



MESSAGE OF SOLIDARITY KICKS OFF OLINMUN 2010

By Maureen Pellicer

The 7th OLINMUN (Olinca Model United Nations) heralded 2010 with an exciting opening ceremony.

This year we were honored to receive students from schools from Monterrey, Cuernavaca and Mexico City, including Colegio Anglo Britanico and Colegio Madison (Monterrey), Alexander Bain School, Instituto La Paz, Lancaster School, Colegio Williams, Colegio Tarbut, Peterson School, Instituto Kipling Esmeralda, Colegio Maguen David, Greengates School and students from Olinca Cuernavaca and Olinca Periférico.



Miss Tere's opening speech

Olinca founder Miss Tere opened the ceremony by welcoming parents, teachers and students from the visiting schools.

About this year's OLINMUN she said that "for these two days the topics that will be discussed in each committee are topics with a big social and political impact.



Charles Kerbel, Janine Paollela, Carlos Rubio Pimienta, Miss Tere Compeán de Carrera, Maritere Carrera de Verduzco, Cristina Beltrán, Graciela Zermeño and Alicia Zama.

The main objective is to solve the conflicts in a civilized way."

She also tried to inspire and encourage the delegates by saying that "each and every one of us is responsible for making this world a little bit more human."

Lic. Salvador Campos Icardo, Commissioned Executive Secretary for the National Human Rights Commission and former Mexico ambassador to such countries as France, Senegal and Turkey, was special guest speaker.

"It is an honor to be here today and I am glad that there are schools like Olinca that organize these type of activities to debate topics that have a worldwide impact like the ones that will be discussed today," he said.

Lic. Campos emphasized that "Mexico has always cared about the principle of no intervention and the protection of each country's internal rights."

He ended by saying that the solution for any kind of problem is or should be the basis of all dialogue.

A delightful presentation by students from Olinca's nursery and kindergarten departments highlighted Mexico's nationalism.

At the end of the ceremony, this year's Secretary General Carlos Rubio Pimienta gave an inspiring speech wherein he stressed the importance of the United Nations Organization and officially declared the OLINMUN 2010 open.

INTERVIEW WITH AMBASSADOR SALVADOR CAMPOS ICARDO

By Diego Flores

After a warm welcome during the Opening Ceremony, we had the chance to interview the honorable guest of the VII Model United Nations OLINMUN 2010, Salvador Campos Icardo, who is the Commissioned Executive Secretary for the National Human Rights Commission, and who has served as an ambassador for Mexico in France, Morocco, Senegal, Greece, Cyprus, Turkey, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan.



Interviewing Secretary Salvador Campos Icardo

Why do you think it is important that students debate over current worldwide topics?

It's important for students to realize that there's a world outside Mexico, and the only way this world can work harmoniously is by cooperating with each other. So it's a great way to give them the chance to work and develop matters that are current and learn how to present a topic to the General Assembly and get the support needed.

How relevant is it to discuss topics related to Human Rights?

Currently in the United Nations, First World Countries have given less importance to this matter and have focused more on economic topics. So when countries such as Mexico and other developing nations ask for support for these problems, they remind others just how important topics such as education, hunger and other social matters are.

JORGE FONT INSPIRES YOUNG GUESTS WITH MESSAGE OF LIFE'S PURPOSE

By Diego Flores



Professor Jorge Font (center) is surrounded after his conference by a group of admiring fans.

Professor Jorge Font, Director of the Philosophy Department in Teleton and former head of Olinca Cuernavaca, offered a conference during OLINMUN 2010 in which he spoke about his personal experiences concerning a fateful accident some years ago and what he has learned from it.

The phrase of the day was that life asks us questions and we answer with our actions. He offered examples of people who have been outstanding in world affairs. By making an analogy with those people who tried to solve the problems in the world,

Font noted that what OLINMUN is doing is the same, seeking to end ignorance in order to create more conscious people.

Beyond the notion of international relations, Jorge Font has knowledge about life itself, and sees it as his purpose to help people answer the questions that life asks of us every day, and trying to make people be the best they can be.

INTERVIEW: SECRETARY GENERAL CARLOS RUBIO PIMIENTA

By Diego Flores

Carlos Rubio Pimienta was interviewed this week in his capacity as OLINMUN 2010 Secretary General.

What's it been like to be Secretary General so far?

