



# JMMUN TIMES

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On The Spot Reporting from JMMUN

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## SOCHUM: Populist Nationalism No Longer Popular

The advanced committee had an extremely heated and expressive discussion. On the first day, the committee soon divided into three blocs. The first bloc included delegates who were eager to combat national populism especially in terms of resources and religion, led by Germany. Delegates of the second bloc mainly focused on implementing education to combat populism, with Cuba and Finland taking the lead. Delegates of the third bloc which included the USA and Serbia, did not aim to combat populism, and instead tried to reduce nationalism.

Over the course of the two-day conference, the third bloc grew in size while the first two blocs were determined to merge into one block. "There is no reason for staying as many, tiny blocs," said the delegate of Finland. "If we merge, we can write a better resolution with a variety of clauses from different perspectives." Both blocs succeeded in negotiating peacefully and not compromising on the points they felt most essential. The first day ended with the formation of two large blocs.

Before the conference started on the second day, the delegate of USA talked to the JMMUN Times about their bloc's plan: "Since the bloc led by Germany focuses on extreme nationalism, we would like to emphasize..." (CON'T ON PAGE 3)

## Congratulations to Award Winners!

Awards	Best Delegate	Honorable Mentions	Best Position Paper
SOCHUM	Serbia	Germany, USA	Australia
SPECPOL	Paraguay	Costa Rica, Mali 1	Gabon
WHO	Saint Kitts and Nevis	Norway, Pakistan	Spain
UNHRC 1	Belarus	Nigeria, Netherlands	Germany, Senegal
UNHRC 2	Sweden	Tunisia, Uganda	Tunisia, Botswana

## An interview with the Secretary General

Miyu Sakurai talked about her MUN experiences and JMMUN 2018

**P Press:** I have heard you've attended some other conferences abroad. So, how exactly were the conferences in other places like?

**Miyu:** I have attended three conferences abroad. One in New York, one in Berlin, and one in Boston. All of the international conferences I attended were more professional and a lot larger in size. They used many venues and partnered with companies and facilities to offer...(CON'T ON PAGE 7)



# JMMUN in photos

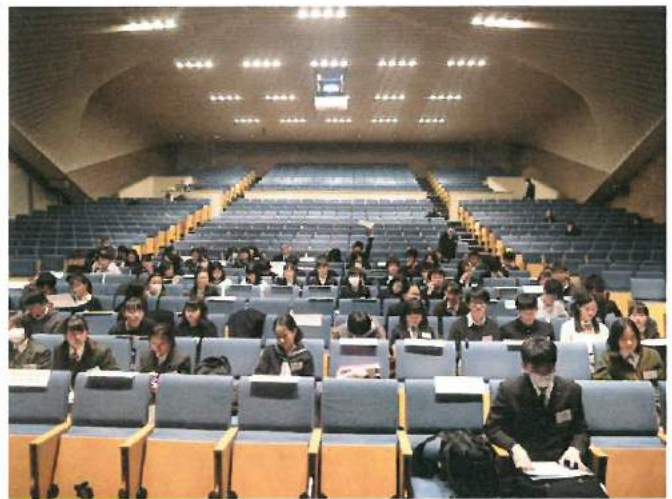


## SOCHUM (continued from page 1)

"...that nationalism itself has no harm if it does not become extreme." Then, the conference started off with many delegates proposing several ideas to the chair.

In the first unmoderated caucus, both blocs made their stances clear and tried to persuade delegates who were not able to participate on the first day, to join to their blocs. "Since this is an advanced committee, I suggest you avoid vague resolutions and clearly specify each bloc's points," said Larissa Tolentino, last year's Secretary General, in a surprise appearance. After hearing this advice, both blocs brushed up their resolution while sharing their points and thoughts with the other bloc.

All delegations seemed to engage in the debate, and succeeded in building a consensus inside the bloc while still keeping each country's own stances and position. Each delegate's eagerness to pass their resolution, and their high negotiation skills, were impressive.



