

The Premier American Government Simulation for International Students

# Harvard Model Congress Asia



Singapore  
January 13-15

# 2012



# Vision

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**Harvard Model Congress Asia is the premier forum for the most driven high school minds to engage, cooperate, and help solve real world issues. We want to empower the future young leaders of tomorrow by challenging them with the problems we face today.**



*The next generation of leaders at the closing ceremony of Harvard Model Congress Asia 2011. The beginning of global solutions for a better tomorrow.*

# the Executive Board

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## Marc Steinberg, [President](#)

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Hometown: Peabody, MA | Concentration: Economics | Class: 2012

Marc Steinberg is a senior, Economics concentrator living in Winthrop House (the former home of JFK). He hails from Massachusetts and certainly has the Boston accent and die-hard love of sports to prove it! This will be Marc's eleventh Model Congress conference as a staffer to go along with a handful of conferences as a high-school delegate. In his spare time he enjoys lifting weights, playing sports, and teen television dramas such as *90210*, the *Vampire Diaries*, and *One Tree Hill*.



## Matthew Plaks, [Vice President](#)

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Hometown: Clovis, California

Concentration: Visual and Environmental Studies | Class: 2013

Matt Plaks is a junior at the college concentrating in Visual and Environmental Studies with a focus on photography. He is originally from California, the best state in the United States. He is involved in a lot of other organizations including Harvard Model Congress Europe, Harvard Model Congress Boston, and Mock Trial. Matt is a pretty easy-going guy and hopes to one day pursue a career as a photographer or lawyer.



## Tracy Jasper, [Chief of Staff](#)

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Hometown: Rockland, MA | Concentration: Economics and Classics | Class: 2012

Tracy Jasper is a senior, concentrating in Economics with a secondary in Classics. She is originally from Massachusetts and attended HMC conferences when she herself was a high school student. Besides HMC Asia, Tracy also participates in HMC Boston and HMC Europe, and spends her free time hanging out with her sorority sisters from Delta Gamma. Her hobbies include reading Jane Austen novels, quoting Arnold Schwarzenegger, and being told she looks like Ginny Weasley.



# the Executive Board

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## Kevin Liu Huang, Faculty Liaison

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Hometown: Flemington, NJ  
Concentration: Government and Statistics  
Class: 2013

Kevin Liu Huang is a junior concentrating in a joint Government-Statistics program with an interest in quantitative approaches to international cooperation and nuclear security. The ideal job for him would be a career in diplomacy or intelligence. He is originally from Flemington, New Jersey, a small town that has encouraged him to travel abroad quite a lot, from Uganda to the Netherlands and Ecuador to Thailand. In his spare time when he's not traveling, he can be found running around between various government simulation groups or dancing with the Harvard Ballroom Dance Team.



## Evan Covington, Director of Conference Relations

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Hometown: Houston, TX  
Concentration: East Asian Studies  
Class: 2012

Evan is a senior concentrating in East Asian Studies with a secondary in Social Anthropology. He is from Houston, Texas, and a huge lover of Tex-mex food and good 'ole fashioned southern barbeque. Evan loves swimming, playing water polo, and nearly all kinds of aquatic sports. This will be his third year doing HMC Asia, and he is super excited to help make this conference bigger and better than ever!



## Zach Sherwood, Director of Domestic Programs

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Hometown: Indianapolis, IN | Concentration: Economics | Class: 2013

Zach is a junior in Leverett House concentrating in economics with a secondary in history. A lifelong Hoosier from Indianapolis, Zach enjoys playing basketball, cheering for the Colts, consuming vast quantities of atherosclerosis-inducing home-style comfort food, and regularly displaying his Midwestern charm. At Harvard, Zach is involved with HMC Boston and HMC Europe as well as a singing group, Leverett intramurals, and the club curling team. Zach also enjoys traveling, attending professional sporting events, watching Jeopardy!, reading the newspaper, and discussing pressing issues of the day with friends and foes alike.



## Christopher Ballesteros, Director of International Programs

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Hometown: Honolulu, HI | Concentration: History | Class: 2012

Chris is a junior history concentrator living in Quincy House. He is from Honolulu, Hawaii, and is currently looking to write a thesis about Hawaiian Cultural History. Over the last few years, he has been lucky enough to work with political campaigns, a law office, and even a real estate company. Chris is currently Captain of the Harvard Mock Trial Association and he has staffed each of the Harvard Model Congress conferences.

