

Pre-conference

THE CHEMUN CHATTER XVIII



CHEMUN XVIII

GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP AND INCLUSIVITY

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Welcome to CHEMUN XVIII : Global Partnership & Inclusivity

by the CHEMUN Secretariat



In today's interconnected world, we confront challenges of increasing complexity that transcend national boundaries, ranging from climate change to global health crises, and international security to sustainable development. Addressing these issues has become imperative. Global partnership and inclusivity have emerged as the cornerstones of cooperation between nations, as no one nation can resolve these problems alone. Thus, the significance of partnerships, particularly inclusivity on a global scale, cannot be overstated. By fostering collaboration not only among nations but also among organizations and individuals, we can achieve far greater goals than any nation, organization, or individual could hope to achieve.

At the center of these efforts and alliances lies a commitment to partnership and inclusivity. The diverse issues affecting communities worldwide require collaboration among nations. Governments must prioritize collective action over individual efforts to address these challenges effectively. As the climate crisis escalates, governments must continue to engage in joint efforts to make a meaningful impact. Through global partnership and coordination, we have taken incremental steps to mitigate CO₂ emissions, reduce plastic consumption, combat biodiversity loss, and more.

Genuine partnership requires inclusivity—a commitment to listening to all voices and considering all perspectives. Marginalized communities, underrepresented populations, and indigenous groups often bear the brunt of global challenges, yet their viewpoints are frequently overlooked. Commitment to inclusivity requires that we actively seek out these voices, acknowledging their unique perspectives, and integrating their alternative viewpoints to ensure that equitable solutions are reached.

The United Nations functions as an organization that promotes the ideals of multiculturalism, multilateralism, connection and serves as an international forum for collaboration that allows for such partnerships between nations. Despite the fact that hundreds of nations are represented in each organ and body of the UN, with exclusive blocs being formed in committees, committees such as the Security Council unequally giving some countries power over others, and few ways to truly enforce resolutions represent a lead to not all voices being heard. Can we truly say that true global inclusivity has been achieved in the United Nations?

As we move forward, it is critical that we reflect on how global partnerships are established, and even more important that we consider the different perspectives on each issue at hand. For instance, respecting and taking into account the ideas of minorities and indigenous groups whose opinions are rarely heard will become increasingly critical as the world becomes more connected if we want to ensure inclusivity.



Ultimately, we hope that CHEMUN XVIII will serve as grounds for delegates and student officers to engage in meaningful debate and discourse, with a larger perspective on emphasizing collaborative action as well as partnership, in order to shape positive changes in the world.



The Absurd Math Behind Knot Theory

by Aparna Anand

The advancements in science and math in human history have created some amazing things, such as the invention of electricity by Thomas Edison, or Einstein's field equations that led to the discovery of black holes. However, we often overlook some of the more niche branches, which can be some of the most fascinating and strangely useful. One such branch in mathematics is called Knot Theory - which is exactly what it sounds like - the study of knots.

The advancements in Knot Theory have provided more than just useful for finding a way to tie your shoes that doesn't immediately unravel, they have also led to a better understanding of the structures of proteins and DNA, as well as the creation of new materials that could be stronger than kevlar. So far, we have discovered around 352,152,252 kinds of knots; organized into a version of the periodic table for knots. This replaces the atomic number with the "crossing number", which is essentially the amount of times the rope crosses itself in a knot.



Of course, the entire branch revolves around finding new knots. This is much harder than it sounds - you'd assume playing with some thread like a cat with a ball of yarn would let you discover at least 5 new knots, and maybe get you one step closer to that Nobel Prize - except that knots that you think you pioneered could just be a previously discovered knot rearranged in a different way. If that seems unbelievable. This results in knot theorists (knotists?) spending hours puzzling over these things, constantly trying new arrangements to see if they've actually even discovered a new knot. By the time mathematicians reached listing the 10 crossing knots on the knot periodic table, even Kelvin Tate- the man who started the whole field- stated that he cannot be absolutely sure that all the groups are different.



This is what turned into the most important theorem in knot theory - the knot equivalence problem, devised by German mathematician Kurt Reidemeister. This transforms any two knots into each other, by three simple moves: The twist, the poke, and the slide. Now, instead of pointlessly tying yourself up trying to figure out if knots are identical, this simplifies the types of moves you can make to untwist a knot into another one. However, the Reidemeister moves aren't a foolproof solution, you can still spend centuries using them one after another, trying to untangle a knot. Eventually, a computer algorithm came up that automatically did this, but a program like that would run for longer than the end of the universe.