## UNHCR (Beginner 2): The Rights of LGBTQ People

In the moderated caucus, the committee mainly discussed about education and events to gain a further understanding and awareness about LGBTQ people. This debate led the committee to separate into three blocs on the first day. The bloc led by Pakistan agreed with doing sporting events which both LGBTQ and non-LGBTQ people can participate in and enjoy equally. "We believe that events and tournaments will be a great chance to learn about LGBTQ people and also for cheering them," explained Pakistan. Another bloc consisted of Indonesia, Togo, Argentina, and some European countries with the delegate of Sweden taking the lead. They merged by agreeing on the importance of education and assistance towards other developing countries. "Countries in our group are mainly tolerant of LGBTQ people. We are planning to train people as the United Nations and dispatch them to each country to educate the citizens and raise awareness about LGBTQ rights," said the Swedish delegate. Unlike other blocs, delegates of Islamic countries, including North African countries and Middle Eastern countries have opinions against LGBTQ people because of their religion. The delegate of Russia also has a strong negative opinion towards the topic of LGBTQ. "LGBTQ people deserve the same treatment as drugs. In Russia there are laws prohibiting LGBTQ protest demonstrations and the government doesn't problematize assaults against LGBTQ people."

All delegates showed their preparedness for this debate on the topic of LGBTQ. Most delegates in the committee said that their views towards LGBTQ people have widened, through researching this topic from different countries' stances. Especially in Japan, LGBTQ is taken as a minor problem and the idea of it is still not familiar or well known, so delegates saw the committee as an important opportunity for us to better understand LGBTQ. "Japan is not a religious country compared to others so we were able to diversify our views by considering this topic from the stance of a country that has negative views," explained the delegates of Tunisia. Most of the delegates of countries having negative opinions toward LGBTQ people conversely held a positive personal opinion about LGBTQ rights. "I neither agree nor disagree with LGBTQ rights," said Afghanistan, "but I just wish LGBTQ people can live a normal, ordinary life because they have the same rights as us."

Yuki Mizumura, the director of the beginner committee gave feedback to the delegates. "All resolutions were good, but I guess they would have been better if they were more creative and original. I liked Argentina's idea to implant LGBTQ inclusive ideas in curriculums at elementary schools. And for the moderate caucuses, projecting voices and practicing talking without advanced preparations will improve their speeches."

Reona Mori said "In MUN, the key to writing a good resolution is to deeply understand your own country's stance and think realistically," and Yui Wagatsuma said, "I wish delegates would have come up with more ideas for motions. People shouldn't be scared of expressing their opinions to others; they should have the courage to speak up."

## UNHCR (Beginner 1): The Rights of LGBTQ People

On the first day of the beginner committee, United Nations Human Rights Committee (UNHRC) each country presented their opening speeches and their stances. The debate went smoothly on the first day and each delegate tried their best to speak in English in the moderate caucuses. However, on the second day, the committee had trouble forming blocs. Each delegate kept uniting and dividing to make sure that their country is in the right bloc. In the end, the chairs were very happy to see three resolutions handed in.

On the first day, an unexpected thing has happened during the note passing. One of the countries sent a note pretending to be another country. The receiver thought it was odd to receive such a note from that country and told the chair about this mysterious incident. The chair had to announce to the whole group that the delegates are not allowed to lie, but the case remains unclosed.

Miuro Shinomiya, the delegate of Algeria, personally believes that the society should accept LGBTQ, but the country itself does not accept LGBTQ because almost all of the population is Muslim. Miuro had difficulty getting used to JMMUN because the style is different from the All Japan Model United Nation, something she participated in before.

## SPECPOL: Fueling Tribes and Unlikely Friendships

Day one of the intermediate committee started off with many small blocs, gradually forming into three big blocs and a few small blocs. In forming the blocs, the committee faced some problems of difference in the topic and what was being discussed and of delegates who could not belong to any bloc.

