

# 2018 JMMUN Staff

ECOSOC

UNDP



SOCHUM



CTC



The Press

*Also, a special thanks to all of the admins and teachers who helped make this conference happen!*

# JMMUN TIMES



Volume 3

On The Spot Reporting from JMMUN

February 10 & 11, 2018

## Best Delegate Gives Exclusive Interview

Zen Tamura answers questions from the JMMUN Times Staff

**Q. How did you get people to come to your bloc?**

A. Widely speaking, in any MUN conferences, you prepare and research for it so basically most people have the same solutions in mind. You'll find quite a lot of resolutions and a lot of ideas similar to yours so what I try to do is talk to a lot of people, saying "Hey, if our stances, positions, and policies are similar, why don't you come join us?" I try hard to talk to a lot of people.

**Q. Do you have tips for convincing people to join your bloc?**

A. Well, I guess just start speaking more.

**Q. Do you have any tips for the conference?**

A. You should research and come well prepared, and I think that an important element is you should be thinking what other countries are doing. You can research all you want and you can know your country's position fully, but I think that knowing how other countries are like is equally important.



## Hugging Bill Clinton: Clerc shares funny stories

After listening to Fabien Clerc opening speech on the "unseen" side of the World Economic Forum (WEF) and of Switzerland, his homeland, the JMMUN Times staff was curious to obtain further details about his funny and memorable moments as a WEF staff member.

One funny memory that he provided turned out to be a rather scandalous story. Mr. Clerc explained that for every forum, the event staff printed out booklets for all of the participants. The booklets included profiles of the participants along with the name of the husbands or wives they usually brought along with them. "One time," he recalls, "one of the participants was a CEO from..." (CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)



## An interview with the Secretary General

Larissa Talentino talked about her MUN experiences and JMMUN 2018

**Press:** So said your first MUN experience was Berlin. What was that like?

**Larissa:** Shocking and eye opening, because I've never seen a blonde person in real life. I've never seen blond people that are tall and are wearing very different clothing. And I was 12 at the time, and there are these 16-year-olds talking to me and I was like, "Oh my God, these guys are twice my size. They're twice my size in height and in width..." But that was what kick-started my wanting to be more outgoing. Because if you... (CONTINUED ON PAGE 7)







## SECRETARY GENERAL INTERVIEW (continued from page 1)

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**Press:** So you mentioned that your first MUN experience was Berlin. What was that like?

**Larissa:** Shocking and eye opening, because I've never seen a blonde person in real life. I've never seen blond people that are tall and are wearing very different clothing. And I was 12 at the time, and there are these 16-year-olds talking to me and I was like, "Oh my God, these guys are twice my size. They're twice my size in height and in width..." But that was what kick-started my wanting to be more outgoing. Because if you think you're outgoing in Japan, I feel that's not enough when you're talking to these intimidatingly tall people. I guess that was sort of what led me to want to start pursuing activities outside of school...

**Press:** Berlin seemed to be an awkward conference for you, but was there a conference that was more embarrassing?

**Larissa:** The first JMMUN was awkward. There were only two or three schools participating and the majority of students were from Senzoku. I didn't know how to do research, and I didn't have much conference experience at the time. I was just talking based off of what I thought about a certain topic and there was no factual evidence there. There was one time where another delegate said to me, "Oh, you mentioned a percentage of women who work. What was it?" But I actually didn't have any factual data with me. I gave a random percentage of women, and I didn't do any research. He kept on asking me questions about it such as "Where did you read that? I'm very interested in what you presented." So, I had to tell him I actually didn't do any research and had just made it up. There was a moment of him saying "Oh," and that was pretty embarrassing.

**Press:** You seem to have experienced some rather difficult and embarrassing situations during the first few years of MUN, but three years later, you're now the Secretary General of JMMUN. What were some of the difficulties in preparing for the conference?

