



SINGAPORE MODEL UNITED NATIONS 2020

National University of Singapore Political Science Society
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Dear Delegates, Faculty Advisors, and Friends from around the world,

We are facing extraordinary circumstances as the COVID-19 pandemic tests the resilience and fortitude of our global community. In these trying and uncertain times, we have to make tough decisions. On behalf of the Singapore MUN 2020 Secretariat, I wish to announce that we will be cancelling the physical conference which we have consistently held for the past sixteen years. Instead, SMUN 2020 will be converted into an online conference to be held from 13 to 14 June.

All delegates who have sent us their payments will have their conference fees refunded. Do check your email and spam mailbox regularly within the coming week for instructions. For delegates with intermittent access to email or financial services due to the impact of COVID-19, rest assured that we are committed to refunding you once those services have returned.

As the pandemic escalates, to carry on with the physical conference in June is not an option. The health of all our participants and staff is of utmost importance to us and it would be irresponsible to put everyone's well-being at such risk. The Government of Singapore has also issued indefinite entry restrictions to all visitors travelling to Singapore. All kinds of physical events and gatherings, like ours, are being cancelled or postponed in accordance with government advisories.

The Singapore Model United Nations 2020 Online Conference is the result of our commitment to continue giving you the opportunity to experience academic rigour, integrity, and personal growth. It will be free-of-charge for anyone to participate, and we will be retaining the majority of the committees we had planned. More details about the online conference will be announced in the coming days.

Amidst such trying times, many of us are fearful of what is to come. Some of us are trying to travel back to our home countries to return to the safety of our families. Many of us are practising social distancing and self-isolation to protect those we care about and the community around us. Others may be living in cities undergoing lockdown, watching the news daily, hoping and praying for some respite. MUN has taught me countless lessons over the years, but one of the most salient reminders I have taken away is that it is during such times that we need to remind ourselves to band together in spirit and continue fighting for what we believe in. Here at SMUN, we strive to be that beacon of hope and reassurance for the MUN community, and for youths at large.

We cannot promise to deliver the exact same debate quality and experience as we have for the past sixteen editions of SMUN. But what we can promise is our dedication to do our best in making this novel experience worthwhile for you. Our Academics team will be collaborating with all our Chairs to ensure that we make the necessary modifications to committee proceedings, so that our delegates can still have genuine, productive debate. I invite all of you to take this leap of faith with us, and to join us in building a global community that can withstand these difficult times together. We may not be able to physically meet each other right now, but I believe that the connections we forge here at SMUN can and will transcend physical boundaries.

Sincerely and with hope,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Royston Long'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'R'.

Royston Long
Secretary-General
Singapore Model United Nations 2020