

APYLS 2012 Student Dialogues: Leadership by Example

Dialogue Concept

Discussion Format

Total: 3 sessions, each session 3 hours

Introduction (30 minutes)

- Overall I/Cs will give a brief overview of the sub-theme for the session
- Overall I/Cs will release the room allocations for subsequent group discussions

Presentations (1 hour)

- Delegations will present for 10 minutes each on their assigned topic
- Each presentation will be followed by a 5 minute question-and-answer session
- There will be 4 presentations per session ((10 + 5) x 4 = 60 min)

Group Discussions (1 hour)

- Delegates will be split into 4 groups as per the allocations, each group focusing on one of the 4 problems discussed under the sub-theme
- Each group's discussion will be led by a chair and assisted by two other student-facilitators

Consolidation (30 minutes)

- A representative from each group will summarise the discussion for 2 – 3 minutes
- Other delegates may then comment or pose questions
- Overall I/Cs will then conclude the session

Content

- Each session will revolve around a different sub-theme, based on the Summit Theme of "Leadership by Example"
 - **Session 1 (Alleviating Our Common Crises)** seeks to understand the effects of global crises on the world, and measures that can be taken to mitigate these effects.
 - **Session 2 (Supporting Our Fellow Citizens)** seeks to examine the problems faced by less fortunate individuals all over the world, and how assistance can be rendered to them.
 - **Session 3 (Realising Our Universal Ideals)** seeks to explore the various common aspirations the global community holds, and how these dreams can best be realised through local solutions.

- Each of the sub-themes will be further explored by examining it in four areas that will also be the topics for group discussion. These four areas concern different aspects in which the problems are manifested
 - **Session 1 (Alleviating Our Common Crises)** will be analysed in:
 - Food and Agriculture
 - Climate Change
 - Pollution
 - Natural Disasters
 - **Session 2 (Supporting Our Fellow Citizens)** will be analysed in:
 - Population
 - Health
 - Immigration
 - Third World Debt
 - **Session 3 (Realising Our Universal Ideals)** will be analysed in:
 - Human Rights
 - Democracy
 - Women’s Rights
 - Racism

The following diagram illustrates the overall concept framework:



Awards

At the end of the final Student Dialogue, there will be a brief Awards Ceremony to acknowledge active participants and outstanding presentations throughout the three sessions. 3 Outstanding Floor Speaker Awards and 3 Outstanding Presentation Awards will be given out.

The **Outstanding Floor Speaker award** will consist of a certification and a token, and will be given to delegates that have:

- Communicated effectively with the group
- Participated actively in discussions
- Demonstrated depth of insight
- Made points relevant to the discussion

The **Outstanding Presentation award** will take the form of a certificate to be award to all group members. It will be awarded to delegations that have:

- Demonstrated effective presentation and communication skills (including judicious use of multimedia and graphics)
- Adhered to the allocated topic
- Constructed salient and coherent arguments
- Active participation among all delegates

The awards will be given based on the aforementioned criteria, while also taking into consideration instances of exceptional effort put in by delegates. Overall I/Cs will be in charge of preparing the awards prior to the summit and presenting them during the summit.

Manpower Allocation

- A single student chairperson (*name denoted by an asterisk*) will be chairing the sessions in each of the 4 rooms
- 2 facilitators per room are to assist in directing delegates to their allocated rooms and encourage them to speak up and participate actively
- The same allocation will be used for all 3 sessions (Group 1 – Problem 1; Group 2 – Problem 2 etc.)

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4
Teo Zhi Ping*	Peter Daniel*	Melissa Yeo*	Alethea Tan*
Wong Kang Ming	Lee Rui	Au Yong Jin	Teo Wei Heng
Chloe Lim	Arturo Neo	Lim He Kai	Tham Wan Qing

- Overall I/Cs will brief the student chairperson and facilitators prior to the role
- Overall I/Cs are in charge of one session each and will liaise with the facilitators of the specific delegations involved to ensure that they are aware of the student dialogues and are working on it
 - Session 1 I/C: Dinnie
 - Session 2 I/C: Azfer
 - Session 3 I/C: Vanessa

Session 1: Alleviating Our Common Crises

1. Food and Agriculture (The Philippines)

Food and agriculture is at the heart of our civilization. Many religions and cultures celebrate various aspects of food and agriculture due to the importance in our continuity. For an issue that goes to the heart of humanity, it also has its ugly side. In this session, delegates will examine the immediate and underlying causes of the global food crisis as well as evaluate the effectiveness of solutions.

