

Cerritos Fall Conference 2019

World Food Programme



Topic: GMOs

Director: Daniel Kim

October 12, 2019

To Delegates of Cerritos Novice 2019 Conference

Dear Delegates,
Welcome to Cerritos Novice 2019!

It is our highest honor and pleasure to welcome you all to our annual novice conference here at Cerritos High School. On behalf of the Cerritos High School Model United Nations program, we are proud to host another year of this long-standing conference, where you will become more knowledgeable on international issues, participate in intellectually stimulating discussions, and create new and everlasting friendships.

The CHSMUN program continues to compete around the world as a nationally ranked MUN program. Our delegates utilize diplomacy in order to create complex solutions towards multilateral issues in the global community. Our head chairs are selected from only the best seniors of our program, undergoing a rigorous training process to ensure the highest quality of moderating and grading of debate. Furthermore, all the topic synopses have been reviewed and edited numerous times. We strongly believe that by providing each and every delegate with the necessary tools and understanding, he or she will have everything they need to thrive in all aspects of committee. We thoroughly encourage each delegate to engage in all of the facets of their topic, in order to grow in their skills as a delegate and develop a greater knowledge of the world around them.

Our advisors and staff have put in countless hours to ensure delegates have an amazing experience at the conference. Our greatest hope is that from attending CHSMUN 2019, students are encouraged to continue on in Model United Nations and nevertheless, inspired to spark change in their surrounding communities. With 31 high school committees and 2 middle school committees, CHSMUN 2019 will provide a quality experience for beginners to learn, develop, and grow as delegates.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please contact us! We look forward to seeing you at CHSMUN Novice 2019!

Sincerely,

Brianna Roldan and Tess U-Vongcharoen

Secretary-Generals

WFP World Food Programme

A Note from the Director
Delegates,

Alright, welcome to the World Food Program. My name is Daniel Kim and I am currently in my 4th year doing MUN. I never thought that I would be given the opportunity to chair my very own committee and choose a topic of my liking. Cerritos MUN is about building experiences for the future MUN conferences to come and I will make sure that all your questions will be answered. I know from personal experience that first conferences as a freshman student are always the hardest and most confusing. Outside of MUN, I participate in the high school baseball team and play the piano. I don't relish playing the piano however it does provide a place of peace when I need it. A sum of my free time is dedicated to baseball. I love watching MLB and especially enjoy watching the Los Angeles Dodgers (and I'll watch them win the 2019 WS). I also like spending time with friends and exercising from time to time. Returning to MUN, I hope that you all will work hard to ensure your knowledge for this conference. Since this is a Novice MUN conference, I expect all of you to take the experience from this conference and learn from it. Good luck preparing for this conference and work hard. I look forward to seeing you in debate.

With best regard, Daniel Kim
Director, World Food Programme

Committee Introduction:

The World Food Programme was established in 1961 in order to combat the food insecurities of the global community by the United Nations. The WFP has proven its effectiveness by sustaining nutrition in nations around the globe and achieving food security. In instances like the Haiti Earthquake in 2010, with 4.5 million people affected, and the Ebola outbreak in 2014, with 3 million affected, WFP was able to provide humanitarian assistance and bring sustainability into foreign nations. The WFP is the biggest humanitarian aid organization in the world today, working in 83 countries and assisting 91.4 million people. Collaborating with nonprofit organizations as

well as governmental agencies, the WFP is able to improve nutrition in regions around the world.

GMO's Background

Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) were created in order to combat food insecurity in regions around the globe. With the specialized engineering of genomes, organisms can develop traits that would be unimaginable through the stages of evolution. Golden Rice is one example of a plant with abilities foreign to its kind. Due to the insect repelling genes implanted from soil-bacterium and corn, this newly created rice is able to provide nutritional value that would not be present in regular rice. By incorporating new genetic codes into different organisms, rice and other natural substances can be enhanced to make production and nutritional value of crops more beneficial.

However glamorous Genetically Modified Organisms sounds, the issue of the safety of GMO remains controversial to the global community. With hundreds of unconfirmed test studies on GMO test subjects revealing lasting harmful effects to other organisms, the global community began investigating the phenomenon in closer fashion. In 2012, a 90 day test in 2004 on GMOs was revealed to the public by a company named Monsanto. The results shown on the test subjects, rats, were cases of early development of tumors and higher rates of toxicity in the organism's body. Only genetically engineered corn was given for consumption. Although these results are not confirmed, the results given by the scientists began the thread of increased research on GMOs in order to ensure safety. However, the potential harmful effects that GMOs can have drove most nations around the world to ban the production and utilization of genetically engineered crops. With countries like France and Germany finalizing bans on GMOs, the influence of GMO free environments began to spread among the global community in the last decade.

