

World Schools Debating Championships 2015

Singapore, 27th July - 6th August



From the Convenors' Desk

Greetings!

The 2015 World Schools' Debating Championships is now just three months away, and the organising team is looking forward to welcoming everyone to the tournament. The event will be held from 27th July to 6th August.

In this edition of the newsletter you'll find a run-down of the key events which will be taking place on each day of the Championship.

Mark Gabriel and Evelyn Woels
Co-Convenors

Schedule & Highlights

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Schedule & Highlights

Day 1 / Mon 27th July

The organising committee will be arranging for buses to take arriving delegates from Singapore Changi Airport to the two championship hotels (the Copthorne Kings Hotel and the Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel) at various times throughout the day. The journey from the airport to the hotels will take roughly 25 minutes.

After checking in, delegates will come to a designated room in one of the two hotels during the afternoon or evening for registration for the championships.

Meals provided: none



Changi Airport

The sixth-busiest airport in the world today, with three world-class terminals. A flight takes off or lands at Changi Airport roughly once every 90 seconds.

Day 2 / Tue 28th July

In the morning, as will be the case for the next 10 days, breakfast for all delegates will be held at the Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel. For delegations staying in the Copthorne Kings Hotel, this will just be a quick walk across the road. There will also be a daily briefing during breakfast every morning.

On this first morning, there will also be a short meeting for all Team Managers.

In the middle of the morning, all adjudicators will be heading off to **adjudicator training**, which will be held at a venue outside of the hotel. This will go through to the end of the afternoon, and lunch will be provided for all delegates attending adjudicator training.

All other delegates, including debaters, coaches, team managers, and observers, will take part in our **opening day walking tours**. Local volunteers will lead you around the central area of Singapore, giving you a chance to explore your surroundings, see places of interest, and learn more about Singapore. This will begin in the mid-morning and run through to the mid-afternoon.

Lunch will not be provided, but the guides will take participants to places where cheap meals can be purchased, giving you a chance to try the local cuisine.

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Day 2 / Tue 28th July *continued...*

In the evening, we will be holding the **Opening Ceremony** for the championship. We will be heading over to Gardens by the Bay, a 110-hectare park located next to Marina Bay. Delegates will have the opportunity to explore the gardens before the Opening Ceremony begins. The opening ceremony will be held in the Flower Dome – the world’s largest columnless greenhouse – where delegates will enjoy cultural performances and a buffet dinner.



The Flower Dome

Meals provided: breakfast & dinner

Day 3 / Wed 29th July

After breakfast and the morning briefing session, each team will be heading off by bus to one of five different host schools for **preliminary rounds 1 and 2**. Both rounds will be prepared debates. Lunch will be provided at the host schools in between the two rounds.

Teams will return to the hotels in the mid-afternoon.

In the evening, we will be heading out again for the **Alumni Debate** event. Former WSDC debaters who are attending this year’s championship as adjudicators or coaches will be putting on an exhibition of British Parliamentary-style debating. Dinner will also be provided at this event.

Meals provided: breakfast, lunch, & dinner

Day 4 / Thu, 30th July

Following breakfast, each team will be heading off to one of eight different host schools for **preliminary round 3**. This will be a prepared debate. Lunch will be provided at the host schools.

After lunch, all teams will come to a centralised venue for **preliminary round 4**, which will be the first impromptu round of the championships. This will be held at Anglo-Chinese School (Barker Road) and Anglo-Chinese

School (Primary) – a secondary and primary school that share a campus. The motion will be announced in the schools’ Concert Hall, before teams are taken to various preparation spaces around the campus for their preparation time. The debates will then be held in various rooms around the schools.

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Day 4 / Thu 30th July continued...

After preliminary round 4, buses will take all delegates back to the hotels.

In the evening, the **WSDC Tournament Committee Meeting Part 1** will be held in one of the two championship hotels. Each nation should send a member of their delegation to serve as the nation's official delegate at the meeting. Further delegates to observe the meeting are also welcome. Dinner will be provided for delegates attending.

Part 1 of the Tournament Committee Meeting normally includes an update from the hosts of the following year's championship, presentations by nations bidding to host the championship in two years' time, and any other items of business which the Tournament Committee Executive feels needs to be dealt with early on in the tournament.

