



OUR RESOURCES: GOING, GOING, GONE?

# 2013 MUNIS

The magazine of NISMUN

date

**3/2/13**

location

**NANJING  
INTERNATIONAL  
SCHOOL**

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Head of the Press Corp, Ga Yeong Bae

Welcome to NISMUN

# “It is not expected to be perfect, but it supposed to be fun.”

By Ga Yeong Bae



March 2, 2013- After a semester - or longer than that for some - of preparation, delegates from different schools finally gathered. Chairs had already held a meeting on Friday to give any instruction and know each other. We hope they enjoyed their time and are well-prepared to become ‘best’ chairs.

Over the course of two days, all delegates will discuss about a wide range of issues based on ‘natural resources’, such as overfishing, rapid decrement of arable land and combating the overhunting of different species.

NISMUN will be the conference where young graders can get the chance to work on their conference skills. Delegates will come from different parts of China, demonstrating their debating skills, expressing concerns for global issue, and making friends.

During the chair training, one of the chairs asked “Do we have to ‘force’ every delegates to give at least one speech?” - *Definitely Yes*. The chance of making contribution is always opened to all delegates. Delegates will

be encouraged to stand up and give a voice to their ideas. Some ‘sedentary’ or ‘inactive’ delegates will be asked to step up and make any contributions by their chairs. Heated debated will be welcomed, as long as there are no offensive remarks or discrimination towards certain nations. Of course, there will be short breaks between conferences. During this time, the delegates will be free to grab a snack and drink water, preparing for the debate that will be continued.

After the lengthy hours of conference, NISMUN delegates will be rewarded by meals and ‘fun events’: They will enjoy their time by dancing and eating fabulous food provided by *Eurest*. Conference in NIS is not big as other conferences like BEIMUN or THIMUN. But the size of the conference will not be a big deal. Delegates from different international schools in China will be in one place - expressing concerns for global issue, demonstrating their talent for debating, and having ‘friends’ from different parts of the China. Indeed, the size of MUN will not be a big deal. The passion of all delegates and chairs will be as great as bigger global conferences. Spending time in small-

sized rooms the delegates will not only broaden their perspectives but also get to know one another better. Thus, NISMUN is an excellent opportunity for both experienced and unexperienced delegates.

The members of the Press corp will be in each committee to take notes and pictures during the two days of conference. These pictures will be carefully selected with articles, and then published at the end of the conference. We welcome you to this year’s conference and hope you leave with life-long memories.

## MUNIS Press Team

### Press Corp in Chief

Ga Yeong Bae

### Editor and Reporter

Ga Yeong Bae  
Kiana Tingley

### Photographers

Diana  
Joon Young  
Vicky  
Grace  
Mert  
Hyeonji

EDITORIAL

# 'De' Forestation, 'Dis' Appearing Trees

By Ga Yeong Bae

Covering 31% of the land area on the Earth, forests produce vital oxygen and provide homes for wildlife and mankind. Most of endangered species live in such area, and around 1.6 billion people are relying on forests as their source of life - from food, fresh water, medicine and dwellings. If the number of unknown indigenous people are included, more than a billion of people's lives dependent to the forests.

However, deforestation is now posing a threat on such benefits. Following to the meaning of the prefix 'De-', deforestation refers to all clearance or removing trees. Deforestation can happen in different forms, from burning, clear-cutting for industrial usages and agriculture, to land degradation caused by extreme climates. It is estimated over 46-58 million square miles of forest are lost annually. Considering such areas correspond to 36 football fields every minute, this represents a very serious threat to the future of our species.

While the number of trees cut each year matches people's demand, the environmental impact caused by deforestation is not equivalent to what we do; it can be more devastating than what we do and expect.

Forests are essential for maintaining our environment and climate. They play a role as a carbon sink. Dust and carbon dioxide - that would otherwise be rather hinder the oxygen cycle in the atmosphere - are absorbed by trees and transformed as oxygen for wildlife and humans alike.



Deforestation, on the other hand, disables the carbon sink processes. More than 15 percent of greenhouse gases are a direct result of deforestation.