"We were negotiating with other developing countries," said the delegate of Papua New Guinea, "about how we can get the financial support from developed countries even though we lack natural resources to give them in return. However, when I went to the group represented by China, to see if we can get financial support from them as well, I came to realize we were discussing about two totally different topics." The delegate of Papua New Guinea was not alone in feeling frustration about the lack of a common goal in the committee. The bloc represented by China, taking aim at self determination, focused on making a resolution to bring equality to major tribes and minor tribes alike. Meanwhile, the other two blocs were focusing on gaining educational and financial support from developed countries.

Seeing the lack of focus in the committee, the chairs announced that there was a difference in the topic of the committee and what was actually being discussed. After the announcement, the blocs were recreated into three big blocs: one against independence, one for independence, and one taking the moderate stance that tribes are not ready for independence yet, but will eventually accept their independence.

In the unmoderated caucus, the Press found two delegates who were wandering around not belonging to any blocs. "The problem is," one of the two delegates commented, "we haven't really found the [bloc] that is the best for us because either they're against self determination, or they're for self determination, or they're talking about education, I'm not entirely sure. We're trying to find a bloc that would actually talk about territorial integrity or about self determination, and especially decolonization, but a lot of these groups are talking about indigenous tribes within the country rather than the decolonized countries." After the announcement by the chairs, these delegates appeared to have found a bloc that had the similar stance as them.

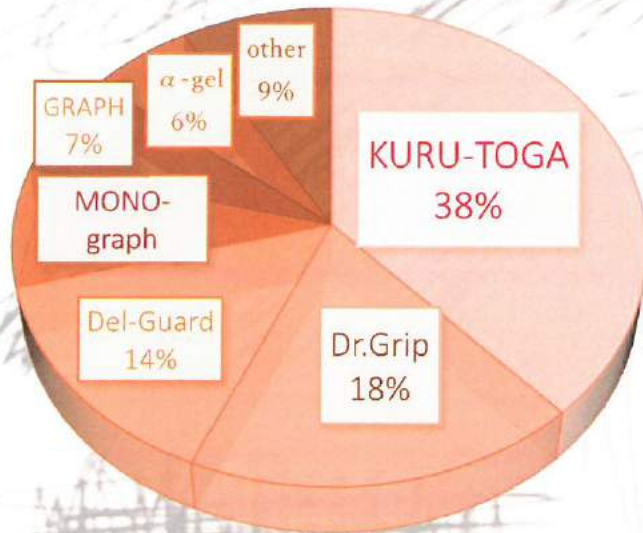
What stood out in Day 2 was the issue of Crimea and the Kurds. Despite the fact that these two issues are extremely relevant to this committee's topic, few delegates were interested in having a moderated caucus on these problems. The Chair had to repeatedly give advice and recommend a motion for a moderated caucus discussing the Crimea crisis and the Kurds as a catalyst for deepening the discussion. However, this recommendation fell on deaf ears. The Press decided to dig deeper and question the Chair and some of the delegates about the committee's reluctance to vote for this motion.

"We were willing to discuss and include Crimea in our resolution as part of our reason why we are against minor tribes becoming independent," the delegate of Russia said. "However, if we elaborate on how Crimea would become financially dependent on Russia if it ever becomes independent, it would mean we are criticizing Ukraine. We are in the same bloc as Ukraine, and so we withdrew from commenting on Crimea in order to maintain a good relationship with Ukraine." Russia seemed intent on maintaining this relationship with the nation they had had a conflict with in 2014.

