Kenya, located in East Africa, lies on the Equator and is known to be one of the driest countries in existence. With many droughts hitting the country, the lack of water is constantly becoming more of a battle. Reductions in water are constantly occurring, and weather patterns fluctuate, leaving it hard for Kenya to plan for the future.

Lake Naivasha

Lake Naivasha might be familiar to some people because it was where the movie "Out of Africa", directed and produced by Sydney Pollack was filmed. Although the 1985 romantic movie includes some beautiful scenes, the effect of climate change is now hard to ignore. The beautiful Acacia trees have slowly been diminishing for the past few years. The intense reduction in water has caused the coastline to shift.

The Seed of Hope:

Kenya has started to look for solutions elsewhere. Their main source of ideas comes from the students and faculty of Kenyatta University, just northeast of Nairobi. The university provides programs “training tomorrow’s technology leaders to make an impact solving today’s problems.” (The Guardian) Their driven dedication to achieving their goals has led to several specific plans to follow through. “Some applications they are focusing on are wind-powered water-pumping systems. The plan is to design, manufacture, install, and service small-scale wind power systems that slowly pump water into elevated storage tanks throughout the day and night.” (The Guardian)

Research is a large part of the programs offered at Kenyatta University. “An example is the research being carried out by Dr. Luke Olang in collaboration with IGAD climate center on developing a drought-monitoring tool for the greater horn of Africa in general.” (The Guardian)

“What Kenyatta University is showing the world is that it is possible to solve both the energy and the climate problems together.” (The Guardian)

What are your thoughts on Kenya’s first steps towards conquering their obstacles? Should the government be more involved? or is educating tomorrows leaders the most beneficial solution?

Work Cited:
Kill Obesity Before It Kills You!

EcoSoc Pre-Conference Article. Issue: Combating obesity and improving human nutrition.

What is “Obesity”?
First thing's first, you must know that being obese and being overweight are two different things. The expression, overweight, is used for when an individual's weight is simply above average. Whereas obesity is an expression used for when a person has an excessive amount of fat stored in their body.

Obesity = Diseases = Death
Considering that about 200 million adult women and 300 million adult men suffering from obesity, the World Health Organization (WHO) has discovered that obesity is “the fifth leading risk of global deaths” with a minimum of 2.8 million deaths every year.

Having said that, such deaths do not solely occur due to this condition; instead, it is because obesity leads to other potentially fatal diseases. To elaborate, obesity can lead to type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular diseases like hypertension, arthritis, an array of cancers, and psychological effects such as depression, anxiety, low self-esteem, and even mental illness.

What exactly causes obesity?
For one, a lack of energy balance is an inevitable cause. If an individual does not balance the energy taken into the body, through the ingestion of foods and drinks, with the energy released out of the body, through exercising, breathing, and digesting, then the risk of being obese will heighten.

Additionally, a person’s environment may hinder the opportunity to adapt to a healthier lifestyle. For example, factors like long work study hours, a lack of sleep, not having parks or affordable gyms around, all make it harder for one to pursue such an ideal way of life.

Another common cause is emotional factors, including boredom, anger, stress, or grief. Then again, some people are obese due to uncontrollable reasons such as genetics, medical issues, pregnancy, and age.

Moreover, advertisements produced by unhealthy food corporations that include cartoon characters and animals lure children into buying them, and therefore boost kids’ chances of becoming obese.

Your Mission
“Obesity happens one pound at a time”, well so does its prevention. Hence, what can you do to help your body improve it’s nutrition, and thus avoid obesity? These are some of the things that the WHO recommended as beneficial for eradicating obesity.

Firstly, you must follow a healthy meal plan. This means that you should limit the amount of calories taken in on a daily basis by consuming less or no junk food and anything sugary. In addition, having smaller portions of foods which contain vital nutrients -such as iron (from proteins), fiber (from fruits, vegetables, and whole grains), omega-3 fatty acids (from eggs and fish), calcium (from low-fat dairy products), and vitamin D (from cod liver and even just sun tanning)- may have a huge impact on the reduction of fat.