There are also far-reaching disasters - especially the decreasing biodiversity. Indeed, animal and plant species that have been diversifying in Amazon rainforest for at least 65 million years are now threatened or endangered. Vulnerability and degradation of soil are accompanied by deforestation as well. The trees - reservoir of water - are capable of storing water during rainfalls to prevent droughts and triggers the circulation of water and nutrients inside the soil through roots. However, since the number of trees are now decreasing, people are now suffering small and large natural disasters more directly and harshly. Actually, one geologist who investigated Haitian earthquake said

that "Only 1 to 2 percent of Haiti is densely forested. Other remaining areas were left dry and infertile, unsuitable for agriculture as well as minimizing impact of flood and earthquake. Further, since the ground without trees triggered a number of landslides in the epicentral regions."

As Mr Ellingwood - our opening speaker and a former correspondent for the Los Angeles Times - took a firm stand on the 2013 NISMUN's opening speech, deforestation is not the matter of fact that can be dealt with mere cleaning our surroundings. We need more practical and specific actions to 'save trees'. Deforestation is not only 'my problem' or 'your problem', but it is also 'the world problem' that everyone must be conscious and responsible.

# Fish farming and Overfishing

By Kiana Tingley



With a fast growing population, natural resources such as oil, food and water are becoming items in high demand. For instance fish farming and overfishing are becoming a bigger issue due to the effect of water pollution, marine ecosystems and biodiversity.

People around the world are eating 5 times as much fish then they were eating 40 years ago, meaning that farms need to produce 5 times as more fish then they were producing 40 years ago. This demand has led to overfishing.

Intensive fish farming, or aquaculture is now accountable for 50% of the worlds seafood consumption, and the numbers are expected to continue to increase. Fish farming is accountable for several environmental issues such as water pollution.

Fish farming is the form of raising fish in tanks, usually to harvest for

food. These type of fishes include carp, tilapia, catfish and salmon. Because the demand for fish is increasing, this has resulted in overfishing in wild fisheries. The global returns for fish farming in 2008 had a total of 33.8 million tones, with a worth of over \$60 billion.

There is the issue of water quality of the fish farms varies from farm to farm, and are effected by both soil quality, air quality and even types of fish, as some fish are sensitive to poor water quality. The global acceptable range for fish pH level is between pH 6.5 to pH 9.0. Any pH above pH9 increases the ammonium in the water, thus killing the fish.

Contaminated fish can also cause harm to humans if consumed. In South Africa, his farming is an pressing issue as the demand for fish increases. Fish farms were

supposedly made going to help reduce pressure on fish in the sea, to reduce the risk of being endangered and extinction. The problem clearly is that fish farming has negative impacts on the environment. Water in South Africa from dams, rivers and the sea is polluted by high levels of fish excrement, leftover fish food, drugs and other chemicals. Also, fish like salmon are being fed other fish which can be classified as cannibalism. The removal of large predators has made changes to the food chain, causing smaller prey of large fish like jellyfish to have a massive increase in their population.

If changes are not made, the food chain will continue to be changed, causing other animals such as jellyfish to overproduce with no predators. Also the pollution of water will just increase and contaminate people.

# Fish Dish versus Endangered species

*in General Assembly 1*

By Ga Yeong Bae



There was a heated debated carried on through the day in the General Assembly 1. After the break - hanging out with delegates sitting beside them or sharing Facebook IDs - the delegates soon turned strict and 'cold-blooded' debaters. All delegates were showing great commitment and determined to make resolution become more precise and practical to be passed; most clauses underwent changes with perfected words and clearer statements.

The first resolution dealt with combating the effect of overfishing on marine ecosystems and biodiversity. Having a delegate of Columbia as a chief submitter and Pakistan, Russia, and France as co-submitters, the resolution was demonstrating measures for fishing industries as a means of protecting marine species around the world.

The delegate of the Japan pointed out that the resolution lacks clauses that

mention how exactly the fish is going to be preserved, saying "Are delegates going to force governments to set fishing as illegal?" This skepticism was further supported by the delegate of Canada. Delegates dealt with vagueness of clauses by adding sub sub clause i and ii at operative clause 4-C: *fund raising to help save the animals .. in ways such as but not limited to marathons, performances and other sporting events.*

However, such clarifications did not seemed to satisfy some delegates, especially those who came from nations that people love eating fish and many people are using fishing as their main source of incomes. The ongoing debates on setting limits for fishing and banning fishermen to capture certain species were beyond the mere discussion for the overfishing and natural resources; the delegates were expressing concerns for rights and economical issues

within fishing industries and people's livelihood as well.

