

BAHRAIN TRIBUNE

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Bahrain Model United Nations

BAHMUN starts on all-time high

The Bahrain Model United Nations (BAHMUN), one of the largest youth conferences held all over the world, started off its 11th session at the Abdulrahman Kanoo International School yesterday.



The Secretary-General, Bill Marczak, officially declared the session open.

The inauguration ceremony began with the Bahrain National Anthem and was followed by recitals from the Holy Quran. Over 250 students are participating in this year's programme.

The introductory remarks were given by Dr Lina Lewis, who has been entrusted with the prime responsibilities of the BAHMUN XI.

Recalling his experience as the former Ambassador to the United Nations, and previously as a junior diplomat, Dr Abdulghaffar, in his keynote address, said, "What I have learned is that successful dialogue is the key to resolving international issues, and that bringing countries, regions and civilisations together requires a structured dialogue that builds trust and respect, and draws out our common interests to reach a successful conclusion."

He also acknowledged that mastering the art of successful diplomacy requires a delicate balancing of intelligence and intuition, of flexibility and firmness, of thorough preparation and quick improvisation, all under the pressure of tight deadlines and changing circumstances and that most of us spend our whole lives trying to master this balancing act which is never easy a task.

He wished that the delegates would soon have a chance to put their abilities into practice, and to represent their country at the headquarters of international diplomacy.

Dr Abdulghaffar also appreciated the efforts put forward by all the individuals associated with the event. The Abdulrahman Kanoo Int'l School was

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well-applauded for their unstinting support by creating the right ambience for the august assembly.

The President of Rotary Club of Adliya, Khalid Fakhroo, highlighted the role and importance of the Model United Nations.

The opening ceremony ended with a colourful staging of skit and songs on the message of peace by the tiny tots of the Abdulrahman Kanoo International School, which moved the hearts of the audience. **By Shriya, Dhanya, Joel and Aditya**

Women's role acknowledged

The morning session at the GA gave insight into the fact that women are the cornerstone of today's world. And as the saying goes, "The hand that rocks the cradle can rule the world" and they are adept at bridging ethnic, religious, political and cultural divisions.



With this objective in mind, the first issue to be debated was securing the role of women as participants in peace talks, post-conflict reconstruction and UN projects. The first resolution for this issue was brought forward by China and Venezuela. It was a resolution which was basically education oriented and had 2 clauses regarding the

same, but the practical implementation of these clauses were questioned by many delegates. The whole objective and aim of this resolution was the awareness of women of their own resources. It was a good debatable resolution but 3 of the operative clauses were just perambulatory. It was the delegate of Yemen who was strongly against this resolution and almost all its clauses. During the voting the resolution failed by a majority.

The second resolution submitted by Russia which was co-submitted by many had clauses which were absolutely perambulatory and many countries spoke against it. Fiji absolutely opposed the resolution arguing that it was vague. However there were many countries who were strongly for the resolution and it was passed with a strong majority.

In the afternoon session the General assembly moved into debate on the issue of democratic rights to protest and hold peaceful demonstrations with submission of the resolution of Bosnia and Herzegovina co-submitted by ten countries. The resolution addressed the related problems of demonstrations and protests in different aspects; however it failed to provide action oriented solutions to these problems. The resolution came under fire by the majority of the general assembly for a variety of reasons from vague measures to controversial clauses. The resolution failed to pass being voted against by an overwhelming majority of the general assembly.

By Dhanya, Varun, Lavanya, Aditya and Joe

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Internet abuse discussed

The Human Rights committee, introduced for the first time in the BAHMUN XI, commenced with the most contemplated issue 'Internet abuse'. After a few minutes of informal discussion regarding the issue, the debate embarked on progress with the first resolution submitted by the delegate of Germany.



The delegate of Germany



affirmed in his resolution on how it has taken steps to initiate the eradication of internet abuse. He suggested measures to be taken like the monitoring of students and employees who disregard the positive side of internet usage, and avowed the examination and supervision of

the adult websites which pervert the minds of the youth group. The Delegate also acknowledged that public awareness and campaign operation would attribute towards the eradication of Internet abuse. 11 countries co-submitted this resolution. In spite of vague operative clauses the resolution suffered no serious opposition or questioning and passed with a clear majority

Another resolution proposed by Canada was submitted with 8 co-submitters on the same issue. Canada recommended restriction of internet usage to curb internet abuse in general. The Canadian resolution was decimated by Germany and the Bahamas on the question of problems specific solutions and methodology. This resolution did not get passed failing to obtain a two-third majority.