**Larissa:** I think managing everything beyond what you would expect to happen was difficult. For the past three years, I had these groups of really outgoing *senpai* above so when I was in charge of something and I messed up, I could just directly go up to them and say, "I'm so sorry I messed up. How do I fix it?" However, it was really interesting this year because, throughout the whole MUN club experience, when someone younger has had a problem, I'm now an S2, so it's all up to me and the other S2s to fix it. Especially when you're dealing with the background guides, if someone asks you one question, you might need to do 15 pages worth of research. So that was difficult for me... You also need to think about "Do the Chairs know what they're talking about? Do they know what the President of the United States has said recently about their topic?" You need to make sure everyone is on top of their own topic...

**Press:** Finally, what do you want the participants of JMMUN to get out of this experience?

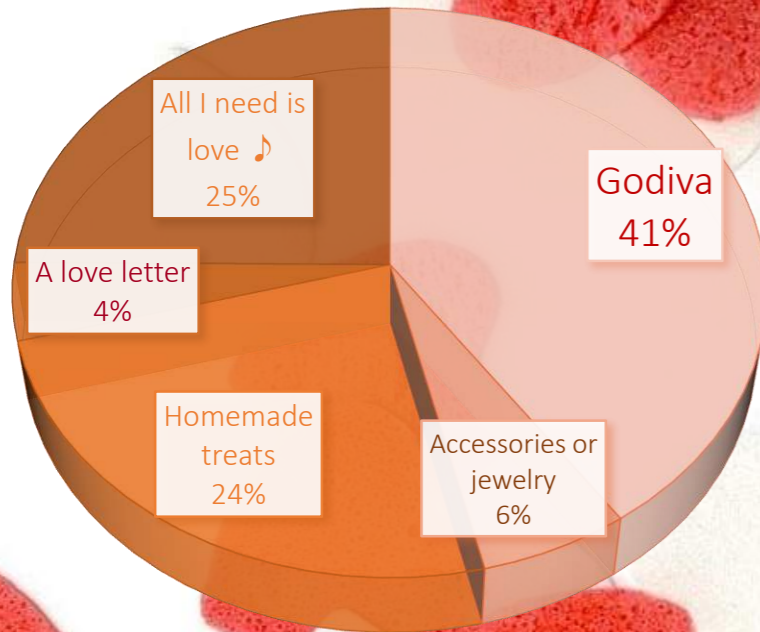
**Larissa:** My impression of MUN in Japan is that they're very process-oriented. They're very process-based; to get an award, you are required to print out a certain number of articles, look up a certain number of websites, and talk a certain amount of times. They make it very statistics based. But from my experience, the interesting thing about MUN is that, for example, when we're discussing women's rights, the truth is that we can't do anything about it just by talking about it. A MUN conference is really just words; we're just discussing about a topic and its theories. What would be interesting is that if delegates take the knowledge obtained from it and they find something they can do outside, such as participating in a charity event, joining an event, or visiting a country that really interests them. This would motivate and make them more interested. A class at school is not always motivating enough to make you want to go learn about economics, but for example, if you're talking about a successful economic system carried out in Switzerland, you wonder, "Why is Japan not able to do this?" Or something like "Why is this African country so poor?" When you see it in numbers it's boring, but I think if you join MUN and meet new people and have the experience of it all, it's a lot more interesting. So I want people to see MUN not as a bunch of numbers but as a feeling and as an experience... So if people can just say something crazy or just get a chance to do something they haven't done before, I think that would be really cool.





