QLC Coordinator

Qatar Leadership Conference is the biggest student-led conference in the MENA region. It’s a conference that helps students learn about many important topics like diplomacy, entrepreneurship, the SDGs, leadership, mental health, MUN, journalism, education, and many other important subjects. People get to socialize and communicate with other students and figures from different countries and schools. This conference is a way to bring together people and help them innovate by learning from each other. Many people like this conference because of its diversity, possibilities, and opportunities offered each and every year. This year, QLC had Doha Debates set up different portals everyday. These portals are like facetimes on huge screens, acting like a portal to another country. There were portals to Gaza, Kigali Uganda, and Bangladesh. These portals offer everyone in QLC the opportunity to celebrate diversity and ask questions to learn more about each other.

QLC is a student-led conference because the executives, officers, IT, admins, and press are all high school students. All these teams help the conference run smoothly and perfectly for visitors, presenters, and participants to have the perfect QLC experience. One of the most important people of the conference is the coordinator. This year, our coordinator is Maryam Al Sada from Vision International School. Maryam coordinates the entire conference and is the head of public relations. Her job is to keep everyone satisfied and to keep the conference organized.

What do you think is the most important part of your job?
As an executive member, a vital part of my job is to work alongside my colleagues to ensure the success of the conference. By that, it is meant that I monitor certain assigned zones and rooms. I, too, mentor student presenters to help them understand what’s expected from them and to help them prepare for their presentation. I also need to make sure that everyone is aware of the responsibilities assigned to their roles, like IT, admins, press.

How does your job work exactly?
My dual position as conference coordinator for Qatar Leadership Conference and head of public relations for THIMUN Qatar’s Office requires immense responsibilities. As head of PR, I publish articles tackling global issues and empowering youth to spur change and act to improve the world. These articles can be found in THIMUN Qatar’s website.

What’s your favorite part about your job?
My favorite part as the head of PR is that I interview influential people and get their input and perspective on topics relating to their career field. I like interviewing people so I can get not just the words they want to tell, but also the emotions they want to express. Interviews offer more than just sentences, they also show what the person feels.

What do you think of this year’s conference?
I think that this year’s QLC conference is one of my personal favorites because of its immeasurable success. The participants are genuinely enjoying the workshops offered and everything is going smoothly because of the THIMUN team’s hard work.

“Maryam coordinates the entire conference and is the head of public relations. Her job is to keep everyone satisfied”
Many teenagers like to think their going to have their own job with no restrictions and be free. But unfortunately many go to a nine to five jobs and live by the rules of their boss. Imagine if you can be your own boss? For some individuals this is the reality. They get to work whenever they want, they lead their own employees and ensure that their own company stays afloat.

To get to the level of being self sufficient in providing for yourself, it takes sacrifice, work, and complete dedication. Many even work on an entrepreneurship project while having a regular job.

Being independent is something everyone wants to achieve. Independence can make people's identities and show you the true character inside them. Being independent yourself will make you a more well rounded person which contributes more fully to the community around them. Independence may be the main attribute which makes an entrepreneur.

Entrepreneurs tend to have more stressful life as they have more to worry about than the regular person. Yet in the end of things, they get much more done in life as they can control much more in their lifestyle. Want to go to the gym at 3 in the afternoon? Nobody is going to do anything about it. Want to go for a drive in the noon? No problem.

“One riyal, one word, one water bottle and one picture can save someone’s life.”
Filters vs Real Life

You perception of yourself is one of the most important aspects of loving who you are. Accepting your true, unedited self can be hard because it’s been reinforced on a lot of people who use filters on the regular. This can seem harmless to the majority, but it’s actually very harmful to a person’s self-esteem and self-image. Everyone has a painted portrait of themselves in their minds that looks different than what the rest sees. This painted portrait has been created by what a person chooses to see in him or herself. If a person is positive and thinks that they’re beautiful, then they’ll very easily see themselves the way they truly are. If someone thinks of themselves as ugly, they probably have adjusted to seeing themselves in filters and not in the mirror. The only way you can recover from this filtered reality is to cut down on filter usage. You can do this by learning how to see yourself through the phone’s actual camera app, not snapchat nor instagram. It can be hard at first, but it’s all worth it.

