Sanskriti Tandon is this year's keynote speaker at MSMUN. She is a bright 12th grade student in Qatar Academy. She has shown commitment to the Model United Nations and has attended around 30 conferences in Qatar since the 9th grade. She has been part of the executive team for three conferences and has shown great leadership skills. Sanskriti chose to join MUN to engage in controversial and fruitful debates that tackle worldwide issues. She is able to discuss these issues outside of the classroom as they are brought to light through MUN conferences. MUN conferences have been a way for Sanskriti to meet new new people from around the world with similar interests and create friendships as well as experiences. She has also started a few international initiatives with THIMUN and got the chance to expand the walls of the conference to those who did not have access to it. This year's conference theme is SDG1 which focuses on no poverty.

QMUNITY Voice reporter Shoug Al Tamimi sat down with her to ask her some questions on MUN.

**What is your view on the theme of the conference?**

It’s really great that this year they picked SDG 1 focusing on No poverty. The SDG’s are a great way of putting the progression of this world into perspective because they break down all the problems into smaller categories and it really allows you to focus on a track in order to solve a problem. Poverty has been something which has significantly affected the growth of our world and it’s got multiple issues which relate to it like discrimination based on wealth, class, race, gender. And although there have been so many efforts made to tackle poverty - successful and unsuccessful - there is still a lot that needs to be done to move forward together.

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**No Poverty Goal**

**Nowair Al Tamimi**
Qatar Academy

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), also known as the Global Goals, are the universal call to action to create ways in which we could end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity. The SDG are made up of 17 Goals built on the successes of the Millenium Development Goals, with new areas such as climate change, economic inequality, innovation, sustainable consumption, and peace and justice as new areas included amongst the other goals and priorities. They set targets amongst all countries to adapt according to their priorities and the environmental challenges of the world with an aim to make and achieve the right methods to improve life and the environment in a sustainable way for the futures following generations.

Poverty still remains to be one of the greatest challenges faced by humanity. Over the years, the number of people living in extreme poverty as dropped from 1.9 billion to 836 million, millions worldwide are still struggling to complete basic daily tasks and human needs. On average, 800 million people are living off of $1.25 each day and lack an acceptable amount of food, as well as clean drinking water and sanitation.

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Meet The SG

Nowair Al Tamimi
Qatar Academy

What are your thoughts on this year’s main theme?

I wish for all the delegates to be aware of our theme on “No Poverty” because it is becoming a rising issue as 3.6 billion people are living under the poverty line. In which 1.3 billion people live in extreme poverty. The devastating truth on poverty in the world needs to be tackled to make the truth into a myth. One billion children in the world live under the poverty line, in which 22,000 children die every day because of poverty. This year’s main theme is able to allow our younger generations be aware of the struggles that children face in the world.

How did your MUN career begin and how has it developed? Are there any standout moments?

I was introduced to MUN when I met Adeeba Ahmed one of the prior Secretary General of THIMUN. She convinced me to sign up as a delegate for MUN when I was in grade eight. I was a young and shy student, but as I progressed through that year, Adeeba became a diligent mentor for myself and other students. She helped mold me from being the young, shy student to be the eager, motivated and confident student who always wanted to stand up and speak during the conference. In my first year of MUN, Adeeba convinced me to attend MSMUN Singapore. Since this was one of my initial conferences, I recall that I was extremely uncomfortable, unused to being in a room with people I did not know, speaking on a topic that affects a region of the world, which I was not really familiar with. But I remember till this day, Adeeba, entered the room and convinced me to give the speech on my issue at hand. Thereafter, this was a transformational MUN experience for me. That sense of initial discomfort and insecurity, changed, to a joyful and interested student, who was truly eager to speak and learn more.

Prior to being SG, what other positions have you held with MUN?

I have attended close to twenty conferences both locally and internationally and in different positions of delegate, co-chair, head chair, and executive. Some examples are DEMSUN 2017 as a head chair, Singapore MSMUN as a delegate and THIMUN Qatar 2016-2018. Furthermore, I have gained executive experience through Qatar Leadership Conference as well as being President of my school MUN club. In total, I have participated in several conferences in various positions from deputy chair all the way to an executive. The most memorable time as a chair was my first chairing conference, which was MSMUN Qatar and I was a co-chair of the environmental commission.

What do you hope the delegates would gain from this year’s conference?

I hope that delegates in MSMUN are able to gain the same skills that I have successively gained through my MUN experience. I want the delegates to develop the same sense of security, motivation, and eagerness which I have developed for MUN, by allowing students to feel comfortable in each committee that they are in. I hope to encourage all delegates to attend future conferences, rising through ranks and being a dedicated member of the MUN community.