It has been an incredible experience. I have learnt a lot of things and I have acquired and developed many abilities and skills. It is true that being Secretary General involves a huge amount of responsibility, since you are expected to organize the whole model: choosing topics, preparing the staff, among other chores. You have to work with a huge amount of people, but this has certainly helped me to improve my leadership skills.

Why did you agree to be this year's Secretary General?

At first, it was a great shock and I didn't know how to react. Nevertheless, I had always wanted to be Secretary General, since OLINMUN is one of my personal favorite activities in Olinca. I knew that being Secretary General implied a huge amount of responsibility and expectation; however, I decided to accept the challenge and tried to organize the best OLINMUN.



Secretary General Carlos Rubio Pimienta

Is this year's OLINMUN any different from the others?

We have worked really hard to make this model new and surprising. First of all, we have managed to set up a stand by Amnesty International, an organization whose main objective is to defend human rights across the globe. We have chosen extremely controversial topics, especially those dealing with gender difference, sexual inclination and weapons of mass destruction.

What are the most important topics discussed in this year's model?

I consider that all topics debated are important and influential in different manners. Given the fact that we are all citizens of the world, we have got the responsibility to solve the problems that affect certain regions or areas of it; from the legalization of the labor force at 14, to the disarmament of North Korea, to the public demonstrations of the homosexual and lesbian community.

What is your goal as Secretary General?

My main goal was to change (some) students' opinion of OLINMUN, to make them understand that it can be extremely interesting if you get involved and participate. OLINMUN is an incredible opportunity to develop different skills and get informed about what is occurring across the globe.

How would you describe the experience of OLINMUN?

I would have to say that this has been a once-in-a-lifetime experience. I have spent many hours preparing and organizing this model, but it has all been worth it, since I know that OLINMUN will be a success. Furthermore, OLINMUN has given me the opportunity to meet new and incredibly intelligent people whose opinions and views of the different world conflicts debated in this model have had a crucial influence on my own perspective.

UNEP: BOAT NOT QUITE ROCKED ON THE ENVIRONMENT

By Luis Alfredo Leon



A pensive mood informs deliberations.

The United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP) discussed environmental problems. China opened the debate on Topic A, which was an evaluation of the Kyoto and Montreal protocols.

China stated that economically strong countries such as itself should be concerned over environmental problems. The U.S.A. continued the debate stating that their government was willing to discuss the creation of a new protocol, aiming for a better tomorrow for everyone and that this new protocol would benefit every country rather than just a few.

As the debate went on, most of the delegates began to feel the heat of the discussions and kept going forward with their questions very quickly. But thanks to careful moderation, everything was conducted in a controlled way.

After a series of questions mostly between the U.S.A, China and Germany, the majority of delegates said that the old protocols were very useful for their countries and no new one is needed. Besides, a new protocol would be disastrous for their economic situation.

Much debate continued on this topic and a resolution seemed near, when a crisis concerning toxic waste in the Amazon arose, forcing delegates to suspend Topic A. The subject of Topic B concerned First World countries buying chemical waste.

UNHRC: MUSLIM NATIONS ARGUE THE 'HUMANITY' OF GAYS

By Maureen Pellicer

The United Nations Human Rights Council discussed the topic of the Death Penalty for homosexuals in Muslim countries. The debate started when there were two immediate points of view. On one side, Muslim countries like Afghanistan, United Arab Emirates, Egypt and Iran said that homosexuals are not human beings and should not have any rights. Therefore, the death penalty was appropriate.

On the other side non-Muslim countries such as Spain and China argued that the death penalty shouldn't be an option since homosexuals are also human beings. An interesting point of view was the one from Syria. The country established that their government and religion do not accept homosexuality, but do not consider the death penalty as an option since homosexuals are also people.

A resolution was reached in Topic A in which several proposals were discussed and accepted, arriving at giving political asylum to homosexuals in countries that aren't Muslim, and Muslim countries agreed to only use the death penalty in severe transgressions of the law.

The second topic discussed concerned the violation of human rights in prisons.



A young delegate states her case during proceedings.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY A: 'GAY RIGHTS' CREATES CLEAR DIVIDE

By Camila Loera



Member nations convene to discuss gay rights.

General Assembly A had two very important topics to discuss this year. Topic A was the public display of homosexuality and topic B was the militarization of the Arctic.

It became clear during discussions that religious countries were not only against homosexual displays but homosexual communities as well. Most of them stated that being a homosexual was against human morals and also an abnormal act. Liberal countries tried to defend their position by saying that gays and lesbians were people and should have the same rights as any other human being.

