

# TAIMUN

# Times

PRE-CONFERENCE ISSUE



**TAIMUN XXII**

Painting a New Horizon

Bold Solutions From the Next  
Generation



**TAIMUN**

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# MUN Director's Letter

Dear Delegates and Special Guests,

It is our honor to welcome you to TAIMUN XXII. Every year, we see challenges around the world that call for global cooperation and thoughtful, determined action. As of November, 2023, we see an ongoing war in Ukraine, another COP meeting to tackle climate change, ethnic killings in Sudan, the ongoing struggle for human rights in Afghanistan, and a spate of war crimes and a humanitarian disaster in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

Model United Nations is a simulation of the United Nations. However, the issues we discuss are real. They are issues that impact the lives of real people in real conflicts and dire situations. These situations call for the very best of us, as human beings, to navigate the complex dynamics of our imperfect world to seek solutions that can improve the lives of all people and protect our fragile planet.

The Secretariat has chosen the theme, “Painting a New Horizon: Bold Solutions From the Next Generation.” For me, this is a challenge to you, today’s youth, to embrace the opportunity to make your mark as global citizens and problem solvers. Older generations have left you some tools, but also many unresolved problems. You do not have to accept the horizon that we see today, your efforts could change that picture. Fresh thinking, radical hope, and cooperation from your generation could do just that.

Perhaps you will ask one hundred POIs or offer ten amendments to various resolutions. However, MUN is not about winning a stats competition. It is about problem solving with other young diplomats. It is about learning about global issues and global politics and figuring out how to make contributions that will change the horizon. It is about crafting and realizing a vision of a more humane and sustainable future.

With Hope,  
Laura Moye  
AST MUN Director

# Editor's Letter

Greetings fellow chairs, delegates, and esteemed guests,

Welcome to the twenty-second conference of the Taiwan Model United Nations—TAIMUN XXII! We are Carilyn Chang, the Head of Reporters, and Declan Chang, the Deputy Head of Reporters, from the Press Team. In a modern world so heavily reliant on popular media, the practices of documenting, recording, and analyzing global issues become increasingly critical for the better of society—for the old as well as the young. On the same side of the spectrum, awareness of sustainability and environmentally friendly enactments are growing apace, serving as key factors of the world’s changing trends—we have once again decided to digitize the three magazines: the Program Book, the Pre-conference Issue, and the First Issue in continuation of last year’s success.

Entering our second year of digitizing these booklets, the Press Team strives to continue documenting information and moments of the conference with the assistance of reporters, layout designers, and photographers. We sincerely appreciate the efforts they have shown in their preparation for the conference, including constructing insightful articles, capturing memorable moments in the conferences, and organizing all the material into magazines that present a thorough synopsis of each issue. We would like to convey our deepest thanks to every member of the Press Team who has exhibited dedication and commitment to making TAIMUN XXII a pleasant experience for all.

We hope you enjoy your time in TAIMUN XXII!

Best Regards,  
Carilyn Chang and Declan Chang  
TAIMUN XXII Head and Deputy Head of Reporters

# Editor's Letter

Greetings, esteemed participants of TAIMUN XXII!

We extend a warm welcome to all at TAIMUN XXII! We are Song Kim and Nicole Hsieh, the press layout head and deputy. We are thrilled to be part of this year's TAIMUN Press team.

As a layout editor, it is a delight to present reporters' articles with visual appeal in the most exquisite manner. In this Pre-Conference issue, we opted for color of the year chosen by Pantone, Apricot Crush, as the primary color. This color signifies refreshment and energy, echoing our vision for TAIMUN XXII's participants and the year 2024. We would like to thank the reporters, photographers, and layout designers for their exceptional contribution and effort.

Wishing you a fulfilling TAIMUN XXII experience!

Best regards,  
Song Kim and Nicole Hsieh  
TAIMUN XXII Press Layout Head and Deputy

# TAIMUN XXII

## Painting a New Horizon: Bold Solutions From the Next Generation

The dreamy look of the horizon is often romanticized as a symbol of love and hope for the future. The glimmer of sunshine that peeks over the horizon signifies the dawn of a new day, filled with dreams and promises of laughter, joy and memories. It serves as a reminder of the ceaseless passing of time, as earth continues to rotate, as our civilization continues to develop.

Day by day, night by night, we endure through countless hardships as the years trickle by. We attempt to face plagues, hunger, and overpopulation with innovation, leadership, and cooperation.

But we don't last forever.

Our lives are only so short, the time we can devote is only so little. Threats to humanity will never cease to exist, and it is our responsibility to ensure that the human race survives and prospers, generation by generation.

As the cycle continues, we leave the world in the hands of the young.

"The youth of today are the leaders of tomorrow."  
-Nelson Mandela



# Interview with the Steins: The Founders of TAIMUN

## Q: What did TAIMUN look like in the past?

A(Mr. Stein): Twenty-two years ago, I discussed creating TAIMUN with the AST Board Ms. Anna Lee. I explained to her if I could work with a small group of students to teach them about the Model United Nations and its procedures and organization, then we can take small steps into the classroom. The idea was that in social studies classes, we would integrate questions about the global problems that fit the normal education you have. The idea was not to take time away from and give more work for students, but to try to make it connected so we could avoid double-time work. The Model United Nations could become a part of normal education. Ms. Anna Lee liked the idea, and I explained and taught some of the other teachers how to do it. The first year was just a one-committee group, but in the second year, we brought it into the classroom so many more students were familiar. We began to have committees in different classrooms, and now you have thirteen committees including ICJ. We started with two committees in two classrooms and invited two schools. We built slowly and MUN became very popular, so we invited international schools from outside of the country like Japan and Korea. Local international schools were also involved, but at that time there was no other MUN conference in Taiwan. While Taipei American School (TAS) 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—TAIMUN.

A(Mrs. Stein): Well, when my husband first started it, it was very connected to classes because he wanted it to be for all the students, not just a small group. And so he used topics with some questions dealing more with the sciences while the others with history, humanities, or economics. Both the teachers and the students were able to get involved, and eventually it became a whole-school project instead of a little club.

## Q: What motivated you to start TAIMUN?

A(Mr. Stein): It started a long time ago, way before TAIMUN. I did Model United Nations when I was in university in the 1960s. When I began my first year of teaching in an international school in Greece, I was asked to continue their Model United Nations program. I was always very interested in this area; I studied international relations and anthropology in university, and so Model United Nations had always been something that interested me as a vehicle for teaching and introducing world problems to young people. It is so important for the younger generation to not only have some understanding of the world but also some kind of transition to inherit the problems because they almost never go away. When you look at the United Nations' agenda, these problems don't change. Every year, there are the same problems. It would truly be a miracle if finally something is solved—but that is just the story of human life. It is important for young people to inherit the problems in a good way and make better progress there from the older people. It's really great to have twenty-two years of TAIMUN, and it makes me happy.

A(Mrs. Stein): My husband started TAIMUN but I started the TAIMUN Times and the Press. What motivated me was that we had many students who might not be so good at standing up in front of many people and speaking loudly and confidently—students who find it difficult to present themselves orally. So I thought, 'well, these are all very talented students but they have other talents, and we need to have a way to develop them.' With the Press, we could develop writing skills, photography skills, and editing skills, which was a blessing for the other teachers because students were not used to proof-reading their work very carefully before they turned it in. It was part of our philosophy that not only do we have to involve as many students as possible, we have to involve as many teachers as possible as well because each one of them brings some other skill set to help these students develop their talents. Also, my husband had been involved with the Hague MUN for many, many years; he was on the board there, and I wanted the school to have a place there, to be known there, and to have a reputation there. When we used to form the team to go, I

would say to them: "Listen. Now you are representing AST to the world because there are students from all over the world there, and what you do, say, write, spend your time, dress, and behave will reflect back on the school. My very serious personality and asked me to improve it. When I was training my students, I always wanted them to be so capable that they could go to the Hague and be editors, journalists, and photographers of world-class reporting—that would make AST proud.