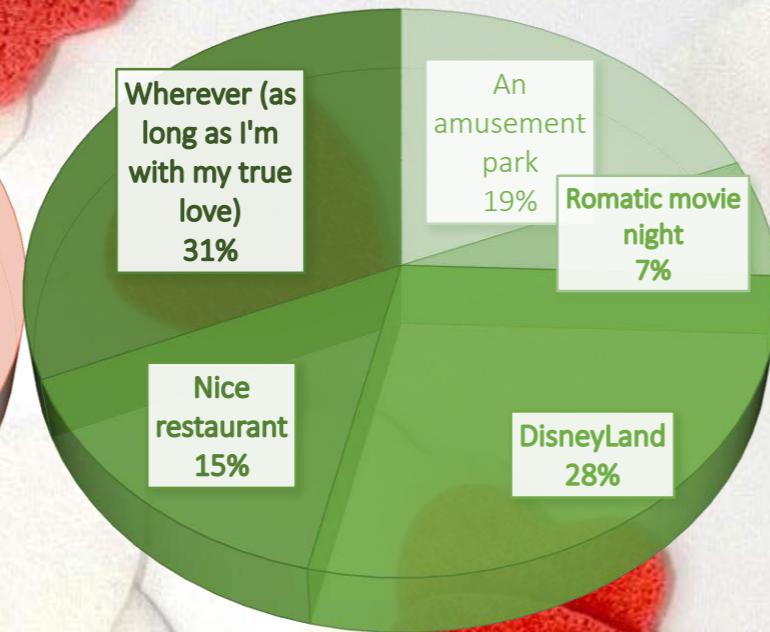
# Valentine's Survey

## 1. What do you want for Valentine's Day?



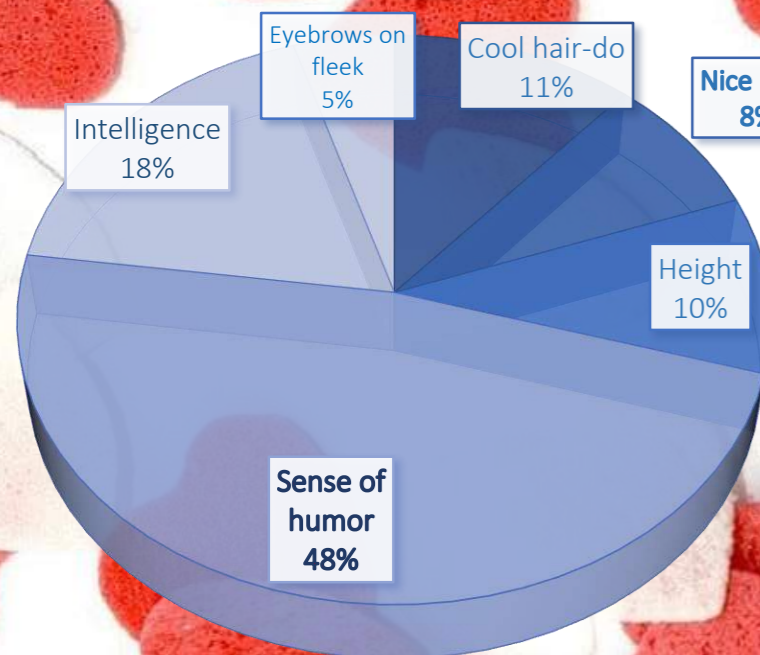
WRITE-INS: ①Candy♥️ ②Godiva is too sweet for me. ③I don't think I can receive it, but all I need is love.

## 2. Where would you ideally like to go on a date?



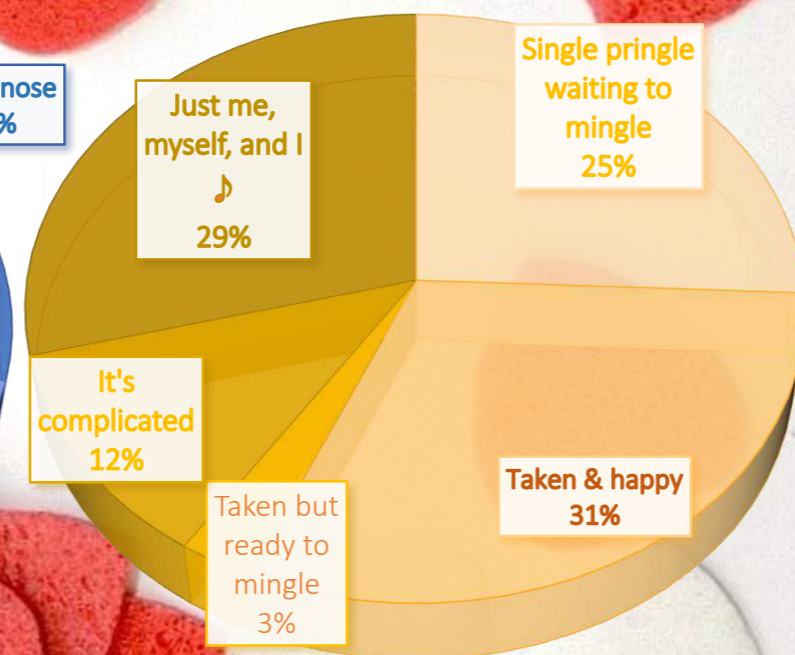
WRITE-INS: ①Home like nothing inappropriate ②BTS Concert ③Well once again I don't think I can go on a date...