# Welcome Letter

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Dear Faculty Advisor:

Welcome to Harvard Model Congress Asia! We are extremely excited to invite you and your students to join us for the 2012 HMCA Conference in Singapore. Our Harvard staff has been working hard to provide you with an exciting and educational conference experience.

My name is Marc Steinberg and I am the President of HMCA. I am a senior at Harvard and have been involved with numerous model congress conferences in the United States, Europe and Asia for the past three years. Moreover, I too was a delegate at model congress conferences in high school and can certainly speak to the formative impact that being a delegate had on my educational and personal development. I greatly look forward to working with you all as we prepare for the upcoming conference and hope that all of the delegates at this year's conference will be as affected by HMCA as I was.

Harvard Model Congress Asia is a student-managed American government simulation organization at Harvard University. Harvard Model Congress has been running internationally acclaimed government simulations for many decades throughout the United States, Europe and Asia. We organize an annual conference in Asia, attended by hundreds of students from all around Asia and other parts of the world.

The mission of HMCA is to educate international high school students about civic participation and important political issues by simulating how governments actually work. Our system enables high school students (grades 9-13) to step inside the political process by assuming the role of legislators, governors, journalists, cabinet ministers, and judges. Our conference includes simulations of the American legislator, international organizations, judicial committees, and journalism. At HMCA, students learn about government firsthand as they debate issues, draft laws, and write newspaper stories.

Throughout this process, Harvard students act as teachers, encouraging students to solve problems creatively as they work cooperatively with peers from throughout the world. Through their HMCA experience, students sharpen their debate skills while developing their own leadership potential. After spending three days engrossed in the political dynamics of debate and legislation, HMCA delegates year after year emerge far more adept at public speaking, teamwork, problem solving, and understanding what the fundamental drivers of government are.

We welcome you and your students to our 2012 conference, to be held in Singapore on January 13-15, 2012. Please use this registration guide as a tool to learn more about HMCA! It contains all necessary information regarding conference details and registration. Also, do not hesitate to contact me with questions at [info@hmcasia.org](mailto:info@hmcasia.org).

I look forward to seeing you at the 2012 HMCA Conference in January!

Sincerely,

Marc Steinberg

*President, Harvard Model Congress Asia 2012*

# Committees

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## *Domestic*

### Cabinet

The United States Cabinet consists of the most senior appointed officers of the executive branch of the U.S. government. The Cabinet is currently comprised of fifteen senior officials appointed by the President to serve as the heads of federal executive departments responsible for government matters ranging from international relations and national defense to health and human services, education, and commerce. At HMCA, Cabinet secretaries will encounter many opportunities to participate in lively policy debates, analyze and evaluate legislation, testify before congressional committees and international organizations, and present policy recommendations to other Cabinet members and even the President himself.

### National Security Council

National Security Council (NSC) functions as the President's primary forum for discussing national security and foreign policy matters with his senior security advisors, cabinet officials, and closest staff members. At HMCA, Students in the National Security Council receive comprehensive exposure to national security issues and international affairs while simultaneously enhancing their strategic thinking and decision-making skills. From the moment the delegates receive their briefings, proceedings remain completely confidential, and the members of the council must be prepared to manage any crises that develop over the course of the conference. Students will learn to prepare and evaluate competing strategies in addition to devising effective responses to intricate problems.

### House of Representatives I – International Relations, II – Domestic Affairs

One of the largest committees, the House of Representatives is the larger of the two chambers comprising the United States Congress, and as part of its role in the legislative branch, its members are largely responsible for drafting and passing federal laws. The 435 members of the House draft, debate, and pass legislation, monitor the operations of the federal government, and represent the interests of their constituents at the national level. The House at HMCA is composed of two committees, each of which is responsible for the policy areas proposed by their respective chairs. Students will play the role of elected representatives. They are encouraged to research the background, political ideologies, party affiliation, and constituent interests of the congressman or congresswoman they are assigned to represent in order to create an immersive and intellectually stimulating simulation of legislative proceedings at the federal level.