There were some countries that argued that PDA between homosexuals not only offended their religious beliefs but created a bad influence for their society, especially their children. Liberal countries responded by arguing that homosexuality is not an illness or something you become, it's something that you are born with.

Finally they reached a resolution which involved allowing gay people to leave peaceably in their countries, to decriminalize being gay in Muslim nations, and to improve sex education and allow public demonstrations for the rights of homosexuals.

Topic B discussed the militarization of the Arctic. It was basically a fight for territory but the truth is that the general interest lies in rich oil deposits. The countries most involved in the debates were Russia, U.S.A., Canada, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Finland and Iceland.

CRISIS HITS AS NORTH KOREA MAINTAINS DEFIANT STANCE

By Jimena Galindo

The Security Council gathered for two important issues that concern the world: the first one concerned the matter of the disarmament of North Korea, as well as NATO's hierarchy versus the Security Council.

Once all delegates were present, the session began with the North Korean delegate stating that the reason for increasing production of nuclear power was essential for the country's protection.



Delegates were taken unawares by the crisis.

Although this excuse was first accepted because of possible aggressions from some of the countries, this reason is no longer valid, since no country has shown any intention of attacking North Korea with military force. The debate mainly centered on the dangers of permitting North Korea to keep its weapons. As expected, some severe accusations were made against North Korea, but still the nation refused to resume the Six-Party Talks.

A crisis occurred when a ship with civilians was taken over by North Korean rebels. The civilians aboard were taken to Hawaii, and were being kept there as hostages. Meanwhile the ship was filled with nuclear missiles. The North Korean government was not behind it but the radicals were not believed to have acted alone; one or more superpowers were believed to be behind it.

The rebels killed 10 hostages as negotiations stalled. Finally a diplomatic solution was reached including the rescue of hostages, the acceptance of International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspectors, and a review of North Korea's military actions.

UNIFEM: MUSLIM NATIONS UNMOVED BY WOMEN'S RIGHTS

By Jimena Galindo

The United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) convened to discuss the new marital Afghan law and violation of women's rights. The debate focused on the constant discussion between orthodox Muslim countries conforming to the Arab bloc and the American and European blocs.

The Arab countries argued that they cannot change the Koran or their religion, which is why the modern world should be the one that adapts to it, not the other way around. On the other side Europe and the U.S.A. were not willing to accept this law in any way since it is a complete violation of women's rights.

As expected the debate went on without any change from any country's position, making it difficult to reach a resolution, although what was finally decided upon was that the Marital Afghan Law should be changed and applied to all countries obeying the Koran.

The second topic discussed the impact of the economic crisis on women migrant workers.



Female delegates for Islamic nations contemplate their position.

UNHCR WRESTLE OVER PROBLEMS FACING REFUGEES

By Pamela Nery



The plight of refugees continues to remain a hot button topic.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) delegates discussed many important points concerning refugees in Topic A: "Refugees Rights and Obligations". Delegates were aware of the difficulties that refugees face arriving in a new country and having to start a completely new life. The emotional stress of undergoing this important transformation should be limited as best as possible by the efforts of governments.

They had to reach a solution in which they could make it possible for refugees to have the same human rights as anyone else, in which

refugees are treated as potential future citizens of a country and not as illegal immigrants.

However, to do so, delegates had to find a way to avoid discrimination, unemployment, attacks on refugee camps and the issues of asylum, amongst others.

The delegate from the Netherlands talked about his country's solution, which is to provide a place to live, medical services, food and most important to encourage refugees to keep their culture even though they are no longer living in their native country.

There were outstanding performances from delegates representing the U.S.A., Iran and the United Kingdom. Unfortunately the delegates were not able to reach a resolution as delegates became bogged down in their respective positions.

Topic B concerned the legal rights of host nations in the case of refugees.

OAS: BOLIVIA ARGUES UNTENABLE CASE FOR DICTATORSHIPS

By Ximena Mendoza



It is hard to imagine dictatorships being popular with anybody.

The OAS debated “The Concept of Dictatorships in Latin America”. Various nations first discussed Bolivia’s position in favor of this system and whether it is workable to establish such a system. Canada’s position against dictatorships made a great impact on the committee as it offered financial aid to countries who try to stop dictatorships, leaving Bolivia in an untenable position.

Nations such as Argentina and Venezuela agreed with Canada’s offer and reminded others about the bad experiences they had experienced with past dictatorships in their own history.

