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MUN MAGAZINE

THI MUN QATAR

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A BRIEF HISTORY OF 2020

2020 has been a rollercoaster of a year, here we break it down into the key events of this year. The THIMUN-Qatar 2021 issues are out for the conference! Make sure to check them out [here](#).

14th January

Australian Bushfire crisis intensifies



10th March

Qatar closes schools and enters a national lockdown

26th May

The death of **George Floyd** sparks Black Lives Matter protests across the United States of America.



3rd June

Russia declares state of emergency after huge oil spill in the Arctic region.

1st September

Restrictions begin to be **lifted** in Qatar, schools re-open.



7th November

Joe Biden wins the American Presidential Election becoming the 46th US President.

SDG 13: CLIMATE ACTION

THE FIGHT FOR OUR PLANET

THE SAHEL: CLIMATE CHANGE & CONFLICTS

The Sahel. A desolate region, spanning many nations, with a history of severe and frequent droughts and famines. Over several decades, not only has the land slowly degraded, but also the minds and bodies of its inhabitants.

Unfortunately, with the current climate predictions, it seems the people of this region will face another wave of despair. This is the story of Sahel's monumental environmental crisis.

Currently, over 80% of the Sahel's land is unusable for agriculture. In 30 years, an even more dire situation will be at hand. With the predicted 3 to 5 degrees Celsius increase in regional temperatures, it is likely that much of the remaining fertile land will become barren and desertified. The region has been embroiled in decades of conflicts over what is left of limited resources: fertile land, fresh water and basic necessities for survival.

However, it is not simple to come to the conclusion that climate change leads to conflict. Researcher Chitra Nagarajan explains, "An analysis that says that climate change will lead to conflict is incorrect. Climate change is a threat multiplier in a context where the conditions and the drivers for conflict already exist." This is why the issue of climate change for the Sahel is not just about the numbers.

In the region's already unstable political atmosphere, rampant terrorist activity and a multitude of other issues throws every prediction off the rails. What can be confidently concluded, however, is that these conflicts are placing a tremendous strain on those who are most vulnerable. Current figures estimate 33 million people in the region are food insecure.

Thankfully, the future is not all bleak. With the Great Green Wall initiative being partly underway, farmers have begun to use advanced agricultural techniques that are helping to reclaim huge swaths of desertified land annually.

It is an unfortunate reality that the countries who pollute the least, are the hardest hit by changes to the climate. Hopefully, this crisis acts as a reminder for us to reduce our carbon footprint and help us keep in mind our fellow humans who are negatively affected by the careless actions we commit on a daily basis.



A man wearing a wide-brimmed straw hat and a light-colored, long-sleeved shirt is working in a field. He is holding a long, dark wooden staff or tool. The background shows a dry, open landscape under a clear blue sky. The text is overlaid in the center of the image.

**"THE CLIMATE CAN CHANGE.
THE QUESTION IS CAN WE?"**

SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT

The first place winners of the 2020 GAIA competition come from the International School of London Qatar, and were presented with the GAIA Award and corresponding 3,000 Qatari Riyal prize during the THIMUN 2020 Closing Ceremony on the 25th of January, 2020.

The students decided to explore how to reduce energy consumption within their school and transform their energy sources into sustainable ones. This passionate group of students, led by Tanya Dwivedi, who founded the Solar Initiative in 2016 and has since graduated from ISL-Q, had both creativity and impact in mind while brainstorming their project. They consistently referenced the SDG's throughout their initiative, choosing to focus on SDGs 7, 11, 12, and 13, while also being creative in their video submission, incorporating polished footage alongside easy-to-follow explanations in their 5-minute video, thus guaranteeing them the top spot in the GAIA competition.

Raseel Althawadi, a student involved in the project, went into detail about the initiative and the impact they hoped it would have:

FEATURE

ISLQ: SOLAR INITIATIVE

Meet the THIMUN-Q 2020 Global Act of Impact Award Winners!

"The main purpose of this project is to set up solar panels so the reception area of our school can run independently. The next phase is to transition each sector of the school to run off solar energy. This project looks to help the environment and preventing the effects of climate change. The more people we can engage in a project as broad as a renewable-energy project, the more we can gradually improve the state of the Earth. Thus, we hope to inspire and help support other schools who want to run on clean energy."

"Members of our school community will definitely notice a change in electrical systems (we will make it evident through banners around the school), and this will lead to companies, other schools, and individuals to be inspired to make a change. We believe that if we can commit and accomplish a project like this, then everyone can achieve it too!"



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



#BLM: EXPLAINED

HOW THE BLACK LIVES MATTER MOVEMENT CHANGED THE WORLD

On June 6th, all 50 states of the United States stood together in solidarity against the institutionalized racism that rips the country apart. The world was in uproar fighting with them against the system which allows for the unfair treatment of black communities. The world came together demanding justice for George Floyd. George Floyd was simply a catalyst for a problem that had been growing momentum for a long time. People in America are still protesting today, but they're calling for a different name - Breonna Taylor. Will this cycle of events ever cease? Will the systematic racism that allows for this corruption ever stop? As young adults what can we do to make sure this is the last time we have to call for justice?