## Q: What are your thoughts on this year's theme: "Painting a New Horizon: Bold Solutions From the Next Generation"?

A(Mr. Stein): I think it is a good vision and slogan because the level of problems that persist from year to year is getting worse, so we really need bold solutions. The climate question, for example, is out of control. And now, relationships between nations for territory and power, have also become very unstable. I pray there is no big war like the ones in the middle east, inside Israel and Palestine, Iran, and Syria—it is very complicated and dangerous. And you have Russia, Ukraine, China, and Taiwan, making us feel insecure and uncomfortable. There are things happening everywhere, and we need some bold solutions. There are many people moving around the planet because of economic, political, and environmental problems, but because people don't want to open their borders it creates more difficulties. It's a tough time, and we need good leaders. Hopefully from the younger generation, we could get some good leaders, too.

A(Mrs. Stein): Well, really, you should be asking that of yourself and not of me as I am an old woman. I am 84-years-old now. I really believe that people of my age and even of your teachers' age, should pass the baton to the younger generation because my endurance and strength are not as vital as they used to be. The future of Taiwan and the world lies in the hands of the youth; that is one of the reasons why I became a teacher in the first place because I thought that if you wanted to do something with your life, something that may make a difference, you start with the children. The first essay that I ever had to write for my English teacher was titled "As the Twig is Bent, the Tree is Inclined." The twig is the small part that comes off the branch of a tree; if you shape the youth to promote ideas of a better world and a better way to organize relationships or societies, hopefully it would mean that in the future the world would be a kinder, fairer, and more humane place.

## Q: What are your hopes for future TAIMUN conferences?

A(Mr. Stein): After talking with the AST MUN Director, Ms. Moye, I am very happy with how things have developed. I heard that there are many MUN conferences happening in Taiwan, and that schools cooperated with each other very well. I am glad that students have good leadership, organization abilities, friendship, and cooperation. MUN is not about a competition to see who has the biggest MUN but rather about collaborating with each other for the better of society.

A(Mrs. Stein): I don't know if you know David Williams or not, but like my husband, he co-authored the guide for all MUN students around the world. They both dedicated their lives to giving these opportunities to as many students in as many counties as possible. I think that is a very worthwhile thing to do, and I wanted to be part of that effort.

Interview by Carilyn Chang  
Article by Press Reporter Head Carilyn Chang &  
Press Deputy Reporter Head Declan Chang





# COMMITTEE INTRODUCTION



-Amy Lin-  
-President-

Amy Lin is a junior in Dominican International School, and the President for this year's Security Council. She has been in MUN for five years, since she was in 7th grade. Her strongest impression about her MUN experience is the interaction she had with the friends she made during the event. Amy has some long-term goals: she hopes to promote writing, speaking, and reasoning skills amongst peers and underclassmen.

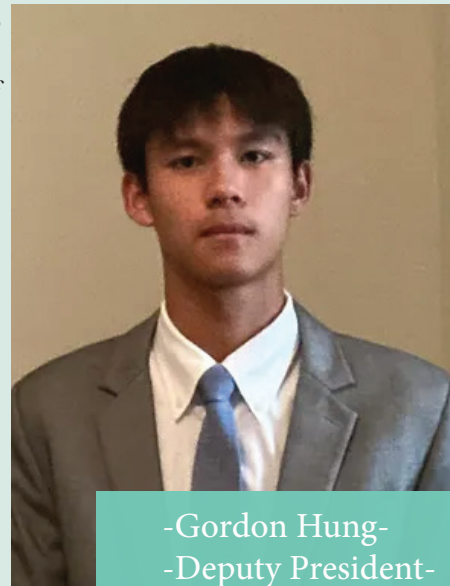
Most especially, she wants to encourage the appreciation and love of literature. One of the challenges Amy has faced in her MUN experience is struggling to expand her MUN club. However, after a few years of hard work, she is now able to grow and hold her own conference of over 120 people. Amy enjoys reading (mostly classics and 20th century novels), listening to classical music (Poulenc, Saint Saens...), playing the flute, and designing clothes. Amy enjoys eating yogurt with honey, orange marmalade, and salad.

## SECURITY COUNCIL

Article by Norbert Hou

Gordon Hung is a sophomore in Hsinchu County American School, and the Deputy President for this year's Security Council. He has been in MUN for three years. His strongest impression about his MUN experience happened in his first conference, where the soles of his shoe fell off, separating from the rest of the pair. The problem was finally fixed when he taped the two parts together. Recently, Gordon read a book about being better than yourself by one percent each day, and at the end of the year, you'll be 37 times better than when you started.

Therefore, his long-term goal is to continue to improve incrementally, steadily amassing small mounds of sand until they collectively form a magnificent sandcastle. One of his greatest successes in MUN has been the friendships cultivated along the journey. Gathering in forums to discuss topics we all care deeply about creates a sense of unity and purpose. This feeling of belonging and meaning is what makes MUN special and unforgettable. Gordon enjoys reading, hanging out with friends, and playing sports—especially tennis.



-Gordon Hung-  
-Deputy President-

Article by Savoy Liao

## GA1 (Disarmament and International Studies)



-Kyra Dean-  
-President -

Kyra Dean, a senior at Hsinchu International School, is the Head Chair for this year's GA1: Disarmament and International security. She is the current School President at HIS and the Secretary General of the MUN club. She began her journey in Model UN in the sixth grade. Her most memorable MUN experience was being the Deputy Secretary General at HIMUN VII where she helped host her first ever conference. Hosting her very first HIMUN conference was also the biggest challenge through her six years of MUN experience. She not only loves how she is able to educate herself about current world events and debate about them but also enjoys learning about different countries' stances that she doesn't necessarily agree with and defending them through MUN. However, she doesn't like the overuse of technologies in MUN conferences. Some of her long-term goals are traveling more, graduating from university, and starting her own business.

Yebin Kim, a senior at Hsinchu International School, is the Deputy Chair for this year's GA1: Disarmament and International security. She started doing MUN in the seventh grade. In her first conference, she remembers the time and effort that she and the secretariats spent on preparing for the conference as well as how delegates from different parts of Taiwan actively debated in the conference. In her first few MUN conferences, she was very reluctant and intimidated to give speeches in front of others. However, through her five years of experience, she has gained more confidence by actively participating in debates and enjoying every MUN event she attended. As a Chair, she guides delegates through challenges they face throughout the conference, and she would also like to encourage everyone to participate in debates. She loves how she can expand her knowledge on various world issues and the history behind nations through Model UN. Her long-term goal is to always be aware of global issues.



-Yebin Kim-  
-Deputy President -



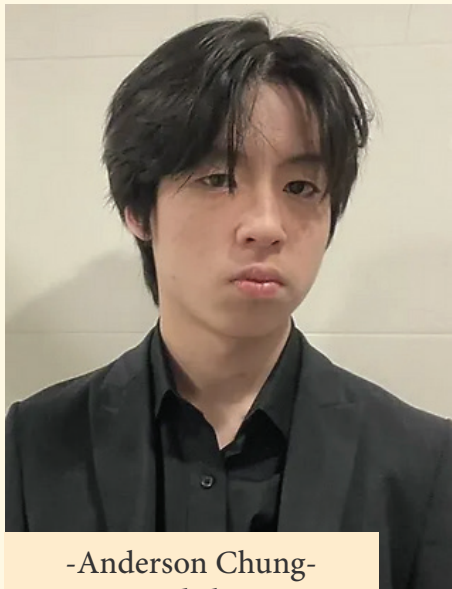
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# GA1-2

## (Disarmament and International Security)

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Article by Keira Brown



-Anderson Chung-  
-Head chair-

Anderson Chung, a junior at Hsinchu County American School, is Head Chair for this year's General Assembly 1-2: Disarmament and International Security. He has been actively involved in MUN for five years and started participating in seventh grade when he was initially forced by his parents. The most memorable part of Anderson's MUN experience was when fellow delegate Gordon Hung's shoes broke, so he had to tape them up again. Anderson enjoys hobbies such as talking to his pet goldfish and enjoys eating ratatouille. Anderson would like to travel to Shibuya, Japan.