The journey can be rough or smooth depending on how used to filters you are. Looking at yourself through the true, natural lens is the best thing you can do to yourself and your mental health.

“This painted portrait has been created by what a person chooses to see in him or herself.”

Lebanon Revolts

The Lebanese finally hit the streets! Following the recent wildfires on Mont Lebanon, the Lebanese people have hit the streets in revolt against the government. These wildfires have created rage between the people which led them to protest in the streets of Beirut and many other towns around the Lebanese capital. But this was not the only problem they saw, but after the recent taxes applied on Whatsapp calls the citizens erupted as they saw this move as completely irrelevant. Lebanon has had a turbulent past with revolution, war and other strife. Within the past year it is widely believed that the PM, Rafic Hariri was kidnapped by Saudi royalty and forced to resign which was undone on his arrival in Lebanon. Lebanon has also been threatened by Israel by airstrikes by the border as a power move to show that Israel is the head of the Levant region. Beirut, a city still being brought back from the horrors of civil war, is now going through violent protests and fires. Many Gulf states have a lot of business with war profiteers in the region so it is best for them to keep the continuation of violence going on to keep regional control. Qatar, a country had and still has little influence in Lebanon has repeatedly called and succeeded in peace talks to ensure the Lebanese people a safe home. Lebanon is one of the starting points of civilisation and is one of the key parts of the Middle East. The Lebanese people deserve a country of peace, prosperity and happiness. Protests should not be met with force, rather understanding of differences and to work together to solve them bilaterally.

“Lebanon is one of the starting points of civilisation and is one of the key parts of the Middle East.”
Dark Memes

Deema Al Ali
Vision International School

Memes are one of the most important parts of internet culture of our generation. We use them to send messages, to speak volumes about what we believe, and to make the internet a better place. Memes come in so many different varieties, some are funny and some are dark. Why do we find dark memes funny if they’re dark? Over the years, memes have had trends and different layouts. Back in the 2000s to 2014, bold words on a picture of an emotional face was the most popular layout. There weren’t any dark memes using this layout, and if there were any, they didn’t go viral. Over the years, memes started to talk about self-hate, domestic issues, serious political topics, and mental health. Some even talk about death. The internet find these memes funny, even though many find them offensive depending on the topic.

So, why do many of us find these memes funny? The fun comes from watching people cross the lines and seeing others’ reactions. People like the unknown no matter how dangerous it is. Watching the internet react to these memes is entertaining to so many people online. So, is finding dark memes funny a bad thing? It can be bad when people hurt each others’ feelings or offend each other. When people use memes to spread hate, that’s completely unacceptable. Knowing our limits as human beings is very important if we want to enjoy memes.

Save Earth

Mohammed Gulzar
Qatar Academy Doha

Science, assessed the global potential for tree restoration using over 78,000 satellite photo measurements and artificial intelligence to generate predictive models. The results shocked even the scientists who conducted the work: without interfering with agricultural and urban lands, there was potential to add at least 0.9 billion hectares of forest to the globe — an area roughly the size of the United States. What this means in terms of the potential to store carbon is staggering. A whopping 205 gigatonnes of carbon could be taken out of the atmosphere when the 1.2 trillion trees planted on the available land fully mature, which represents about 25 percent of all the carbon in the atmosphere. This also amounts to almost two-thirds of all carbon humans are estimated to have contributed to the atmospheric pool.

There are small things you can do to stop such drastic changes to the environment such as ensuring all rooms that are not being used have all appliances turned off, everything in the house is recycled, not using bottled water inside the house, ensuring all televisions, consoles and set-top boxes are off when not in use as well as ensuring that you take shorter showers. These small things could ensure our planet’s safety!

“People like the unknown no matter how dangerous it is.”

