

*Attending*  
**Harvard Model United Nations China 2011**  
*(at Shanghai)*

Model UN is an ever-growing worldwide movement attracting thousands of school and college students and teacher facilitators. In a simulation of the United Nations Organization, participants, representing member nations, sit in different committees such as the General Assembly or Security Council etc, and debate complex global issues. Finally they draft resolutions, which seek to resolve conflicts and reach unanimous decisions. Typically, a well-organized MUN event is an enriching learning experience for participants. Not only does it deepen their knowledge and understanding of international relations but it also hones their skills of research, critical thinking, verbal and written communications, negotiation and team work among others.

Over the past years the MUN movement at Mallya Aditi International School has expanded to include an increasing number of student enthusiasts so much so that a high school club (*MUN Clic*) was created in 2009 to cater to the main goal of participating in selected MUN conferences at the local, national and international levels. Since then our '*MUN-ners*' from Grades 11 and 12 have won wide recognition for their erudition and oratory, as a consequence of which the school received invitations in 2010 and 2011 from Harvard MUN to attend its international sessions at Boston and Shanghai respectively. It is with great pride and satisfaction that we would like to record here the enriching experience of participating in the recently concluded conference at Shanghai.

Harvard Model United Nations China 2011 was held at Shanghai between March 17 and 20. Our preparations started much earlier, from mid-2010 onwards. A group of ten students (*Gauri Billore, Shruti Iyer, Tanvi Sakhamuri, Harsh Raghunandhan, Rooshil Shah, Jai Malhotra, Jai Chanchani, Aman Khera and Sandeep Ravikumar and Chirag Birla*) were selected from Grade 11, based on their interest and abilities (pertaining to the skills mentioned above). HMUN China 2011 selection board allotted to 8 of them, **DPR Korea (North)** as a member country to be represented in different committees (*World Health Organization, International Olympic Committee, ASEAN Regional Forum, Disarmament and International Security Committee* et al). Two students were chosen to represent the **U.S.A** in the *World Bank* and the **Russian Federation** in the *Security Council*. In order to meet with this rather challenging task, the group went through a long and arduous process of in-school training (with the help of school alumni and expert MUN-ners, *Keshava Guha and Abhimanyu Arni*). Their interest and motivation remained high all through, the thought of visiting Shanghai, one of the most happening cities of the world, being an added incentive! The delegation, accompanied by a Faculty Advisor (*Dr. Anjana Banerjee*), reached the destination a day in advance on the 15<sup>th</sup>, in order to make a quick tour of the city. The travel arrangements were made by *Edu-Yatras*, a part of *Worldview Education Services Pvt. Ltd*. The 3-day conference was attended by 1200 students from different parts of the world, the majority being from East and South-east Asia. It was a truly fascinating experience, to be surrounded by voices from a cross-section of the world's youth. Our delegates performed at their best at their respective committees, winning awards such as '**Best Delegate**' (Gauri), '**Outstanding Delegate**' (Rooshil and Tanvi) and '**Honourable Delegate**' (Harsh and Shruti). They also made a deep impression by setting up a very colourful Indian stall at the '**Global Village**', a spectacular event organized towards the end of the week.

HMUN China 2011 was a multi-dimensional experience for the students of MAIS. Not only did they learn about the United Nations and world affairs, they were able to hone a variety of life skills that should stand them in good stead as they make their own way in the wider world in the future. Above all they upheld the image of the school and the country on the global stage.