

TAIWAN MODEL UNITED NATIONS
AMERICAN SCHOOL IN TAICHUNG

A Short History of TAIMUN

TAIMUN I in 2003 to TAIMUN XXV in 2027

Contents

The short version	3
The founders	4
2001 to 2007	5
2008 to 2013	6
Three speakers from Taiwan politics	7
Guest schools from abroad	8
2014 to 2019	9
2020 to 2026	10
Shirts, covers and stickers	11
The TAIMUN Times	12
AST delegations abroad	13
Secretaries-General and directors	14
Speakers and traditions	15
TAIMUN XXV	16
From the Director and the Secretary-General	17
The people behind TAIMUN XXV	18
Sources and thanks	19

Put together in November 2026 for the twenty-fifth session, from the conference's own records. Where the records disagree or fall silent, the text says so.

The short version

2003

First conference

Held at AST with help from Providence University.

2007

First schools from abroad

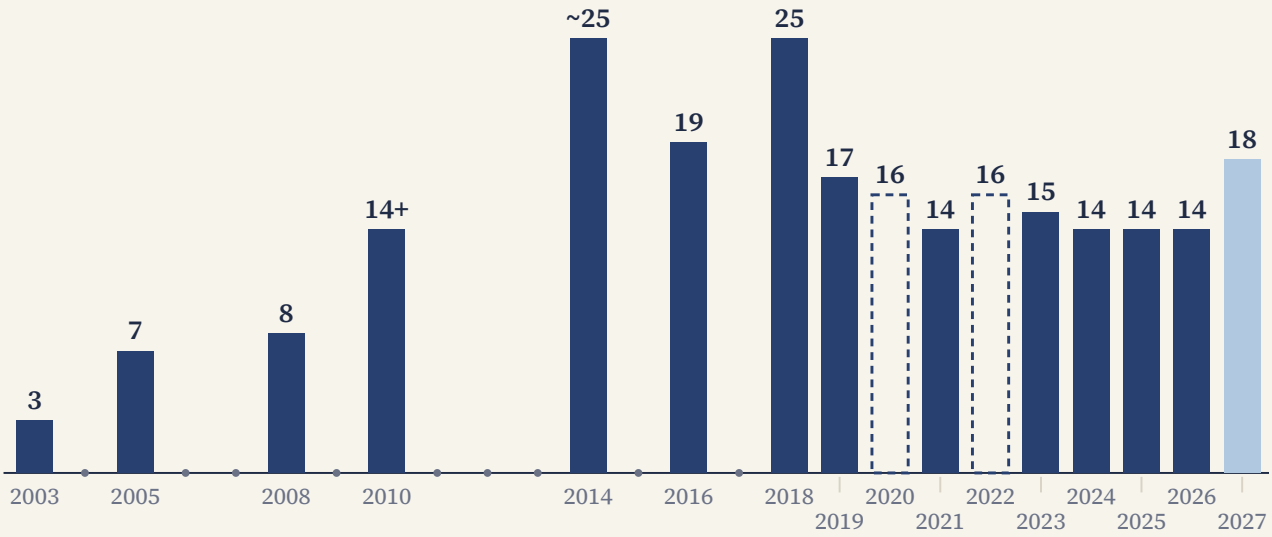
From Manila and Sendai.

