



Cloudy weather with a bit of sunshine, occasional showers.

19°C

In today's issue we introduce you to our new committees, we provide you with a piece of food for thought and keep you entertained! But above all, you have a closer look behind the curtains...

THE DELEGATE

WELCOME TO THE 5TH ATSMUN



The 5th Model United Nations conference has just begun! The ATSMUN opening ceremony took place earlier this morning at the Royal Theater, Patras. There is no doubt that both enthusiasm and anticipation for the upcoming negotiations could be clearly seen on the participants' faces. The first speech was delivered by the headmaster of Arsakeio Senior High School of Patras, **Mr. Emmanuel Petrakis** who welcomed the participants by pointing out the importance of the MUN.

Then, the president of Arsakeia-Tositseia Schools, **Professor Georgios Babiniotis**, spoke to the audience via video. He referred to the benefits of MUN, such as the experience that the students gain and the friendships that are made and he also stated the precious value of dialogue and negotiations.

The floor was then yielded to this year's Secretary General, **Aggelos Tsitsiridakis**. He discussed the feeling of uncertainty that dominates our world and the roles of the UN, one of which is to give solutions to economic and environmental problems. He then concluded his inspirational speech by urging all the delegates to be active citizens and leaders among leaders.

After that, **Mr. Filias** congratulated Arsakeia Schools of Patras and **Ms Christopoulou** stated that education is like history-it needs time to show results. Moreover, Mr. Papadakis (Organizing Coordinator of Western Greece) declared his support on innovative educational programmes.

Next, **Mr Robert Stern** (ICJ Coordinator) talked about nationalism and relativism, stating that everything is relative. As for nationalism, he emphasized the extreme type of nationalism, in which We believe in X, while Others believe in Y, resulting in a dead-end. Finally, he referred to a Charles de Gaulle quote: "Patriotism is when love of our own people comes first; nationalism is when hate for people other than your own comes first".

The ceremony proceeded with a speech by Cambridge Consultant **Stephen John-Taylor**, in which he highlighted the theme of this year's ATSMUN "Mindful Global Awareness" and E.D.G.E. definition (Environment-Development-Governance-Education). In the end, he focused on the difference between pure observation and observation-evaluation.

At the end of the ceremony, **Ms. Aspasia Kontogianni**, MUN director and the Head of the English department of Arsakeia Schools, gave a powerful and dynamic speech, getting an enthusiastic applause by the delegates by mentioning that we control the narrative and we are responsible for the change we want to see. All the delegates in the hall were left cheering.



Dear Delegates, let's discuss, let's negotiate, let's agree on the viable solutions that will change our world!

This year's new committees: Let's solve this!

Take a dive in the 5th ATSMUN's three new committees and the complicated issues they aim to solve.

HSC

Historical Security Council

With the Slovenian and Croatian parliament having declared independence, a Serbian minority in Croatia declared its own independence which would be part of Serbia. The outcome has been the initiation of conflicts between armed militias. In 1991, a war broke out between Slovenia and Serbia. The fight lasted ten days and witnessed a clash between the Slovenian army and the Serbian one. The conflict has definitely rose up by the contrasting political ambitions expressed by the three parties. Slovenia and Croatia had created the alliance of independent states, but Serbia proposed a new federation with greater central controls than before. Matters has been greatly sharpened by the different pace of democratization among the republics of Yugoslavia, and by the irresponsible whipping up of unfriendly sentiment against the opposing republics. While a political solution and dispute settlement has been attempted over the last months, the Balkans crisis has already resulted in numerous civilian casualties in former Yugoslavia.



ILO

International Labour Organisation

Future automation is likely to change the types and number of tasks in most occupations, instead of annihilating completely. A recent study that looked at both sides of the debate, found out that by 2030, in about 60% of occupations, will be automated. Instead of bank teller jobs being eliminated, their number rose. It is true that a small percentage of jobs will be lost, however, there is an even bigger percentage of jobs that will be generated or reformed due to our society's needs. In general, most countries were in agreement that robots would soon do humans' work, with only limited differences in their views of how this would affect society. In all of the countries surveyed, more than two-thirds were found to believe that automation meant that *robots would take over work done by humans within a half century.*



ASEAN

Association of Southeast Asian Nations Committee.