### Senate I – International Relations, II – Domestic Affairs

The Senate is the upper house of the bicameral legislature of the United States and, along with the House of Representatives, constitutes the United States Congress. The Senate at HMCA is composed of two subcommittees, each of which is responsible for the policy areas proposed by their respective chairs. Students will play the role of elected senators, and they are encouraged to research the background, political ideologies, party affiliation, and constituent interests of the senators they are assigned to represent in order to create an immersive and intellectually stimulating simulation of legislative proceedings at the federal level. During committee sessions, students will be expected to draft bills, debate pressing policy issues, participate in informal caucuses and more structured discussions, and pass legislation that will eventually be introduced and voted on by the Senate as a whole during full congressional sessions.

### Supreme Court I, II

The Supreme Court of the United States, often abbreviated "SCOTUS," is the most powerful judicial body in the country. The Supreme Court provides the final say on constitutional issues, and is the highest legal authority in the United States. Recognizing the importance of this body in the American system of checks and balances, HMCA's judiciary simulates the process and procedures of the legal system in our own Supreme Court. In HMCA, the Supreme Court hears historic cases and hypothetical trials based on real constitutional issues. Students will learn the importance of research, public speaking, and logic in working to uphold the principles of the Constitution.

# Committees

## *International*

### African Union

The African Union is the nine year old successor of the Organization of African Unity, and includes more than fifty African nations. The African Union, or AU, is tasked with advancing the socioeconomic well being and peace of the continent as well as ensuring human rights and advancing democratic ideals. The African Union is a new committee at HMCA and is chaired by two Harvard students: one of whom founded a non-profit organization in Africa and the other of whom is a native of Zimbabwe herself! Delegates participating in the African Union will assume the role of members of the Assembly of African States and represent the interests of their respective countries. During the conference, delegates will confront some of the same issues faced by the real African Union. AU delegates will be expected to forge agreements and pass resolutions to resolve controversies, while keeping in mind the interests of the nations they represent.



### Arab League

The Arab League is a confederation of Arab nations from North Africa and the Middle East. In addition to providing a united front for the Arab world, the Arab League seeks to advance the social, economic, and cultural interests of member states through the Council of Arab Economic Unity and the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization. At Harvard Model Congress Asia, the Arab League will operate in a manner similar to many of our international organizations, with each delegate assuming the role of an ambassador from a member state. While participating in HMCA's Arab League, delegates will be expected to advocate from the perspective of their country, keeping in mind the specific interests and needs of whichever state they represent. Delegates assigned to the Arab League can expect to face issues similar to those facing the real Arab League, including questions of regional stability, international relations, economic development, and human rights.

### G-15

The Group of Fifteen, commonly abbreviated to G15, is an international economic organization designed to enhance cooperation and spur growth among developing nations. The Group of Fifteen, commonly abbreviated to G15, is an international economic organization designed to enhance cooperation and spur growth among developing nations. Harvard Model Congress Asia's G15 will address some of the same critical challenges as the real Group of Fifteen. At HMCA, every delegate will represent the interests of a member state. The G15 at HMCA will be heavily integrated into the other international programs, and can expect to deliver testimony to other committees throughout the conference. In some cases, delegates from both domestic and international programs will present their bills and proposals to the G15.

### World Health Organization

The World Health Organization (WHO) is an international organization dedicated to coordinating public health efforts throughout the world. The World Health Organization (often abbreviated to WHO) is an international organization dedicated to coordinating public health efforts throughout the world. The World Health Organization at Harvard Model Congress Asia will imitate an annual meeting of the World Health Assembly. Delegates assigned to HMCA's World Health Organization are expected to be familiar both with the mission and history of the WHO and the most salient controversies confronting the agency. By presenting position statements and resolutions to various domestic and international committees, WHO delegates will gain a fuller understanding of how the WHO operates within the framework of the United Nations and the international community.

# Committees

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## World Trade Organization

The World Trade Organization (WTO) is an international economic forum that focuses primarily on international trade and trade relations. The World Trade Organization is a near-global organization, encompassing more than 95% of the world's population as there are currently 153 member states and 30 observers. Delegates assigned to the World Trade Organization will be responsible for representing the interests of a WTO member state. In order to prepare for participation at HMCA, WTO delegates should research the state of economic development in their respective nations, as well as any political considerations that may influence their country's perspective on international trade. Although the WTO at HMCA will be conducted in a manner similar to a number of other international programs, delegates can expect a dynamic and unique experience because of the synergy between different committees. The WTO will regularly interact with and testify before a number of related committees in both domestic and international programs.

