

PLASTICS, YAY OR NAY?



By Ivan Laksmana

On February 12 2019, multiple BBS campuses met for the first ever MUN, or Model United Nations. The opening of the event was started by an amazing speech by the British ambassador of Indonesia, ASEAN and Timor Leste, Moazzam Malik. After all the delegates were taught the basics of MUN and were dismissed for break.

The first session that I covered was the session that covered environmental problems. When I had arrived, the people had decided to first cover the plastic usage problems.

The first problem suggested was that micro-plastics could be eaten by fish and end up getting into our food chain.

Many countries had suggested many solutions to the issue, such as , the Philippines wanting to ban the use of single use plastics and Australia wanting to hire people for plastic collection in beaches as they are where most plastic gets into the ocean. Denmark then proposes to tax people who use plastics and china would like to totally ban all single use plastics. Russia then suggested that instead of fully banning the use of plastics, we should limit it's usage.

Afterwards, Argentina motioned for an unmoderated caucus, which won.



Plastic bottles can be reused to make bricks for building

In the unmoderated caucus, all the delegates have gathered to find more and more solutions to the problem.

“If you could just reduce it, and not ban it, it would be better”

-DELEGATE OF DENMARK

In an interview with the delegate of Denmark, while the unmoderated caucus was occurring, I asked the question “what is your country planning to do with the plastic problem”. She then stated “we can use a system in which a person would return plastic bottles to convenience stores, to a machine, and it will return you with tax money.” She also proposed that some companies could be rewarded money as a modal to use less plastic.

After the unmoderated caucus, they came up with more solutions such as using eco-bricks, a system in which people would stuff plastic bottles with unused materials such as paper and magazines, and use it as building materials.

Afterwards, people suggested that plastics could be used to build roads or we could tax companies that use single-use plastics. Although the ideas given were valid, no full agreement was made with all the countries,

In conclusion, many ideas were given out, but no-one fully agrees with any one of those ideas.