Secondly, you mustn’t snack; instead, simply have the 3 meals of the day. According to dieticians, women must consume from 1,800 to 2,000 calories per day, while men must consume from 2,200 to 2,400. Hence, it’s never a bad idea to keep track of your balanced diet by writing down what you ate and how much calories you had eaten every day in a journal.

Thirdly, exercise! You know what they say: “sweat is like your fat crying.” Thus, pursue physical activities that you would actually enjoy, but ones that will also make you sweat, even if it’s just doing jumping-jacks for 10 minutes everyday. One thing which
Thirdly, exercise! You know what they say: “sweat is like your fat crying.” Thus, pursue physical activities that you would actually enjoy, but ones that will also make you sweat, even if it’s just doing jumping-jacks for 10 minutes every day. One thing which could motivate you is to surround yourself in a healthier environment where there is access to gyms, sports centers, parks, or even just sidewalks.

Finally, things the food industry can do to for your advantage are promoting a healthier diet by decreasing the levels of fat, sugar, and salt in products, as well as making them cheaper in order to facilitate the availability of nutritious food options to people.

An Extra Something:
The hard work on your striving for a healthier life will be worth it in the end. Nevertheless, in order to actually achieve your goal, there is one very important thing you need: a strong support system! Since obesity is known to be “socially contagious”, one of the greatest ways to help prevent it is to have a community of family and friends to guide you along the way in your path to success.

QMunity Guru

It’s me again! The QMunity Guru, back to guide delegates, execs, teachers, and admin through the THIMUN Qatar Conference 2014. Before you head down to your frigid committee rooms, here are some useful tips of wisdom to guide you through these stressful THIMUN Qatar days:

1. Be sure to have a healthy breakfast before arriving to the conference.

2. Have a good night’s sleep the night before. Admin will not be in charge of delegates passing out from exhaustion on the podium.

3. Make sure to follow the cardboard models for dress code. Save the mini skirts and t-shirts for the after party.

4. Stay updated on the latest local and global news from the QMunity Press Team. We do the research that makes you look smart!

5. If you can’t find your committee room, make sure to consult the admins in bright red shirts. Lost delegates will be tossed into the web of Maman, the 8-legged mother of QNCC.
When Latin America Falls Apart:
Background
GUERRADEL PACÍFICO, Spanish for War of the Pacific. The dispute was over territories bordering the three countries involved: Peru with Chile over the Pacific Coast and Bolivia with Chile over the Atacama Desert. Battling over control and mineral resources in the late 1900s. The air between the Southern regions of Latin America has been tense ever since.

In 1873, Peru and Bolivia shook hands on an agreement to take stance against their common rival. Situations worsened when Peru nationalised mineral mines in Tarapaca and Bolivia raised tax on Chilean companies in 1879. Outraged, Chile took an offence and occupied the Chilean-Bolivian borders of Antofagasta in April 5th of that year, declaring war on both Bolivia and Peru.

By the 1930, the three states had found common grounds to settle on. Chile having had the upper hand during the war had signed treaties with both countries. The Treaty of Ancon signed with Peru allowed equal ownership without reservation over regions in the Pacific Coast and the Treaty of Peace and Friendship with Bolivia, delimiting the boundaries between the two nations. For a while it seemed that the three countries were to live together in harmony.

Current disputes
Beginning at a point on the coast called Concordia, with the maritime border of 38,000 square kilometres worth of fishing-riches, bound by the Treaty of 1929 between two former rival South American states. After decades of consenting to the settlement, Peru requests the International Court of Justice to “exercise [its] exclusive sovereign rights” in regards to its entitlement to the maritime borders in 2008. Nonetheless, it is very unlikely for a war to erupt any time soon taking into consideration that the countries have built an optimistic diplomatic relationship ever since last century’s mutual agreement.