Instead, knot theory found a solution in an excellent piece of math called the Alexander polynomial. It has essentially only two rules that operate it - the first one is that the Alexander polynomial of the unknot is equal to 1. The second is that you can zoom in on any single crossing of a knot and vary it in three possible positions.

Forward, backward, and separate. Plugging them into the formula will tell you the number of crossing knots, which tells you what kind of knot it is. This is an example of math not just being numbers or a formula - each part of the formula is simply a representation of the physical form of a knot, which goes for almost every single important formula out there. Einstein's Theory of Relativity (through the Schwarzschild solutions) predicted black holes even before we found them, by describing the singularity. Learning mathematics is like learning a language, except it's a language that presents itself as a solution to a puzzle.

$J \# K$

$x_1 \ x_2 \ x_3 \ y_1 \ y_2 \ y_3 \ z$

1	1-t	t	-1	0	0	0	0
2	-1	1-t	0	0	0	0	0
3	t	-1	1-t	0	0	0	0
1'	0	0	0	1-t	t	-1	0
2'	0	0	0	-1	1-t	0	0
3'	0	0	0	t	-1	1-t	0
z	0	0	0	0	0	-1	t

“The Dangers of Elderly Drivers”

VS

by Nakyung Kim

“Age Equals Experience”



As we step out into the city streets, it's clear that cars are everywhere. The convenience of driving makes it a preferred mode of transportation for many, particularly in countries like the United States, where it's said that life without a car is nearly impossible. However, as people age, the physical and cognitive abilities necessary for safe driving tend to decline. Reflexes slow down, reaction times become longer, and decision-making skills can deteriorate. This has led to a rise in accidents involving elderly drivers, some of which result in serious injuries or even fatalities. There are numerous reports and statistics highlighting the higher fatality rates in accidents caused by older drivers.

At the same time, it's important to recognize that today's elderly population is not what it used to be. Many older adults are healthier, fitter, and more conscious of their well-being than in previous generations. This makes it difficult to generalize when discussing the risks of elderly drivers, as some may be in much better condition than younger drivers. As a result, the question of whether there should be an upper age limit for driving has become a hot topic in society. On one hand, we can define "elderly" as 65 and older, but it's not as simple as drawing a hard line based on age. Each person's health and capabilities can vary greatly. Someone in their 70s or even 80s may have no difficulty driving safely, while others may face challenges earlier on. This creates a dilemma: how do we fairly assess when it's no longer safe for an individual to drive? This debate became even more heated recently in South Korea, where a 68-year-old driver caused a tragic wrong-way accident in Seoul, resulting in nine deaths and six injuries. It was later revealed that the driver had been a city bus driver with 40 years of experience.



The incident has sparked discussions about the safety of elderly drivers, particularly those responsible for transporting large numbers of passengers. Many argue that measures need to be put in place to mitigate the risks posed by older drivers, especially those in public transportation, where the safety of many people is at stake.

On the other hand, there are strong voices opposing the idea of limiting driving privileges based solely on age. Critics of age-based restrictions argue that age is not an accurate measure of a driver's abilities.