Edmund Tsai, a junior at Taipei American School, is the Deputy Chair for this year's General Assembly 1-2: Disarmament and International Security. He has been involved in MUN for two years and started in the tenth grade because he wanted to learn more about contemporary issues around the world to become a better educated global citizen. Edmund's most memorable experience in relation to MUN was when he gave his opening speech for the French delegation in the opening ceremonies at BERMUN. The smooth delivery coupled with the on-point pauses and the matched analogy towards the end gave his speech a unique texture. The rewarding applause reminded him that the immense preparation was well spent. Some of Edmund's hobbies include playing Chinese chess, traveling, and enjoying the clarinet. His favorite food is salted caramel ice cream, and he would love to visit the Colosseum in Rome, Italy. Edmund has a resilient personality and will persevere through any given obstacle.



-Edmund Tsai-  
-Deputy chair-



-Morris Chang-  
-Head chair-

Morris Chang, a senior at Kang Chiao International School in Linkou, is a Chair for this year's GA3: Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural. His most memorable MUN experience was his first time chairing an MUN conference: he came across a new perspective that was different from being a delegate. Through his five years of experience in MUN, he thinks the biggest challenge he faced was that he always wanted to share his ideas but found it difficult to express them in front of a crowded committee. But, after a few conferences, Morris overcame this obstacle and can now communicate confidently in front of a larger group. He appreciates how MUN pushes people to listen to the opinions of others while at the same time gives the younger generation a platform to express thoughtful insights. Morris also hopes to make the conferences more attainable: given that there are numerous rules and procedures required in MUN, he wishes there were simpler, more accessible features for students to engage with MUN, reducing the steep learning curve. Morris's long-term goal is to extend his MUN journey beyond high school in Taiwan. He aspires not only to enhance his ability to articulate himself and his ideologies through MUN but also to persist in connecting with new individuals and exploring different perspectives.

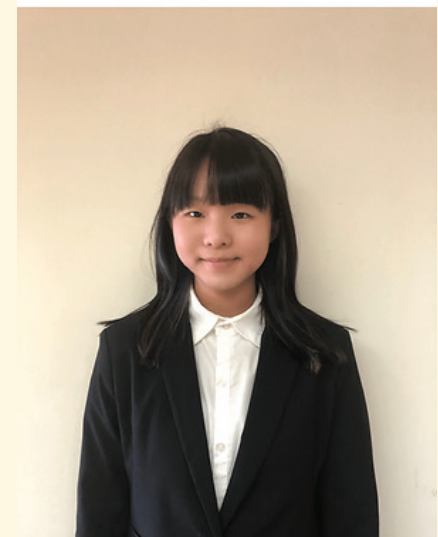
Article by Savoy Liao

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# GA3 (Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural)

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Priscilla Chui, a junior at Taipei American School, is the Deputy Chair for this year's GA3: Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural. She began her MUN journey in 9th grade. She remembers how everyone was scared to speak on the first day of her very first MUN conference, but the chair jumped in and encouraged everyone to participate in active debate sessions. Through her three years of experience in MUN, Priscilla thinks the biggest challenge of MUN is speaking up for the first time; however, she believes once people take the first step, it will only get easier and easier. She loves to see delegates express what they are passionate about or interested in. Some of her long term goals are becoming more experienced as a chair, motivating herself as a confident speaker, and encouraging other novice delegates to immerse themselves in the fun of MUN.



-Priscilla Chui-  
-Deputy chair-

# - GA6 -

Article by Brent Hung



**Celine Shih**  
Head Chair

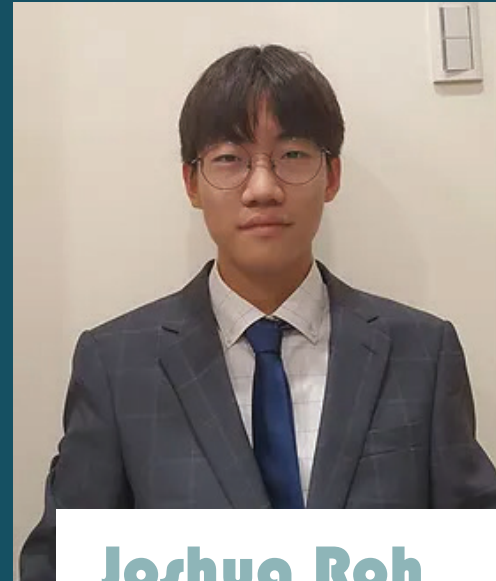
Celine Shih is a junior at the American School in Taichung, with a passion for MUN that began in 8th grade. Despite the initial challenges of unfamiliar procedures and quick thinking required, Celine's curiosity about MUN quickly grew, leading her to attend more conferences and hone her skills in drafting amendments, speeches, and public speaking. Her dedication paid off when she was selected to chair the HSINMUN conference, a competitive honor that marked a pivotal moment in her MUN journey. Celine advises delegates to set challenging yet realistic goals for themselves in conferences. Outside of MUN, she enjoys playing volleyball, reading, and writing, and is always up for a discussion about anything related to Taylor Swift.

Rhys Cheng, a 15-year-old sophomore at Taoyuan American School, cherishes the friendships he made through Model United Nations (MUN), which he believes wouldn't have been possible otherwise. Initially challenged by speaking out and feeling unprepared, Rhys gained confidence over time and found success in networking and public speaking. His MUN journey began in middle school when he joined to participate in excursions with friends. Dreaming of visiting Antarctica for its uniqueness, Rhys leads the MUN club at his school and enjoys taking charge in group projects. While he appreciates the sense of community in MUN, he jokes about not being a fan of the food. One of his proudest MUN moments as a delegate was competing with opponents at the highest level of Model UN. To encourage shy delegates, Rhys advises getting to know others in their committee as a way to overcome shyness. Rhys also enjoys volleyball. If given the chance to live in any historical era, he would choose the Renaissance for its art and architecture. Outside of MUN, he enjoys video games and Korean dramas on Netflix.

**Rhys Cheng**  
Deputy Chair



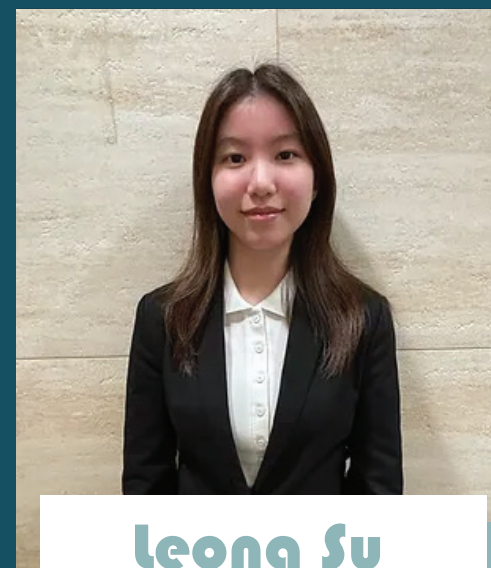
Joshua Roh is a sophomore at Taipei European School (TES) and is this year's President for ECOSOC 1. At 16 years old, he vividly recalls his most memorable MUN experience, chairing at the recent STMUN. He saw delegates discussing the issues and recognized that the hours he had spent studying and preparing for the chair report had not been wasted at all, making this his first true chairing experience. Reflecting on how the chairs supported him during his first conference, he aims to ensure every delegate has a chance to speak, particularly during lobbying time. In addition, Joshua appreciates MUN's role in building soft skills and providing a global perspective. However, he acknowledges the steep learning curve, especially for new delegates. Despite these challenges, he finds MUN to be one of the most rewarding extracurricular activities. Beyond MUN, Joshua enjoys many hobbies such as watching films in the cinema, playing the drums, cycling, reading dystopian fiction, and listening to music. A proud moment for Joshua was amassing a table of used notes and amendments at the end of the TASMUN conference during his early delegate years.