ICJ and it’s role in this issue
One of the fundamental six branches of the United Nations, the International Court of Justice was founded in the summer of 1945. With its headquarters set-up in The Hague (Netherlands) this UN organ has the responsibility to settle and advice any occurring legal disputes between countries across the globe.
Since January 2008, court hearings have been taking place in the ICJ. Aware of the situation and conscientious about its decisions, the court has declared its acknowledgment that “the maritime zone lying within 200 nautical miles of Peru’s coast”. However, the fact that Peru had brought attention to this point after 50 years of previously agreeing to these adjustments brings rise in the nation’s “inconsistency” - reports the ICJ press- and it’s intentions of manufacturing a dispute where none should have taken in the first place. In the mean time, Chile refuses to step down, exclaiming that the “respective maritime zone entitlements of Chile and Peru have been fully delimited by agreement”. An agreement that both nations have willingly consented to. It has been almost a year since and the final hearing to settle the Chilean-Peru dispute had not yet been resolved. It looks like the UN branch is hesitant to make a final decision about the disagreement. Let’s hope that these time a common ground is reached before the situation gets out of hand.

Corruption in Social Media

By: Hessa Al-Kubaisi

Social Media:
Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube... these are many forms of the social media websites we use today. The world and its people have evolved from where it was 50 years ago, and ways to interact with each other are now simplified.

Social media has benefited us in many ways. It delivers news, spreads knowledge, allows us to interact with people in different countries and gives us the freedom to be able to see and express anything we want.

Recently, controversy has sparked leading to criticisms of the media. Photojournalism is an example of such controversy, impacting the media both positively and negatively.

Journalism:

Journalism has the power to deliver knowledge and new information to anyone with access to mass media. People all around the world love to read interesting news and indulge in daily new gossip... but who has the time read paragraph after paragraph in articles (isn’t this ironic?). But what happens when photojournalism steps into the picture? (Ha, that was funny.)
60 hours of video are uploaded every minute, or one hour of video is uploaded to YouTube every second.

Facebook says it now has 1.11 billion people using the site each month.

Images are being bombarded around all these social media platforms within seconds of the event occurring. Although this can be a positive thing, allowing us to receive the news within minutes of its occurrence can also be a negative thing.

Scandals and Manipulation:

Ever heard of Photoshop? Or Pixlr? Maybe you have. It’s the photo-editing program your mother might use when she wants to crop out something from your Christmas card.

Over the past years, these programs and softwares have been made more available and easier to use. Thus, causing massive problems particularly with the credibility of sources.

Photojournalists:

Despite the benefits of photojournalism, there have been multiple issues involving incidents that have occurred. People have questioned whether photojournalists have used people’s lives as a method for selling news and gaining attention. Meet Stanley Forman

Stanley Forman was one of the photojournalist’s who was criticized for witnessing an atrocity and snapping a photo, instead of doing the humane thing and attempting to help out in the situation. This photograph shows a two-year-old child and a nineteen-year-old woman, falling from a burning building. Nonetheless, he won the Pulitzer Prize in 1975 and the World Press Photo of the Year. Forman’s photo was published in over a hundred newspapers.

“...it is an invasion of privacy, stripping away the dignity of one human’s death.” Said Tyler Coates about the photograph (www.flavorwire.com.)

“Readers of the major news outlets that carried the photographs wrote numerous letters to the editors, complaining of the sensational nature of the images.” (www.flavorwire.com.)

Faith Lost in Humanity?

There has always been that same question asked when ever photos of human suffering, massacre, or violence surf-Face social media:

Have photojournalists disregarded the fact that lives were in danger, as they were snapping a photo of the atrocious event that happened before their eyes? Is media attention, awards and prestige more valuable than human life? What are the duties of these photojournalists? Is it their job to stop the conflict or would they have crossed a line in doing so?
Landlocked and Restricted?

By: Faissal Darwish

ECOSOC Issue: Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries.

Difficulties of Dependence
Caused mainly by the lack of independence, there are many economic issues which landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) have been facing over many years. Burundi displays how LLDCs must rely on their maritime neighbors’ infrastructure, political relations, and internal peace and stability to export goods.

The Dilemma
According to Daily Nation, Burundi has comparatively well-built infrastructure, whereas Tanzania, its neighbor, does not, making Burundi unable to export its goods. Tanzania’s infrastructure is insufficiently linked to the nearest trading port of Dar el Salaam, which means Burundi’s most direct access to sea is severed.

Burundi’s dilemma demonstrates how LLDCs may have no other choice but to use alternative and more available methods of transportation. As a result, LLDCs must pay excessive transit and transport costs, and thus earn lower profits.