“These small things could ensure our planet’s safety!”
QLC 2019

Mohammed Gulzar
Qatar Academy Doha

With the eighth rendition of the Qatar Leadership Conference officially closed, it’s time to look at the achievements we as participants, admins, execs, press and everyone who made QLC the amazing conference and experience. This year was many lasts for us. The last QLC for many of us even. Giving up old traditions in place of new, better ones. This is the last year of paper newspapers, a staple of THIMUN and QLC every year. QLC 2020 will be the first e-newspaper conference where anyone can access the amazing reports our teams work on at anytime. This was the last year of DSLR cameras for the press team as smaller, better cameras that can be used anywhere are becoming more into fashion. While not being able to participate within the next QLC does make us feel remorseful that we didn’t savour the fun and excitement we had in our last ever QLC. Yet with sad departures, we have exciting arrivals such as a robust, well-trained great new executives and new practices that are better for our participants and for Qatar and our environment. Presenters from all over the world travelled to Doha to participate within the event, including the renowned speaker Hanifa Nakiriyowa who was a woman who survived emotional, physical and mental abuse from her husband which culminated in her husband throwing acid on her face. She now runs a women’s rights organisation for policy change in the United States. We also had GMB Akash is a world renowned Photographer, whose work has been featured in National Geographic, Vogue, Time, Sunday Times, Newsweek, Geo, Stern, Der Spiegel, The Fader, Brand Ein, The Guardian, Marie Claire, Colors, The Economist, The New Internationalist, Kontinent, Amnesty Journal, Courier International, PDN, Die Zeit, Days Japan, Hello, and Sunday Telegraph of London. He has received more than 100 international photography awards and recognition, and in 2011 Nikon selected GMB as one of the 8 influencers in Asia Pacific (APAC region). The conference was filled with so many amazing individuals. Administration learnt so much for the parent conference, THIMUN. Resolving obstacles that occurred during the conference and resolving conflicts to ensure the safe and functioning movement of the conference. The press team was extremely impressive this year with a stunning pre and post conference video with the addition of our newest QLC Executive, Jirwan! A small animal that makes sure all participants are enjoying and learning at the same time. The reporting team covered both local and international issues that concerned both adults and teenagers such as the underaged driving issue. Our IT team also worked hard to ensure the running of the conference through new technology that connected the QNCC in ways that were not possible last year. To conclude, this year’s conference is a sorrow one, with so many goodbyes, as I myself will be leaving QLC along with so many other people and traditions, yet we leave knowing that QLC 2020 will be better, bigger and something we couldn’t have expected with our new robust executives, including of course, Jirwan.
Why Dont We Recycle?

Abdullah Al Nasr
Qatar Academy Doha

Our world is constantly damaged by the amount of pollution we produce as humans. Human waste may be one of the biggest contributors of pollution on planet earth. Humans have slowly started to take the initiative and start recycling. But not many maximize their efforts in trying to preserve the environment. The awareness of people hasn’t reached the level yet where people stop just putting their garbage in the bin but in the ‘recycling bin’. People’s waste is transported all around the world and in landfills which create a high percentage of pollution and makes this issue harder to fix day by day.

Everyone knows that many high income countries transport their waste to lower income countries to place in landfills to make it more environmentally cleaner for them. The United States of America is the biggest importer of plastic waste with 916000 tons of plastic exported to other countries in SouthEast Asia. The United States offers these countries economic gain if they accept the offer of taking their waste and placing it in landfills they have. This plastic is just piled up and stays their till it decomposes which shows the lack of management we humans have with plastic. No one even cares if it needs to be recycled which makes this an alarming issue which will harm the earth if not fixed by us.

Malaysia in opposition is the biggest importer of plastic waste which they recieve 913000 tons of waste annually. Which contributes mainly to the problem. China was recently the record holder for the biggest waste importer but Malaysia broke the record recently. China has taken the initiative to stop importing plastic waste from higher income countries which is a crucial step to stop the pollution coming from plastic.

“No one even cares if it needs to be recycled”