## 3. What feature do you find the most attractive in a person?



WRITE-INS: ①nice voice ②muscle/masculinity ③kindness ④character ⑤

## 4. What is your relationship status?



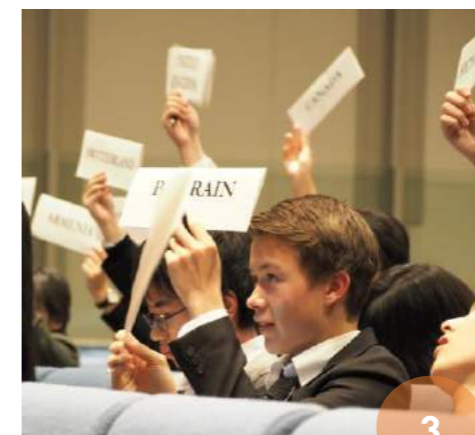
WRITE-INS: ①? ②single with no chance of being in a relationship

## CLERC INTERVIEW (continued from page 1)

"...the United States." Mr. Clerc described how the CEO, instead of bringing his wife, brought a female acquaintance along with him. The WEF staff assumed she was his wife. Unfortunately, his acquaintance's name was added as his wife's name to his profile in the booklets. The CEO angrily demanded that the 5000 booklets be destroyed and reprinted without the woman's name. At the time, it was a stressful and chaotic situation for Mr. Clerc and the staff members, but he told the story with a smile.

Another memorable event was an encounter with two famous people that occurred in an unlikely spot: the bathroom. Clerc went to use the restroom, and he soon realized that was standing between two famous Bills. On his right was Bill Clinton, and on his left was Bill Gates. "If someone had taken a photo of us, it would definitely have been amusing," Mr. Clerc chuckled. Another time, Mr. Clerc was acting as an assistant to Bill Clinton. When the former US President's car arrived, Mr. Clerc opened the door for him and reached his hand out, intending to shake hands and greet Mr. Clinton, which was the usual protocol. To Mr. Clerc's surprise, Clinton took a firm hold of Mr. Clerc's hand and pulled him in for a hug. "It was unexpected, but we now share some kind of intimate bond, so it was nice." Mr. Clerc also mentioned that, while with the WEF, he had interesting conversations at drinking establishments with past Japanese prime ministers. However, he added that there were other difficult and arduous aspects to his job as a member of the WEF staff. "I sometimes could get only two hours of sleep," Clerc said sadly. He added that some politicians can be demanding and difficult. "Some of them treat me like a slave," he said ruefully. "One politician even woke me up with a phone call at three in the morning, asking me to deliver a bottle of Coke to his hotel room."

During his speech, Mr. Clerc mentioned that he had switched between several different majors in his first years of university before finding his true interest. His advice to high school students who are at a crossroads now and are trying to decide their future career is to study abroad. "It brings you a new taste for travel and new languages," he said, describing how his own experiences studying abroad opened up many new opportunities. Being curious and asking questions are also important habits to build, Mr. Clerc said. Young people should never refuse an experience offered simply because it is challenging or different, because such experiences lead to new skills. "It's okay to fail," Mr. Clerc added, "because losing a couple of years to failure is nothing as long as you are happy in the future." He concluded our interview by saying that "we must all listen to our hearts."





