

33RD MOAS FOR HIGH SCHOOLS

AND WE'RE BACK!

WELCOME BACK to the 22 schools that are participating in the 33rd MOAS for High Schools (33rd MOAS/HS). Also, a warm welcome to the 4 new schools that have joined the MOAS this year!

From the Press of the 33rd MOAS/HS, we are excited for what is to come.

INTRODUCTION



Special Features Writers
Katie Quigg and Allison Yoder

The opening ceremony this year at the 33rd MOAS for High schools began with the MOAS Program Coordinator, Mrs. Nelly Robinson. She thoroughly introduced the leaders of this year's MOAS and mentioned that there are 15 specialists that will also be assisting the students in the drafting of the resolutions. Mrs. Robinson welcomed four new schools to the MOAS: Centennial High School from Maryland; Lake Braddock Secondary School and Langley High School, both from Virginia, and New Tech Odessa High School from Texas. Each year, she hopes to welcome new schools to the Model and continue promoting democratic values among the youth of the Hemisphere.

Throughout the course of the days, Mrs. Robinson would like the delegates to use all of the resources provided by the MOAS Program. Within each committee, she hopes that delegates can join together to create innovative resolutions that will later be debated and to defend and advocate the policies and interests of the country they are representing.

Next, Mrs. Yadira Soto, Senior Advisor at the Office of the Assistant Secretary General, spoke for a short period about the Organization, stating that committees will be debating current issues affecting the Hemisphere. During three days, those here for the MOAS will be able to coordinate efforts and use dialogue and diplomacy like the official Representatives to the OAS who discuss current problems affecting the region. Committees will be debating issues such as violence against children; gender equality; economic development with social inclusion; democracy and conflict resolution; drugs in the Americas; terrorism, and trade integration in the Americas. She wishes the 33rd MOAS' participant the best of luck and hopes the experience will positively affect the lives of the participants.



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COMMITTEE UPDATES



General
Committee
Writer
Francis Madeira

On a shorter schedule, opening statements in the General Committee began in a hasty manner. Each delegate spoke with poise and knowledge about current issues on women's rights. Of the first group of delegates who spoke, all similarly agreed that there was a lack of access to funding towards women entrepreneurs, as well as many women facing double discrimination, including a gender gap in political ambition.

Afterwards, MOAS President and Chair, Michael Liu, and the rest of the officers introduced the specialists. All three specialists, Victoria Abalo, Laura Blanco, and Marisol Blanchard, gave a short but informative presentation on their issue at hand.

After hearing from all of the specialists, the Chair directed the session back to resuming the opening statements. Delegates continued their speeches, widely enforcing the need to improve gender equality in the Americas. All delegates provided enthusiasm in their openings and proved focused and prepared to continue debate in the next days.



First Committee
Writer
Zack Klebanoff

On the first day, specialist Mrs. Soto shared her knowledge with the First Committee. Mrs. Soto has spent 22 years working for the OAS, and she is an expert in democracy and conflict resolution. She also gave the warning to the participants that "conflict prevention work is done through a broader range of democracy and peace building."

Additionally, many of the delegates agreed that the rights of indigenous peoples are being neglected, and need protection. Argentina acknowledged indigenous peoples need a say in government. Also, societal inclusion became a hot topic for the participants. Several countries, such as Bolivia and Paraguay, provided information on the lack of schooling in South America. Although most delegates spoke on the importance of inclusion, Honduras also added the importance of development for indigenous communities.

With all the focus on the relevance of education, it will be interesting to see what happens in the First Committee in coming days.



Second
Committee
Writer
Carly Munger

One of the Second Committee experts, Mrs. Shevaun Culmer, led the first part of the meeting focusing on aviation security, border safety and drug control. Her biggest concern currently is that the OAS does not have the resources to control all aviation safety, but is pleased with the new technologies that are being created to assist with flying safety.

A second expert dealing with drug control, Mr. Luis Villalobos, stressed that the OAS must work to find treatment for those who have been arrested for drug possession, and spread drug awareness to prevent drug abuse throughout the countries.

A third expert, Mr. Giovanni Snidle, shortly discussed the topic of terrorism. When addressing terrorism, he questioned the delegates on how well they knew the idea of terrorism, and what types of terrorist threats the world faces today.

The delegates themselves listened intently as their experts introduced them to the topics, and are looking forward to jumping in to committee sessions.

COMMITTEE UPDATES



Third
Committee
Writer
Meg Chandler

Third Committee

delegates were very compassionate about strategies to facilitate employment opportunities for citizens of the Americas, as it is a relevant issue in every Member State.

They also weighed in on strategies to improve access to modern clean energy in rural areas that will be beneficial to the countries of the Americas.

During the opening statements, head delegates voiced the importance of these pressing issues, as they are relevant in the countries they are representing, and they also expressed that education should be one the pillars to advance these topics, as it would create awareness about their significance.

Due to earlier delays, the committee was pressed for time and briefly covered the topics so it will be interesting to see what the committee will accomplish in the next few days.



Fourth
Committee
Writer
Liz Nadolski

Fourth Committee

After the conclusion of the opening ceremony, the delegates of the Fourth Committee got right down to business. First off, the experts of the OAS informed everyone what the purpose of their daily career was.

As expressed by the specialists, the role of the OAS regarding the topic of trade integration in the Americas is to promote productivity, innovation, competitiveness of small- and medium-sized enterprises, and participation in national and international markets.

The experts believe that Member States should support institutions that help micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises.

After listening to the experts, the delegates delivered their general statements. Delegates stated what country he/she was representing, how beyond excited they were for this year's MOAS, and how they cannot wait to have an enjoyable experience.

To conclude, the delegates did not have time to split up into working groups, so they will continue their debates tomorrow.



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