

CET MUN 2017



INTERNATIONAL PRESS HANDBOOK

Greetings, members of the International Press!

It is my absolute pleasure to welcome you all as a part of the International Press Team at College of Engineering and Technology Model United Nations Conference, 2017. As the Chief of International Press, I would like to draw your attention to the seriousness and significance of the responsibility you are about to assume. As a Model UN conference is a simulation of the United Nations conference, we must understand that every member of the conference is playing a particular role, including the Press members. Hence, as a journalist, a certain amount of professionalism is essential. Always remember that you are a part of a team. Individual competitions aside, our primary goal is to procure resourceful articles for a decent and informative newsletter.

We are in this together!

Looking forward to an engaging conference, and to working with all of you. Feel free to get in touch in case of any queries

Regards

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ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS

The International Press (IP) is neither a traditional committee of the United Nations nor an authentic part of any of the other UN committees. Here, the IP refers to the collection of international press agencies that gather from all the corners of the world to report on the activities of the proceedings of various United Nations committees.

One of the most important tasks that journalists in the International Press perform is formal reporting. They are primarily required to cover the event and describe it to others in the best thought-out and concise way possible, and for this purpose, they are supposed to take notes and submit articles that contain the major discussions in their respective councils. A good news article ought to be articulate, brief and be able to convey the very essence of any discussion. There are three things which come as a part and parcel of any International Press Team at a Model UN Conference simulation.

1. RESEARCH:

Comprehensive research forms the basic framework of the art of reporting. A journalist in a committee needs to be well informed, rather better equipped with their research since it is not going to be country specific. Half-baked knowledge on the agendas reflects factual inconsistency in the articles. Kindly go through the background guides of your respective committees to have a better understanding on the agenda. Knowledge of current debates pertaining to the agenda is also encouraged.

2. UNITY:

The International Press team will comprise of a number of reporters as well as photographers who need to be working in synchronization

with each other. The spirit of competitiveness should never come in the way of team-work.

3. CODE OF CONDUCT:

Reporters are expected to maintain diplomatic courtesy at all times towards fellow members of the team, delegates, executive board and the Secretariat. Even while critically looking at council proceedings; it is imperative that respect be extended to the delegates. Frivolous reporting, like reporting on a delegate's attire or manner of speaking, is highly discouraged.

SUBMISSION DETAILS:

I. TYPES OF ARTICLES:

A minimum of three articles a day is expected from each reporter, including a compulsory beat. However, there is no upper limit to the number of submissions. They are encouraged to submit a variety of articles.

Beat-based Articles: A beat based article is a factual article detailing an argument of a particular aspect of the agenda. The reporter's focus should not be on putting in as much information possible, but to put in only the relevant information. The beat should be a central idea around which the contents of the article are formed. One shall be able to identify the beat of the day's discussion only through careful observation and attention; hence it is necessary for the reporters to be present, mentally and physically, during all formal sessions. Include as many factual details and quotes as possible, within the context of the article and the agenda, as facts help readers understand your work better. Make it expressive, not narrative.

Opinion Editorials: The first step to writing any opinion editorial is research. Research does not just include finding or verifying facts but also examining different perspectives on an issue. Op-ed reflects an individual's views. It is supposed to be a presentation of views, yet abstinence from being subjective. We expect everyone to substantiate their opinion with educated research.

Interviews: An interview provides an opportunity of a personal interaction with a person. It should be utilized to bring out those aspects which will not come to light otherwise in the course of the MUN. Both delegates and Executive Board members can be

interviewed. However, the reporter is expected to ask questions related to the agenda at hand.

Press Conference: Any Press Conference is based on extensive and detailed research by reporters. The reporters are supposed to pose questions- 4 or 5- to delegates of their council, on the second day of the conference. The questions could be based on any statement made by the delegates during the course of debate apart from other research based questions. The Press Conference can be held only after prior permission from the Executive Board of the committee. The reporters are also expected to submit a press conference report. The duration of a press conference should not exceed fifteen minutes.

Features: Apart from the basic beat- based reporting and op-eds, reporters are also free to experiment with different genres of writing in a feature. Out of the box ideas are welcome and reporters are encouraged to let their creativity run wild. This section can include photo stories or even fictional writing and poems relevant to the respective agendas!

