

THE DELEGATE



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IT'S OUR TURN!

EXCLUSIVE NEWS

Welcome to the 3rd ATSMUN

ATSMUN



THE CURTAINS ARE UP!

The 3rd ATSMUN is here! The opening ceremony of the 3rd ATSMUN was held early in the morning in the Patras TEI Conference Center, and was stunning as ever. It was quite hard to foresee the enthusiasm and excitement on the delegates' faces. First up was the Secretary General, **Anna Giapitzi**, who delivered a great welcoming speech and assured everyone that this MUN is going to be another unforgettable experience for each and every one of them. After welcoming the house, she made sure to mention the role of the UN, which is of course to unite the world into a greater force in order to be able to solve universal problems.

Then the floor was yielded to the President of the TEI, Mr. **Spyros Syrmakesis**, who having enjoyed the speech of the Secretary General advised the delegates to always shoot for the sky and not be afraid to try new things and participate in conferences of the UN such as this one.

There were a lot of amazing speeches this year, but surely one of the best ones has to be the speech of Professor **Georgios Babiniotis**, who, although unable to be with us, enlightened us with his wise words. He emphasized the importance of being able to stand in an argument and not just reproduce the unwise voices of the older generations, on the grounds that weak thinking, even if expressed in a right way can't convince anyone, can't make a difference and most importantly can't change the world.

Next, Mr. **Robert Stern**, distinguished lawyer and ICJ coordinator, took the podium. He delivered a speech based on and inspired by this year's ATSMUN subject: "Let the youth speak; young voices into politics make a difference.". His words about morality and the ICJ were truly inspiring. Next up was Cambridge Consultant **Stephen – John Taylor** who had prepared an interesting presentation according to which young people are the ones who need to pass their wisdom to the older generations, unlike what most of us think.

Anastasios Kardamakis, Co-Founder of the ATSMUN, delivered a different kind of speech and a message about 'stalling' in life unlike any other. The ceremony proceeded with the speeches of Mrs. **Sofia Kristopoulou** and **Aspasia Kontogianni**, ATSMUN Director. Both expressed their hopes for a fruitful and smooth conduct of the conference and thanked all the participants.

By Alex Liaropoulos

Interview with the Secretary General: Anna Giapitzi Papandreou

1) Can you tell us a few things about yourself?

My name is Anna Giapitzi-Papandreou, I have graduated from Arsakeia Schools of Patras and currently I am a first year Law Student in the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. I started engaging with MUN from the 3rd grade of Junior High School and I have participated in 15 conferences so far, both in Greece and abroad, as a Delegate, as a member of the Press Team, as a Chair, as a Judge, as a member of the Organising Team and lastly as a member of the Secretariat. MUN is my passion and I am willing to share it with everyone! As far as my hobbies are concerned, I really love dancing, listening to hip-hop music and traveling.

2) How did your past experiences in MUN conferences help you on a personal and professional level?

My love for English urged me to attend a MUN Conference. But by getting informed about global problems and finding about the horrendous abuse of human rights around the world made it very clear to me that what I wanted to do for the rest of my life is to support and protect the rights of every human being, try to stop the inequalities and in my own way make the world a more peaceful and tolerant place. But apart from that, MUNs helped me become a sensitive and active citizen not only of Greece but of the whole world and made me understand that what happens around the globe is our concern whether we're Greek, American or Iraq.

3) What was the most valuable lesson you learnt your MUN experience?

The most valuable lesson MUN teaches you is that in order to succeed you must work hard. This is something that all of us will come across many times in our lives, either in personal or professional matters. Work hard to succeed, work hard to achieve your dreams, work hard to get ideas across, work hard to change the world, work hard to change your life!

4) What was the biggest hurdle you faced in planning ATSMUN?

I was really anxious throughout the whole preparation of ATSMUN, because I wanted everything to be perfect. I dear-say that the whole organizational process was both, exciting and tiring. I had to sort many things out (always ATSMUN related) while I was in the middle of my exams in the University, but I think I managed to do my best. I hope that you will all enjoy the 3rd ATSMUN conference as much as possible! I gave my heart to it. Of course, the rest of the Organizing Team did a wonderful job and I thank them dearly!

5) Do you have any advice for the delegates who are just starting? Do you suggest them attending to conferences like ATSMUN?

It is really important to understand that you don't necessarily have to aspire to be a future diplomat or a Law Student in order to participate in MUN Conferences. You just need to be passionate about what you do, open-minded and sensitive about global issues. Moreover, never forget that your resolutions won't always be perfect and won't eliminate the problem as a whole. But what counts the most, is the fact that you cooperated with one another and tried your best in order to help your fellow citizens and make the world more just.



ANNA GIAPITZI PAPANDREOU

Interview by: Dionysia Alexandropoulou

Get to know the committees of ATSMUN (Part 1)

Security Council

The Security Council is one of the most important committees of the United Nations. Only Security Council has the power to make decisions that member states are then obligated to apply, which means that all the decisions made in the Security Council must be carried out. So the delegates who participate in the Security Committee must be cautious with their decisions and make sure they reflect their assigned country's policy. The Security Committee is going to discuss in the 3rd ATSMUN a main issue, the Nagorno Karabakh dispute. The Nagorno Karabakh is a landlocked region in Azerbaijan. Historically there has been a lot of conflict in the region. When the Bolsheviks took over the Armenia and Azerbaijan they declared Nagorno-Karabakh as a part of Azerbaijan, despite the majority of Armenian population in the region.