7

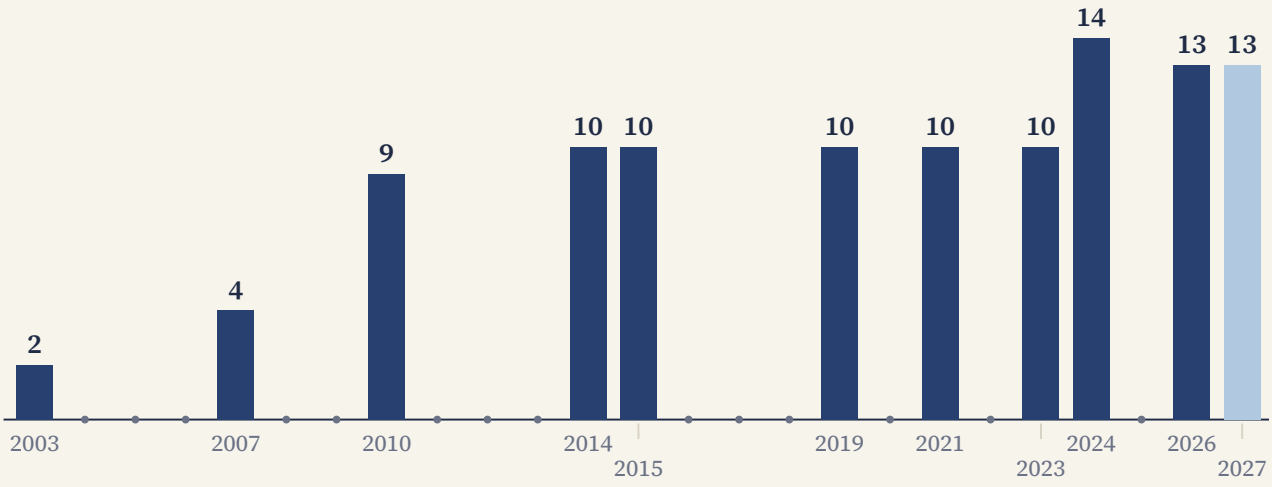
Places schools came from

Japan, Korea, China, Hong Kong, Macao, the Philippines and Indonesia.

Schools at each conference



Committees



The founders



"While Taipei American School went to the Hague, Singapore, and many other places, no one was doing MUN on the island. So we started the Taiwan Model United Nations."

Irwin Stein, with Mary Stein (left), in the TAIMUN XXII Times, 2024

Irwin Stein was Director of AST when he started TAIMUN. He had done Model UN at university in the 1960s, ran the MUN program at an international school in Greece in his first teaching job, and later sat on the board of THIMUN in The Hague. With David Williams he co-wrote a guide to Model UN for students.

He took the idea to Ms. Anna Lee, AST's founder and board chair. He wanted MUN tied into ordinary social studies classes so it would not be extra work on top of school. The first conferences were small, with a couple of committees in classrooms and a couple of guest schools.

Mary Stein started the TAIMUN Times. Plenty of capable students did not want to speak in front of a room, she reasoned, and a press team gave them a way in through writing, photography and editing.

The name came with being first. In 2003 there was no other Model UN conference on the island, so the one in Taichung took the country's name, and kept it as HSINMUN, STMUN, PASMUN and TASMUN came along.

> *We started with two committees in two classrooms and invited two schools. We built slowly and MUN became very popular.*
>
> Irwin Stein, 2024

2001 to 2007

2001
Before TAIMUN

The first MUN group at AST meets weekly to talk about current affairs and practice debating. It does not go to conferences yet.

7
members

2003
TAIMUN I

The first TAIMUN is held with help from Providence University. The Steins also take a group to BEIMUN in Beijing, AST's first conference abroad.



10
students to Beijing

2004
TAIMUN II

Debate is stretched to two days, and Mr. Eric Kelley becomes the first conference coordinator. The press team is publishing the TAIMUN Times.

~30
delegates

2005
TAIMUN III

Six international schools from around Taiwan are invited, and AST goes to THIMUN in The Hague for the first time. Taichung Mayor Jason Hu speaks about being a delegate to the UN Youth Assembly in 1970.



6
Taiwan schools invited

2007
TAIMUN V

The first schools from abroad arrive: the British School of Manila and Tohoku International School in Sendai. TAIMUN grows to four committees and holds its first dinner at the hotel after day one, the start of the dinner-dance.



4
committees

> *"He wanted it to be for all the students, not just a small group.*
>
> Mary Stein, 2024

The 20th anniversary history and a student-written timeline disagree on whether the first TAIMUN Times and the 30 delegates belong to 2003 or 2004.

2008 to 2013

2008
TAIMUN VI

April 17 and 18. Delegates from eight schools debate Taiwan's UN membership, nuclear non-proliferation and human rights in Myanmar. The keynote speaker is Hsiao Bi-khim, who had left the Legislative Yuan that January.

240
delegates

2009
TAIMUN VII

Delegates are allowed laptops during lobbying for research and drafting resolutions.

