As the Qatari national anthem rang, there remained a shining luster, left from the maroon of the Qatari flag. Yet it was not the ringing light that was significant, but rather it was the faces that listened on to the national anthem that make this conference special. Groups of children, coming in from all facets of the globe, from Afghanistan all the way to Qatar, with aspirations to learn, stood there, arm in arm. Abdulla Al Qah tani, the Secretary General, began the conference with a thank you, continuing the themes of humility that he and so many of the other students have presented. His passionate words on his rise to the position of SG, and his energy for the conference, as well as the value in incorporating the lessons learned into our daily lives. He quickly set the tone for what the rest of the presenters would continue to be.

Pim Thukral, a financial leader at Northwestern University Qatar, began her speech with an intense metaphor, discussing her journey to Kilimanjaro, an emotional vault, without opportunity to stop, to eat, or to really see anything. She continued her conversation by presenting a unique take on what purpose means, highlighting the changes that occur that may also affect purpose, drawing purpose as a moldable clay, continued on page 4

The presentation began with a trailer video. Supporting illustrations passed over the screen as a sonorous voice intoned in the background: “Poverty, disease, ignorance... humanity has been struggling with such challenges since the dawn of time. But now we come at last to turn the tide. In September, the leaders of the world convened at the United Nations to ratify the sustainable development goals. These global goals will serve as the ultimate “to-do list” for the planet. A shared problem solving framework for the entire human race. Only, this vote at the UN is just the beginning. It’s up to all of us, the citizens of the world, to actually see it through. But how do we get the word out? How do we get past language barriers, cultural differences, and limited literacy?”

The answer, explained presenter Natabara Rollosson, was through visual art. The presentation continued on page 4

Each of the attendants of Natabara Rollosson’s Session 3 presentation left the theater wowed, newly appreciative of creative arts, and in possession of a comic book. The books commemorated our learning about the ingenious SDG initiative to which the presentation had been dedicated: Comics Uniting Nations, a project partnered with the likes of UNICEF, PCI Media Impact, PVBLIC Foundation and Marvel in order to communicate the SDGs to younger generations in the only way that makes sense: comic books.

Rayan El Amine & Zoya Salahuddin
American School of Doha
Qatar Academy
continued on page 5

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continued on page 5
ONE IN A MILLION: WHAT DOES MUN MEAN TO YOU?

Zoya Salahuddin
Park House English School

Surrounded by the sea of loud, booming speakers, there was a delicate power that emanated from the inside of the plenary at 9 am. Kathy Kelly, in spite of a very literal trip up to begin her speech, held the audience in the palm of her hands with a very real kindness and affection. Beginning her speech by addressing her experience with Doctors Without Borders in Iraq, Mrs. Kelly painted a picture of a very real injustice, a man who’d lost his limbs to the dangers of war, a victim of the brutal punishment that was the Iraqi conflict. When this man reached his hospital bed, Mrs. Kelly recalled a poignant question that still rung with me to this day. He had been able to continue his life, but numerous colleagues were not so lucky. After finding out that she was an American, he repeatedly asked her, “Why did your people do this to us, we only wanted to help.” Understanding that type of pain is impossible, for it is a nightmare that should not be wished upon any human being, but it was through Mrs. Kelly’s kindness and caring that we were able to understand the sheer extent of the damage that these men and women went through. That’s where the wallow ended, however. Mrs. Kelly praised every student in the Plenary on their desire to venture past the widely known, to understand that death exists everywhere, and that all people should venture to end this death. Beyond her powerful experiences and ability to capture a stage, it was the kindness that Mrs. Kelly emulated that made her special. She was genuine, she spoke of change, and she spoke with a poise and passion that truly makes her unmovable, but she was also so caring. The frailty of her voice was not weakness but rather compassion, as if she held in her hand a delicate stone, soft so it doesn’t break, but strong so it does not fall. Beyond her Plenary speech, I was amazed at her understanding of the intricacies of international relations and war as a whole. It’s one thing to be able to use pathos to hold a crowd in the palm of her hand, but it’s another to maintain a conversation with no prior research and still balance the misunderstood world that is war and conflict. To both understand the statistical significance of 177,000 refugees, and to be able to be touched by every single one of their lives is a balance that I firmly believe only she can hold. She finished her speech with a song, a risk that could have fallen over when surrounded by students who had just woken up, but instead, as she sang, “tear down those walls, tear down those walls, we want to be people living free.” there was a powerful echo, and as every student in that theater joined in, it became clear that Mrs. Kelly’s passion and kindness had diffused into the future leaders in that room, and her delicate balance of kindness and passion had been understood.