The third resolution submitted by El Salvador with 4 co-submitters required adoption of "strong" measures against internet abuse but failed to give practical solutions. But the clause couldn't get across.

The second session of the Human Rights came to a dynamic and energetic start with the discussion about protecting the rights of children in war-torn countries. Three resolutions were proposed, however only one managed to win a majority and pass.

The resolution that was passed was that of the delegate of Slovenia who said, "Two million children worldwide have become the victims of wars during the last decade." It was passed by an overwhelming majority of 23 votes to 5 votes.

By Benji, Asad and Joel

Delegates fight terror

The Security Council started off its day by discussing its first issue 'The role of mercenaries in the continuation of terrorism'. A wave of operative clauses was submitted by energetic and competitive delegates. After the lobbying and merging, the young delegates started building a powerful resolution by bringing ten strong clauses, out of which four clauses were passed.

The first clause to be passed was that of the USA. The delegate of USA asserted "Terrorism is a global phenomenon which needs global action". This enthusiastic delegate's clause solemnly affirmed that the U.N carries out research on the schools and camps that train these mercenaries and finally close them to prevent further exploitation of citizens within a framework of 8 months.



Whereas, the delegate of China emphasised the need for a strong education system in under-developed countries to create awareness against terrorism. The delegate of Czech Republic stated the formulation of a U.N body consisting of experts to identify governments that support these mercenaries. Another clause passed was by the delegate of India which asked for the cooperation of all nations against terrorism.

Whereas the clauses of Cyprus, Spain and others were axed out due to a negative Veto vote.**By Anju, Andrew and Anuja**

'Service above self'

The Bahmun chairperson, Dr Lina Lewis, has a very influential hand in the beneficial effort for students.



"The 50th anniversary of United Nation marked the birth of Bahmun.

She says the motto of the rotary club is "service above self" and she believes in putting her heart and soul into it. She says "Bahmun is a snowball getting bigger and better every year."

Face to face

Rotarians feel that the BAHMUN is a window to involve students and encourage them to use a dialogue as a concept to understand each other. We have received a tremendous response from students and their parents which is why we are consistent in conducting the BAHMUN year after year. Unfortunately we couldn't secure enough participation from abroad because of the political stance of certain countries.

- Khalid Fakhroo, President-Rotary Club, Adliya

We are glad to host the BAHMUN XI this year. The whole experience is one of excitement and nerves but in turn moulds our leaders of tomorrow.



- Terry Creesbourny, Liason of Kanoo School and BAHMUN.

At the BAHMUN, children do more than memorise information and at an event like this they can use



this information in a dynamic and creative way.

- Randy McCord, Advisor, Bahrain

School

My post is one of immense responsibility but I am enjoying it, it's a challenging event for everyone and being a comparatively smaller community a close working relationship is inculcated amongst the delegates. Over a hundred delegates in this conference learn skills of leadership and by learning from experience; the youth learns to face the real world.



- Bill Marczak, Secretary-General

This is no doubt that this is a stepping stone to success and a platform for future leaders.

- Rama Nair, Director Al Noor School

The participants involved in this get to enhance their leadership skills, communication and the interaction with the other participants. We would like to make it even better, bigger and international as it is the only one of its kind in the Gulf so far.

- Ismail Abdur Rahman, Al Hekma Model School

The BAHMUN XI, with its change in venue did involve basic problems in the process of preparations and organisation with regards to computers, air- conditioning etc. but the new venue compliments the large number this year (the largest so far, in fact).

- Yvonne Ahmed, Academic coordinator BAHMUN

By Rohan, Sharon, Varsha and

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Bloopers

Hungry Delegate: During a heated debate a starved delegate was heard asking for a "motion to eat" (??)

Mispelt?: The delegate in the General Assembly was unaware of her country's spelling.

Wanted!: A delegate of the ECOSOC was found missing when his issue was up for discussion.

Coupled?: A delegate during her opening speech paired up the Chair and Co-chair when she addressed them as "Mr and Mrs Chairman"

Need a lift?: A director got stuck in an elevator, during the morning session.

Me, Myself and I: The delegate of a Republic addressed a point of information to himself, instead of the person occupying the podium.

Lost?: A delegate was confused whether she represented The People's Republic of China or Republic of China which is actually Taiwan.

By Anju, Aditya, Dhanya, Shriya and Varun

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