We must understand, in order to tackle racism, that police brutality is only the surface of the problem. The problem goes beyond police brutality. It is a fight against the systematic racism which exists in every sector of life. Professional. Educational. Health. Social.

Unfortunately, racism even happens at school. Many schools in the US remain racially divided due to the economic inequalities. Conversations about such divisions or inequalities in today's schools must improve, and in the recent Qatar leadership Conference, a training workshop on how to set up such school based societies was delivered to great success. [A recording of this workshop can be found here.](#)

Our voices are loud. Within two months of the Black Lives Matter protests, protests and petitions and arrests and convictions for racial violence by state officials have increased, mindsets have been changed, and more funding than ever before has been moved from policing to youth programs aimed to uplift communities. Educate yourself and continue calling for action.

Joe Biden has won the election but this does not mean systemic racism has disappeared. It will take education and other factors to achieve equality and equity in America. Thus, we must amplify black voices to combat systemic racism.

~~"I CAN'T BREATHE"~~



KEEPING UP WITH THIMUN-Q



THIMUN-Qatar's new Youth Action logo. This will be used throughout TQ activities.

With the pandemic looming over all of us this year, the executives were inclined to take a virtual approach while preparing for THIMUN Qatar 2021. Nevertheless, with our continued goal of promoting youth advocacy, many initiatives have been launched! (And as they say in every clause of a MUN resolution), such as but not limited to:

This year the executive team also created a Delegate Video Series to provide delegates with the best tips, tricks, and hacks to maximize your Model UN experience. Ranging from how to give a BOMB speech, to delegate life hacks and Model UN conference essentials, this series will prepare you for everything before attending a conference. Be sure to head on over to the newly designed THIMUN Qatar Press website/ blog (<http://thimunqatarpress.org>) to check them out!

COVID-19 RELIEF PROJECT

COVID-19 has affected us all, from people's livelihoods to schools, businesses, and the economy. Yet the hardest hit in Qatar were daily wage workers and their families. THIMUN Qatar wanted to curb the effects that the virus had on the community and help those in need. Through a partnership with Qatar Charity, the executive team created an initiative with the help of students and youth leaders across Qatar to support those in need. The donated relief boxes helped provide basic essentials and necessities that were difficult to obtain during these desperate times.



SDG 13 ONLINE CAMPAIGN

Every year THIMUN Qatar is focused on a specific Sustainable Development Goal. TQ 2021 is honored to theme the 2021 conference on Sustainable Development Goal 13 (Climate Action). This year, the executive team has made it a goal to reinforce the conference's theme in multiple ways to enhance youth voice. The executive team launched the SDG 13 social media campaign through Instagram during the month of May (make sure to follow our Instagram on @thimunqatarpress!) leading up to the conference in February.



[THIMUN-Q Youtube](#)



[@thimunqatarpress](#)



[@THIMUN_Qatar](#)



[@thimunqatar](#)

// Submit an **SDG 13: Climate Action**

inspired artwork (in any form of medium) for it to be showcased in the 10th Annual THIMUN-Q Conference's Art Exhibition.

Film yourself in the process of making your art for a chance to be featured on our Social Media.

Link to the submission form in the **description** and on **qatar.thimun.org.** //

Deadline: 9th February 2021

THIMUN X

ART EXHIBITION

LET'S TALK RENGEN PROJECT

Oh apologies I forgot to tell you, what exactly is RENGEN?

For starters it's the abbreviation for Renewable Generation and it stands for the new group of Youth Leaders and Sustainability activists that are about to embark on a new project to incorporate renewable energy into their school.

So what's that all about?

These students will be developing solar panel prototypes through working with Fablabs to understand some of the science behind sustainable energy and will even get to go on a tour of a QF Stadium to see all of this in action.

What does all this mean for me?

All participating schools in the RENGEN project get 100% guidance and support with their full project from the GA team and the Fablabs team. That means we've got you covered on estimating the costs, planning the resources and working out how this will be turned into reality. You can use this to learn a whole range of skills from problem solving to social skills such as communication and leadership.

But who exactly are these "Youth Leaders" that are pioneering RENGEN?

Well one of them could be you. We're dead serious. You can be the first group of students to get involved in a project of this scale and not only submit this for the GAIA awards... but you can also be the next Youth Service Winner award; there's only 1 out of the 1300 THIMUN participants each year.

Are you ready to launch?

Guess what, you are one click away from RENGEN, click [here](#) is to sign up to take part in this amazing initiative!

Wait, are you interested in more service activities?

Join our THIMUN Qatar Service Hunt 2021 where you get to partake in a mental health festival, a beach cleanup or tree planting. Don't miss out on these amazing opportunities to give back to the community! Click [here](#) to join.

Deadline for RENGEN: 31st December 2020

Deadline for G.A.I.A: 31st January 2021

**Meet THIMUN-
Qatars General
Assembly Team!
The brains
behind all of
these service
and outreach
projects!**