## Belgium Faces Off with Russia and China in SOCHUM

After thanking the other delegates for their cooperation, the delegate from Russia stood up. “The delegate of the Russian Federation motions for a 3 minutes Moderated Caucus, of speaking time 3 minutes.” The motion was passed. The committee, discussing net neutrality and national security was separated largely into two blocs on the first day. Russia, China, and Pakistan led the formation of a bloc promoting the idea that the government of each country has the ownership of specific regulations that they would have to institute in order to “ensure human rights.” On the other hand, the United Kingdom, Australia, and Chile led a different bloc agreeing with net neutrality, ensuring developed countries would provide financial aid to developing countries to secure online networks.

“We are still not clear of what each country is promoting, so we hope to be able to work with countries that have similar ideas to us,” commented the Belgian delegate after the first session. Directly after this interview, Belgium seceded from the Russia-China bloc in order to group with EU nations staying neutral on the topic. This movement brought chaos to the floor, especially for Russia and China who were working with Belgium from the start. Day one ended with two main blocks having very different ideas. Day two kicked off with a motion to explain what each bloc worked on as delegates wrote long into the night. “Staying in character is the most essential features in a committee”, was what the Chair, Hana Yajima told the delegates at the start of this second session. “There should not be a big amount of compromise, and there should be more debate promoting what your country thinks.” This advice caused the delegates wandering between ideas to rethink their countries’ stances and was a major turning point in the formation of the final blocs. In the second unmoderated caucus, the Press was able to get an exclusive interview with Switzerland. When we made an inquiry as to why the Swiss delegate was not in the major blocs, he answered, “All we want is to ensure peace. The most important thing is for nations to move forward to net neutrality, and if the United States of America is going to join a bloc with Russia, we cannot be in the same group with a country with strong government-controlled internet security.” The formation of a bloc composed from Switzerland, Iceland, and the Netherlands seemed to be the last stand against Russia and China. All delegates were able to engage in an enlightening debate as their opinions clashed and reconsidered their countries’ positions.

## Advanced Committee Economic and Social Council Committee Topic: Poverty in Developed Countries

The advanced committee heated up on the unique topic of looking at poverty in developed countries, instead of the developing world. The conference started off with placards rising for names to be put on the speakers list. At first, only motions for unmoderated caucuses were made, leading the chair to advise delegates to hold a moderated caucus to set up the flow of debate.

The debating in moderated caucuses soon divided the delegates into three groups: developing countries who believe in the necessity of resolution in their own country, developed countries who believe that developing countries should act as students and learn how to escape poverty, and developed countries who suggested listening to the opinions of the developing countries. All countries showed strong will in finding a resolution on the topic, ending the first day with large three blocs.

The second day started with an unmoderated caucus that was prolonged by several extensions. The delegates introduced their resolutions within their blocs. The debate continued with delegates eager to have their resolutions passed. Unfortunately, the conference ended with no resolutions passing.

Delegates in the advanced committee showed a proactive approach, and impressive speaking skills during the conference. Talking in loud, confident voices and emphasizing important words gave strength and heat to their messages, making the point of their speeches clear and convincing.

In the interview on the first day, Larissa Tolentino, MUN Club President, JMMUN Secretary General, and head chair of the advanced committee told the JMMUN Times that one interesting question she received during the conference came from delegates asking her the definition of “developed country.” She said, “It’s always fun to leave it to how the delegates take it. We thought it would be the simple definition of ‘developed,’ but they’re clearly taking time in considering exactly where developed countries stand.” She has also mentioned that this act is both a good and bad thing, pointing out the problem each country holds with the label “developed country” or “developing country.” She said, “I don’t like how developed nations look at developing nations like they’re a charity. They’re just like ‘Okay, we’ll donate a hundred billion dollars, and we are now good people because we helped.’ The reason behind choosing a topic like this, is because I wanted the countries to see how bad the situation is even within themselves. So before they look down on another country I want them to internalize the problem and see what’s happening rather than just categorizing your country as rich or poor.”