2010
TAIMUN VIII

April 14 and 15, with nine committees. Taichung First High School and Taipei First Girls' High School come for the first time. A middle school version starts around now. First called MS TAIMUN, it becomes TASMUN, run by Taipei American School.

14+
schools

2012
TAIMUN X

The tenth conference. Irwin Stein comes back to speak.

X
tenth session

2013
TAIMUN XI

The WHO committee debates MERS, a new coronavirus then spreading in the Middle East. Emily Lu is Secretary-General. AST's friendship with Fa Zhi Elementary in Nantou begins.

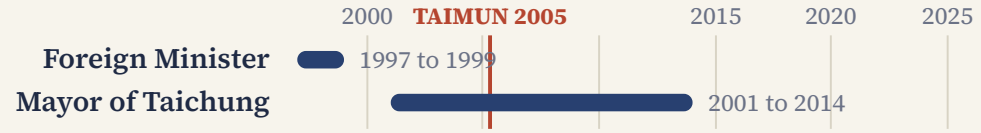
2008 from the May 2008 newsletter of Hsinchu National Experimental High School. 2010 from Chung Tai World (issue 129) and Dominican International School news (2017).

Three speakers from Taiwan politics

Each one spoke at TAIMUN before, or between, some of the biggest jobs in the country. The red line is the year they came to Taichung; the bars are their years in office.

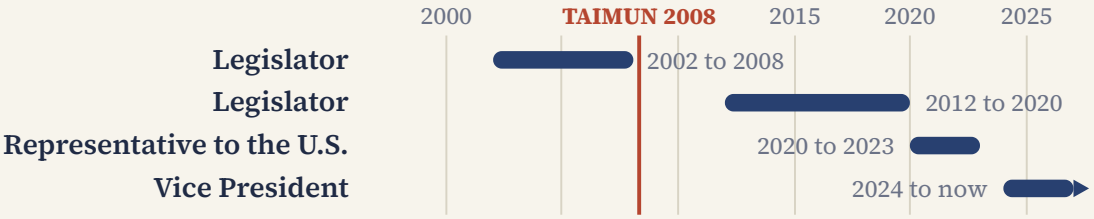
Jason Hu 胡志強

Mayor of Taichung when he spoke at TAIMUN III. He told the delegates about his own time at the UN Youth Assembly in 1970.



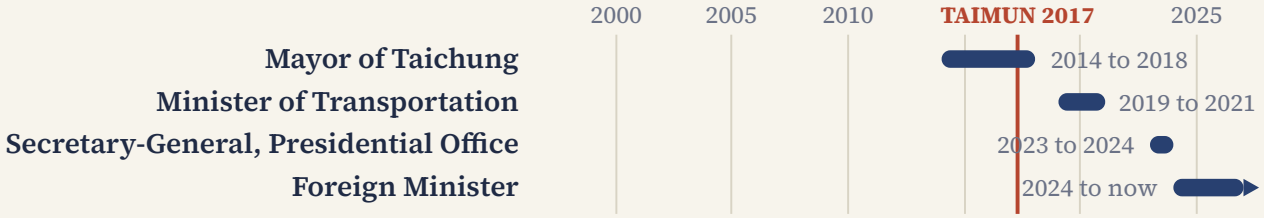
Hsiao Bi-khim 蕭美琴

Keynote speaker at TAIMUN VI, a few months after her first stretch in the Legislative Yuan ended.



Lin Chia-lung 林佳龍

Mayor of Taichung. He gave the welcome at the TAIMUN XV opening and sat for an interview with the press team.



Offices and dates from Focus Taiwan, TaiwanPlus and Wikipedia.



Guest schools from abroad

Most schools at TAIMUN come from Taiwan. These are the overseas delegations named in the records, from the first two in 2007 to the two coming in 2027.

2014 to 2019

2014
TAIMUN XII

Four hundred students from about 25 schools, a hundred more people than the year before. Guests come from Busan, Bali and Guangzhou. The ICJ and IAEA are new. Keynote: Graciela Gómez García, Deputy Consul General of Mexico.

2015
TAIMUN XIII

April 15 to 17. More than 400 students and teachers raise NT$33,000 (US$1,152 at the time) for the UN Foundation's Nothing But Nets, buying malaria nets for Cameroon.