Even though GMOs can cause detrimental health effects, the issue of food insecurity around the world forces the significance of GMOs and its business around the globe. Among the 26 countries that still utilize GMO's, the genetics business and trade of modified seeds and organisms remain a stable economic force, which is 13% of the global community. By utilizing GMOs benefits of immunity to insecticides and additional nutrients, crops produced from genetic engineering has decreased the number of people starving and improved food quality in countries that permits GMO-based product sales. However, countries in Africa and Europe have neglected GMOs as an option for securing food for the global community. In 2002, 14 million South Africans faced a famine created from crop failure and were unable to combat it due to the lack of crop resistance towards bacteria. Even with the availability of 540,000 tons of genetically modified grain available for consumption in Southern Africa, which would have

accommodated for 60% of the food consumption required for survival, African leaders would not accept the grain and in return 1.1 million African citizens suffered tremendously from starvation and famine.

UN Involvement

The United Nations has recognized GMOs as a potential route towards food security among the global community, however, the UN has understood the potential harmful effects of Genetically Engineered Crops. In 2004, the United Nations promoted the international trade of Genetically Modified Organisms with the requirement of identification as a genetically altered product. Under its participating 87 member states, the requirement of the labeling living modified organisms was essential for compromising the GMO free movement. Working in combination with other UN programs, this UN requirement promotes safer utilization of GMOs.

With the situation of food insecurity around the globe, the United Nations position is to “end hunger, achieve food security, and improve nutrition, and promote safe agriculture.” Even though GMOs potentially can have detrimental health effects in the future, the initial benefits of GMOs has influenced the UN to utilize GMO’s in order to accommodate for the starvation and famine occurring today. Referring back to the South African Famine, the United Nations offered food products from genetic engineering due to the sheer magnitude of the people in need of humanitarian aid. With South Africa denying access to GMO based food, their people were not able to lift the famine that reigned throughout the continent for many years. Through this incident and other around European nations, the United Nations decided to initiate its GMO plan under the The United Nations Development plan. This called for the United Nations to utilize Genetically Modified Organisms if it is essential for sustainable human development. In all, with the weight of the positives and negatives of GMOs, countries involved in the UN need to compromise open-minded resolutions that adhere to the goals of each sponsoring country.

Bloc Positions

Western Bloc: Most of European Nations are strongly against the utilization of GMOs. Since European nations have been the most vocal against the utilization of GMOs, most of the European region promotes GMO free land. However, the European Union does use GMO’s. It is not illegal to consume or utilize GMO based products in the EU. With the UN influence on the global community about using GMOs for the benefits they provide, the EU has been shown to use GMOs occasionally. Crops like soybeans and potatoes, to other crops like tobacco, the EU has permitted admission of some genetically engineered products into the region.

Latin America and Caribbean bloc: Latin America has been a region known to utilize GMOs to its peak. Nearly all nations in Latin America have shown some extent of favor toward genetically engineering of organisms. Since Latin America suffers from famine and lack of food,

this region benefits from using GMOs. The Caribbean region is not as an active supporter of GMOs as Latin America however GMOs are still being utilized by some regions in the Carribeans. Genetically engineering sustaining organisms from weather conditions happen to be more popular in the Carribeans due to the constantly changing either in the Carribeans.

African bloc: The African region is not favoring GMOs. Shown in numerous instances in history, African nations do not resort to genetically engineering almost ever. Even though African regions suffer from famine more often than other regions in the world, African leader actively speak of the health issues that GMO can have. African regions have utilized GMO in the past, but only when all other options have been exhausted.

Asian-Pacific bloc: The Asian Pacific region is not decided on a set position. Although countries like China or South Korea have been utilizing GMOs, most countries in this do not support GMOs. With information not readily available to the public, and the GMO test subject results not being confirmed, most of the public are against GMOs. However, there are populations in small regions in the Asian-Pacific bloc that support GMOs due to the lack of food. For most of the Asian Pacific region, GMOs are not supported by majority of the region.

Basic Solutions

GMOs are a topic that cannot be resolved through a singular solution. Comprises among nations that support GMOs with those that don't are ideal solutions, however the issue of GMOs is still prevalent today due to many nations country sovereignty. Stricter regulations on GMO production and safety requirements have been required for years but the lasting effects of GMOs need to be researched more thoroughly for more nations to compromise. Food insecurity is another topic that needs to be addressed. GMOs were created in order to combat the issues that natural organisms couldn't do otherwise and one factor was the insufficient nutrients and yield of producing natural products. GMOs are able to produce products that can suffice for all aspects of nutrition and value which is why GMOs are effective in combating food insecurity. There are more subtopics under GMOs than just food insecurity. By combating different subtopics and compromising GMO regulations and safety research, GMOs may become a viable solution which can combat other crisis around the world.

Questions to consider

- 1) What are some long and short term solutions that can be implemented to compromise the utilization of GMOs?
- 2) How can compromises be made to ensure the participation of many nations around the

World?

- 3) Why should your solutions be implemented and utilized by the global community?
- 4) What are the benefits and harmful effects of GMOs.
- 5) Why are GMOs not accepted by the global community and what can be done about it?

Sources

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