**Joshua Roh**  
President

# - ECOSOC 1 -

Article by Brenda Hung



**Leona Su**  
Deputy President

Leona Su is a junior attending Taipei American School (TAS) and is this year's Deputy President for ECOSOC 1. Leona has always had a passion for public speaking, where she took it to the next level when she first participated in MUN in the eighth grade. Leona vividly recalls the rewarding feeling of finally being able to solve an issue collectively. Initially faced with confusion and overwhelmed with the specific procedures of MUN, she successfully overcame these challenges and became an active participant in conferences. Outside of her MUN involvement, Leona enjoys playing the piano and baking as her hobbies. Leona's leadership experiences extend beyond MUN, including tutoring or teaching through service clubs. She dreams of traveling to Northern Europe, specifically Iceland. Her proudest moment in MUN as a chair was when she managed to get all the delegates to at least make one speech.



# - HRC 1 -

Article by Emillie Lee

Joseph Lin is a 16-year-old sophomore from Hsinchu County American School and the proud Head Chair for the Economic and Social Council 2 at this year's TAIMUN. While Joseph's primary hobbies are coding and math (and also enjoying fried rice), he has also developed a passion for Model United Nations. Joseph began his MUN journey in the seventh grade and still vividly remembers trying to calm his nerves and keep pace with the debates at his first conference. TAIMUN XXII will be Joseph's 14th conference and his second time chairing. Joseph would describe himself as competitive since he always tries his best to win even if it's just an online chess game with his friends. If he had the opportunity to travel around the world, he would want to go to Antarctica and watch the auroras.



**Joseph Lin**  
President



**Benjamin Wu**  
President

Benjamin Wu, a junior at Hsinchu County American School, is the President for this year's HRC 1. He is 16 years old, and he has actively participated in MUN conferences for five years. His most memorable MUN experience was meeting new people and making new friends. Benjamin's long-term goal is to pursue a higher education after high school. His most challenging experience in his Model UN journey was chairing for different conferences around Taiwan. Some of Benjamin's hobbies include football and watching videos, and his favorite food is rice bowls.

# - ECOSOC 2 -

Article by Keira Brown

Allyn Wang, a sophomore at Dominican International School, is the Deputy President for this year's Economic and Social Council 2. She has been actively involved in MUN for almost three years and started participating in the eighth grade with her friends in their schools' MUN club. The most memorable parts of Allyn's MUN experience were making new friends and sparking controversial debates. Some of her favorite hobbies include soccer, basketball, playing the violin, and Taekwondo. Allyn's favorite food is candy, and she wants to travel to wherever Taylor Swift takes her Eras Tour. Allyn is an outgoing person and is always hungry!



**Allyn Wang**  
Deputy President

Liyeh Kang, a sophomore in Dominican International School, is the Deputy President for this year's HRC 1. She is 15 years old, and she first embarked on her Model UN journey in Grade 6 for a semester and resumed in Grade 8. Hence, she has been doing Model UN for about three years now. Her most memorable Model UN experience was in HSINMUN 2023; it was the very first conference that gave her an intense and professional Model UN environment that made her feel truly challenged. Her long-term goals associated with Model UN are to hopefully become the Secretariat General of DISMUN and attend the THIMUN conference in the Hague. Her most challenging experience in her Model UN journey was her very first Model UN conference, DISMUN 2020. At that time, she was certainly not prepared for or aware of conference procedures, despite having extremely well written and polished opening speeches and resolutions. In contrast to this memory was her most successful experience. This took place in DISMUN 2022; although it was held online, she confidently and actively approached the podium to deliver speeches. This was also when she got her Best Delegate Award. Liyeh's hobbies include baking, learning new languages, and scrolling through TikTok during leisure time. She doesn't really have any favorite food, but if she had to choose, she would prefer desserts such as cakes, tarts, and muffins.



**Liyeh Kang**  
Deputy President



# HRC 2

Human Rights Council 2



## Josephine Tang

**HRC 2 President**

Josephine Tang, a 16-year-old junior at Hsinchu International School, is President of HRC 2 for the TAIMUN XXII conference. She has been heavily involved in MUN since Grade 8 in which she experienced entertaining and challenging conferences; MUN served as a great opportunity to expand her global perspective and knowledge on world politics. Josephine's goal right now is to get into college and march toward a solid career. Her best accomplishment is how she overcame her embarrassment and fear of public speaking, and she is proud that she can now speak with confidence. During leisure time, she likes to read and listen to old songs. She also enjoys spicy food.



## Austin Yang

**HRC 2 Deputy President**

Austin Yang, a current sophomore at International Bilingual School at Hsinchu Science Park (IBSH), is Deputy President of HRC 2 for TAIMUN XXII. His first conference was a nerve-racking experience because he was not exactly the most outgoing person in the room. However, after interacting with different delegates, he realized that they were all on the same boat: to support each other and come up with solutions to the broad range of issues that demand our attention. Austin is here as a guide to all delegates now and wishes to fulfill that role to the best of his ability. To new delegates, embrace your moments of blunders—those fumbles, those slip-ups, those moments where you stand in nervous silence after being asked a daunting POI. To experienced delegates, he hopes this conference can serve to further develop and nurture their diplomatic and leadership abilities. Austin is excited and looks forward to learning from the President, Josephine. As for himself, he likes to read, study, play and produce music on the piano, daydream about Kdramas, and get his ankles crushed in basketball. He is always open to questions, so feel free to reach out to him!

Articles by Emilie Lee

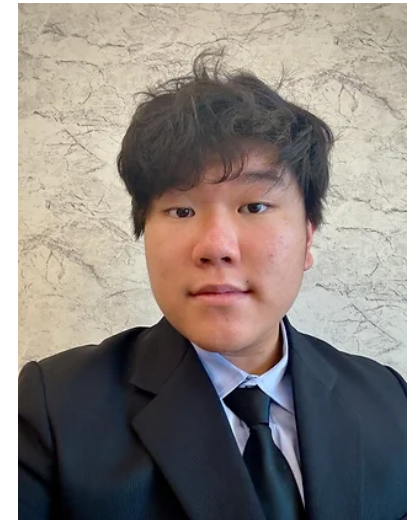
# WHO

World Health Organization

## Jason Yang

**WHO President**

Jason Yang, a junior from Hsinchu County American School (HCAS) and whose future goal is to become a DSG for one of the outside conferences, hopes to provide people and mostly himself with the experience and knowledge he has gained along the way. He started MUN in 7th grade out of curiosity and has since then developed a strong interest in it. His strength is how he finds history and literature easy as Jason is passionate about humanities; his weakness is mathematics, which he is currently working on. Jason has come a long way in terms of overcoming the stress and workload from MUN, and he is proud to have learned how to balance them. Lastly, he describes himself as a person who likes to debate.



## Zoe Wan

**WHO Deputy President**



Zoe Wan, whose future goal is to become part of the Secretariat Team for HSNMUN, is the Deputy President for this year's WHO Committee. She started MUN when she was freshman, where she attended a HSNMUN conference as a committee admin after hearing about the prestigious world of Model UN. Her strengths are her writing capabilities and the effort she puts in her craft; her weakness is how she sometimes procrastinates before deadlines, which she is working on improving now. She finds joy in the little things such as waking up every morning and looking forward to what the day will bring, whether good or bad—they keep her going. Zoe describes herself as a “closeted extrovert”: someone who appears to be very introverted and shy until surrounded by people she is familiar with, which then she becomes a bubbly person with a lively personality.

Articles by Gilbert Lee

# Kingston Yu

Kingston Yu, a student at Pacific American School, will be serving as the President of this year's APQ Committee. Kingston's animated personality is one of the first things you will notice when you meet him. Many people who have met him throughout his five-year Model United Nations experience remember him for his troll amendments and ability to light up the room. Although he was once awarded "Most Destructive Delegate" in a Security Council Committee, he is now forced to embrace the duties of a chair where he has to face all the troll amendments he once constructed. Outside of Model UN, Kingston enjoys playing Genshin Impact as well as volunteering in international NGOs. He encourages first-time delegates to start off by making POIs and to simply enjoy the conferences.