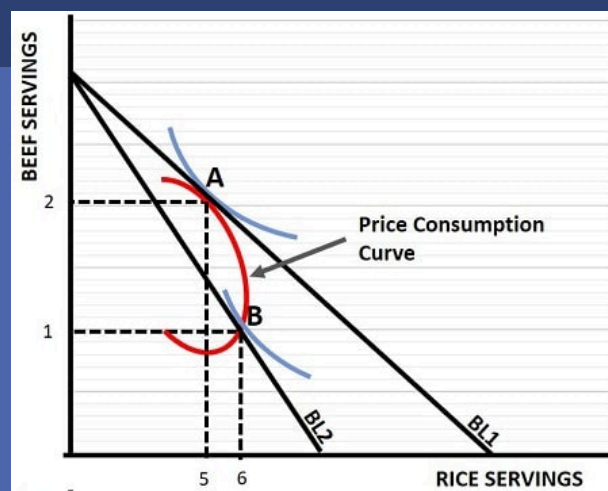
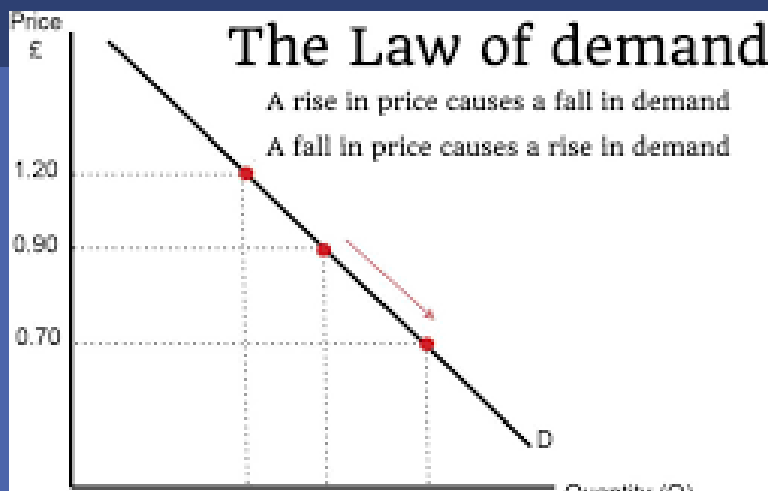
For example, some argue that older drivers often have more experience and better driving habits than younger, more reckless drivers. As Kim, a 62-year-old bus driver in Gwangju, stated, "Accidents have nothing to do with age. For transportation workers, age is more of an indicator of experience." Companies also monitor the driving behavior of their employees, including speeding, sudden stops, and rapid acceleration, through drive recorders installed in their vehicles. Similarly, Lee, a 73-year-old taxi driver with 50 years of experience, expressed his frustration over the negative perception of elderly drivers. "It's upsetting that people automatically view older drivers like myself negatively whenever an accident occurs, despite the fact that cognitive abilities vary from person to person. Accidents happen because of driving habits, not age. We should investigate high-risk drivers, not just elderly ones," Lee said. He also suggested implementing a conditional driver's license system, where drivers undergo periodic assessments to determine their fitness to drive, regardless of age. The discussion about elderly drivers is not a new one, but with aging populations and a growing number of older adults on the road, it's becoming more urgent. Finding a balanced solution is crucial. Age does not define ability, but it does raise certain risks. Policymakers must carefully consider how to ensure public safety while also respecting the rights of elderly individuals to maintain their independence. Whether it's through stricter testing, conditional licensing, or enhanced safety measures, the goal should be to create a system that accurately assesses each driver's capabilities without resorting to blanket age restrictions.

Ultimately, the debate between "The Dangers of Elderly Drivers" and "Age Equals Experience" continues, but both sides agree on one point: safety should always be the top priority.

Legally,

Breaking the Law

by Akshaya Sundararajan



To all those physicists, chemists, economists, and mathematicians out there reading this article, the number of laws you had to memorize as a child could be quite daunting. However, imagine if, by the end of this article, I defy a fundamental law in economics with the aid of another theory. Yes, this could confound you, but it is the truth. The Law of Demand is a fundamental law stating that as prices increase, quantity demanded decreases and vice versa. For instance, if the price of pens increases then the quantity demanded falls relatively due to the change in price. This causes the demand curve to slope downward. However, will this be true in every scenario? Let's explore and find out. In economics, there are certain theories that talk about Veblen goods and Giffen goods. When the price of Veblen goods increases the quantity demanded also increases. Veblen goods include expensive watches and luxurious bags. In this case, demand is no longer downward-sloping- the demand curve slopes upward.

The interesting concept behind this idea is conspicuous consumption. Consumers buy the goods at a higher price to show that they are of a particular status. This is like affording a Hermes bag increases your asset value. Giffen goods are non-luxurious goods that have low prices, however when the price increases demand also increases, like potatoes. Thereby demand curve slopes upward defying the law of demand. Having established this point of view, water is soon to become a Giffen good. This means that as the price of water increases, demand in turn will increase. Thereby this theory will become reality. Breaking the law and landing in trouble is not very wise, however, breaking the law and obtaining a Nobel prize is indeed a surprise.

