

UNAS MUN 2015

Guest of Honor,
HE Ambassador Suh Chung-ha,
Ambassador of the Republic of Korea,
Teachers,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Morning,
Welcome the 2015 UNAS Model UN,

I hope in the course of the next days you will have many opportunities to actively debate the global issues of the day and at the same time get a clearer understanding of what the UN can and should do to mitigate rising threats to human well-being and survival. The recently concluded COP2015 global conference on Climate Change under the auspices of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change held in Paris showed not only the complexity of the negotiating process to achieve a framework of agreement on how to proceed let alone a legally binding one.

The aim and purposes of the UNAS Model UN is two fold. First, it offers participants the opportunity to sharpen their debating skills on global issues of the day within the purview of the UN's role as peace-keeper, enabler of development, keeper of international law and protector of human rights. Second, it offers participants to practice and imbibe the skills of effective diplomacy – skills that often make the critical difference in international negotiations.

The UN over the years have touched the lives of millions of people all over the world, some more than others. Singapore was a recipient of UN technical and planning assistance in the early years of its independence. From being a recipient of UN aid Singapore has become a donor member state. It is what it should be. This philosophy founded on the virtues of reciprocity is what the world needs.

This morning, we have the pleasure as well as the honor of the presence of HE Ambassador, Dr. Suh Chung-ha, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to address us.

The Republic of Korea's connection with the UN is unique. Having gained its freedom from Japanese imperial rule at the end of the Second World War, it then became the scene of two contesting ideologies: Communism under the aegis of the then USSR on the one hand, and Liberal Democracy championed by the United States on the other. The split the country in to two halves at the 38th Parallel: the North and the South came about as a result. The so called Korean War that broke out came to end with the signing of the Armistice. In all of its more recent history, the UN had played an important role in the establishment of the Republic of Korea and shaped its foreign policies. We invite Ambassador Suh to enlighten us on the nature and trajectory of his country's engagement with the UN. Needless to say, we know that the current SG of the UN is none other than Mr. Ban Ki- Moon, a Korean.