WHY THEY PRESENT

Zoya Salahuddin
Park House English School

QLC is the heart of inspiration, the quintessential, genuine representation of the abilities of today’s youth. It is the link, the glue that holds together the plethora of talent, running deep in the veins of the MUN body. It is an eternal memory, a reminder that we should be motivated and influenced by the past, and become the influential leaders of the future.

At the core of all the energy, the most vital characters in the making of this pivotal conference are the presenters. They mold your experience, carefully creating the memories which you treasure, meticulously perfecting each slide, each word, each syllable.

For them, the experience is nerve-wracking, their hours of preparation at risk of being wasted with a single mistake. Once it’s over there’s relief, mixed with a feeling of longing for the time when they were on the podium, completely engaged with the audience, incentivised by their enthusiasm. There’s also pride, for they have worked months on those 50 minutes, and when the audience spills in and out of the room with smiles and open minds, they know they have done their job.

What we do not know is that their experiences, while genuinely and utterly memorable, were laced with mistakes, their flow often broken by stutters and pauses, as their eyes awkwardly meet with yours. They are struck, left speechless by the vivacity and strength of the crowd. Every session you attend is burning with the fusion of your energy with theirs, and they feel as if their efforts have reached the perfect conclusion. The audience turns them into an indefatigable advocate of their cause, the most powerful and influential speaker on the podium.

It is the beauty of having their ideas, solutions and opinions reach the ears and hearts of the dozens sitting, inspired, completely energised and empowered by their words. That is why they present, and why you should too.

In the words of Lisa Martin, director of THIMUN-Q: “QLC reminds me of how pivotal youth are to our world.”
Surrounded by the sea of loud, booming speakers, there was a delicate power that emulated from the inside of the plenary at 9 am. Kathy Kelly, in spite of a very literal trip up to begin her speech, held the audience in the palm of her hands with a very real kindness and affection. Beginning her speech by addressing her experience with Doctors Without Borders in Iraq, Mrs. Kelly painted a picture of a very real injustice, a man who’d lost his limbs to the dangers of war, a victim of the brutal punishment that was the Iraqi conflict. When this man reached his hospital bed, Mrs. Kelly recalled a poignant question that still rung with me to this day. He had been able to continue his life, but numerous colleagues were not so lucky. After finding out that she was an American, he repeatedly asked her, “Why did your people do this to us, we only wanted to help.”

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OPENING UP QLC

Rayan El Amine & Zoya Salahuddin
American School of Doha
Qatar Academy
H.E Bahia Tahzib-Lie not only continued in this trend of humility, but also served as a figure for the rest of the members of this group to aspire. Her work as the ambassador of the Netherlands was special, but her ability to capture the stage with what she believes, to speak on the importance of diplomacy, the importance of experience, and importance of aspiring to become something beyond the norm sculpted in a few words exactly what it means to be a part of QLC.

Perhaps the most poignant piece of conversation came from a common face. Lisa Martin, someone who is both attached and essentially congruent to our understanding of QLC. She spoke about her journey to QLC, and how leaving behind her anxieties and her doubts proved to be her ultimate success, encouraging every student in that building to leave their pains in the rearview mirror, and continue their drive through QLC and into the rest of their life. Themes of failure and persistence continued, as she made it clear that QLC remains home to passion, energy, and an avenue where leaders acknowledge their failures, and fight towards their goals, and through their fears.