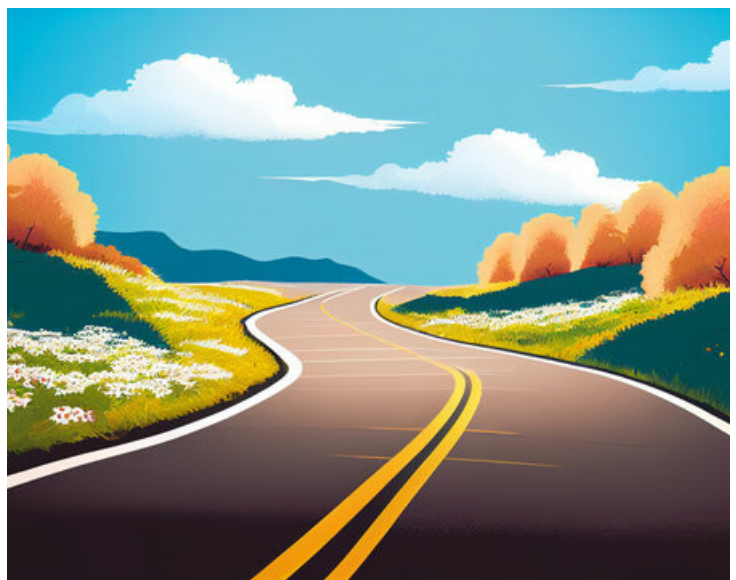
The Road To CHEMUN

by Mira Sacheti

Preparing for the Chennai Model United Nations Conference (CHEMUN) is an intense and demanding process that requires months of hard work and dedication. It all begins in February and March when the Secretariat is selected – the team responsible for organizing the event. This planning phase lasts until November, leading up to the conference. To kick things off, mock topic questions are created and distributed among the delegates in the club. Each delegate must submit a country information chart, a position paper, a resolution, and an opening speech. Their submissions are evaluated using a detailed rubric, and those who score in the top ten receive priority when selecting their committees, ensuring that effort is recognized and rewarded as well as helps prepare them for debates and procedures.

One of the most exciting aspects of CHEMUN is how the conference theme is chosen. The Secretariat brainstorms themes inspired by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and previous themes CHEMUN themes. Everyone has a chance to share their thoughts, leading to discussions and votes that narrow down the options. This collaborative approach ensures that all voices are heard and that important global issues are addressed.

Once a theme is established, committee chairs work with the Secretariat to develop topics relevant to the conference theme. Care is taken to avoid overlap between committees so that each discussion remains unique and engaging. The Secretariat helps refine these topics to ensure they align with the theme and encourage meaningful debate among delegates.



CHEMUN is known for its excellent organization and adherence to THIMUN procedures, which creates a welcoming environment for all participants. The conference offers various special committees like the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and UN4MUN, each with its own rules. Delegates also enjoy perks such as free transportation, t-shirts, and water bottles—small details that significantly enhance their experience.

Much of the credit for CHEMUN's success goes to Ms. Mac, the director, who plays a crucial role in keeping everything running smoothly. Her commitment to maintaining high standards ensures that all delegates feel included and supported throughout the event. Organizing transportation for over 600 participants is no small feat; it requires careful planning and coordination.

However, this journey isn't without its challenges. At one point, managing over 600 participants created a waiting list and complicated organizational efforts. Additional committees had to be formed, and extra materials were ordered just to accommodate everyone. Concerns even arose about whether there would be enough space for the opening ceremony. Balancing this extensive planning with busy schedules as seniors proved to be tough.

In the end, coordinating CHEMUN is a grueling but rewarding experience that teaches valuable lessons about teamwork and leadership. From selecting themes to managing logistics for hundreds of delegates, every step is essential in crafting an event where young leaders can thrive. As CHEMUN continues to grow, its commitment to excellence ensures that each conference prepares future generations to effectively engage with global challenges.

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**Strengthen the means of
implementation and
revitalize the global
partnership for
sustainable development**

How does History impact the current SAISA?

by Nakyoung Kim

The South Asian Interscholastic Association (SAISA) brings together eleven international schools from across the South Asian region with the purpose of fostering collaboration among educators and students through academic, cultural, and athletic events. SAISA emphasizes values such as creativity, sportsmanship, and ethical competition, with the goal of promoting physical, emotional, intellectual, and creative development in students. However, historical and geopolitical tensions between some member nations have had a significant impact on the current state of SAISA, affecting participation, interactions, and even symbolic gestures such as the display of national flags.



During my first experience participating in a SAISA volleyball tournament in Dhaka, Bangladesh, I was initially excited to meet and compete against students from all the SAISA schools. I had been under the impression that all eleven member schools would be present. However, I soon learned that the American Embassy School in Delhi had withdrawn from SAISA, and two Pakistani schools—Lahore American School (LAS) and Karachi American School (KAS)—were unable to attend due to visa issues. This raised questions for me about the deeper reasons behind their absence, particularly regarding the tense relationship between Bangladesh and Pakistan. Historically, these tensions date back to the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War, during which the Pakistani military was accused of committing mass atrocities in what was then East Pakistan (now Bangladesh). This history of violence, coupled with the lack of accountability and the demand for justice from the Bangladeshi side, has left deep scars that still affect the diplomatic and social interactions between the two nations.