DiSec

If delegates choose to participate in this committee they will have the opportunity to deal with subjects such as the Disarmament of Weapons on an international level and will work together to find a solution that will lead to world peace. This year the DiSec committee specializes in biological warfare (the use of biological toxins or infectious agents as an act of war) including bioterrorism and the use ballistic missiles for war purposes and delegates will try to find ways to ensure that the world remains safe by such threats.

USAN

The Union of South American Nations (USAN) is regional intergovernmental organizations whose members consist of 12 South American states. There are also two observer states, Mexico and Panama. It was created in 2008 to propel regional integration on issues including democracy, education, energy, environment, infrastructure, and security and to eliminate social inequality and exclusion. It was inspired by and modeled after the European Union as its members share a common currency and parliament. The Union of South American Nations is going to discuss in the 3rd ATSMUN two intriguing issues, the situation in Venezuela and the assessing high crime rates in South America. The situation in Venezuela, with the country facing serious economic, social and political crisis after the death of Chavez in 2013 and the assessing high crime due to a number of social, economic and political reasons.

UNEP

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is a body of the UN which was founded in 1972 and is in charge of environmental actions and helps developing countries adopt proper policies. The UNEP commission is contributing in solving global issues like poverty and severe environmental problems. UNEP's role in achieving this goal is linking sustainability to the protection of the environment while also taking action to protect it.



Organizing Team

Ellie Apostolopoulou: We have the chance to negotiate about crucial issues that our world is facing. At the same time, I create strong friendships with students from all over the world.

Advice to MUNers: Don't hesitate to express your opinion, take the floor and let the others admire you.

Valia Thoma: In an MUN, you get the opportunity to take the floor and express your opinion in public without being afraid being criticized.

Advice to MUNers: Be like a windsurfer. Surf the wave the way you want and let the wind shape you during the travel.

Marilia Mageiropoulou: It was a unique experience for me. It was the first time I had the chance to help with the organization of the MUN. There were a lot of responsibilities but the experience and the skills that I gained were really useful.

Advice to MUNers: *Debate with real passion but also diplomacy. Don't be shy, have fun and be yourself!*

Kaiti Gavriilopoulou: It was my first time being a member of a MUNs organizing team. It was pretty special to me because I helped with the organization of our school conference. It was a challenge for all of us because we wanted to overcome the last year's success.

Advice to MUNers: Don't be shy! Don't be afraid! And just enjoy the three exciting days.

Nena Karoumpalou: My first time as a member of the Organizing Team was an exciting one. I've been a student here for more than ten years and it is very unique for me to observe the evolution of the institution of the MUN conference.

Advice to MUNers: Get well prepared and don't hesitate, speak up for yourselves and support your opinions because this is your chance to make a difference in our school.

Andreas Vlastaras: My participation in the organizing team of the 3rd ATSMUN Conference was undoubtedly an unforgettable experience, since I had the chance to both organize such an event from scratch and to communicate my ideas with the other members in order to enhance its level!

Advice to MUNers: Be passionate instead of being afraid, stay diplomatic and enjoy these awesome days!



“Let the youth speak; young voices into politics make a difference”

The involvement of young people in the democratic process is of the utmost importance for the following reasons: Firstly, it is important to note that politics are considered (in most scenarios) democratic because they allow everyone that has the ability to form an opinion about the subject in discussion to express their ideas on that issue. Were someone to exclude young people from this process, this would not be considered truly democratic. Furthermore young people are the ones that are going to ensure the sustainable development of the world and should for that reason be allowed to take part in such conferences where they can express their problems and find solutions for them. It has been proven that it takes only one person to start a change or a revolution. And should this change be for the better we should embrace it and do our best to make the world a better place to live in. Let's not forget that it is the radical ideas of the young that can actually make a difference in the world as we know it. Young people should not only be allowed but also encouraged to get involved in politics because they have a responsibility to help steer their future and make the world the place they want to live in. We have always been complaining that we want our quality of life to improve and participation in politics is the safest approach to achieve that. Everyone has a voice and that voice deserves to be heard because it matters. Young people's smart and innocent minds have not yet been influenced by money and personal interest

or extremities and that alone should lead us to believe that global politics can only be benefited by their involvement.

Does our involvement have a significant impact on the outside world?

It is well known that both politicians and people that are entitled to vote have a tendency to ignore young people's ideas about politics on the grounds that because of their age, young people are not yet ready to have formed and be able to express an opinion about politics. Despite this fact we generally believe that they do hear and are actually affected by our radical ideas. That's why it is important that we keep pursuing our dreams for a better world and we can only be sure that some day we will succeed. Some day, when world peace is established by law and no nation or single person suffers from poverty and hunger. Let's not forget that our participation in such conferences that have to do with diplomacy is definitely going to help us achieve what is by the previous generations considered as unachievable.

The ATSMUN supports young people's involvement in the world of politics and encourages them to work hard in order to make our world the place they want to live in; a world free of war and conflict caused by the personal interest of the rich. A world where both equality and equity stand as the basic values that connect people and give them the opportunities they deserve. Perhaps our generation is going to be the one that finishes global crisis once and for all.



Drawing by: Dionysia Alexandropoulou

FIRST DAY SNAPSHOTS !!!

