

# JOMUN JOURNAL

## Opening Ceremony:

By: Claire Pettit

Welcome to the tenth official Johannesburg Model United Nations Conference. This year's opening ceremony was kicked off by Secretary General Maxime Seguin. Maxime highlighted the importance and the impact of this conference. JOMUN pushes delegates to embrace new ideas, opinions, and to broaden their intellectual horizons. As Maxime stated, "We are here to find solutions". It is not the job of the current generation to blame the past generation for world issues, not to put the responsibility of solving them on the shoul-

ders of future generations, but to find solutions here and now. The theme of this year's conference, human security and peace building in Africa relates to everyone at the conference, whether they know it or not. Maxime then introduced our guest speaker, Ms. Ann Harrap, the Australian High Commissioner, gave a very enlightening speech about Australia's fight to secure a non-permanent seat on the Security Council of the United Nations. She highlighted all of the qualities Australia would bring to the Council, as well as how much today's world is interconnected through technology, and

how that gives people so much more opportunity to shape it. One resonating thought that was left in everyone's mind after her speech was her promise that if elected to the Security Council, "Australia will do what they say". This year's conference is going to bring many interesting debates and solutions to all of our current issues. We, as participants of Model United Nations, as Maxime said in his speech, "have the power to start the wheel of change".

"The Opening Ceremony was the hardest part about today!"  
-Maxime Seguin



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## JOMUN First Impressions

By: Raquel Wilson

Today marks the first day of the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual JOMUN conference! JOMUN is an annual conference that many students look forward to attending to be enlightened on world issues and sharpen their speaking skills. This year many delegates both new and old were asked about their first impressions of this year's conference. This is my first year of JOMUN and I personally had a first impression that JOMUN is a great opportunity to provide students with the knowledge of world issues and the opportunity to enhance their speaking and debating skills. A delegate of ICJ said "It's very sophisticated and formal". When asked how this conference was going com-

pared to last years an ICJ delegate said, "It's going just as good as last year"! This year's theme is Human Security and Peace Building in Africa. When asked about the theme, the delegate of Germany said "I feel like we have a very good



theme because it is very relevant to the world we live in right now." Especially for me being in ECOSOC it really opens our eyes to what's happening in the environ-

ment". The deputy chair of General Assembly says, "I feel as if it's meaningful and applies to the global community". "I believe their important issues to be discussed says an ICJ delegate." As it is only our first day of JOMUN, delegates were asked what they are looking forward to during the conference. The delegate of Germany said "Improving my knowledge on the vices and virtues of the current issues of the world right now!" Another ICJ delegate says, "I'm looking forward to being enlightened to the world's issues".

## Human Rights

By: Raquel Wilson

After the President Midanna de Almada and deputy chairs Claudi Navalshankar and Francis Wilkinson introduced themselves to the delegates, the delegates began their opening speeches. Many of the delegates had the common interest to make sustainable resolutions that address equal rights towards women, prevention of child soldiers, provision of basic social services, rights of refugees, and prevention of violence towards women. In addition to this, the delegate of China wanted to address the issue of the one child rule in China. After the

inspirational speeches the delegates came together to lobby to discuss the issues at hand. The delegate of Malaysia said "Lobbying is going good, but we've been



interrupted a lot for being too loud. But.. you can't solve problems without being hurt." When asked, *what made you want to be in Human Rights* the delegate of

Norway said that it is "A topic I feel is really important to the world". The delegate of India said "I find the topic very interesting and believe it is important to talk about Human Rights." As noted previously, the topics the Human Rights will be discussing feature many important issues around the world today. When asked about their thoughts on the topic the delegate of India said "The topics from this year's JOMUN Conference are both diverting and of great importance". Overall, Human Rights had a successful first day and are looking forward to debating .

## Meanwhile In The Lobby...

By: Gabriella Pires and Cecilia Godoy

Opening Ceremony; done. Opening Speeches; done. Now, its time to lobby.

It is no secret that our delegates have prepared solid resolution over the last couple of months and they wish to merge it with other delegates with the same views. But no desire is greater than the teenage nature of gossiping. As the delegate of Indonesia said, “when you come to JOMUN, you have to be focused and be more concentrated on the global issues than on your own” but at the same time she admitted: “I mean, you have to gossip a little bit”. Although getting off topic is part of the experience, the delegates understand that merging resolutions is almost as important as bread in France. “Yeah, lobbying is fun! You get to combine with other people’s resolution and get to know what their stand

on the topic is” said the delegate of Burkina Faso. Some delegates argue that the hardest part of lobbying is introducing themselves and their topic to people they don't know, but for some that becomes the easiest part with a good and old: “Hey, whatzup? But if that doesn't work,



many delegates have their own way of starting a conversation: “Yeah, I smile, and ask them about their countries and views and just go from there” said the delegate of Japan. Others prefer a more daring ap-

proach: “I say something really weird and soon the ice is broken” advised the delegate of Mauritius.