"Poverty is the worst form of violence.”
- Mahatma Gandhi

“I want the delegates to develop the same sense of security, motivation, and eagerness, which I have developed for MUN”
The Rohingya Crisis

Fiza Faris
Newton International Academy

The plight of hundreds of thousands of Rohingya people is said to be the world’s fastest growing refugee crisis. Risking death by sea or on foot, millions have fled the destruction of their homes and persecution in the northern Rakhine province of Myanmar for neighbouring Bangladesh since August 2017. The United Nations described the military offensive in Rakhine, which provoked the evacuation, as a “textbook example of ethnic cleansing.” Myanmar's military says it is fighting Rohingya militants and denies targeting civilians.

Who are the Rohingya?
The Rohingya, who numbered around one million in Myanmar at the start of 2017, are one of the many ethnic minorities in the country. Rohingya Muslims represent the largest percentage of Muslims in Myanmar, with the majority living in Rakhine state. They have their own language and culture and say they are descendants of Arab traders and other groups who have been in the region for generations. However, the government of Myanmar, a predominantly Buddhist country, denies the Rohingya citizenship and even excluded them from the 2014 census, refusing to recognise them as a people. It sees them as illegal immigrants from Bangladesh.

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Keynote Speaker

Shoug Al Tamimi
Qatar Academy

What advice would you give students who are thinking of joining MUN?
If you’re thinking about it, you have to give it a go! The benefits of doing MUN are insane and participating in MSMUN gives you an early start to the whole program. You really get to grow as a person because not only do you find out about the problems people are facing today but also intrapersonal skills like how to deal with people, how to be a good leader, being open minded, etc. (plus it looks great on college applications)

What do you want students to gain from attending this conference?
Being a part of this conference last year, I know that students come in here with bright minds and great hopes of solving the issues that are so prevalent to our world today. But as they debate they slowly realise that it’s not so easy to solve something because of all the complexities of the world we live in today. The sharing of ideas and the mindful discussions is what the conference hopes to achieve ultimately; that students can walk out knowing more than they did before and having a different perspective of the world which they may not have considered previously.

Why did you join MUN?
I did MUN because of all the things you get to talk about which you normally won’t be able to talk about in a classroom. You also get to meet lots of people with the same interests as you and it’s a great place for networking with students, directors and even UN officials if you’re lucky!

“that students can walk out knowing more than they did before and having a different perspective of the world which they may not have considered previously.”
The World of MUN

Fiza Faris
Newton International Academy

MUN – Model United Nations. It is an extracurricular activity, where students roleplay the roles of delegates in the United Nations. It is a platform for individuals to share their ideas, voice out their opinions and debate on global issues and come to a conclusion. The United Nations was established in 1945 after World War 2, to ensure peace and stability between countries and to prevent from any further outbreaks of war. Model United Nations follow the same procedures as followed by the actual United Nations.

Delegates prepare resolutions and policy statements, lobby and merge their resolutions with other delegates, debate on the resolutions and vote for, against or abstain on the resolutions as a whole. Students are given a delegation which they will represent such as France, China, Bolivia, South Korea. They are the mouthpiece for these nations and will fight for what they believe is in the best interest for the nation. Delegates prepare beforehand for solutions on issues they wish to debate on. This year there are many pressing issues that delegates would find to heart and fight for its justice, such as, the issue of state-sponsored cyber-attacks, promoting gender equality as a mean to reducing poverty, measures to promote employment for people with disabilities and measures to reduce child labour.

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No Poverty Goal

Nowair Al Tamimi
Qatar Academy

Regions such as South Asia and the sub-Saharan Africa have up to 80% of their people living in extreme poverty. In areas such as China and India, economic growth has helped lift millions of the nation’s people out of their poverty, although inequality has an impact as most women are more likely to be living in great poverty since men have more access to work, education, and property. Poverty is a part of the SDG, and the UNDP are trying to raise awareness and take action in hopes to end all forms of poverty by 2030.

As one of the wealthiest nations in the region, Qatar has a large number of migrant workers who approximately take up 90% percent of the country’s population and workforce. Qatar’s unemployment rate stands at 0.7%, although even with such a low number, the poverty rate in Qatar is severe. A majority of the population living in poverty are the migrant workers, as their salaries make it difficult for them to spend much money on themselves or sending it to their families. Furthermore, the migrant workers don’t have the abilities to change workplaces and have their own freedom. Thus, the poverty rate is increasing as they are forced to work at lower paid jobs, and being limited in the ways they can spend their earned money. In Qatar, migrant workers have alleged complaints which include substandard living conditions, health problems with no money to afford the health care they need, and living in constant fear of being homeless, as well as poor safety conditions in their workplace.