This historical backdrop has contributed to complex visa processes that make it difficult for Pakistani citizens to visit Bangladesh, including students from Pakistani schools who wish to participate in SAISA events held there. As a result, schools like LAS and KAS often face barriers to participation, which ultimately undermines the inclusivity and collaborative spirit that SAISA is supposed to represent. It was surprising and somewhat disappointing to see how these historical issues continued to manifest in the present, even in the context of an educational and athletic event that is meant to promote unity and shared values. Additionally, the relationship between India and Pakistan plays a significant role in shaping SAISA's dynamics. Both nations have a long history of conflict, and this tension extends to SAISA events as well. For example, Indian and Pakistani schools rarely, if ever, host events like volleyball, football, or basketball together. The historical enmity between these two nations creates an underlying current of distrust that spills over into the sporting realm. While sports are often seen as a way to bridge divides, in this case, they seem to reinforce them.

One of the most striking observations I made was the absence of Pakistani flags in certain schools, including our own. Even though LAS and KAS are part of SAISA, their flags were notably missing from the flag displays at both my school and the venue in Dhaka. This small but significant omission highlights the deeper reluctance to acknowledge or engage with the idea of Pakistani identity in certain contexts, even in a supposedly collaborative environment like SAISA. The absence of these flags serves as a symbolic reminder of the historical and ongoing geopolitical divisions that persist between these nations.

Even within the context of the tournament, national loyalties seemed to take precedence over the SAISA spirit of unity and collaboration. I noticed that Indian schools would often cheer exclusively for other Indian schools, while Pakistani schools would support their teams. This created an atmosphere of separation rather than one of camaraderie. Instead of bringing students together through the shared experience of competition and teamwork, national identities seemed to erect invisible walls between us. I found it disheartening that instead of transcending these national boundaries, SAISA events sometimes served to reinforce them.





In my opinion, we need to rethink the way we approach these issues within SAISA. Rather than avoiding or ignoring historical problems, we should use the platform to address them head-on. By encouraging open dialogue and mutual understanding, SAISA could become a space where students from all these countries can learn to see past their national differences and connect on a human level. It's understandable that these historical wounds are still painful, but if we continue to build walls instead of bridges, we are only perpetuating the cycle of mistrust and hostility. The absence of Pakistani schools and their national symbols in events like SAISA may seem like a minor issue in the grand scheme of things, but it speaks to a much larger problem. As young people, we have the power to reshape the future of our region, and SAISA should be a place where we begin that process. By fostering an environment where all students feel equally represented and respected, regardless of their nationality or history, we can begin to break down the barriers that have kept us divided for so long.

From my perspective, it's clear that SAISA's original mission of fostering collaboration and personal growth is being undermined by these lingering historical conflicts. While the tensions between Bangladesh and Pakistan, or between India and Pakistan, may be deeply rooted in the past, I believe that SAISA has the potential to be a platform for reconciliation and understanding. Yet, by allowing these divisions to persist—whether through restrictive visa policies, the absence of flags, or the clear divisions among students during competitions—SAISA is missing an opportunity to promote real dialogue and healing among the younger generations.



Power of the Unimagineable

by Alya Elmahdy

People often think the best things in life are the real things. The things you can see, feel, hear, touch, taste. I'm not one to object, but there is an end to all the real things. It may not be in sight but once the thoughts and ideas reach a certain point, they brush the line between reality and fabrication. For example, once your thoughts start passing that line you start thinking of things that aren't real. They only exist in the space of your mind.



The mind is power. People may skim past or take it for granted but your figment of imagination has not one limit. And that's the best part. You can fabricate anything, and in your mind it is real. You can create an entire storyline with a simple thought. But every power has its weakness; at one point these thoughts become delusions and once you glimpse back into reality, the real things crush your thoughts. It's not always bad but sometimes it hits you with shock: you are so deep into the fragments of your mind that when you come back out, you forget that these things aren't real. You can't elaborate on them because, well, they're not real. Not one word in the English language can fully describe your thoughts because that word doesn't exist. The human mind is complex, with multiple nooks and crannies that are different for everyone. Same thing with the figments of imagination, it's different for everyone. The amount of difficulty for two people to picture the same thing is a huge challenge. Everyone thinks of fabrication differently. No matter what, something will always be different. That's the best part, it's unique to you, and to you only.

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