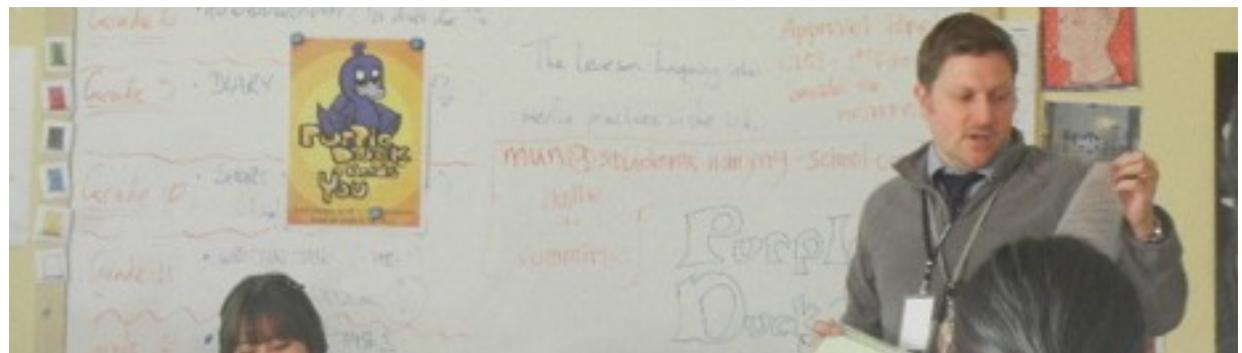
The delegate of Morocco questioned the validity of operative cause and stood against the resolution as a whole by describing the resolution as 'not realistic and non-sensible'. The delegate the Morocco developed his point by raising concern for fishermen around the world. Further, the delegate of China said 'It is Chinese people's tradition to eating fish... It would not be good to stop one's tradition and pose threat one's livelihood just because conserving several species...' With the support of Japan's delegate - who came from the country famous for Sushi and Sashimi, the delegate of China even claimed that some points in the resolution should be implemented to start over a new resolution. But the chair rejected this suggestion, reminding that "... the point of MUN conference is not to throw over a resolution but to make large amendments in order to make the resolution get passed."

Although the resolution was not passed, the passion came from ambitious delegates were impressive and it was hard for me to believe that 13 out of 16 delegates are at their first MUN conference.

DURING THE CONFERENCE



DURING THE CONFERENCE



# Awesome places to visit

By Kiana Tingley

**N**anjing, the capital of the Jiangsu is located in eastern China, following the Yangtze River, with a population of 4,105,400. A city full of history, Nanjing has many local attractions such as temples, museums and sight-seeing locations that make it an enjoyable city to visit. Here is a list of the top 5 places to visit before leaving Nanjing.

## Confucius Temple (Fuzimiao)

Confucius Temple is a popular attraction in Nanjing, habited by visitors in both the day and night. Confucius Temple was constructed in 1304, the Song Dynasty, and was a place for people go to and worship Confucius. Confucius was a famous Chinese philosopher and his ideas were structured around practical moral values.

He emphasized governmental and personal morality and social relationships, justice and sincerity. Although the temple has obtained damage on several separate occasions, such as being burned in 1937, the temple still stands strong today. The Qin Hai river flows in front of Confucius temple, as well as the longest screen wall in China (110 meters). A bronze statue of Confucius can also be seen outside the temple. The area surrounding the temple includes restaurants, cafes and small tourist shops.



## Yangtze River Bridge

This bridge stretches all the way across the Yangtze River, the largest river in china, and the third largest river in the world. After 8 years of construction, the bridge was finally finished in 1968. The double arc bridge is build in a traditional Chinese style architecture.

## Purple Mountain

Purple mountain is located in West Nanjing and is very beautiful. The area inhabits several parks, sitting areas, the Zixa lake and hiking trails. The Jiming temple is also very close to Purple Mountain, as well as other historical sites such as the Linggu Temple and the Xiaoling Museum. The tomb of Sun Quan, the founder of Eastern Wu during the three Kings period is also located at Purple Mountain.