“As one of the wealthiest nations in the region, Qatar has a large number of migrant workers who approximately take up 90% percent of the country’s population and workforce.”
A Successful Delegate

Ahmed Al Naimi is an outstanding student from Qatar Academy who has joined MSMUN to be a chair in the Security Council. Ahmed is a chair who possess leadership traits and works hard to provide delegates with a chance to experience educational and effective debates. QMUNITY Voice reporter Shoug Al Tamimi sat down with him to ask him some questions that could benefit delegates.

How can you be a successful delegate?

A successful delegate is always engaged from the moment he comes in. A successful delegate comes prepared with knowledge, a resolution and a policy statement. To become a successful delegate one must know his country and issue inside and out. They can surely achieve this through understanding and thorough research.

How could delegates be more engaging throughout the debate?

Delegates must capture the audience’s attention through body language and the tone of their voice. This is something simple that they could do to capture their attention and convince them. This could be done through manipulating the tone of your voice, making eye contact, having a clear and stable voice to show confidence in what you are saying and to cadres previous speeches to show full understanding on the topic.

What advice would you give to first time delegates?

To be the best debater you need to be a good listener because if you don’t listen very carefully to what other delegations are saying, your speeches will be void. Delegates should listen carefully to what other delegates are saying in order to come up with good comeback arguments. Listening and using other delegates speeches in the conference can be your biggest weapon. I urge delegates to step out of their comfort zone and participate in the debate in any way they can. Delegates should push themselves to be involved in the debate by going for main submitter.

What obstacles could the delegates possibly face and how can they overcome them?

Newer delegates could possibly face stage fright if it’s their first time. I would suggest that they practice before with their club to speak in front of crowds. I would also advise them to speak with confidence; believe that you are a good public speaker, keep you voice high and you will definitely be successful.

As the chair of the SC how do you make sure delegates are active throughout the debate?

As the chair, I always maintain a welcoming mood. It’s all about the delegates confidence and the content of the debate that keeps the fluidity and the participation going. In terms of confidence I tend to encourage the nervous delegates and provide them with suggestions. For activity I maintain a constructive debate and keep it flowing, giving a chance for every delegate to speak.

“In terms, of confidence I tend to encourage the nervous delegates and provide them with suggestions. For activity I maintain a constructive debate and keep it flowing, giving a chance for every delegate to speak.”
The Rohingya Crisis

The latest evacuation began on 25 August 2017 after Rohingya Arsa militants attacked more than 30 police posts. They fled after troops, backed by local Buddhist mobs, responded by burning their villages and attacking and killing civilians. At least 6,700 Rohingya, including at least 730 children under the age of 5, were killed in the month after the violence broke out.

Most Rohingya refugees reaching Bangladesh - with barely any belongings - have sought shelter in these areas, setting up camp wherever possible in difficult terrain and with little access to aid, safe drinking water, food, shelter or healthcare. The whole refugee population – almost one million people – require food aid. 21,677 children under 5 have been treated for severe acute malnutrition. 21,000 metric tonnes of aid have been delivered in 17 Airlifts. There has been widespread condemnation of the Myanmar government’s actions but talk of sanctions has been more muted. The UN Security Council appealed to Myanmar to stop the violence, but no sanctions have been imposed. The US urged Myanmar’s troops to ‘respect the rule of law, stop the violence and end the displacement of civilians from all communities.’ Through this conference, delegates will be looking at ways to solve the issue directly as well as protecting refugees fleeing from areas of conflict.

“The whole refugee population – almost one million people – require food aid.”

The World Of MUN

The delegates policy statements are a short summary of their delegations’ view on issues that would be debated on the day, no longer than a minute’s speech and this allows for other delegates to decide whether they have the same view and wish to lobby and merge with each other. Lobbying and merging is when delegates share, improve or add solutions to a new resolution for the committee to debate on.

“world of MUN has witnessed the blooming era of bright young minds”

The structure of the debate revolves around the resolution being discussed and debated on whether it should be passed or failed. Amendments can be made and are debated on as well. The beautiful and intricate way that our delegates perform just increases their maturity and prove that it is the youth that will empower the nation. The youth will take a stand and that the youth will change the world. The problem our world face today is hostility, oppression, prejudice and racism. The one and only effective way to combat this issue is to encourage the involvement of diverse races, nations, cultures and religions to unite and learn that what the media portrays are not always true. Meeting new people will allow for true exposures to different cultures. The world of MUN has witnessed the blooming era of bright young minds – with great fashion style.