**APQ President**

# UNDP

UN Development Program

Jenny Wu, the Secretary (Head) of this year's UNDP Committee, is a tenth grader currently studying at Hsinchu County American School. Despite being only a sophomore, she is very experienced in the field of Model United Nations. She started her MUN journey three years ago, and her public speaking and leadership skills have now led her into student officer positions in multiple conferences including TAIMUN and HIMUN. Jenny is motivated by the drops of caffeine in Monster as well as the drops in her grades. Outside of Model UN, her other interests include guitar, piano, movie-watching, and reading. She encourages delegates who do not have an extroverted personality to step out of their comfort zone: as John Burroughs once said, "Leap, and the net will appear."



**UNDP Secretary Jenny Wu**

# Ricards Petrevics

Ricards Petrevics, the Deputy President of this year's APQ Committee, is a sophomore currently studying at American School in Taichung. He has attended a variety of Model United Nations conferences and is well known around the island's MUN community for his vibrant and humorous personality. As a delegate, he enjoys advocating for wild clauses to add spice to the usually orderly debates. Outside of Model UN, Ricards is very passionate about aviation and flight. He enjoys traveling as well as keeping up with current news on the flight sector. Countless hours of his time are often spent on a flight simulator where he immerses himself in the skies. Ricards recommends all delegates to actively engage in the debate while sharing their own ideology and thinking, just like the real UN.



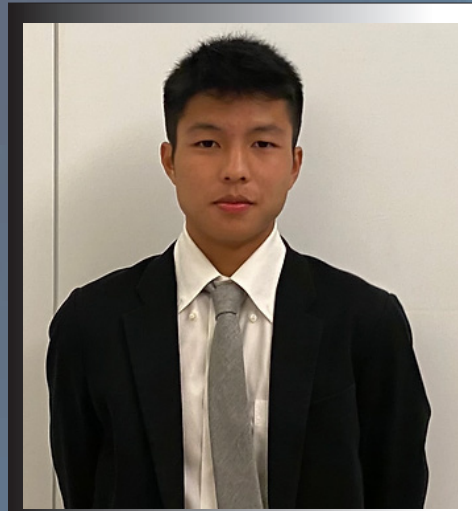
**APQ Deputy President**

Curtis Shih, the Chair (Deputy) of this year's UNDP Committee, is a freshman at American School in Taichung. He has been participating in Model United Nations for two years. Curtis faces challenges such as having to think quickly in debates and handling unexpected questions—despite these difficult tasks, he enjoys MUN because it helps him to not only develop courage and critical thinking skills but also make new friends. Outside MUN, Curtis likes playing ultimate frisbee and volleyball. He is also an active member in the Student Government, Red Cross, and Investment Club. Curtis thinks MUN is splendid because everyone works together, and he encourages shy delegates to just be themselves. He is known to be someone who is very talkative, optimistic, and approachable.



**UNDP Chair Curtis Shih !!**





Ethan Tse  
Chair

My name is Ethan Tse, currently a sophomore studying at Taipei American School, and I am looking forward to serving as the chair for this year's UN Women committee. This marks my 8th MUN conference, but only my second time chairing. I began my MUN journey back in 7th grade. At the time, MUN was merely another extracurricular that I wanted to try out, and looking back, I definitely did not expect it to play such a significant role in my high school career.

New delegates: My advice to you would be to have confidence and belief in yourself and your preparation. Definitely speak up at least a few times during this conference. I've been in your shoes before, and I know how hard it can be, but you guys got this!

Whether through building confidence in my public speaking skills, or turning me into an active debater by strengthening my critical thinking ability, MUN has certainly had some profound impacts on me as a person. I vividly recall entering my very first conference, where I felt shy, uncomfortable, and utterly confused about the unique procedures. But as the years progressed and I started joining more and more conferences, I slowly mustered up the courage to consistently ask POI's, develop speeches, and even submit amendments.

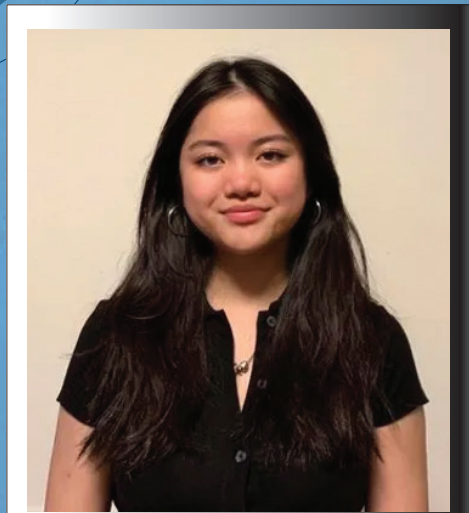
In my free time, I enjoy eating good food, playing soccer, and of course, sleeping. But that's it for now, I'll see you guys in March...

# UN Women

My name is Ashley Wang, a senior at Hsinchu International School. I am incredibly honored to be secretary for UN Women at TAIMUN this year! I really like to do sports, make music, bake, and do arts and crafts. One of my favorite extracurriculars, of course, is MUN. I joined MUN in middle school; I've been to nine conferences and this will be my second time chairing.

MUN has molded me from a timid, anxious delegate to a confident, resilient speaker. To new delegates, please don't be nervous! We were all beginners once. I used to fear speaking during debate as well— having so many people listen to me talk was truly nerve-racking. Watching my articulate seniors debate so well was also intimidating, and I felt like I would never achieve what they had (how ironic). Please don't be afraid to ask questions and always study the issues to the fullest extent! Remember, each conference is another chance to display everything you have prepared for. I trust that everyone will do a remarkable job.

I can't wait to meet you all in March! See you soon!



Ashley Wang  
Secretary

# International Court of Justice



President  
Yichia Lee

Hi everyone! My name is Yichia Lee, and I will be serving as your co-president, along with Jessie, for the ICJ at TAIMUN XXII. I am currently a junior at the International Bilingual School at Hsinchu Science Park. I attended my first MUN conference as a delegate just three years ago and have attended eleven since, only chairing for the first time last year. Someone once told me if you don't at least make an attempt, you won't ever know. In MUN, you learn from experience and attempt things you have only ever tried in the confines of your own mind or room. You speak out so others can hear your voice, you make changes, and you set precedents within your own small Model United Nations community. You thrive in a vast pool of outspoken, creative delegates/experts guided by the head of your committee and your own values and opinions. This is the exact environment you join the moment you step into the diverse MUN community at TAIMUN. I am incredibly thrilled to be sharing this eye-opening experience with you all. No matter how wayward this conference may go, I look forward to seeing you all flourish and grow in, perhaps, a new or even a familiar atmosphere. Thank you for attending TAIMUN and trying your very best to make a change and speak boldly, frankly, and openly because whatever you choose to do makes a difference for everyone else.

Hi advocates and judges,  
My name is Jessie Chiang and I am a current junior at Taipei American School (TAS). It is my utmost honor to serve as co-president for the International Court of Justice (ICJ) along with Yichia at TAIMUN this year. This is my second year serving as a student officer for TAIMUN and I wish to make this year the best experience yet!

I have done MUN since I transferred to TAS as a middle schooler. Up to now, I have participated in over fifteen conferences, including online, hybrid, and in-person conferences. Through these conferences, I have gained experience in procedures including THIMUN, Crisis, UN4MUN, North American, and ICJ. MUN has truly allowed me to expand my perspective on global issues, learn how to work with others, and improve my ability to speak to a large audience. Not only have I gained insight on teamwork and leadership, I can proudly say that I have attained so many meaningful connections with people across Taiwan and across the world. With that said, please don't hesitate to approach me and chat about academics, extracurriculars, volleyball, piano, movies, music, or just anything in general!

ICJ may seem unfamiliar or unapproachable for many delegates that are used to the typical THIMUN procedure, but it is definitely one of the more flexible and fun procedures I have seen in MUN. Whether you are participating as an advocate or as a judge, I wish we all get to network with one another and gain a new, fulfilling experience at TAIMUN XXII! See you all in March!