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations has taken action on the issue of hazes and air pollution. After a big environmental crisis in 1998 caused by open burning in Indonesia, the member states signed the ASEAN Agreement on *Transboundary Haze Pollution*. The agreement's main goals are the prevention and the close monitoring of land and forest fires and as a consequence the prevention of hazes that will move to neighboring states. Its importance can be found in preventing and eliminating an important environmental issue and therefore it has been ratified by all ASEAN members. Recently the Malaysian government implemented the program that has been designed to ensure the conservation of permanent forest reserve areas in Malaysia. Meanwhile, the World Wildlife Fund has taken measures to prevent and vanish further deforestation in the area by boosting protected areas.



INTERVIEWS WITH OUR CHAIRS

IOANNA MARIA MOURTZI

DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF HISTORICAL SECURITY COUNCIL

“What have you gained from MUN conferences?”

“The MUN conferences have been a brilliant experience for me, I think they’ve helped me evolve as personality, they’ve helped my communications skills get better, I have practiced my English a lot and I am interested in the field of international law. This is a great opportunity for me to evolve in this field too!”

KONSTANTINA MEXA

DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF YOUNG DELEGATES FORUM

“What is in your point of view the most important thing in order to achieve the best outcome?”

“First of all, you have to be self-confident, you have to be able to cooperate with the others and last thing maybe a bit of competitiveness if is necessary!”

ANASTASIS LAMPRIANOS STAPPAS

PRESIDENT OF UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

“In your opinion what qualities does a delegate need?”

“First of all, they need to be efficient in order to propose good and effective clauses. Secondly they need to see every aspect of an issue to form good and useful clauses in order to tackle the issue correctly. Last but not least, they need to be able to withstand the pressure of the meeting”

Tiny plastic, big issue...

by Dimitra-Antonia Tzagkarouli

Plastic pollution is currently one of the biggest environmental problems in our world and it occurs when enough plastic has gathered in an area that it affects the natural environment and harms plants, animals, or humans. It may seem like whatever you do now won't help with the always increasing amount of plastic waste but being aware of its dangers and taking steps to reduce waste, whatever those steps might be, is an important factor on the way to reduce plastic waste.

One of the most serious consequences from plastic waste is the one in the ocean, and it has a terrible impact on marine species. And as a result, it can affect the economy and food supplies for communities that rely on fishing.

Plastic can hurt tiny organisms like plankton, which larger animals rely on for food. If small organisms are poisoned from ingesting plastic, the animals that eat them will also consume toxins. The toxins work their way up the food chain and can even be present in the fish people eat.

But there are ways to avoid the fish getting poisoned. Consumers can help fix the problem by making an effort to reduce plastic waste. A great way to reduce waste is to use reusable bags when you visit the grocery shop. Think about it! People often leave stores with dozens of plastic bags that just get thrown away. Also drinking from a reusable water bottle instead of a disposable one can also be very helpful. You can also avoid to-go containers like cups from coffee shops and styrofoam containers for leftovers from restaurants. Instead, purchase reusable containers to cut down on waste.

Concluding, plastic pollution has a big impact on the environment, but plastic waste isn't unavoidable. Every time you make the choice to avoid or recycle plastic products, you lower the risk of environmental damage. Be conscious of your choices, and encourage those around you to think twice before they throw away plastic or buy unnecessary plastic items. We, the youngsters are obliged with the duty to protect our HOME and avoid the mistakes our ancestors made. We have the means and the strength to motivate the older generations. The question arises, though, is the following: To what extent are humans going to continue ignoring the clues, closing their eyes to the truth and pretending that nothing will affect every living creature eventually? It is about time, the teenagers reacted and taught everyone a lesson!!!

PHOTO GALLERY