## Intermediate committee: The “unseen” dynamics in bloc formation

The first session of the intermediate committee started off with eight blocs forming in the first unmoderated caucus. After several unmoderated caucuses, however, the delegates of the intermediate committee had merged into about five main blocs from the original eight blocs. Through interviews with delegates representing each bloc, the Press was able to obtain interesting details of their blocs’ stances and their reasons for their reluctance to merge with certain blocs.

### Bloc represented by Brunei

This bloc consisted of mostly African countries and some European countries. “Our stance is to share vaccines and information through a globally open line of communication,” Brunei explained, “and since we have both developing and developed countries, we want to emphasize the importance of their relationship.” Her bloc planned to include ideas such as international funds for developing vaccines and Doctors Without Borders in their clauses. During the first day, their bloc had plans to merge with Germany’s bloc since Brunei’s bloc already included some European countries and also because they shared the same ideas concerning proactive measures. However, by the second day, Brunei’s bloc decided not to merge with them because of the limited time they had left at the conference. “If we had more time to negotiate and discuss, we might have been able to merge,” said the delegate. She also mentioned they might make a “peace argument” and negotiate with Pakistan’s bloc instead.

### Bloc represented by Finland and Germany

This bloc was made up of European countries with the delegate of Germany taking the lead. According to the delegate of Germany, their stance was to act as one community in Europe, and they were willing to have more European countries join in order to accomplish this. Therefore, by the end of the first day, Germany’s bloc was able to successfully merge with Finland’s bloc consisting of Northern European countries. They combined their resolutions which included the improvement of ISU (Implementation Support Unit) and the creation of an international organization to strengthen the support provided to countries affected by bioterrorism. The delegate of Germany also had plans to merge with Brunei’s bloc but unfortunately, he said “their resolutions were not exactly what we were looking for.”

### Bloc represented by Syria

This bloc includes both Asian countries and Middle Eastern countries mainly represented by Syria. One of their stances is to revise the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BWC), something Germany’s bloc disagreed with. The delegate of Germany reasoned that there is no need to prioritize revising the BWC since it currently satisfies its purpose. This disagreement in their stances resulted in the two blocs remaining separate. Instead, Syria’s bloc showed inclination to merge with Pakistan’s bloc. However, the delegate of Syria did mention that “we may have been able to make further negotiations with Germany’s bloc if there was more time available during the conference.”

### Bloc represented by Israel and Zimbabwe

This bloc was made up of fewer countries compared to other blocs and it seemed to be formed with various countries, from South American countries to Middle Eastern and African countries. After several unmoderated caucuses held during the first day, this bloc was quick to notice that while their bloc focused on maintaining a wide perspective on both preventative and responsive solutions for bioterrorism, other blocs were focusing on narrowing down their stance. However, the Delegate of Israel did mention they are open to the idea of merging with blocs consisting of third world countries such as Pakistan’s bloc, but that was called off and instead, they just agreed on signatory deals when they realized they shared different ideals for how they would present their resolutions.

### Bloc represented by the Delegate of Pakistan

This bloc consisted of mainly African and Middle Eastern countries with Pakistan taking the lead. Their stance centered on requesting developed nations to protect developing nations and their rights concerning biosafety and biosecurity. Unlike the other blocs, the delegate of Pakistan showed no signs of wanting to merge with others and was instead focused on making signatory deals.

Interviews with the representatives of each bloc shed light on the “unseen” and the “unheard” aspects of the bloc’s activities during the unmoderated caucuses. The delegates’ passion and determination to come up with practical resolutions for combatting bioterrorism, enabled the original eight blocs that held different stances to merge into five blocs as they finalized their resolutions.