Many people struggle with other aspects of lobbying, such as the technical difficulties: “the internet is way too slow here!” said the delegate of Brazil. The resolutions so far have been very successful “its exciting and fun! Being in a more casual atmosphere makes you less nervous and more open to negotiation”. In the end, lobbying is not a straight hour discussion, but an opportunity for delegates to get to know each other, interact and seek solutions to this year’s discussions. As the delegate of Mauritius wisely pointed out: “So far, so good.”

## Opening Speeches in General Assembly

By: Gabby Pires

General Assembly started off the conference with enthusiastic and hopeful opening speeches. All delegates display great desire to generate attainable and realistic resolutions to resolve the four main issues discussed: the piracy off the Horn of Africa, the debt collection and debt relief for African Governments, controlling human trafficking and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in a way that works for both

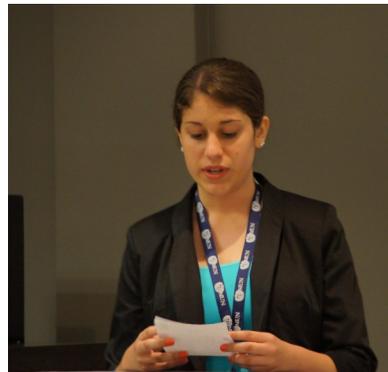
nations. The delegates are determined to also expand and fortify their international relation-



ships and create a more united world community. It is expected that by the end of the day GA comes

up with solutions “to help the people that have suffered and to make sure that what once was, will never be” as the Delegate of Germany well pointed out. The representatives of every country showed great appreciation to be in the JOMUN X conference and are honoured to be a part of the first step into a better world.





## Opening Speeches in Human Rights

By: Gonzalo Etchart

*Honorable chairs and fellow delegates...*

Silence starts becoming rhythmic as the entire human Rights committee awaits the next delegate to approach the podium. With an occasional stutter and an unintended nervous pause, one by one delegates begin their JOMUN X journey with a brief spoken manifesto of their respective country's hopes and expectations for this year's conference.

The Human Rights committee began this year's conference with the customary presentation of opening speeches. A process that can prove very tedious and repetitive, especially when delegates' speeches start

sounding similar and prompted. But this year's speeches strayed far from convention. Delegates enunciated the responsibility placed upon the committee room to provide an environment for fruitful and constructive debate. Delegates made use of their time to explain the associations between their corresponding countries and the pending issues at hand. Issues such as the eradication of violence against women, the provision of basic social services, and the enrolment of child soldiers in western Africa instigated a need for 'innovative thinking' within delegates and chairs alike. Delegates pledged their honor in being part of the hu-

man rights council, diligent to "extinguish is limits to growth".

Speeches varied greatly, some more heartfelt than others, but optimism remained a constant. To hear the Saudi Arabian delegate state "women's rights are increasing" provided a base of buoyancy for what this conference might hold. But little did delegates wander from one of the undisputable purposes of this year's Model United Nations conference. As the delegate of Spain candidly put it, "We are the voice of the voiceless, what brings us together is not our problems, but how we come together to solve them."

## Opening Speeches in ECOSOC

By: Cecilia Godoy

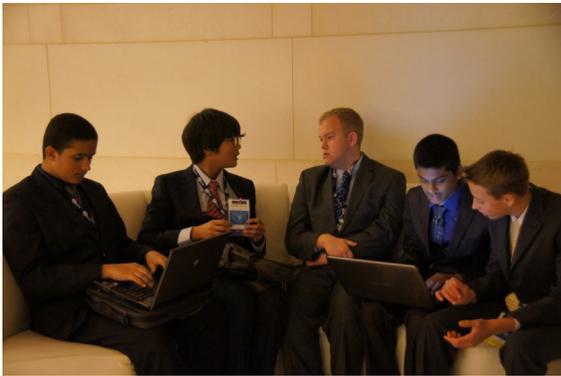
After the chairs introduced themselves to the delegates, the delegates proceeded to the rooms and opening speeches in Ecosoc began. Burkina Faso emphasized that all countries must help each other so that they can benefit from a shared prosperity. Brazil discussed how equal water distribution is an essential fact for peace building in Africa and Ethiopia said that in order to achieve gender equality, one must promote education to all its population. Even though all 28 coun-

tries have different views, they all wish to accomplish the same goals: gender equality, the issue with land-grabbing, economic



equality and peace building in Africa. All delegates expressed how delighted and honored they are to attend

this year's JOMUN conference and how they wish all discussion will be productive and work in order to accomplish such goals. Although sometimes the delegates become distracted and fall off topic \*(aka AUSTRALIA GET OFF FACEBOOK)!! Jokes apart, all delegates are more than happy to represent their respected countries and are more than delighted to be attending this year's JOMUN conference and are really looking forward to being apart of JOMUN.



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