

# LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Esteemed Delegates,

My name is Fred Guo, and it's my pleasure to serve as your Chair for ASEAN for HAMUN 49! I am currently a student studying Business at UT Austin, potentially minoring in International Relations, and pursuing a Pre-Law track.

Now that in-person conferences are returning in full swing, I hope that every delegate can enjoy the full experience that HAMUN has to offer. You are all much luckier than me, as I attended my first two conferences through Zoom. It's wild to think how far I've come since joining our MUN in my sophomore year. In my first conference, I probably spent more time putting on my suit than actually speaking! Yet since then, I've learned to develop my public speaking skills, research acumen, and self-confidence, and more. With an active learning mindset, I became Vice President of Glenda Dawson MUN and won multiple awards, including Best Research Paper and Outstanding Delegate. I hope that this will encourage all of you to put yourselves out there and put the "U" in "MUN."

As chair, I intend to work to the best of my ability to make this conference go smoothly for all of you, delegates. However, ASEAN, as a specialized committee, will be different from the general UN committees you may be used to. Because ASEAN is an organization serving the interests of one geopolitical region, the scope and breadth of the topics will be narrower. Therefore, it's particularly important to come into the conference with a firm understanding of your nation's policy and position. Additionally, some topics may require you to explore related subjects. For example, understanding the South China Sea crisis may necessitate some research into maritime law, such as the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). Conducting basic research into adjacent topics will put everyone on the same page and enhance the overall conference. Furthermore, while keeping in mind the gravity of the two issues at hand, I encourage everyone to think outside the box and find effective solutions that best reflect the Indo-Pacific region. Good luck to everyone, and happy delegating!

Best,



**Fred Guo**

ASEAN

HAMUN 49

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