## *Specialized*

### UN Framework Convention on Climate Change

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is an extremely influential treaty created in June of 1992. One of the most important provisions of the treaty was the section establishing the eponymous United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, a part of the United Nations which regularly meets to update and discuss the environmental and political issues surrounding climate change. As with a number of other committees at HMCA, delegates assigned to the UNFCCC will act as a representative of a specific country. An important part of the simulation is contributing to the UNFCCC's discussion from the perspective of their individual nation's political and economic interests. In addition to discussing the topics presented by the committee chair, delegates will interact regularly with other committees by providing testimony and submitting resolutions.

### Lobbyists

Representing organizations, professional associations, industries, and countless other constituent groups, lobbyists influence public policy at practically every level of government. At HMCA, delegates will work behind the scenes to promote the preferred policies of the many special interests groups that hold sway in the halls of Congress. As proponents of causes and ideologies that span the entire political spectrum, students will not only be expected to be knowledgeable of the particular interests they represent but also to adequately defend their arguments from critics and political opponents. Delegates will present policy proposals, draft legislation, testify in congressional committees, and hold press conferences with the intention of securing the support of influential politician.

### Media

Often portrayed as the unofficial "fourth branch" of government due to its widespread presence in American politics, the media has become an increasingly influential source of information and political opinion over the past decade. At HMCA, delegates working in the Media will have many opportunities to observe, analyze, and report important events and developments over the course of the conference. Student "reporters" will acquire valuable experience interviewing their fellow delegates, gathering evidence, and writing informative news stories. Students can also expect to enhance their analytical and editorial skills in addition to effectively managing the ever-present challenge of balancing popular news coverage with journalistic ethics. Beginning this year, students will also have opportunities to experiment with photography, social media and other forms of communication, which in turn will make the news reporting experience all the more rewarding.

# Innovations

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## New and Fuller Spectrum of Committees

This year's HMCA has introduced several new and salient committees aimed at broadening the spectrum of interests and opportunities at the conference. These first time committees promise to be exciting and rewarding opportunities and are all led by exceptionally knowledgeable and interested Harvard staffers. The African Union is co-chaired by a sophomore who founded an international non-profit in Africa as well as a senior Zimbabwean native who is the President of the Harvard African Student's Association. The Arab League is chaired by a Harvard senior who is originally from Palestine and is heavily involved in international affairs. Similarly, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change is jointly led by two Harvard seniors studying Environmental Engineering and Environmental Science and Public Policy who have conducted leading research in the field of environmental affairs.

## Expansion of Press to Media

The world of the press has changed: it is no longer just a printed publication, but is instead a vast multimedia effort. In order to reflect that, we are improving the materials, software, and technology available to the Media delegates (previously Press) so that they may develop skills that could help in a future career in public relations or journalism, both keenly important in the rapidly advancing new century.

## 24-Hour Response Policy

In order to improve the responsiveness of the HMC Asia staff to all faculty advisors, the Faculty Liaison, Kevin Liu Huang, will reply to all e-mails sent to him in 24 hours or less. This official policy will guarantee improved communication between HMC Asia staff members and faculty advisors.

Try it out at [faculty.liaison@hmcasia.org](mailto:faculty.liaison@hmcasia.org)!

## Increased Conference Size and Diversity

HMC Asia 2012 is aiming to expand and branch out across the globe. In addition to recruiting strongly throughout Asian schools in the Singapore area, we also seek to bring more diverse viewpoints from countries in Europe, North America, Africa, the Middle East, and Latin America and the Caribbean. Our internal recruiting team is robust and ready to bring more critical viewpoints from all around the world!

## Business Partnerships

Having never before leveraged business partnerships, HMC Asia 2012, under the guidance of the new Director of Conference Relations Evan Covington, is aiming to form partnerships with businesses and companies that support our mission statement of education. These partnerships will allow us to hold a better conference as well as raise funds that could go towards future innovation of our conference. If you or somebody you know would be interested in sponsoring any part of HMC Asia 2012, please contact Evan Covington at [conference.relations@hmcasia.org](mailto:conference.relations@hmcasia.org).

## Pre-Conference Facebook Pages

In an effort to promote pre-conference socializing and recognition, each committee will, in the lead up to conference, create a Facebook page for the delegates to join and meet each other virtually! From here, delegates can meet their co-representatives and fellow delegates and even their chairs. Moreover, after the conference, these pages will be a great way for delegates to keep in touch after forming close friendships.