Broken Connections
Instead of using other means of transportation, Burundi depended on Kenyan port of Mombasa to export commodities. However, this port had been disconnected around the 1990s due to political altercations between both countries.

Unfortunately, this shows how the exporting process might be postponed due to goods traveling on other, more distant routes, and thus the LLDC will have to pay amplified transit and transport costs.

Having said that, according to the BBC, in November 2013, Kenya has launched a project regarding a new, Chinese-financed railway which is aimed to have networks with East African countries including Burundi, Congo, and South Sudan. The railway, which is said to be “the country’s biggest infrastructure project since Kenya’s independence 50 years ago,” is set to be completed by 2017.

No Peace, No Trade
In addition, Burundi’s exports were incapable of crossing through Mozambique during the 1990s as extreme civil conflict was transpiring at the time. Hence, the products had to be exported through a route which extended for 4500km, passing through various borders in order to use South Africa’s port of Durban.

Accordingly, this exhibits how an LLDC’s economy could hinder because it may not only be required to pay magnified costs, but the nation’s reliability might be damaged. Again, these acts could cause importers to contemplate purchasing their goods from other, more reliable countries to avoid such delays.

The International Think Tank
Furthermore, on January 15th 2014, Minister L. Bold and the UN Development Program (UNDP) Permanent Representative to Mongolia, Sezin Sinanoglu, met in Mongolia, an LLDC, to sign an enterprise document to begin activity on the ‘International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries.’

The central aim of the International Think Tank is to increase human development and to decrease poverty in LLDCs by using top-quality research and support to enhance the ability of landlocked countries to benefit from international trade. Hopefully, if poverty is successfully reduced, most of the aforementioned predicaments of landlocked developing countries would potentially end. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Mongolia plans to achieve this plan alongside the UNDP.

To Fellow Delegates
Overall, this issue consists of a wide range of twists and turns. Therefore, it will be intriguing to listen to delegates’ opinions as well as to witness how this debate will play out during the THIMUN 2014 conference. The UN has yet to achieve this, can you?
Combating the illicit trade of animals and animal products

In today’s age, where it is hard to go through a whole week without at least one news source reporting on the growing endangerment of an exotic animal, it isn’t uncommon for many to know of the impending threat that the animals of our world face.

From deforestation of their habitats to the ever-growing cloud of pollution due to environmental issues as these, populations of species such as the Bengal tigers and the forest gorillas are growing smaller by the day.

But when it comes to the reasons as to why these creatures are dying out, it isn’t hard to come to the conclusion that we, as the human race, are ultimately responsible. After all, which other species on Earth has an industry centered on selling rhino horns at a price of higher worth than gold. Rhino horns in question have become so valuable and coveted, that the hunt for the horn has driven all five of our world’s species of rhinos to the brink of endangerment, with the Javan Rhinoceros in particular now having a population of only 40.

Reasons for these raids on horns range from their unproven “healing properties” to their beautiful appearance. In hindsight, a rhino horn would probably seem more appealing on the rhino than on a wooden mantelpiece to gawk at.

Such hunting practices that lead to such high numbers of near-extinction are now predominantly illegal around the world, but that of course does not stop hunters and poachers from preying on animals that are now becoming more rare with each horn that is sawn off. Organizations dedicated to preventing these horrors such as CITES and the World Wildlife Fund have been around for decades, inspiring and informing others of the threats of endangerment to various animal species and what we can do to stop it.

An example of how the word of protecting animals around the world has spread was recently reported when the permit to hunt and kill the endangered Black Rhino in Namibia was sold at an auction in the United States. Despite the Dallas Safari Club’s claims that the permit would help in funding future conservation, the event was clearly not accepted by most, as over 80,000 people took to signing online petitions which went against the auction.

However, if these organizations will actually help in saving these fellow species of our world still remains a mystery.
Environmental Sustainability is essential for a prosperous future. It is important because many of the resources used today are finite resources. They are important to our existence.

Technology is important in our lives now more than ever; we use technology from the second we wake up till the second we sleep; whether it be on our phones, televisions, laptops or music players. Technology is now used to do the simplest tasks.

Technology in Relation to Sustainability
Technology however is not often thought about in relation to sustainable development, we attribute most of today’s global warming and pollution to fuel technology whether it be to power our cars or to create electricity.

