preparing) for the CSIA MUN."

On arrival in South Korea, the KCBS students were joined by students from various backgrounds. This included students from St. Paul's Co-educational College of Hong Kong, Mayo College Girls' School from India, Chittagong Grammar School in Bangladesh, and representatives of numerous schools in South Korea.

Participants lived on the school campus for the duration of the event.

"It was a bit confusing when we first got there. It took us some time before we were able to not get lost every time we had to go from the dorms to the cafeteria," Jenny Chen from grade 9 commented.

The CSIA MUN conference lasted for two days, from February 20th – 21st. It had five conferences, including the Economic and Social Council, General Assembly, Security Council, Environmental Council, and Human Rights Council.

Each council discussed two agendas, or issues. Each participant represented a nation, and was required to give an opening speech to help establish their stand during the meeting. Following that, the participants were given lobbying sessions during which different groups of

nations came together to write draft resolutions which were to be debated in later sessions.

An 11th grade student, Katy Lee, who participated in the Economic and Social Council, stated that their two agendas were "Post-2015 policies regarding MDGs" and "Strengthening the



coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance". She also added that their council had come up with five draft resolutions, out of which two were passed.

"It feels like you are part of the country you are representing when you participate in the conference. You will feel like you need to get the best thing for your country. But at the same time, participating in a conference can be very frightening," said 9th grader Lisa Morrison.

And as 11th grader Thomas Lo

put it, the best part of the conference was to "listen to others so you could argue back".

During conference sessions, a new topic may also be spontaneously called into a more casual discussion, known as the "crisis". It is usually a fictional incident that requires immediate response by the international community. The incident is created based on real current international relations.

An example of such a discussion during the CSIA MUN is a crisis regarding the assassination of a French pro-Tibetan activist by the People's Republic of China, followed by the French government marching its troops into the nation. The discussion resulted in the declaration of international warfare between two nations.

"I represented DPRK (North Korea). I supported China, and gave all my weapons to them," said grade 9 student, Kolo Chow.

After the conference came to an end, the participants from South Korea and Hong Kong left the event, whereas participants from India, Bangladesh, and Taiwan continued on to the "Korean Adventure". They visited several tourist attractions in Seoul, such as the Gyeong Bok Gung (a palace built during the Choson dynasty) and the N Seoul Tower.

"I met a lot of new friends in

Korea." Tony Lin (Grade 9) revealed, "I met KC, a Korean chair (of the CSIA MUN). He taught me a Korean ritual and shared ideas to debate. I also met Indian and Bengali friends who made us curry and other traditional food."

KCBS students were exposed to numerous prominent issues, and had a view into how the UN works. They were also able to brainstorm possible solutions at a global level with students from four different nations, and to learn from each others' ideas.

Ruby Yeung from grade 11 said, "I loved the interaction with my teammates. But, I hated coming up with ideas and solutions to problems when we did not really mean what we were saying. It was like we were saying fancy things, but they were meaningless. It was all too formal."

However, some participants agree with 10th grader Vivian Hsu, who said, "I would like to participate in MUN again, because it is very educational and a lot of fun."



First prize in the Taiwan National Student Music Competition

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KCBS Basketball Tournament

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A Micro Universe

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Volunteer Work Overseas

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