Meals provided: breakfast & lunch

Day 5 / Fri 31st July

In the morning, each team will head to one of eight different host schools for **preliminary round 5**, the last of the prepared preliminary rounds. Lunch will be provided at the morning host schools.

As on the previous day, all teams will come together at a centralised venue in the afternoon for the impromptu **preliminary round 6**. This will be at St Andrew's Secondary School. The motion will be announced in the School Hall, and teams will prepare and debate in various rooms around the school.

All delegates will return to the hotel after preliminary round 6.



Buona Vista Community Centre

In the evening, we will be going to Buona Vista Community Centre for **Cultural Night**. This event has become a tradition at WSDC in the past few years, and it gives each team the opportunity to share their culture with all other nations.

We will be adding some new elements to this year's Cultural Night in Singapore, including a variety of Asian cultural performances to keep all entertained throughout the evening and a spread of Asian cuisine.

In addition, every team will be given a table at the venue to decorate in any way they choose, and at which they can share snack items or small souvenirs from their nation with people from other delegations. Teams can also bring along anything else which you feel represents your culture to display and share at your nation's booth – art, poetry, song, clothing, toys, even your textbooks!

All delegations should give some thought to what they would like to bring to share at this event in order to make it a meaningful one for everyone.

Meals provided: breakfast, lunch & dinner 4

Day 6 / Sat 1st Aug



Lonely Planet has picked Singapore as the world's top travel destination in 2015.

www.yoursingapore.com provides tourists-to-be with a range of options when it comes to sights to see, things to do and experiences to explore.

Day 7 / Sun 2nd Aug

All teams in the tournament will head to Anglo-Chinese Junior College for **preliminary rounds 7 and 8**, both of which are impromptu rounds. Lunch will be provided between the rounds.

In the evening, all delegates will head to **Break Night**, which will be held at Singapore's famous Jurong Bird Park. The park will be closed to the public when we arrive, and we will have three function venues within the park – the Songbird Terrace, the Lodge and the Ballroom. All three venues have majestic views overlooking the park's Flamingo Lake. The Songbird Terrace and the Lodge will provide open-air and indoor spaces for people to relax, while the Ballroom will have a dance-floor for people to dance the night away.

After the break is announced, teams can choose between returning to the hotels immediately, or staying on longer to socialise.

It is possible that a **bye-round** will be needed at this year's championship if the number of competing teams turns out to be an odd number. If so, it will be held on the Saturday, either in the morning or evening; details have yet to be confirmed.

This will also be a rest day in the middle of the tournament. Options for **organised tours** will be made available for teams to visit places of interest in Singapore. We are still finalising the details of the tours that will be available, and once they have been confirmed we will share them with all delegates.

Alternatively, for delegates who do not wish to join an organised tour, we will be giving out some information about activities and sites, which you can enjoy for free in Singapore.

Meals provided: breakfast



Flamingos at Jurong Bird Park

Meals provided: breakfast, lunch & dinner

Day 8 / Mon 3rd Aug

After breakfast, we will be heading to Hwa Chong Institution and Hwa Chong International School (two affiliated schools located next to each other). The **octo-finals** will be held in the morning, and the **quarter-finals** will be held in the afternoon. Lunch will be provided after the octo-finals. After both rounds, all delegates will return to the hotels by bus.

In the evening, all delegates will be visiting one of Singapore's best known tourist attractions – the **Night Safari**. (Thanks to sponsorship from Wildlife Reserves Singapore, all WSDC delegates will be able to visit the Night Safari park for free on this evening.)

Meals provided: breakfast & lunch



Night Safari

When it opened in the mid-1990s, the Night Safari was the world's first night-time zoo. Visitors have the opportunity to see how animals from around the world behave in their naturalistic habitat during the night-time. Part of the park is accessible on foot, and other areas can be seen via tram.

Day 9 / Tue 4th Aug



MediaCorp is a group of commercial media outlets spanning television, radio, filmmaking, and interactive media. It runs 7 television channels and 13 radio channels, and is the largest media broadcaster in Singapore.

Meals provided: breakfast & dinner

A delayed telecast of the semi-finals and Grand Final of this year's championships will be broadcast on one of Singapore's national TV stations. These rounds will therefore be held and recorded in the theatre at MediaCorp studios.

Teams involved in the semi-finals will be travelling to MediaCorp studios in the morning for a briefing and camera rehearsals. Other WSDC delegates will have a free morning before going to MediaCorp studios in the afternoon to watch the debates. Lunch will be provided for semi-finalists.