# Registration

## *Register for Harvard Model Congress Asia 2012 today!*

The registration process allows the HMCA team to prepare logistical aspects of the conference in order to ensure an enriching conference for each of the delegates and each committee. We highly encourage you to register **as early as possible** in order to ensure your spot at conference. Harvard Model Congress Asia is a non-profit organization and all fees go towards making the conference possible for all the students and participants. In order to be considered fully registered, you must have completed both online registration and the payment process by the following dates.

Early Registration Deadline: Friday, October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2011

Regular Registration Deadline: Friday, November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2011

### *Registration Fee\**

#### Group (School Delegations)

Regular Registration	\$150
Late Registration	\$250

#### Individual (Independent Participants)

Regular Registration	\$50
Late Registration	\$75

### *Conference Fee\*\**

Student Participant	\$265
Faculty Advisor	None

### *Hotel Fee*

Because we strive to create cohesiveness among the students in the conference, we help arrange for delegations to stay at the same hotel. For the delegations that do choose to stay at the conference designated hotel, HMCA will take care of making all the hotel arrangements and reservations for the duration of the conference as well as providing transportation to and from the conference site each day. That said, delegations are also free to make arrangements for other accommodations in the city.

At this time, the Harvard staff is still examining prospective venues and hotels as well as potentially partnering with businesses and national organizations to secure a venue and accompanying hotel. We will have this information finalized within the coming weeks and will contact all schools immediately thereafter. For your logistical purposes, however, we can guarantee that all of our efforts are aimed at the making the conference a more enriching and affordable experience for all participants. As a result, the hotel costs will absolutely not increase from last year and will only change if we are able to lower them as we are aggressively acting to lower the cost of the conference for all delegates. Last year's hotel costs (inclusive of transportation fees) were \$540 per person for a double room and \$870 per person for a single room and we ensure that this year's conference hotel will not exceed these prices.

Please note that schools are solely responsible for coordinating all travel arrangements to and from Singapore—this includes making sure that each participant has secured all legal documents necessary for travel.

\* Note: All transactions with HMCA are conducted in U.S. dollars. All prices are in US dollars.

\*\* Conference fees include all of the student's costs during the duration of the conference day itself, including both breakfast and lunch. Since each day will end before dinner time, students will be responsible for procuring their own meals for dinner and we encourage all delegates to explore the beautiful city of Singapore!

### *How to Register*

#### Step 1: Preliminary Registration

1. Go to our website at [www.hmcasia.org](http://www.hmcasia.org).
2. Click on registration (teal bar at right side of the Home page, or the "Register" link second to the right on the red banner).
3. Fill out your school information. Please be sure to input the expected number of delegates from your school.
4. Fill out your primary faculty advisor information. A maximum of four faculty advisors per delegation is allowed, with one of those faculty advisors as the designated contact.
5. At this point, you have successfully completed your preliminary registration. We will contact you shortly thereafter to begin arranging your HMCA experience!

Any questions about the registration process should be directed to [info@hmcasia.org](mailto:info@hmcasia.org).

# Registration

## Step 2: Application Form

Complete the following form. Submit it by email to [info@hmcasia.org](mailto:info@hmcasia.org) or by mail.

### School

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Country: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Voice mail extension: \_\_\_\_\_

### Faculty Advisor

(Mr./Mrs./Ms./Dr.) \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

Advisor's Email Address (*required*): \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

### Other Advisors Attending

(Mr./Mrs./Ms./Dr.) \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

(Mr./Mrs./Ms./Dr.) \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

(Mr./Mrs./Ms./Dr.) \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

### FEES:

#### Conference Fee:

\$150 on or before October 28, 2011

\$250 after October 28, 2011

#### Delegate Fees:

\$265 x \_\_\_\_\_ =

# Delegates

#### Total:

Conference + Remaining Fees =

Payments should be made in full at the time of submission. Please also note that HMCA fees do not include hotel fees. HMCA accepts wire transfers or checks. All checks should be made payable to "Harvard Model Congress Asia."

#### Mailing Address

Harvard Model Congress Asia  
Student Organization Center at Hilles  
Box # 226  
59 Shepard St.  
Cambridge, MA 02138

# Notes

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