

CHEMUN CONVERSATIONS

Saturday, November 7th, Day 2

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Srivats Ramaswamy

SECRETARY GENERAL



Q: This being your last year of CHEMUN, How is it going ?

It's very chaotic. It's probably by far the most chaotic CHEMUN I've had, mainly because I have to do all the behind the scenes work. We had some issues in the morning that we had to take care of so it was a pretty stressful time but it's going pretty smoothly since then.

Q: So how is virtual CHEMUN different?

It's all a lot different, in the sense that things are just super easy when you can just go and talk to someone, versus having to text them and hope they see it. The committees in person, you can just go visit them even for you guys as press, you guys could go and take pictures and talk to people in person it's so much easier, but virtual, it just it's harder. I have three windows with 15 tabs open because there's just so many things that I have to take care of. So there's just so many different things that I'm in charge of doing. Everything is literally on one screen in front of me. It's frustrating at times, and sometimes I'm a part of one video call on this side and another video call on the other side. But then again, if we were in person, we'd have other things to worry about. We'd have to book food, we'd have to book snacks - stuff that we don't have to worry about virtually.

Q: Since you are very experienced now, could you please tell us what skills MUN participants learn and develop?

I'd say that I've gained a ton of confidence throughout MUN. I've always been able to articulate my ideas correctly, and to some degree know what I want. I'm opinionated. I've always been like that but MUN is what made me gain more confidence to become a better public speaker, become a better writer, and become more engaged with the world. For everyone who does have this chance, the greatest lesson you can get out of MUN is becoming more engaged with the world and knowing what's going on around you. That's super important for the future.

Q: What message would you like to leave for future CHEMUN-ers

People always talked about collaboration and how beneficial it is. I never really bought into it. I always thought, okay yeah collaboration is sometimes good in group projects. But you could always end up doing something on the same project on your own and it turns out well. But, before CHEMUN, being a part of the Secretariat showed me that nothing can happen if we don't have even one of our members, who are super integral to our success. It's true collaboration and has shown me how important collaboration is to get things done. I think that is a bigger message for our world, and how our world needs more international cooperation and collaboration. Because without collaboration we really can't get anything done.

Yoobin Yoon

- Johaan Mittra & Mayan Reddy

DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL



Q: What was the most positive thing that happened to you during this lockdown?

Well, the most positive thing that happened during the lockdown was that I was able to spend more time with my family. Spending time with my family was what I mostly did during the lockdown, but I also gained a new hobby which is drawing.

Q: What were the challenges of having a virtual CHEMUN conference?

One challenge that we faced was communication. MUN is a conference that connects and simulates interactions between people from different backgrounds, cultures, and regions. Since everything is happening

virtually, we have to constantly communicate online through emails or Google Hangouts. Also, we always have to be on our computers to talk to others, to get things sorted out. and to be organised for CHEMUN - because all of the communication happens online. I personally miss mingling with one another for preparation, for example, organising placards and committee rooms. Yeah, so those two main things, communication and although the second one isn't quite a challenge, they are the main challenges we faced in virtual conferences.

Q: What skills have you gained by participating in the CHEMUN and MUN in general?

Before joining MUN, I was a very introverted person, who feared to speak in front of people, but I practiced speaking in front of a large audience in debates from MUN. I'm now more comfortable to share my ideas with others. Also, I started to care more about issues that are going around us after joining MUN. I think this is the biggest takeaway from MUN because these are the issues that we need to really care about as next generations and next leaders of the world.

- Seojin Kim

Karan Chakravarthy

CHAIR IN EC II

Q: How much time was put in to prepare for CHEMUN?

They had a few workshops for chairs before beginning the day explaining what exactly we'd be doing on the day, and also just a little bit of prep time before. So I would say that before the delegates came in, probably around 30 minutes before. Just talking about what exactly we'd be doing.

Q: How does CHEMUN differ from other MUN'S?

It's different - not only in the procedure but also to be a part of it. It's very easy, everybody's really welcoming, Everyone is very respectful of each other's opinions. And I think this is just really nice to see how everybody is so nice to each other.