In a true act of final humility, Ryan Villanueva accepted his lifetime achievement award, thanking the public, when all true acclaim should fall back to him. In this same vein of humility, hard work, and perseverance, it was H.E Bahia Tahzib-Lie’s words that rang the loudest, “if we have the courage to stand up, and fight for those we don’t know, we can make a difference”.

WHAT MAKES A GOOD LEADER

Maryam Aslam
American School of Doha

We are so often reminded, by way of encouragement, that all great leaders have been people. They were born, they grew old, ate, breathed, and slept; they lived, and they died. And yet we see something so utterly superhuman in them, as though “leadership” was some unearthly superpower, setting aflame the blood of those who hold it and driving them forth to touch the lives of countless others. In our minds, they have not died; they live still, as do their monumental legacies. How could they have been people, these leaders?

Well, good news! As it turns out, if you’ve got a corporeal form and something behind your cranium, you’re already halfway there. The other half, in which you’ve got to actually put the two to work, is a bit trickier. So here’s the short edition.

1. First and foremost, you should know what it is you’re doing, and why. (Otherwise, get off of that podium.)
2. Be able to rise above a crowd not to control, but to guide. (Which effectively requires that you be a decent person.)
3. Have the strength to carry the trust of others upon your shoulders—but still remember not to hurt yourself while doing it.
4. Rehearse your balancing acts before attempting them with fragile objects.
5. Tunnel vision will only get you so far before you trip. Having someone to give a shout of concern often helps.
6. There will be speed bumps. There will be entire roads covered in speed bumps. Keep driving. (But slow down just a little, to be safe.)
7. For every person who turns up their nose at your ideas, there’s another person out there who is even crazier about them than you are. There always is.
8. You’re a person. You’re doing something incredible. (So get some sleep, for god’s sake.)
**STEPS TO MAKING YOUR OWN NGO**

Oroni Hasan
Qatar Academy

Sergio Fernandez de Cordova gives an exciting presentation on how to build our own non-governmental organization. He says that having NGOs are important because it allows us to be a part of something that does something beneficial for the world. NGOs allow our society to be less dependent on the government for solving issues around the globe. He guides us through nine easy steps on how to create our own non-governmental organization:

**Test the Waters:**
He explains this step by telling us to start small. If we go big, it’s most likely we won’t be able to achieve our goals. We must start off with a small platform. Doing something initiative doesn’t mean it has to be international, and should be small to ensure success later on.

**Choose an SDG:**
Sergio tells us to focus on an SDG we want to promote. Some SDGs are: The eradication of poverty, Ending hunger, Achieving gender equality, Maintaining quality education, Clean water, Clarify goals: To clarify goals means to take notes of our idea development and any changes that we think of. If we don’t clarify our goals, it’ll only raise our fears and discourage us from initiating the NGO.

**Make and Action Plan:**
This is when we start planning, build the platform, and create the road map.

**Build Web Presence:**
The UN has constructed and hopes to meet by 2030. Cordova tells us to focus on an SDG we want to promote. Some SDGs are:

- The eradication of poverty
- Ending hunger
- Achieving gender equality
- Maintaining quality education
- Clean water
- Clarify Goals: To clarify goals means to take notes of our idea development and any changes that we think of.

**Find online platforms:**
Sergio explains, “clear and simple” to understand for readers of all ages, making it an effective means in spreading awareness about the importance of the SDGs. The genre of the comics and target audiences are varied; some of the comics produced by Comics Uniting Nations, like Chakra the Invincible and Life below Water, are primed towards younger audiences, whereas others like Gridiron Green are meant for older readers. All of these different comic books and comic book series have a few things in common— they each solidly tackle a different Sustainable Development Goal, are skillfully written and illustrated, and can all be accessed freely by anyone and everyone, in multiple languages and on a number of online platforms.

