Ukraine in Turmoil

1.What is your past Model UN experience?

I have attended a MUN conference held by Yale University in May when I was a sophomore as the delegate of DPRK, PMUNC will be my second MUN. I really enjoy taking other country’s perspective in a MUN conference to negotiate and collaborate with other delegates.

2.What interests you about the Ukrainian crisis?

Crimea, the most conspicuous spot in Ukrainian crisis, is also historically significant because of the noted Crimean War over a hundred years ago between Russia and the alliance of Britain, France, and Ottoman Empire. Heavy casualties, political upheavals, and social turmoils caused by the Crimean War dissuaded nations to provoke warfare against each other. Besides, diverse claims about Ukrainian Crisis also reflected complex international relationships. While most Western countries are fervently condemning Crimean status referendum manipulated by Russia and invoking economic and political sanctions against Russia, European nations still have scruples because of the rich natural gas source in Russia. 30% of EU nations’ gas comes from Russia and half of it flows through Ukraine. In September, Russia cut off the gas to Poland without warning. On the other hand, though Chinese government voted for abstention in the UN conference concerning the validity of Russian annexation of Crimea, it silently supported Russia by government-controlled propaganda.

3.What are some of the major factors that influence Ukraine’s relationship with both the West

and with Russia?

First of all, Ukraine’s economy is probably responsible for its current situation. Even after it declared independence from Russia in 1991, the economy of Ukraine is still largely dependent on Russia. Despite of its citizens’ inclination to EU, Ukraine would plunge into energy crisis once Russia completely cut off its natural gas supplies to Ukraine.

Besides, history also fairly explains Putin’s actions. As Putin once described the collapse of Soviet Union as the “greatest geopolitical catastrophe” in the 20th century and Russia has issued a cooperation program with former Soviet states, it is not unreasonable to assume his inclination to establish the bloc similar to that with Russia as the leading power during the Cold War. Since Ukraine was adjacent to Russian boundary and formed a member of Russian “buffer zone”, the loss of control in Ukraine would cause inconvenience in Russian operation in Black Sea.

4.The annexation of Crimea—justifiable or a crime? Why? Be concise, be specific.

Russian annexation of Crimea is a serious violation against international laws and principles.

First, the so-called democratic Crimea status referendum was manipulated by Crimean Parliament with a pro-Russian prime minister who voted to break away from Ukraine.

Second, Russian unexpectedly invaded territories around Crimea and garrisoned Russian troops in Crimea during the referendum, which imposed invisible threat to Crimean citizens and was likely to affect their discretion.