

The MUN Feed

The official COBIS Model United Nations newspaper

Welcome to COBIS MUN 2018!



Opening Ceremony

"THE SECRET TO SUCCESS IS NOT TO SPEAK MORE THAN YOUR COLLEAGUES BUT TO LISTEN MORE THAN THEM."

— IONUT SIMION, PWC COUNTRY MANAGING PARTNER

The snowy weather that hit Bucharest this week caused some problems regarding traffic, with late arrivals to the opening ceremony among them, but at the same time provided the delegates and guests with magical views of the streets and the city itself. A quick-bite to eat before entering, and then a couple of minutes spent taking photos of the august hall at the Central University Library of Bucharest, all lead up to intense anticipation as the first speakers would take the floor.

To start off, the Secretary General and the Deputy Secretary General wished everyone in the room a warm welcome to the conference. The general theme for the MUN is innovation, and Mr Peet's insightful speech about how mankind has innovated since the beginning of our species grabbed everyone's attention right off the bat. He continued with heartwarming and realistic points about how MUN attracts the most interesting and motivated students from around the world.

The guest speakers then followed up: Mr.Ionut Simion of PriceWaterhouse-Coopers, Ms.Hannah Porritt of COBIS, Mr.Colin C.Lovering, the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the British-Romanian Chamber of Commerce, and Mr.Pieter Bult, Romania's UNICEF representative. All of them spoke about innovation and how MUN helps young students develop skills needed to succeed later in life, using humour and their own life stories to get their point across in their speeches.

The opening ceremony gave insight to delegates in comprehending how successful people act and think and will one day change the world. To end, five student Ambassadors from their respective delegations (China, Russia, The United Kingdom, Iran and Uruguay) took the floor and discussed some problems each delegation is facing and how they hope to solve them throughout the duration of this conference.

President of the General Assembly



When I stepped into the committee room for the first time, I realised most of the delegates felt the same: inexperienced, nervous, but all excited. Since then, I've gone abroad and experienced a different conference style in PAMUN, where the numbers are larger, but voices loud. Taking that experience, I decided to try to share with you a bit of the skills I acquired along the way, hopefully guiding you well as a chair, so that you may enjoy yourselves as delegates. A kind word of advice: It's not about the number of times you get up to speak nor forcing yourself to come up with something to say. It's about being courageous to put your own ideas onto the floor to be discussed; and whether they are encouraged or rejected by the crowd, should serve to cheer you on to give it an even better shot next time. Good luck in the following days! — Luiza Ruptureanu

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By Victor Popa

Sight-seeing Trip



The first event of the day was sightseeing two of Bucharest's most famous landmarks: the People's Palace and the Village Museum. Split into two groups, one visited the Village Museum first followed by the People's Palace, while the other completed the tour in the opposite order.

Many delegates were astonished when they learned that the People's Palace is the second largest building in the world, preceded only by the Pentagon, and the heaviest in the world. Built entirely of Romanian materials with the only exception being a door (a gift from a former president of today's Congo), the grandiose construction displayed impressive Romanian

workmanship. The tour lasted roughly an hour and a half and yet only 3-5% was covered during the visit.

Albeit in freezing conditions, the Village Museum looked a snowy fairyland—a vision made even more complete with the presence of two lovely fat cats. With a passionate tour guide, our visiting delegates were given yet another insight into Romanian culture and history.

These two sites represent two contrasting poles of Romania's rich past and, hopefully, has endowed the delegates with a useful introduction to the country and promoted an international ambiance.



By Lena Stefan

Preparatory Mock MUN

As a little ice breaker and warm up, a mock MUN was hosted this afternoon. Preceded by a brief introduction, by IBSB Supervisor Blessy Savu, and a rundown of the safety regulations, the Secretary General and Deputy dropped a most startling topic: "A meteorite will hit the Earth in seventeen hours." Of course, this was not true; but to the countries of the delegates, it was. It was a perfect theme regardless: easily understandable and engaging. The buzz among delegates agreed with this.