Opinion Polls: This particular type of article allows you to express your opinion in any manner you want. Again, the content needs to be restricted to the agenda. The use of graphs, pie-charts or any other statistical analysis is highly encouraged.

All reporters have to submit one beat a day and at least one of the others. The total number of submissions compulsory per day is two. However there is no upper limit to the number of submissions.

(Brownie points for the same!)

More than one submission of the same category, on the same day, is also welcome.

II. FORMAT

1. Title

Centre Aligned

Font Style: Cambria, Bold

Font Size: 28

2. By-line

Left Aligned

Font Style: Calibri, Italics

Font Size-13

3. Body

Left Aligned

Font Style: Calibri

Font size: 12

Word Limit:

1. Beat: 300

2. Op-ed: 400-450

3. Features: Upto 300

Note: Please make sure that the articles you submit do not have red or green squiggles.

Here is a sample article for your convenience.

FROM CONFUSION TO CATASTROPHE

Dipshikha Nanda, reporter of *The United Nations General Assembly – Social, Humanitarian and Cultural (UNGA- SOCHUM)*, enunciates on the journey of the committee from defining the term “indigenous people” to the strike of a raging crisis.

After the slight progress in debate on the first day, the second day commenced on a perplexing note when the Russian Delegate seemed to be unaware of his own country’s abstention from The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). The delegate also was the reason for raised eyebrows in the committee when he openly defined the indigenous population as the minority population of a state and further blatantly denied making any such statements. But not much misses the ears of the Press, does it? Further bafflement aroused when China recognized the Tibetans to be mere minorities but not an indigenous population.

The committee then unanimously passed the motion for a moderated caucus on the topic “Defining indigenous people.” However, the only thing which the delegates reached a consensus upon was that the committee, in its resolution, should formulate the definition of indigenous people. In all appropriate understanding, the existing indigenous people, who represent a diversity of population, cannot be merely articulated in one strict definition - it would either be too narrow or too broad; it should rather be a definition of the guidelines and features which qualify a certain population to be categorized into indigenous. However, some other delegates pondered on the negative connotation of the term too, which in turn causes individuals to not accept their identity.

“The Shari’a is the law of our land. We abide by it. No other nation has a right to question ‘Why?’” - this statement by the delegate of Islamic Republic of Iran incited exasperated sighs by the fellow delegates. When the delegate was trying to shed light on the threats posed to the indigenous community, the delegate of Sri Lanka vehemently questioned their validation of the definition of the indigenous population. The delegate of Iran tackled all questions which came their way following Sri Lanka’s line of thought by reiterating the importance of Shari’a.

Withholding citizenship, bio-piracies, stripping the people of their land, philanthropic exclusion are few of the many atrocities which they face as asserted by the delegate of China. The people who had made themselves an inseparable part of nature are also facing threats from the climate change and other ecological disturbances. “The collective ownership of land rather than private ownership is responsible for their unequal political representation”, the delegate of Mongolia cited.

With the disappearance of every culture, disappears a way of life. Now, the indigenous population, even after being unjustly considered as the secondary citizens of a nation and being denied even the most basic of human rights, put in their best efforts to preserve the sanctity of their ethnicity. It, certainly, begs the question of why should they not and are they not human beings who breathe in the same air as we do? No amount of argument can ever deny the population to the rights they deserve. At this point, with the introduction of a crisis, the council walked on a tight-rope. We are certainly looking at a lot of heated debates and soul-searching, but whether this rope-walk would bring positive results or not is a point of much qualm

III. SUBMISSION DEADLINES AND MARKING SCHEME

All reporters are expected to strictly adhere to the deadlines allotted to them.

The deadlines for each day will be notified at the beginning of the first session for the day.

The following parameters would be taken into account for marking the journalists:

1. Punctuality in submission of articles
2. Quality of research
3. Quality of content in the articles
4. Grammatical consistency
5. Appropriateness of title and by-line

Note:

It is essential that the journalists carry the following items with them:

1. Laptop
2. Pen drive
3. Notepad
4. Pen/Pencil
5. Chargers for your equipment

GOOD LUCK!