2017
TAIMUN XV

The 15th conference opens at the Plaza International Hotel with Mayor Lin Chia-lung's welcome. The keynote speaker is Rebecca Maxie of the UN Foundation's Shot@Life vaccine campaign.

2018
TAIMUN XVI

April 18 to 20, at AST and the Splendor Hotel, with the theme "Rethinking Economics." The parent letter counts 375 students from 25 schools. Roy Shieh is Secretary-General.

2019
TAIMUN XVII

The Historical Security Council is added, debating past crises as though they were happening now. Seventeen schools come, among them the International School of Macao. Juliat Lin is Secretary-General, and Wes Rogerson gives the keynote.



Committee rooms, the opening ceremony and Irwin Stein at the lectern, in a photo montage kept in the TAIMUN files since 2017.

2020 to 2026

2020
to 2022: XVIII, XIX, XX

COVID takes two of the three. TAIMUN XVIII, with Jarvis Watson as MUN Director, is canceled in April 2020 with 16 schools signed up. TAIMUN XIX goes ahead in April 2021, when Taiwan still had almost no local cases: 14 schools, the theme "United Against Racism: Silence is Compliance," and a keynote on Indigenous rights from Dr. Ciwang Teyra of National Taiwan University. TAIMUN XX, set for April 20 to 22, 2022, is canceled as cases climb that spring, with 16 schools already registered. AST marks the 20th anniversary on United Nations Day instead.

2
conferences lost

2023
TAIMUN XXI

"Facing the Challenges of Humanity: Renewing Hope." The first conference in two years: 15 schools and about 245 people, a new UNESCO committee, and Bart Linssen of ENERCON Taiwan as keynote speaker. Lydia Chen is Secretary-General and Ian Hsu the first Parliamentarian.

15
schools

2024
TAIMUN XXII

"Painting a New Horizon: Bold Solutions From the Next Generation," March 27 to 29, with 14 schools and 14 committee rooms, GA1, ECOSOC and the HRC each running as two. Leah Lin of the Asia Citizen Future Association gives the keynote, and the press team interviews Irwin and Mary Stein.

14
schools

2026
TAIMUN XXIV

"Recentering Humanity," March 18 to 20. 205 delegates from 14 schools. Rebecca Ho of Doctors Without Borders gives the keynote and the fundraiser goes to her organization. Students from Toda Elementary sing Seediq songs at the closing.

205
delegates

2023 figures from the program book and registration sheet; 2024 and 2026 from the committee rosters.

Shirts, covers and stickers

The seal of Taiwan inside a ring of olive branches has been the TAIMUN mark for years. The oldest designed pieces still in the TAIMUN files are the 2018 and 2019 shirts.



2018, XVI. Conference shirt, "Rethinking Economics."



2019, XVII. Taiwan scenery instead of the seal.



The seal. Used in white on shirts and photos.



2023, XXI. Program book cover.



2024, XXII. TAIMUN Times cover.



2025, XXIII. Figures on ladders fitting the world together.



2026, XXIV. "Human rights begin in small places, close to home."



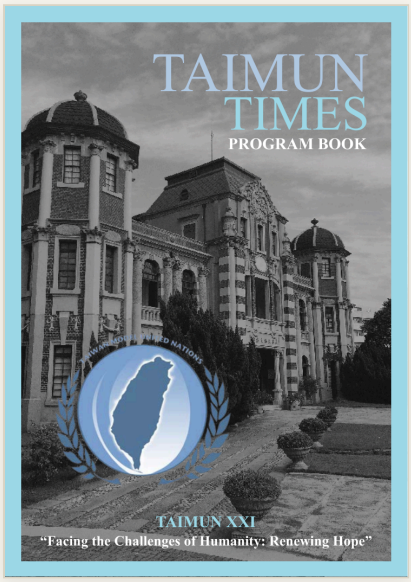
2026 sticker. "The System: must serve humanity."



2026 sticker. "Fragile: handle with diplomacy."

The TAIMUN Times

Mary Stein's press team has covered the conference since the early years. The program book still carries the TAIMUN Times name.