**Develop Community:**
There are thousands of people who have the same ideas and goals. It’s important to build partnerships so that we have support. This step will allow us to go from a small platform to a global platform.

**Network and Find Like-Minded Friends:**
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**Network and Find Like-Minded Friends:**
We need to continue to socialize and embark our journey even when we go through ups and downs during the process.

**Re-evaluate Steps and Find Balance:**
Sometimes, our dreams can become nightmares when they become too big. We must review and rebuild our plans in order to ensure success.

**COMMUNICATING SDGS THROUGH COMICS**

Maryam Aslam
American School of Doha

Rollosson explained how the comic form can make the SDGs more “clear and simple” to understand for readers of all ages, making it an effective means in spreading awareness about the importance of the SDGs. The genre of the comics and target audiences are varied; some of the comics produced by Comics Uniting Nations, like Chakra the Invincible and Life below Water, are primed towards younger audiences, whereas others like Gridiron Green are meant for older readers. All of these different comic books and comic book series have a few things in common—they each solidly tackle a different Sustainable Development Goal, are skillfully written and illustrated, and can all be accessed freely by anyone and everyone, in multiple languages and on a number of online platforms.

Participants were able to view several of the comics during the presentation, including Ozone Heroes, a Marvel production featuring famous characters such as Iron Man and the Guardians of the Galaxy. A particularly interesting one was Home, an upcoming comic by Comics Uniting Nations about a Syrian refugee family. All these stories, Rollosson explained, had been created by the organization in order to open the eyes of readers to the painful imperfections of the world around us as well as educate them on how they could improve those conditions.

Through the power of storytelling and art, Comics Uniting Nations aims to make the UN Sustainable Development Goals more widely known and implemented.
John Dewey’s famous quote, “education is not preparation for life; education is life itself”, while said a long time ago, is still relevant to us today. Education is not only to prepare us for our universities or professions, but is intertwined in every moment of our lives. Merriam Webster’s definition of education is “the knowledge, skill, and understanding that you get from attending a school, college, or university”. Yet, does education have to be grasped from systematic instruction? Not necessarily. Education is the acquisition of knowledge, skills, and experiences, meaning it can be obtained from anywhere. People are introduced to education from the earliest ages. From the day a human is born, they experience their first sight of light; a child learns the most fundamental things from their guardians; every mistake we make counts as an experience, and hence, is a type of education. Everything we think about, see, hear, feel, smell, and taste in our lives contribute to our perception and knowledge, and is consequently, our education. The systematic instruction of education that our society follows is still important, however. At school and university we are still using all our sensations, but we are using them more extensively. Not everyone has the same balance of education and knowledge, which is why we have curriculums to make sure that everyone has a general knowledge of everything. A syllabus ensures that every person is exposed to all subjects so that they have a variety of topics to be interested in. While people could still learn and experience plenty without school, it’s possible their knowledge would be more concentrated on one subject, and wouldn’t be exposed to other subjects that they unknowingly could have an interest in. A syllabus also creates levels of difficulty for a certain age group, which has both some pros and cons. The advantage of this system is that it allows students to build on their previous knowledge and is not too difficult nor too easy for the average student. However, the system may defect when it fails to teach at the level of extraordinary students or students who need more assistance.

Overall, while a systematic instruction for education is important, we must grasp the notion that education can be obtained from anywhere, and we should not look down on the things we retain and learn from places other than our orderly education system. Lastly, we should ask ourselves why education is important in the first place. It’s not only to help us get good grades, graduate, and get a job. Education is an essential key to living, and without this key, we are like locks that can’t open. Like Dewey says, “education is life itself”. We would not move forth in life without knowing anything, which makes education a necessity in our everyday lives.