1. What are the immediate and long-term factors that have caused the global food crisis?
2. To what extent is the use of biofuels exacerbating the crisis?
3. How effective has food aid been in alleviating world hunger? How can current problems with food aid be curbed and its effectiveness maximized?
4. Are there any local solutions that have been adopted by the government that might be expanded to solve the problem on a global level?

2. Climate Change (Malaysia)

The climate is changing. The earth is warming up, and there is now overwhelming scientific consensus that it is happening, and human-induced. With global warming on the increase and species and their habitats on the decrease, chances for ecosystems to adapt naturally are diminishing. Many agree that climate change may be one of the greatest threats facing the planet. Delegates will look at the causes and impact of climate change, and what society and individuals can do to alleviate it.

1. What are the primary causes and impact of climate change?
2. How effective have international climate conferences and domestic government policies been in addressing this problem? How can their effectiveness be enhanced?
3. How can society (firms, schools and individuals) play their part in reducing global warming both on a local and global level?

3. Pollution (Saudi Arabia)

Pollution is a global problem that takes on many forms and affects our everyday lives. Air, water, land and noise pollution have been worsening in recent years and have caused significant health problems and decreased the quality of life.

Moreover, one country's pollution quickly becomes another country's environmental and economic crisis. Hence, solving it becomes a matter of diplomacy and international relations, leaving the local people who are most affected with few real options. Delegates will examine the causes and impact of pollution, and what governments, society and individuals can do to alleviate it.

1. What are the primary causes and impact of pollution?
2. How have governments been addressing the problem of cross-border pollution? What further measures can be implemented to tackle it?
3. How can society (firms, schools and individuals) play their part in reducing pollution both on a local and global level?

4. Natural Disasters (Japan)

Natural disasters such as earthquakes, tsunamis, and floods often come when the world least expects it. Others, such as hurricanes and cyclones are increasing in severity and destruction. Typically, the poor are hit the worst for they have the least resources to cope and rebuild. Even though we have no control over when and where natural disasters happen, what can be controlled is how prepared communities and governments are in dealing with their repercussions. Delegates will examine the impact of recent natural disasters and analyse how effective international reactionary measures have been.

1. What are the immediate and long-term impacts of recent natural disasters? How have the affected countries been adapting to them?
2. How prepared were these countries' governments and communities in reacting to natural disasters? How can the level of preparedness be heightened across the globe?
3. How can local governments improve on their preventive and reactive measures to deal with natural disasters?

Session 2: Supporting Our Fellow Citizens

1. Population (China)

The human population of the planet is estimated to number 7.012 billion today by the United States Census Bureau (USCB). This can be seen as a success story due to improved healthcare, reduced infant mortality and expanding life spans. However, a common concern is that as the population continues to increase, it will place more strain on the environment, nations' ability to provide, economies to grow and society to flourish. Delegates will examine the impact of population growth on developed and developing countries, and explore the steps that can be taken to lessen such repercussions.

1. What are the main problems faced by developed nations in providing sufficient and reliable housing, transport and infrastructure for a burgeoning population? How have individuals' quality of life worsened?
2. What are the main problems faced by developing nations in providing adequate resources and education for their citizens amidst a growing population? To what extent has population growth exacerbated pre-existing problems?
3. How can local communities respond effectively to the increasing strain of resources due to population growth?

2. Health (The United Kingdom)

The 21st century began with many paradoxes for global health. Advances in science and technology have enabled the cure and potential eradication of many of the world's illnesses, yet preventable and avoidable diseases continue to claim lives prematurely and to undermine health on a large scale. Calls reaffirming health as a basic human right are widespread, but the gap between those with and those without access to effective health care services persists and in some countries is widening. Delegates will analyse the causes of inequity in the global health burden, and explore how to resolve the disparity.

1. What are the major causes of the global disease burden? Why does this burden fall heavily on the shoulders of the developing world?

2. How do healthcare systems in different developed countries (for example, the USA vs. the UK) function? Do these citizens receive sufficient healthcare provision and coverage?
3. What can developed countries do to assist their developing counterparts in providing adequate healthcare services? How can current global health initiatives be enhanced?

3. Immigration (Singapore)

As the world globalizes in terms of nations' economies, trade and investment, borders are opened up more easily for freer flow of goods and products. In the advent of globalization, people have also been moving across countries' borders to seek better futures for their families. The last 50 years has seen a doubling of immigration, amounting to an estimated 191 million immigrants worldwide today. Delegates will examine whether and to what extent immigration has brought about detriments to societies, and how these effects can be mitigated.