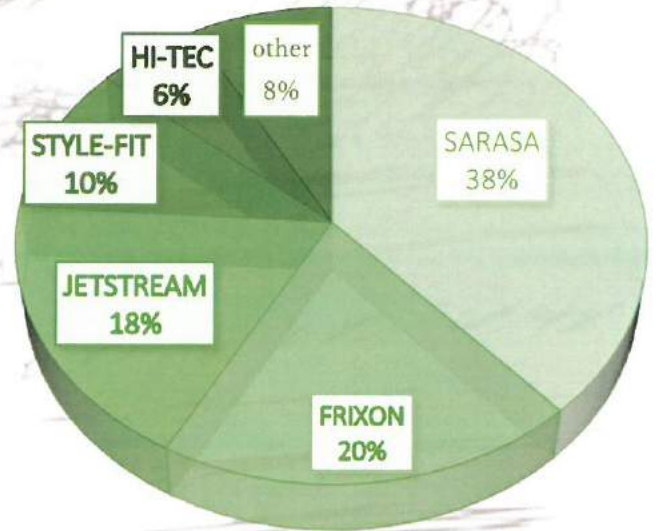
Despite the lack of interest of the delegates in discussing the Crimea crisis, the Chair wanted to make sure this topic was discussed in the moderated caucus because "this topic is one of the most important topics concerning decolonization of minor tribes. However, this topic is only relevant to a few countries so that may have been why many delegates were indifferent towards it." The Chair emphasized that delegates should remember to maintain an international perspective and think as a global citizen. "I want them to actively discuss issues even if they are irrelevant to their country, by wondering 'What if this crisis was happening in my own country?'" Perhaps, this is the kind of attitude we would like to see from our own leaders in the world today.

# Stationary Survey

1. What mechanical pencil do you use?

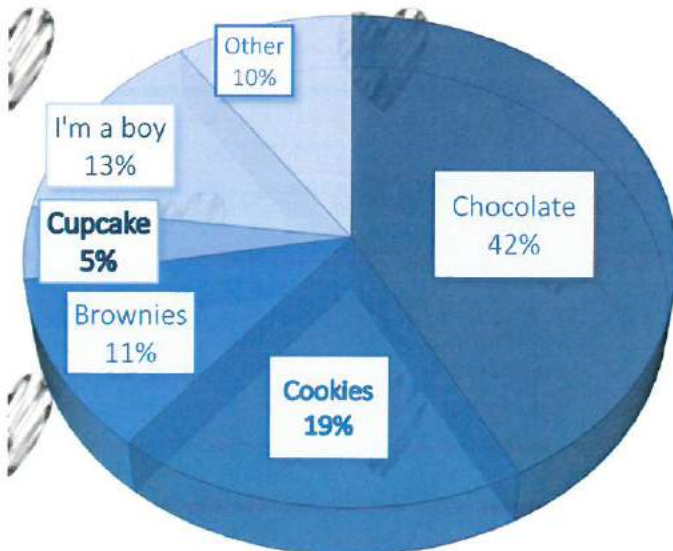


2. What pen do you use?



# Valentine's Survey

1. What are you planning to give on the Valentine's Day?



2. What is your relationship status?



## SECRETARY GENERAL INTERVIEW (continued from page 1)

...participants an amazing experience. Since JMMUN is an almost fully student-run conference, and this is still only our fifth year, I hope that in the upcoming years, this conference will grow in a more global scale and that we can all learn from our past experiences to make JMMUN even better.

**Press:** Can you tell us an interesting story from one of the conferences you attended?

**Miyu:** The delegate of France at the Berlin conference was really good at making speeches, but he got carried away and started making all of his speeches into poems. They made no sense and weren't very good poems either. So, whenever France raised his placard, everyone knew a poem was coming and they started to laugh and then it would come, a rhyming poem about preserving world peace or helping refugees.

**Press:** When did you start preparing for the JMMUN, and what were some difficulties you faced?

**Miyu:** We started right after JMMUN 2018 ended, so around February of 2018. We started actually preparing right before summer break. And the difficulties...I had never managed such a large event before, so it was difficult to get a grasp of the size of the conference. Since this was the first year we had international participants, it was difficult but more than that, preparing for JMMUN was and is an extremely exciting and stimulating experience.

**Press:** Finally, what do you want the participants to learn from this conference?

**Miyu:** My main goal for this conference is that participants get an idea of what kinds of issues the world is actually facing, and I hope that this conference helps everyone gain a sense of ownership to all the issues they discuss. Also, we, including myself, do not have strong connections to the issues discussed during this conference in our normal day to day life. So, I hope that we all learn that things like this happen and that there are many difficulties that come up when trying to solve a global issue.



# 2019 JMMUN Staff

SOCHUM



WHO



SPECPOL



UNHRC (1)



UNHRC (2)



JMMUN Times Press



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