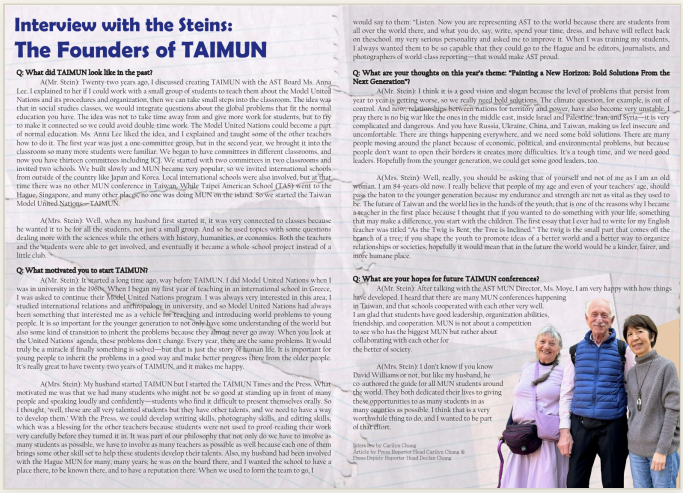
2023. TAIMUN XXI program book, front.



2024. TAIMUN XXII pre-conference issue.



2023. The XXI secretariat: Lydia Chen, Angel Weng and Ting Tsai.



2024. The interview with the Steins, by press reporter heads Carilyn Chang and Declan Chang.

> *"With the Press, we could develop writing skills, photography skills, and editing skills.*
>
> Mary Stein, 2024

AST delegations abroad

Besides hosting TAIMUN, AST has sent its own delegates to conferences in Asia, Europe and North America.



2003		**BEIMUN**, Beijing	2019		**SEOMUN**, Seoul
2005		**THIMUN**, The Hague	2024		**THIMUN**, The Hague
2006		**THIMUN**, Singapore	2025		**NAIMUN**, Washington
2008		**SPIMUN**, St. Petersburg	2026		**GECMUN**, Jeju
2017		**THIMUN**, The Hague	2027		**ASIJMUN**, Tokyo (planned)
2017		**WAMUN**, Washington			

THIMUN Singapore is the overseas conference AST has gone to most.

Taiwan's oldest Model UN conferences

	running since	current session
TAIMUN Taiwan Model United Nations, Taichung	2003	**XXV** March 2027
HSINMUN Hsinchu Model United Nations	2004	**XXII** October 2026
STMUN Southern Taiwan Model United Nations, Kaohsiung	2009	**XVIII** December 2026
PASMUN Pacific American School MUN, Hsinchu	2010	since 2010
TASMUN Taipei American School MUN	2011	since 2011

Secretaries-General and directors

Students run TAIMUN. One teacher, the MUN Director, advises them. In the early years that job was shared by a few conference coordinators.

Secretaries-General

2013, XI	Emily Lu
2014, XII	Herriet Hsieh
2018, XVI	Roy Shieh
2019, XVII	Juliat Lin
2021, XIX	James Lai
2022, XX	Felipe Dombkowski (canceled)
2023, XXI	Lydia Chen
2024, XXII	Angel Weng
2025, XXIII	John Kao
2026, XXIV	Curtis Shih
2027, XXV	Chloe Chen

Coordinators and MUN Directors

2003	Irwin and Mary Stein
2004	Mr. Eric Kelley
2007	Mr. Ean Burchell, Mr. Brian Lonbotham, Mr. Arthur Torres
2008	Mr. Arthur Torres, Ms. Marjorie King, Mr. David Williams
2009	Ms. Marjorie King, Ms. Lorna Parker
2010	Mr. Douglas Parker, Ms. Lorna Parker
2012	Mr. John Miller, Mr. Jeremiah O'Sullivan
2015	Mr. Mark Helman
2016	Mr. Matt Kowalski
2018 to 2019	Mrs. Sylvia Wiebe
2020	Mr. Jarvis Watson
2021 to 2026	Ms. Laura Moye
2027 to present	Mr. Nickolas Harris

Speakers and traditions



Bart Linssen, keynote speaker in 2023. From the TAIMUN XXI program book.



