

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to UCBMUN XXI and this year's Asian Financial Crisis: 1997! My name is Victoria Lu, and I am a sophomore intending to study Business Administration and Rhetoric. I was born and raised in the Bay Area. After competing extensively in speech and debate during high school, I decided to try out for UCBMUN—a decision which soon became the best of my college career thus far. Last year, I served as Vice Chair in Colombia: Peace Accords with FARC and am truly excited about serving as Head Chair in this committee. Outside of MUN, I enjoy reading about individuals who destroyed world economies, analyzing group dynamics through research in social psychology, and giving terrible political jokes.

This committee will explore a significant, yet often unaddressed, global economic crisis which documented the first formal use of the term “contagion”. As such, we will discuss how the crisis came to be and how to best address the failing economies through the combined efforts of the countries and international bodies involved. It will be your job to navigate the political power struggles between nations and international actors and certain social, political, and economic ramifications. Delegates should expect a fluid and fast-paced committee that simulates the urgency and the conflict associated with the collapse. I suggest delegates research and understand the underlying economic causes of the crisis as well as the long term implications. Knowledge of your country's or body's specific situation and role during the crisis is also recommended.

I'm looking forward to seeing what ideas and solutions each of you will bring to the debate to change the course of history. Feel free to message me if you have any questions or comments!

—Victoria Lu

Dear Esteemed Delegates,

The time has come once again for one of the most riveting debate events the west coast has to offer: UCBMUN. Moreover, Asian Contagion: Financial Crisis will prove to be not only a committee that will test the economic and political wit of its delegates, but it will determine how they can collaborate under the most strenuous of circumstances. For those brave delegates participating in this committee, my name is Adam Braver, and I will be your honorary Crisis Director.

To those wanting to know more about myself (because I know that's what you all really want to read about), I am a junior majoring in Political Science with an additionally strong interest in Computer Science. I grew up in the sleepy Southern California surfing town of Ventura, which above anything else has the best fish tacos of any place you will ever visit (and trust me, I've visited a plethora of fish taco places). While in high school, I participated in speech and debate, where I particularly excelled in Extemporaneous Speaking (though I was just shy of your Chair at the State Tournament). My passions include staying fit, keeping up to date with the political world, and training to become the ultimate Pokemon master in Pokemon Go (sad life, I know).

With the boring introductions out of the way, I truly wish to express what I expect out of this committee. Your Chair and I spent a lot of time thinking over not only what would make for an exciting Crisis Committee, but what our delegates would gain the most out of. As more scholars by the day are arguing how the world is entering "The Age of the Pacific" so too do we believe it is central to understand the challenges that many Asian states have faced to achieve their statuses. I firmly believe that the Asian Financial Crisis was not only an economic turning point for world markets, but also a political one for many Asian states. There were countless spontaneous events during the crisis, which also makes it ripe for a Crisis Committee. I will ensure that exciting crisis updates will tie in with the flow of the committee, and in return expect you all to represent your positions to the best of your abilities. Whether this committee will simply result in economic recovery for all your respective states or something far more sinister is ultimately up to you. I look forward to meeting you all at UCBMUN XXI!

Best,

Adam Braver