President  
Jessie Chiang



Register  
Giselle Tang

Greetings!  
My name is Giselle Tang, a junior from American School in Taichung (AST), and it is my honor to serve as your registrar for this conference! This is my first time taking on the role of a registrar for TAIMUN, as I've been assisting in the Admin Team.

I have done a few MUN conferences back when I was a middle schooler, and I have to say, I've discovered that I'm most definitely not a MUNer since I'm extremely scared when it comes to public speaking. However, I really like meeting new people and making new friends, which is one of the biggest reasons why I enjoy attending MUN conferences. Besides MUN, I really enjoy playing sports such as basketball, volleyball and cross country. Furthermore, I enjoy hanging out with friends during free time and eating lots of snacks.

Aside from the talks, I do believe that MUN is a place where different voices can be communicated and heard through the understanding of global issues, especially while it expands an individual's problem-solving and public speaking skills. Let us gain a fruitful experience at TAIMUN XXII together! With that said, can't wait to meet you all in March!



**ARTICLE  
PAGE**

# The Challenges of Climate Change



With the increasing development of science and technology, the usage of fossil fuels, coal, oil and gas in various countries is also increasing day by day, leading to an increasingly serious carbon emission problem. In this society, the annual global carbon emissions can reach 36.6 billion metric tons, which is equivalent to 36.6 gigatons. These emissions have led to a global warming crisis in which global temperatures have risen 1 degree celsius since 1880, causing irreversible damage to the environment.

Climate change is an existential threat to Earth's balance, causing extreme weather events to become more frequent and intense, from hurricanes and droughts to increased flooding. Take the recent forest fires and ongoing drought disasters in Australia as examples.. Usually, during summer and autumn in Australia, bushfires occur and cause loss of life and damage to properties.

According to CSIRO, the annual growth in areas that had been burned by bushfires has increased by 800 percent in the past 32 years due to climate conditions. A total of 116 homes were destroyed in 2015, while in 2019 and 2020 a total of over 2,800 homes. As global warming has contributed to a rise in world temperatures, it has acted as the main factor of the dramatic increase in bushfires in Australia.

Impacts on ecosystems, destabilizing food supplies and rising prices, climate-induced events that displace communities, and the ensuing economic consequences present a complex set of challenges. According to the European Central Bank, global warming will cause increases in annual food and headline inflation of 0.92 to 3.23 and 0.32 to 1.18 percentage-points per year by 2035, respectively.

In addition, sea level rise is also a recent trend caused by climate change. According to WMO, the sea level in some areas of the Pacific rises by about four millimeters per year,

higher than the global average of 3.4 millimeters.

Countries with a unique geography and limited land area such as Tuvalu, Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, and the United States are particularly vulnerable to even the slightest rise in sea levels, threatening the lives of their inhabitants.

Arctic and Antarctic ecosystems face destruction, affecting the wildlife and indigenous communities that depend on these environments. As the temperature continues to rise, snow and ice are melting at increasing rates. Many animals rely on sea ice for hunting, breeding, migrating, resting, breeding, and escaping from predators. For example, melting ice caps reduce places for polar bears to hunt and look for food; for seals (which use ice to help build shelters for pups), it becomes more difficult to protect their young, contributing to an increased pup death rate. Global warming can also cause changes in these animals' annual migration patterns. Arctic birds travel for miles to scout the region's abundant food sources, but with abnormal timing of the four seasons, a mismatch between their migration patterns and the availability of food emerges. Moreover, ocean acidification is also a pressing issue. Caused by human activity, especially the burning of fossils, ocean acidification threatens marine life and ecosystems. The impact extends to food chain disruptions and habitat pollution, putting the microbalance of marine biodiversity at risk. Ocean acidification is a strong example of ecosystem damage.

Finally, climate change disrupts ecosystems, causing habitat loss and changing the distribution of plant species. This endangers biodiversity and poses a major challenge to the physical protection of fragile ecosystems. In addition to carbon emissions, the main cause of climate change, also pose health risks to the human body. According to USDA, exposure to too much CO<sub>2</sub> could cause rapid breathing, confusion, increased cardiac output, elevated blood pressure, and increased arrhythmias. As climate change continues to escalate, the world will continue to face a series of complex environmental, social, and economic challenges. International agreements such as the Paris Agreement are collective commitments to combat climate change. However, reliance on these agreements depends on global cooperation and the implementation of sustainable development goals and initiatives. Besides cooperations between countries, there are also many different ways to combat climate change, such as saving energy at home and choosing electric vehicles as a mode of transportation. Even a small change of habit could make a big impact in limiting climate change.

With all these challenges posed by climate change, it is clear that a collaborative approach is needed. From reducing greenhouse gas emissions to building the resilience of vulnerable communities, combating climate change demands a global effort. If we take action now with commitment and devotion, there is hope in ensuring a sustainable future for generations to come.





During the latter months of 2022, the popularity and usage of Artificial Intelligence increased exponentially. With new platforms such as ChatGPT or Microsoft's CoPilot, public access to information and data provided has skyrocketed. This newfound popularity has made AI one of the most transformative technologies of the 21st century in society, the economy, and the government.

When it comes to the impact AI has had on society, there is an abundance of positive implications. This could be through access to online education, healthcare solutions, or analyzing climate data. However, it is also important to note that while AI has its potential benefits, it is also very possible for serious errors or misuse of the platform to occur, resulting in negative outcomes.

Ai

# Artificial Intelligence: A Step Forward in the Modern World



We know how AI is able to impact society and the economy, but can it also impact our governments? Yes, it certainly can. According to AI.gov, a source mainly addressing the use of AI in federal states and governments, “the federal government is leveraging AI to better serve the public across a wide array of use cases, including transportation, the environment, and benefits delivery.” The United States government has taken and used AI to benefit itself and harness the opportunities in which it is provided to improve its services.

To conclude, the transformation AI has had performed on our interconnected world can and already has affected our society, our economy, and our governments. AI will not be leaving anytime soon and will continuously grow to be a major part of our world. Rather than pushing it away, let us use it for the benefit of our future.

The impact AI has had on our world's economy is also quite major. AI's ability to quickly analyze huge amounts of data, such as financial reports, has become highly useful in investment management. An example of AI's impact on the global economy could include fraud prevention. According to a Forbes article, “AI systems constantly monitor transactions for suspected payment fraud, with advanced features to flag potential fraud or stop transactions before approval.” Therefore, we understand just how much AI is used and has been used in the global economy.

Article by Keira Brown



# What is Climate Change, and How Should We Address It?

Article by Gilbert Chang and Norbert Hou

There are many environmental challenges we face today, such as rising sea levels and temperatures. Climate change is a pressing issue because it is a global crisis that affects every aspect of our lives, from the air we breathe to the food we eat. Climate change is driven by the build-up of greenhouse gasses, primarily carbon dioxide, in Earth's atmosphere. The burning of fossil fuels and industrial activities contribute to rising greenhouse gas levels. These dire consequences demand immediate attention and action from the world. Rising temperatures and extreme weather events are disturbing the ecosystem, and the melting polar ice caps contribute to a global threat to the world, the intensity of weather, and different occasions.

Living in an environmentally friendly world can be a hard goal to achieve when you are also trying to manage everyone's demands, especially when it comes to talking about the urgent issue of climate change. We often overlook the problem of climate change such as the everyday use of plastic bags this connects because as we throw plastic away we forget how might we are damaging the world each time. Our actions, if not reconsidered and reflected upon, will cause significant damage to the world. Research shows that five trillion plastic bags are wasted every year; as our population continues to expand, the continued use of plastic will cause this waste to increase, bringing us closer to a critical tipping point. The consequences of climate change are impacting ecosystems and the overall health of our planet—rising temperatures and sea levels are just a few of the challenges that lie ahead. Unchecked, climate change poses a huge threat to our lives and the well-being of future generations.