Irwin Stein (center), who spoke at TAIMUN X in 2012, with Mary Stein. From the TAIMUN XXII Times, 2024.

Keynote speakers on record

2005	Jason Hu, Mayor of Taichung
2008	Hsiao Bi-khim, former legislator
2012	Irwin Stein, founder of TAIMUN
2014	Graciela Gómez García, Deputy Consul General of Mexico
2015	Daniel Skallman, UN Foundation (Nothing But Nets)
2017	Rebecca Maxie, UN Foundation (Shot@Life)
2018	Yuan Yang
2019	Wes Rogerson
2021	Dr. Ciwang Teyra, National Taiwan University
2023	Bart Linssen, ENERCON Taiwan
2024	Leah (Wen-Liang) Lin, Asia Citizen Future Association
2026	Rebecca Ho, Doctors Without Borders

Things TAIMUN keeps doing

The TAIMUN Times. Started by Mary Stein and still published every year.

The social after day one. It began as a dinner at the hotel in 2007, grew into the dinner-dance, and this year is the social at the Windsor.

Children from Nantou. Bunun students from Fa Zhi Elementary in Ren'ai Township first sang at TAIMUN in 2013; in 2026 it was Seediq students from Toda Elementary.

A fundraiser. Malaria nets in 2015, vaccines in 2017, urban Indigenous families in 2021, Doctors Without Borders in 2026.

THE TWENTY-FIFTH SESSION

TAIMUN XXV

Dialogue Over Division

March 18 and 19, 2027, at the American School in Taichung

18
schools, the most since 2018

13
committees, three of them crisis

~320
students and teachers expected

The thirteen committees

Most rooms run THIMUN procedure; the Security Council uses its own, ECOSOC and UN Women follow UN4MUN, and the three crisis rooms each have a student crisis director. Two delegations from Korea join sixteen schools from Taiwan.

Security Council SC procedure
Peacekeeping in Haiti. The Gaza ceasefire. Subsea cables and digital infrastructure.

GA1, Disarmament and International Security THIMUN
Weapons of mass destruction. 3D-printed and untraceable firearms.

GA2, Economic and Financial THIMUN
Climate adaptation finance. Human capital flight.

GA3, Social, Humanitarian and Cultural THIMUN
Population aging. Climate projects and Indigenous rights.

GA4, Special Political and Decolonization THIMUN
Disinformation in conflict zones. Protecting humanitarian workers.

GA6, Legal THIMUN
Autonomous weapon systems. Universal jurisdiction and sovereignty.

Human Rights Council THIMUN
Facial recognition and censorship. Conflict-related sexual violence.

World Health Organization THIMUN
Pathogen and benefit sharing. Antimicrobial resistance.

Economic and Social Council UN4MUN
Universal basic income in crises. Sustainability of large cultural events.

UN Women UN4MUN
Reproductive tourism. Technology-facilitated gender-based violence.

Historical Crisis Crisis
The Suez Crisis, 1956.

Apollo Crisis Committee Crisis
Mission Control and the recovery of Apollo 13, 1970.

Special Crisis Crisis
The Avengers and the Sokovia Accords.

Secretary-General Chloe Chen leads a secretariat drawn from AST, Taipei American School, Pacific American School and St. Johnsbury Academy Jeju.



FROM THE MUN DIRECTOR

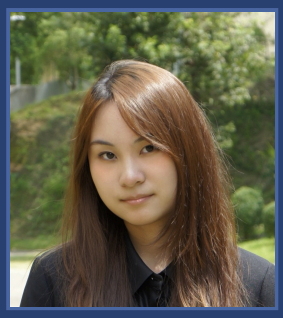
Mr. Nickolas Harris

American School in Taichung

My first TAIMUN was in 2015, when I brought a delegation from Korea International School Jeju across the water to Taichung. Twelve years later I am directing the twenty-fifth session, with KIS Jeju back in the room, which feels like coming full circle.

I grew up between Japan and the United States, bilingual and bicultural, a third culture kid before I knew the term, and I have since taught in Japan, Honduras, Bahrain, South Korea and Saudi Arabia. Two conferences came out of those years. I founded SPSCON at Escuela Internacional Sampedrana in San Pedro Sula in 2013, now one of the largest conferences in Central America, and in 2015 GECMUN at KIS Jeju, the first conference in Korea to run crisis committees and today one of the largest international conferences in the country.