Fifteen minutes later, an excitable line had formed near the podium to present their opening speeches. All speeches were as well thought out as the next. Proudly, the same can be said about the discussions that the delegates immersed themselves in regarding their country's stance.

Each delegate was fully dedicated to solving the imaginary problem, especially when the time came to writing resolutions.

It was a short mock MUN, but a good experience for all the delegates, both new to MUN and seasoned delegates alike. Everyone did wonderfully and took to the tasks with what appeared to be effortless ease. With this, there are expectations for great things coming out of the following days' sessions.



By Lena Stefan

Diplomatic Dinner

Following the inspiring and enlightening speeches from the Opening Ceremony we all made our way through the blizzard to the evening's meal. Delegates came dressed in colourful representative wear, highlighting the diversity of the UN. The three-course fusion meal was enjoyed by all, and for some it was a new taste to their palate.

Delegates were spread out across tables to meet newcomers of this edition's COBIS MUN, where they got to exchange previous experiences, their cultural backgrounds, and even engage in worldly discussions together with the guest Diplomats. It was a great pleasure to see the eager involvement of everyone when it came to solving global issues, diplomatic advice, and promoting internationalism. The Ambassador of India, Mr Darlong, was very pleased to see the potential of the students. Machteld Catrysse was delighted to see that although many delegates did not foresee becoming diplomats, they still understood the importance of diplomacy in other fields. Naomi Ezenwa (A Delegate from Corona Secondary School) got to learn about other's cultures and aimed to find innovative resolutions.

For the end of the night, to everyone's great amusement after yet another round of moving speeches, the MUN confer-

ence got more of a taste from Romania, as a captivating traditional dance was presented. Unusual to other folk dances, delegates were quick to record the show.

This unforgettable experience let future leaders of the world take advantage of learning more about diplomatic life as well as career advice; which left everyone with a motivated outlook on the future delegates with the encouragement that they will make a difference, and diplomats reassured, proud and hopeful that the future is in good hands.

By Milena Vergara



Guest Spotlight



*Thanglura Darlong,
Indian Ambassador*

After a short yet insightful interview, H.E. Mr Darlong kindly shared what he believes delegates should walk away with from this conference. He was very passionate about each delegate achieving their full potential and understanding their capabilities. He was not only pleased with today's youth's drive, but with their ambitions and involvement in global issues as well. Quoting an author, Nightingale Conan, he mentioned how "everyone is worth 85 billions dollars," saying that we should not underestimate how much is in our hands and not let our future be driven by others. Delegates at the conference are more aware and will bring prosperity.



*Christopher Duggan,
Canadian Embassy*

The Charge D'affaires of Canada in Romania, Christopher Duggan, took the floor to talk about his experiences as a diplomat, and how to be a successful diplomat should we choose that particular career path. He has worked as a diplomat in Nigeria, Jamaica, and Romania for the past 16 years, and explained how difficult it was, but a wonderful career option if you are determined to travel around the world, acquaint yourself with different cultures, and become a well-rounded individual. To conclude, he mentioned how happy he was that the youth of today was involved, along with diplomats, in the shaping of our future world.



*Jane Ada Ndem,
Nigerian Ambassador*

As Nigerian Ambassador, the first thing H. E. Jane Ada Ndem expressed was her delight at the delegation from Nigeria's lovely traditional clothing. She continued to talk about the importance of culture, and her delight at knowing that Nigeria was doing well based on what she gleaned from her conversations. She noted the gender equality was more prominent, and spoke of her happiness that the youth could attend such events, and that education was becoming more available to the children of Nigeria. Eye-opening, and heartfelt, she concluded by mentioning that this MUN is truly a wonderful opportunity for learning.



Yesterday's Events

- Sightseeing to People's Palace & Village Museum.
- Mock MUN about possible asteroid collision.
- Opening Ceremony & Diplomatic Dinner.

Today's Events

- First day of sessions for all five committees!
- Traditional Romanian Dinner.

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