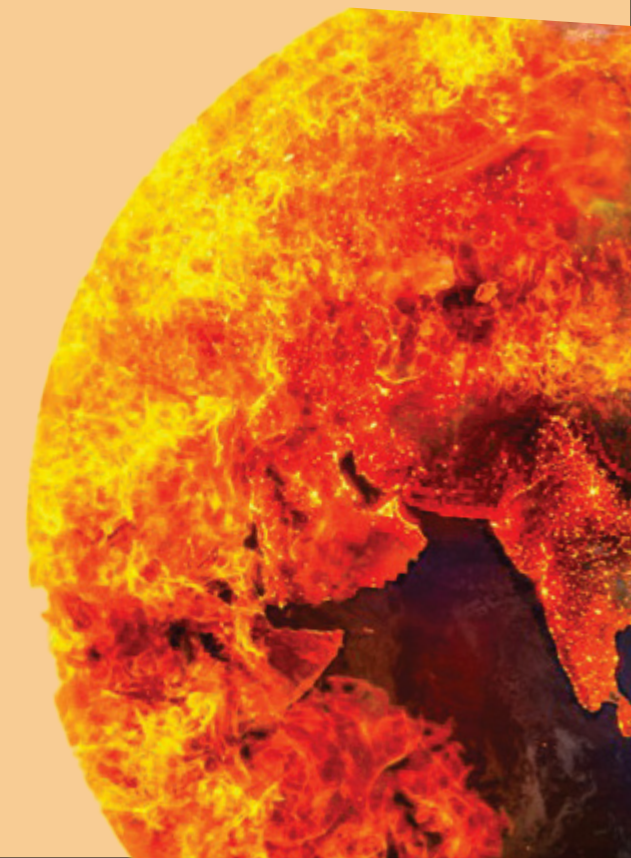
In face of these challenges, climate change needs a more direct approach, such as creating policies and prioritizing environmental protection. The urgency of climate change demands a global response. Government, activists, and individuals must work together to reduce climate change and have sustainable practices. The transition to low carbon emissions is not only necessary but also provides opportunities for innovation and job creation and a more sustainable future for future generations. However, This is not easy work. Humans are sometimes just like objects, objects at rest tend to stay at rest, and the object at motion tends to stay at motion; we often refuse to put in the necessary efforts even though we know that not making a change is simply called “procrastination.”

Remember the commitment made under the Paris Agreement? Currently, the annual emissions of CO<sub>2</sub>, from burning fossil fuels; industrial processes; and land-use change, are estimated to be 42.2 Gts per year. The carbon budget for the 1.5 degree Celsius target would be expected to be used up before 2026 if we refuse to make a change. Countries shouldn't waste their last opportunity to resolve this issue before what we have pledged becomes nearly impossible to happen.

Yet in these challenging times, there are many young individuals and activists. such as Greta Thunberg, working to make a difference.

Thunberg has made a positive impact on the world by approaching these issues with unwavering devotion: sharing awareness of climate change, advocating for sustainability, and encouraging politicians to make a change in the world. Through Thunberg's drives and efforts, she inspired people to start caring about preserving our environment. If we follow in Thunberg's footsteps, we can make the world a better place to live for the next generations to come.

Using Greta Thunberg as an example, we can see that there are many people on this Earth who think further and want to make a change in the world. Some of us are aware of how the environment has been harmed by using up resources, and they are taking measures to prevent further harm done to our planet. We can see how much people care about saving our Climate and also encouraging other people to do so by taking action.





# Measures to Combat Global Famine and Poverty

Hunger and poverty acts as dangerous challenges in our world, with millions of lives being affected each day. In modern day, there are activists and organizations that are eager to resolve the issue. Even though there is significant global economic progress over the last three decades, poverty and hunger rates are still dropping fast. This reminds me of my last visit to Vietnam, on one side, you can see tall buildings and beautiful sites at Ho Chi Minh City, but as you move closer to rural areas, trashes are everywhere and some of the houses are old and torn. The harsh reality remains that one in ten people still lives with less than \$1.90 per day as salary, and one in nine of the people living in poverty faces various nutrition-related issues, including malnutrition. South Asia and Africa suffer from the heaviest burden of global famine and poverty due to several challenges such as corruption, weak governance, and economic instability. Wangari Maathai (1940-2011), knowing that poverty and environmental issues were connected,



employed sustainability as a tool to battle against the difficulties many face today. If the environment is unsafe or lacks resources, the economy of the city or country will also be in bad form. She knew that deforestation not only harmed the environment but also deprived communities of essential resources like rivers and lands that can be used to farm. But, by focusing on tree planting, she provides a double solution. Her action strongly encouraged women to take a leading role, recognizing the important part they play in the community's well-being. Women are not only guardians of the environment but also recipients of newfound economic empowerment. The

income generated from these sustainable practices became a way of making money for people in poverty, pulling many families out of the harsh life of poverty. Another important person in the fight against global poverty is Muhammad Yunus, a Bangladeshi economist and founder of the Grameen Bank, which is also called bank of the poor. In 1983, Yunus introduced the concept of microcredit to people, and this concept challenged the traditional banking system that limited the poor. The Grameen Bank provided small loans, or microcredits, to individuals who didn't have access to traditional financial institutions like banks,

and it is targeted towards women or people who were in poverty. Yunus realized that poverty could be reduced by lending small amounts of money to individuals, unlike banks that are only willing to lend money to those who already have the ability to return the money back to the bank. The Grameen Bank's microcredit plan allows people to start or expand small businesses, allowing more entrepreneurship and economic independence to provide education for themselves or their children, or to start businesses. This new way of running a bank demonstrates that even a small financial boost could break the chains of poverty, offering a little hope for millions of people. Aiming to improve equity and economy in the United States and around the world, Belinda Gates, co-chair of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, thought that education is a fundamental catalyst for change. The foundation invested a big amount in initiatives that aim to provide access to quality education, particularly for girls and women in underdeveloped countries, just like the kids who are privileged in more developed countries. Gates knows clearly that education is a key tool that cannot be ignored in breaking the cycle of poverty. By ensuring that communities who do not have the money or resources to have access to the same learning opportunities, she

strives for a future where individuals are educated with the skills and knowledge needed to overcome economic challenges by finding jobs or doing small business startups. This approach not only addresses immediate needs of young or poor people eager to change their lives, but also ensures and increases long-term sustainability of the economy of people who were once living in poverty. Or, in long terms, it ensures the sustainability of the economy globally. Wangari Maathai, Muhammad Yunus, and Melinda Gates stand as examples of the power of individual actions in the fight against global famine and poverty. By taking action on the global economy and poverty issues, they have helped millions escape the life of living in poverty. As we get to know about their stories, it becomes clear to us that addressing global famine and poverty requires a solution that is deeply planned and discussed.

From environmental conservation to financial solutions and educational solutions for rural areas, all these important people have shown the different ways individuals can contribute to building a world with a better economy that is more prosperous. The seeds they have sown are not only symbolic but are becoming more and more shaped, bearing fruit in the form of improved livelihoods, empowered communities, and a vision for a future where no one goes to bed hungry or has to worry about their own or their kids' education. In their stories, we found inspiration and a call to action, urging us all to contribute our part in the process of nurturing the seeds of change for a brighter, hunger-free, and poverty-free world.

Article by  
Emillie Lee





# Flight Towards a Sustainable Future

Every year, airplanes and commercial airline travel produce more than 800 million metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>, which is about 3.5 % of the whole global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. With the rising concern of the rising temperature, many experts and climate change activists have called for the reduction of carbon emissions in the airline industry. To address this issue, scientists have attempted to create more efficient aircraft, or even power aircraft with electricity, in hopes to mitigate aviation pollution.

So far, these technological steps have fallen short of the mark. First, while creating more efficient aircraft decreases the carbon footprint, it does not make a significant difference. Second, although electric planes reduce the carbon footprint, they cannot travel too long a distance compared to those powered by fuel, which severely limits its range of usage. However, in a groundbreaking achievement recently in 2018, scientists have successfully piloted a commercial airplane from Orlando, Florida, to London, England, relying solely on Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF). This is a key milestone in aviation, showing a pivotal change toward a more environmentally friendly aircraft. David Lee is a professor of atmospheric science at Manchester Metropolitan University who specializes in the impact of aviation on the climate. To emphasize this achievement, Professor Lee states that the transition to sustainable aviation fuel instead of conventional fossil fuels can potentially cut the carbon emissions from aviation by a staggering 70%.