A room full of students from different countries and languages, arguing in good faith about the world, is where I have always felt most at home. That is why this event matters to me, and why I hope the twenty-fifth session is one worth remembering.



FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Chloe Chen

Senior, American School in Taichung

It is my honor to welcome you to the Twenty-Fifth Annual Session of Taiwan Model United Nations. I am a senior at the American School in Taichung, and TAIMUN XXV is my last MUN conference. My thanks go to Mr. Harris for his guidance and patience, and to my fellow Secretariat members, Jeffrey, Nero, John, Clyde, Xun, Jonathan and Minji, for the long discussions, last-minute changes and shared effort that brought this conference to life.

In an increasingly polarized world, we find ourselves divided by borders, ideologies and policy gridlock. That is why our theme is "Dialogue over Division." True diplomacy does not require abandoning your principles; it demands the courage to listen to opposing viewpoints, find common ground in unexpected places, and craft solutions that endure.

Whether this is your first conference or your last, I hope you use it to connect across differences and engage in vigorous, inspiring debate. I look forward to welcoming you all in March.

The people behind TAIMUN XXV

Sixty-one AST students run the conference, with chairs from across Taiwan and Korea. These are the leads.

FACULTY



Mr. Harris
MUN Director



Mr. Razzari
Adviser



Ms. Georgi
Adviser



Mr. Sparks
Faculty press lead

SECRETARIAT



Chloe Chen
Secretary-General



Jeffrey Chang
Parliamentarian



Clyde Wang
Deputy SG



Nero Ho
Deputy SG



John Weng
Deputy SG



Xun Chiang
Deputy SG
TAS, Taipei



Jonathan Shih
Deputy SG
PAS, Hsinchu

MK

Minji Kim
Deputy SG
SJA Jeju

OPERATIONS



Jadon Lin
Head of Operations



Curtis Shih
Venue and setup



Becky Lin
Transport



Yuwen
Supplies



Sophia Yu
Food and social



Ryan
Tech



Zacky Tzu
Deputy tech

PRESS AND OUTREACH



Serena Su
Head of Press



Audrey Lin
Head Reporter



Chloe Chan
Photography



Emer Chang
Video



Mignon Su
Layout



Sophia Lai
PR and outreach

Faculty: Mr. Nickolas Harris, Mr. Mike Razzari, Ms. Sam Georgi and Mr. Joel Sparks. Everyone is from the American School in Taichung except Xun Chiang (Taipei American School), Jonathan Shih (Pacific American School) and Minji Kim (St. Johnsbury Academy Jeju).

Sources and thanks

TAIMUN's own records

"TAIMUN at 20," the 2022 anniversary presentation; a student-written timeline of the early years; program books and TAIMUN Times issues from 2019 to 2026; opening ceremony slides; registration sheets and master schedules from 2019 to 2027; Ms. Laura Moye's 2026 notes for the next MUN Director.

The Steins

The press team's 2024 interview with Irwin and Mary Stein, published in the TAIMUN Times, is the source for the founding story and all quotations from them.

Outside reports

The Hsinchu National Experimental High School newsletter (May 2008), Chung Tai World, The International Educator, and school news pages at Hsinchu American School and Dominican International School.

Speakers

Dates and offices from Focus Taiwan, TaiwanPlus and Wikipedia, checked in November 2026.

Other conferences

HSINMUN session numbers and founding year from its own invitations; STMUN from its own published materials; PASMUN and TASMUN founding years worked back from "TAIMUN at 20."

Thanks

To Irwin and Mary Stein, who started it and sat down to talk about it twenty-one years later. To Ms. Laura Moye, Mrs. Sylvia Wiebe and the coordinators before them, who kept the records this booklet is built from. To the TAIMUN press teams whose program books and newspapers did most of the remembering. And to every student officer, delegate and adviser who has made the trip to Taichung since 2003.



TAIMUN XXV

Dialogue Over Division

March 18 and 19, 2027

American School in Taichung

A Short History of TAIMUN, 2003 to 2027

taimun.org