What is often overlooked is the potential that technology has to help with environmental sustainability. What if we were to create a form of technology that would have the same function as a traffic camera - a technology that would measure the usage of power for certain companies and factories and would alert the government if the law was broken?

Another example could be a form of technology that measures the amount of toxic waste in water, this again would alert the government and help enforce laws. Overall allowing us to better preserve our environment.

Sustainable Technology on a Large Scale
A way in which technology can be used for sustainable development is creating new technology that would allow for more efficient use of finite resources. As suggested by William C. Clark and Nancy M. Dickson from the article “Sustainability science: the emerging program” as published on the National Center for Biotechnology Information website.

For example, if a water intensive company were to create a technology that would allow them to ration their water usage, we could preserve more water and therefore sustain water for a longer period of time. This would obviously not allow for much of a difference if one company were to make this change, but a global scale this could be difference of having water for another 10 or more years. This not only will be more sustainable but it would allow the company to use less money.

Water is becoming more and more expensive and if companies and factories were to ration their water usage they could save money. This same technology can be used to be sustainable for companies who are fossil fuel intensive.

Often when thinking about sustainability we think of our finite resources but our environment is just as important as preserving our finite resources. Technology is the key to a prosperous future, our global resource/environment crisis and the quicker we act on this opportunity the quicker we can resolve this global issue.
The Rights Of Prisoners
By: Vanlee Trinidade

HRC2: The Wrongs of Rights
To know your rights as a human being is to have access to a form of protection of your freedom and actions, but, does being a criminal make you any less human? Today, the United Nations faces the issue of unequal treatment within the system of justice and the officers ignorance of basic prisoner rights.

The Current Situation
The fight for equality is a battle still raging, a battle that some prisoners know much about. In 1955, the 'Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners' was addressed in Geneva which, provided prisoners around the world with basic rights. Today deeper story lies behind closed doors as allegations of prejudice and unfair treatment regarding severity of crime and race come to light.

Alongside poor prison conditions and cases of malnutrition, various states across the US and groups such as Amnesty International face accusations of sexual harassment and ill treatment of prisoners.

The UN's Response
Since these accusations by Amnesty international, the UN has taken cautious steps into ensuring the safety of prison individuals in an attempt to diminish prejudice. In 2005, the UN published the 'International Human Rights Standards for Prison Officials' under which requires the understanding that 'All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights' as stated within the handbook. Additionally, laws that protect prisoners against torture techniques and undignified acts have been implemented as early as 1990. Yet the effectiveness of these laws have recently come into question as cases of acts of sexual harassment against women, particularly in North Korea, have made news where the UN had been prohibited from entering for further investigation in late 2013.

Rehabilitation or Retribution
The ill treatment of prisoners due to their crimes poses the question, can these individuals be reformed into future members of society or do they deserve to be punished? With cases of retribution in the US prisons on the rise, the issue of prisoner rights around the world is in need of an effective solution. Will the minds of hopeful delegates be able to combat an international crisis? Much is to be expected from THIMUN 2014.
In the 21st century it is no longer just a myth that global warming is occurring and that we are destroying the earth we live on.

As technology develops and world’s “laziness” increases, we have devices that do everything for us. As a result, our generation pollutes the world more than the past generation and the generation before that. Most of our population lives by the words of Ester Boserup, “Necessity is the mother of invention” is what our actions dictate. We drive our 4x4 trucks that guzzle fuel like the working class at a bar on friday, but all we need is a four seater vehicle.

We spend our weekends at the desert driving our big cars allowing for pollutants to be let out into the atmosphere. If this trend is not controlled, bigger ideas will be illuminated that will use our energy, and as a result add to already existing pollution. This is a foreseen future because as we have seen in the past, developments become bigger: bigger engines and more water intensive projects.

The question we need to ask is when will the world’s population wake up and realize that our resources are depleting, our water will not last forever, our environment isn’t as strong as our desire to get that new iPhone and will not live forever.

We are living in a world of mass consumerism. Our desire for materialistic items and money overrules the obligation we have to protect and conserve our environment. Our governments are on the chase for that MEDC (More Economically Developed Country) status than protecting its successors from polluted environment. A possible way to end this is to speak “gold rush” is for governments to provide incentives to its citizens.