1. What are the social and political effects of immigration? To what extent are the problems of "brain drains", exploitation of labour, and an increase in criminal activities prevalent in societies?
2. What are the causes and impact of illegal immigration? How can restrictions and controls be enhanced to improve the immigration process?
3. To what extent can anti-immigrant sentiments be attributed to government policies that are perceived to favour immigrants? What steps can the government and individuals take to assist immigrants better in assimilation and reduce irrational prejudices?

4. Third World Debt (Oman)

Debt has crippled many developing countries. Often based on loans taken out by prior rulers and dictators, millions face poorer and poorer living standards as precious resources are diverted to debt repayment. As a result, some 11 million children die each year around the world, due to conditions of poverty and debt. Yet, total debt continues to rise, despite ever-increasing payments, while aid is falling. The developing world now spends \$13 on debt repayment for every \$1 it receives in grants. Delegates will examine the causes and effects of the debt crisis, and evaluate the effectiveness of global efforts to reduce its impact.

1. What are the main causes of the debt crisis? To what extent is it true that the poor are in effect subsidizing the rich due to enormous debt repayments?
2. What adverse effects does debt have on the children, the environment and disaster relief efforts by developing countries?
3. How effective have international schemes, such as G8 summits and the Heavily In-debt Poor Countries (HIPC) initiative, been in reducing third world debt? How can debt cancellation efforts be improved to effect real change? What can be done on a local level to induce this change?

Session 3: Realising Our Universal Ideals

1. Human rights (The United States)

It has been over 50 years since the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights was signed by most governments in the world and yet gross human rights abuses continue to grow. In efforts to eliminate violations of human rights, the UN Security Council has interceded with peacekeeping forces,

and other states have also intervened in dire circumstances. Delegates will examine the severity of human rights violations today, and explore the various considerations the developed world has in promoting human rights in unstable regions.

1. To what extent has the violation of human rights in the form of torture, human trafficking and political oppression worsened globally? Who are the main perpetrators of such abuses and what are their underlying motivations?
2. How effective have international law, political bodies and treaties been in protecting human rights? Do countries have the moral obligation to intervene in humanitarian crises? If so, does the efficacy of using military force across sovereign boundaries outweigh the cost of doing so?
3. How can the international community better respond to rogue states and oppressive regimes that place little regard for human rights? What measures can governments, corporations and organizations enact to promote human rights in the world?

2. Democracy (Australia)

Democracy is one of the ultimate ideals that modern civilizations strive to create and preserve. It allows extensive representation of views, inclusiveness of people and accountability of power and is fundamentally seen as a form of governance by the people and for the people. However, even in established democracies, there are pressures that threaten various democratic foundations. Delegates will examine the chief challenges of democracy and evaluate whether these challenges can be curbed, and if so, how they can be.

1. What are the pillars of a functioning democracy? Is democracy seen as a “Western” or universal value?
2. To what extent are the challenges of democracy, such as political apathy, election fraud, populist policies and the propensity for incumbents to cling onto power, crippling to its functioning? Are these challenges inherent to the nature of democracy?
3. How can these challenges be reconciled? What can local governments and individuals do to overcome these challenges and promote true democracy in nations?

3. Women’s rights (South Korea)

A major global women’s rights treaty was ratified by the majority of the world’s nations a few decades ago. Yet, despite many successes in empowering women, numerous issues still exist in all areas of life, ranging from the cultural, political to the economic. For example, women often work more than men, yet are paid less; gender discrimination affects girls and women throughout their lifetime; and women and girls are often the ones that suffer the most poverty. Delegates will examine the scale of progress that has been made in women’s rights, and explore how they can be further promoted.

1. To what extent has there been a progress in women’s rights over the course of history?
2. What are the challenges faced by women in terms of wage disparity, feminization of poverty and reproductive rights?
3. What can local governments, corporations and individuals do to promote gender equality and champion women’s rights?

4. Racism (India)

Racism is a matter of growing concern amongst the nations of the world. Far from being a social ill restricted to one or two countries, the moral disease of racism spans communities, countries, and

continents. Racism is a complex issue. At the core of any working definition of racism is the unspoken ingredient of fear. People around the world all belong to the same human race; they share the same tendencies to fear, domination, and subjugation. Hence, inevitably, racism is a worldwide issue.

1. What are notable instances of racism in history and how has it affected minority groups? Has the issue been resolved in the present-day situation? If it has, are there still lingering effects of it that permeate their daily lives?
2. Where does racism originate from? How susceptible is everyone to forming racial prejudices from stereotypes? What are the implications of people unconsciously forming biases for society?
3. How can racism be circumvented? Can it be curbed by government policies alone? How can individuals play their part in putting a stop to the spiraling of racism?