- Veke Sankar



And Now For Some Words From Our Participants About Their Committees Yesterday...

AVA TIKEKAR - HSC

In the HSC, we open ourselves up to a world of struggle with which we are unfamiliar. Although we all come from different backgrounds, HSC allows us to connect through historical events and debate the flaws in our past leaders' logic. Today, I was able to connect with fellow delegates about the frivolous inconveniences in the times of covid, which seem so insignificant in comparison to the challenges faced by previous generations.

VIKRAM NORONHA - APQ

I'm really excited to see what debate our committee can engage in this year. Despite the drastic change in setting for this year's conference, I have watched them work together very well in lobbying so it can only get better from here.

KARAN CHAKRAVARTHY - EC

So today, the EC committee started lobbying. The delegates would talk to each other about resolutions and come up with a final resolution that would be debated tomorrow, the second day of CHEMUN. They also did the opening speeches, where basically they showed the other delegates their country's stance on a certain issue which would be debated about. One of the few challenges they faced would be that it is some people's first time and it all being virtual was a bit overwhelming for them, There's always tech issues or other things that could go wrong. This was a really nice opportunity for the members as all the other participants were very respectful towards each other, and were willing to work together with everyone throughout the day.

ROMAIN POGGI - GA4

We faced some challenges during lobbying as it was hard to organize and have everyone agree on one thing. Our group members all had different views on whether or not each others' clauses were necessary, useful, and repetitive with other clauses. When ideas in clauses overlapped, it was difficult for everyone to agree because there were some disagreements as well. Also, another challenge was we didn't know if others were working on the resolution or not because we didn't have our cameras on all the time. Because it was a virtual conference, we couldn't really see if other delegates were actually working. So, staying on task was another challenge because we had to work on the resolution for about a total of 5 hours. Something that was interesting and fun was getting to know people. There was one person in our committee who was a superstar on Instagram, having about 65,000 followers.

ROHAN ROBERSON - ECOSOC

Today our Committee is about the measures to ensure sustainable food supply and consumption. We had two resolutions written on that topic. Essentially what we did is, I got the people who are working on that topic and put them together and then split them into two different groups, so they could work on two different resolutions. They then share their pre-written causes. For example, recommending accommodations, even some media to corporate technology built by NGOs, but interchange which allows farmers to make a fertiliser better than the nutrition uprising area fertiliser, you know, using their technology.

So, basically incorporate technology to make agriculture more sustainable and provide education for farmers, so they can produce more food all year long. And so they can understand the risks of soil, soil depletion of soil as well. While camping. While growing the same crop year after year in the same place. And so those are just some of the ideas they came up with, and I mean from there they just wrote the resolution, and the other chairs and I reviewed it, we sent it off to the approval panel.

DOYEON KIM - SC

Today in the Security Council, we presented our opening speeches and went into the lobbying session where delegates drafted clauses regarding the situation in Hong Kong, Sahel, and Mexico. We finished early and were able to get started on debating the clauses of Mexico. Even though the clauses we debated today were unable to pass, we are planning to have a more fruitful debate tomorrow.

JUYANG KIM - HRC

Today, our committee was pretty busy as we went through the introduction to the chair, delegates presented their opening speeches, and the delegates mostly did lobbying. On top of that, as a chair, although I wanted to help delegates while lobbying and responding to their questions, there weren't any delegates who reached out for help which I thought things were going well. The delegates were quite nice as they listened to everything very well and no one left in the middle of the conference today. However, we faced the most prominent technical issues because we had a lot of issues during our opening speeches.

The delegates were not able to connect to the air meet stage and that was the reason why our committee took about 2 hours to finish the opening speeches. But after we got our head wrapped around, the chairs told every delegate who couldn't go because of the technical issues. After that, every delegate did get a chance to present their opening speeches and it was all good at the end. Something that was interesting and worth sharing is that our committee was very quiet and independent as they didn't ask any questions to chairs. However, there was one delegate who was in charge of everything which was quite easy for chairs

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