Many countries already have laws with respect to the preservation of environments but these laws are hardly enforced. These laws are hardly incentives, incentives that can push the use of renewable energy could be government subsidisation on renewable energy. This would allow companies and factories who have a high usage of energy to switch to renewable energy.

In a perfect world, the way in which renewable energy could be used globally is to have the price for renewable energy cheaper than non-renewable energy. This can be done through subsidisation through government and other mediums. This is possibly the way that people could encourage renewable energy, because often money is a deciding factor. The cheaper the item, in any context, the more likely it will be used. For example, an average working class family goes out to buy groceries regardless of quality it is more likely that the item that is cheaper will be bought. With subsidisation from the government however renewable energy would be more affordable to the general public and if it were in competition with non-renewable energy we could have a big change globally. An example of this could be the drop in the price of coal, coal before fuel was the main source of energy for transportation but as soon as fuel engines came to light the price of coal dropped to nearly nothing.

Although this solution may seem far fetched for countries that do have the financial resources to do so, but if a country such as the United States were to spend a fifth of military spending on subsidisation renewable; it could prosper. “My body is a temple” is a phrase often used by those who look after their body but why can’t this be used when speaking about the air we breath, earth we walk on and the water we drink.
The fight against terrorism has never been so heated. With innocent lives at stake, the world is in need of a solution, one strategy being to increase international cooperation regarding terrorist intelligence. Yet the question remains, what next? The USA’s implementation on the ‘War on Terror’ came about following the terrorist attack conducted by Al-Qaeda on the Pentagon and the World Trade Towers, however, terrorism has active since.

**Differing Definitions of Terrorism**

While some call them ‘terrorists’, others prefer the term ‘freedom fighters’. In 1994, the UN adopted the resolution, ‘Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism,’ stating terrorism as “Criminal acts intended or calculated to provoke a state of terror in the general public” whereas the definition of terrorism under UK law states “activity designed seriously to interfere with or seriously to disrupt an electronic system”. A clear distinction can be seen, under UK law acts of violence aren’t considered terrorist activity. Hence another problem arises, the implementation of a counter-terrorism strategy has to be suited to international governments in order for them to be effective.

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**Counter-Terrorism Force**

In 2005, the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) was set up in attempt to deal effectively with terrorism on an international basis. One of CTITF’s most significant cases was the attack against Al-Qaeda leader Osama Bin Laden in 2011 in conjunction with the US government. But with the recent rise in terrorist activity, such as the 2013 Boston Marathon bombings and the Westgate shootings, late 2011, against the knowledge of government, the CTITF has been deemed less than effective. It is now clear that a new strategy must be found.

**Success or Condemnation?**

In 2012, the UN devised a global counter-terrorism strategy in conjunction with CTITF outlining its basic principles. It includes terms such as the “vow to devise measures against the spread of the terrorism” and the “enforcement of human rights” as outlined by a UN official document. The strategy has yet to claim successes.

Although the lockdown of Osama Bin Laden was seen as one of the major successes of 2011, the methods used by the US government involving several drone strikes and a forced attack on Afghanistan have been condemned by the UN and the CTITF organisation.

It is clear that the battle against terrorism is in need of reformation but the question remains: how do we deal with this urgent crisis on a global scale?

**Privacy v. Safety**

Tapping into the lives of citizens is one way of tracking terrorist activity that has been adopted by the US government, yet according to the U.S. Constitution, citizens have the right to protection of their privacy. Edward Snowden, a former CIA employee, made news in 2013 as he brought to light the alleged espionage activities of the NSA which attempted to gain intelligence on terrorist organisations. However, this backfired and led to an outrage in the international world. Not only has this event impacted local people, but many governments have had their privacy infiltrated. Since, Several cases of tapping against the US government have arisen including the alleged monitoring of 35 world leaders according to BBC news.

Terrorism has evidently impacted more than just the lives of people, with such a fine line of compromise and innocent lives at stake, is it possible for the delegates at THIMUN Qatar to target the heart of the issue?

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**Unified in the Fight For Safety**

By: Vanlee Trinidade

Photo by: Aya Nassif