A resolution was reached in which all countries agreed under the strict supervision of the United Nations to limit the power of dictatorships worldwide and strictly control the armed forces in such countries where dictatorships exist.

The OAS also discussed immigrant rights.

RUSSIA CONCEDES PROBLEMS OVER CHILD LABOR ISSUE

By Constanza Cruz

The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) argued in topic A over the “Legalization of the Labor force at 14”. The session started off with different points of view.

The Vatican only wanted to support the Catholic countries, while the U.S.A. didn’t want to give money to help maltreated kids in factories since the poorer countries wouldn’t offer assistance for their part.

Things started to get interesting when a delegate from Italy entered at the last moment, arguing (along with France) that laws should be made in order to defend the children from getting harmed in factories.

After this suggestion, Russia began to concede that this is a huge problem in their country and for this reason, factories that have children working in bad conditions will be immediately shut down.



There is a strong need to monitor the child labor situation.

However, the U.S.A. had a different opinion: which was that children should be able to work in factories but with the rights to be able to defend themselves. After a strong discussion, most countries agreed that creating laws to protect children was a good option. It was agreed by all in the resolution that the legal age to work should be 16.

A crisis concerning child trafficking for adoption purposes prevented much progress in Topic B.

NATIONS CLING TO NUKES FOR 'PROTECTION' PURPOSES

By Mariana Vasquez



Strong debate remains over how to handle the nuclear weapons situation.

General Assembly B gathered with delegates from countries all over the world to discuss two important international problems; Violation and limitations of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and the rights of nations in military interventions. Each delegate stated their position about nuclear weapons and the problems these weapons might cause. They offered various solutions to deal with this problem.

The countries that spoke the most were United States, France, Iran, Russia and North Korea, the latter stating that they were defending their

country from any "attack" they might receive, in the process opening a moderated caucus, and asking interesting questions to other delegates about their position.

The United States and Russia are the countries which have the most nuclear weapons, but none of them are willing to end this unless the others do. Cold War memories still evidently linger.

Almost all delegates whose nations are in possession of nuclear weapons stated that nuclear weapons are needed to defend themselves from any terrorist threat, or a threat made by any other country. However, no resolution was reached.

Topic B concerned the Right of nations in military interventions.

H1N1 FLU CRISIS SPARKS SAMPLE HOARDING FROM WHO

By Pamela Nery

The World Health Organization (WHO) discussed the "Refusal of countries to share samples with the WHO". The Influenza A (H1N1) is an important issue that was debated and it is mostly these types of samples that some countries refuse to share to the WHO.

Different points of view, information, and comments were exposed during the discussion of the topic. Mostly, undeveloped countries are not sharing samples of the virus to the WHO because they can't afford the vaccines that the WHO has made.

Delegates proposed some solutions to this problem, one of these being that those countries that are not sharing the samples are offering to sell them in order to generate funds to buy the vaccines.

The resolution was to have a foundation in which there is a neutral laboratory and every country will help with the sources they can. The ones that have a strong economy will help giving money, others will provide the samples necessary and other will support with technology and scientists.

The second topic discussed was the "Inefficiency of Health Systems in Developing Countries."



Some countries are looking to profit from the flu crisis.

CLOSING CEREMONY MARKS ANOTHER GREAT OLINMUN

By Jimena Galindo

Before the closing ceremony visitors were invited to attend an interesting conference given by Brenda Suárez, who is involved with Greenpeace Mexico and promotes critical and responsible actions in schools regarding global warming.

After two days of intense discussion and finding resolutions for problems concerning the World, OLINMUN 2010 came to an end. During the closing ceremony Miss. María Teresa Compeán thanked everyone who participated in making this great Model of the United Nations possible. All of the attending schools were also recognized and invited to join us next year.

As this happened, all of the delegates waited with anticipation and hopes of receiving an honorable mention or being named best delegate of their respective committees. This was a difficult decision for the Chairs since everyone did a great job representing their delegations.

After Secretary General Carlos Alberto Rubio Pimienta awarded all the prizes, he gave a closing speech thanking everyone for the success of this year's OLINMUN and announced next year's Secretary General, who will proudly be Pamela Martínez Jaime.

We would like to thank all the delegates, the secretariat, advisors, coordinators teachers, observers, and everyone else involved in making OLINMUN 2010 possible.

SEE YOU IN OLINMUN 2011



Secretary General, Undersecretaries
and OLINMUN school board.