How is Sustainable Aviation Fuel made? It can be from a broad range of sources, from plant material and food waste to even algae(also known as “biofuels”). Although biofuels emit carbon dioxide during combustion, the growth of biomass (which is the

component of biofuels) removes CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere as it grows, so it is safe to say they are a sustainable choice due to their renewable nature. Then, after getting the biofuel, how is it turned into energy that aircraft can use? Lanzatech, a company dedicated to sustainability, uses advanced gas fermentation products to generate energy. Lanzatech has developed an innovative carbon recycling technology that transforms waste carbon gasses into ethanol and other chemicals, this ethanol and other chemicals can be further converted into jet fuels that aircraft use to power. Moreover, on the efficiency scale, biofuels are a much better option compared to other alternative aviation technologies such as electric planes. Electric planes are not able to fly long distances and have a weight limit for the plane because the technology of batteries is not yet advanced. Biomass offers a more practical solution, in 2018, an airplane flew successfully from Orlando to London using only biofuels, traveling an incredible distance of nearly 7,000 kilometers. The success of this flight using sustainable aviation fuels amplifies its potential for future major jet fuels.

Despite its promising potential, sustainable aviation fuel still has some limitations. A significant challenge is the scalability of production: there is currently very little production of SAF, and it is not able to match the extensive demands of the aviation industry. Additionally, the cost of producing biofuels is higher than that of conventional jet fuels. As technology advances, though, it is expected that the cost of SAF will decrease, making it more economically viable for future change.

In conclusion, the adaptation of renewable jet fuels, specifically sustainable aviation fuel, represents a significant advancement in helping the environmental impact of air travel and a transformative solution for reducing the carbon footprint of flights. The successful flight from Orlando to London only using SAF underscores its viability and potential to transition from conventional fuels to biofuels. Switching to SAF can decrease carbon emissions by up to 70%, a huge step towards a greener and more sustainable aviation industry. Despite challenges like the scale and cost of SAF, ongoing technological improvements give hope for a future where renewable energy in flights is in fact plausible. The next generation holds the key to painting a new horizon for aviation, holding a bold solution for a greener and sustainable future for air travel.







# The Ocean Cleanup: A Bold Initiative to Tackle Ocean Pollution

In 2024, there are numerous challenges plaguing our planet and destroying its natural ecosystems. Plastic waste is one of the biggest factors. Every year 75 to 199 million tons of trash end up in the ocean, but there is one company trying to mitigate this issue. The Ocean Cleanup is a non-profit organization that aims to address the growing issue of plastic pollution in our oceans. Founded by Boyan Slat in 2013, this ambitious project has garnered global attention for its innovative approach to cleaning up the world's oceans. With millions of tons of plastic waste entering our oceans every year, we must come up with solutions quickly. The Ocean Cleanup's mission is to develop advanced technologies to rid the world's oceans of plastic. Their primary focus is on removing plastic debris from the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, a massive accumulation of floating trash located between Hawaii and California. This area is estimated to contain millions of tons of plastic waste, and poses a serious hazard to all marine life.

Ocean Cleanup's strategy is efficient and unique as the system harnesses the natural forces of the ocean to capture and concentrate plastic debris. These systems consist of large floating barriers that are strategically positioned to catch plastic as it drifts through the water. To date, over 8 million tons of trash have been removed from the ocean.

One of the most notable features of The Ocean Cleanup's technology is its ability to passively collect plastic while posing minimal harm to marine life. Unlike traditional cleanup methods that involve actively capturing debris using nets or vessels, The Ocean Cleanup's systems are designed to be non-intrusive and environmentally friendly. This approach is crucial for ensuring that the cleanup efforts do not cause added harm to the environment. In addition to its cleanup efforts, The Ocean Cleanup studies the sources and pathways of plastic pollution in order to develop strategies to reduce the amount of plastic entering our oceans at its source.

Since their inception, The Ocean Cleanup has made significant progress in developing and deploying its cleanup systems. In 2018, they launched their first cleanup system, System 001, into the Great Pacific Garbage Patch. While this initial deployment faced technical challenges in the beginning, it has provided valuable insights to inform the design and deployment of subsequent systems. In 2019, The Ocean Cleanup successfully deployed System 001/B, an upgraded version of their cleanup system, which demonstrated improved performance and reliability.

In the summer of 2023, System 003 was finally launched into the Pacific Garbage Patch. This marked a much needed upgrade from the previous system. The Ocean Cleanup has ambitious plans to scale up their operations and expand their cleanup efforts to other oceanic regions with continued innovation and collaboration and an aim to make a meaningful impact on the global problem of ocean plastic pollution. As they continue to refine their technology and strategies, I believe The Ocean Cleanup is poised to lead the way in the fight against ocean plastic pollution and hopefully to inspire others to do the same.

Article by:  
Brent Hung



# Plastic Seas, Wasted Years:

## A Call to Arms for a Sustainable Future

*Article by Brenda Hung*

Day by day many of us live our lives thoughtless and carefree of the world. We turn on our TV and scroll through social media to see countless videos, telling us the little time we have to save the ocean. Yet, a minute later, most of us have moved on with our days, caring about matters we deem more “important.” But why is this? As inhabitants of this earth, we have a duty to take care of the place for both us and future generations to come, which comes down to a simple solution: reduce plastic. But it’s not that simple. As a society, we have adopted the use of plastics into our daily routines, whether it's the plastic bag we use to hold our produce or the plastic it's wrapped in. Therefore taking plastic completely out of our lives, some imagine, would be impossible.

Researchers have highlighted alarming statistics, revealing the extent of the problem. According to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), around eight million tons of plastic enter the sea everyday. Enormous patches of plastic waste, equivalent to entire islands, drift across the ocean's surface, disrupting marine habitats and endangering countless species. Climate change exacerbates these challenges, with rising sea temperatures and acidification threatening the delicate balance of marine ecosystems.

In response to these urgent issues, a wave of innovation is emerging to combat ocean pollution and ensure the sustainability of our seas. Scientists, environmentalists, and entrepreneurs are joining forces to develop and implement groundbreaking solutions.



In 2006 the Philippines’ faced its worst oil spill to date, where over 130,000 gallons (500,000 liters) of bunker oil spilled into the Panay Golf. In an attempt to combat this, locals all over the island used a rather obscure method: hair.

“Hair is a natural, cheap, and renewable resource, you can find on most continents and even in your shower drain, which is why it makes this invention so much more effective” (Vox, 2018). This idea was credited to a man named Phil McCrory, a hairstylist living in Alabama. While watching the news on the TV, the program had been documenting the effects of pollution on aquatic life. He recognized that sea otters’ hair had absorbed the oil, creating a coat on the outside surface and as a hairstylist himself, he wanted to know if the same would work for human hair. This is because “hair is hydrophobic and biosorbent, which means it's able to repel water and collect contaminants like oil” (Guardian, 2018).

At first many did not believe that hair would work, but after a study by NASA, it was confirmed that the invention worked. Out of a million parts of oil particles, nylon bags filled with hair left a remaining total of 17 parts.



Just as we mindlessly consume resources on land, our activities have profound consequences beneath the waves. The pervasive use of single-use plastics, irresponsible disposal of waste, and unchecked industrial practices contribute to the degradation of ocean health. The consequences of this neglect are far-reaching, affecting marine life, ecosystems, and, ultimately, the well-being of our planet. Just like McCrory, we hope to see others explore and create more innovative ways to slow down the effects of pollution, such as our mass use of plastic. It is thanks to people like McCrory that give many of us hope and inspiration to further help out the earth and strive for a greener future, not just against plastic or oil but climate change as a whole.





Mr. Joel Sparks  
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