Semi-final 1 will be held in the afternoon, and dinner will be provided after the first semi-final. **Semi-final 2** will then be held in the evening.

Day 10 / Wed 5th Aug

In the morning, through to early-afternoon, the **WSDC Tournament Committee Meeting Part 2** will be held in one of the two championship hotels. Lunch will be provided for delegates attending the meeting.

Everyone will then be heading back to MediaCorp Studios for the **Grand Final**, which will be held in the late-afternoon.

After the Grand Final, we will be returning to the Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel for the **Closing Dinner**.

Meals provided: breakfast & dinner

Day 11 / Thu 6th Aug

Buses will be leaving at various times throughout the day to take delegates from the championship hotels to Changi Airport for your flight home.

(Alternatively, if you choose to extend your stay, then you will have a good time exploring the rest of Singapore!)

Meals provided: breakfast

Visas

If any of your delegates require a visa to enter Singapore, do make sure you apply for the visas well before your delegation is due to travel. This is in order to allow time for the visa applications to be fully processed.

At this point in time, citizens of the following nations require visas to enter Singapore: Afghanistan, Algeria, Amernia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belarus, China, Egypt, Georgia, Guinea, India, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Morocco, Myanmar, Nigeria, Pakistan, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, and Yemen. Individuals

travelling with identity documents, travel documents, or passports, issued by Hong Kong, Macau, or the Palestinian Authority, also require visas.

More information about visa requirements can be found at the website of the Singapore Immigration and Checkpoints Authority. You can access their website at www.ica.gov.sg.

If you require any documents from the organising committee in order to apply for your visas, please email us at wsdcsingapore2015@gmail.com to let us know what you need.

Climate & Dress

Singapore is just a few miles away from the equator and has a hot and humid climate all year round. Temperatures normally range from 24-32°C. Delegates are advised to bring light, casual clothing to wear when exploring Singapore outdoors. Heavy rain is also a fairly common occurrence throughout the year. Rain occurs in short but heavy torrential downpours, so bringing an umbrella or a raincoat is recommended.

Teams at WSDC generally wear formal attire, such as suits and ties, for their debates. Most of the debates will be held in air-conditioned rooms in schools, which can be quite cold. Nevertheless, a few debates may be held in rooms which are not air-conditioned, which can be quite warm. When

selecting their attire for debates, teams may want to choose outfits which include a smart jacket for wearing in air-conditioned venues, but which will still look smart and presentable if the jacket is removed, which is advisable for debates in rooms that are not air-conditioned.

There will be a few formal events in the evening during the championships, including the Opening Ceremony on 28th July, and the Closing Dinner on 5th August, for which delegates should wear either formal attire or a national/ethnic costume from their nation.

Delegates are also encouraged to wear some form of national or ethnic costume for Cultural Night on 31st July.

SG 50

While you're in Singapore, you're likely to hear people talking about "SG50" and see the SG50 logo displayed in various places. This is because 2015 marks a very important occasion - the 50th anniversary of Singapore's independence.

Celebrations of this event are taking place throughout the year, and are particularly focused around National Day on 9th August. WSDC 2015 is taking place in the immediate run-up to National Day, so Singapore will be in a festive and energetic mood when you get here.

You can expect WSDC 2015 to be not just a debating tournament, but an experience to remember in Singapore.



Chief Adjudicators' Panel

The Co-Chief Adjudicators for WSDC 2015 are Vernie Oliveiro from Singapore and Tracey Lee from Canada.

Vernie and Tracey have selected 3 international judges to serve as members of the Chief Adjudicators' Panel (CAP) for WSDC 2015. The 3 individuals who will be serving with Vernie and Tracey on the CAP for WSDC 2015 are:

Aisha Ahmad *Pakistan*



2015 will mark Aisha's sixth consecutive WSDC as a judge or coach. She was coach of the Pakistan WSDC team in 2011 in Dundee and in 2012 in Cape Town, and also coached Team Denmark at WSDC 2013 in Antalya. Recently Aisha coached Team Pakistan to a win at EurOpen 2014. Aside from her stints as coach, Aisha has represented Pakistan as an adjudicator at WSDC 2010 and 2014.

Within Pakistan, Aisha has been a debate coach for 9 years and has served as chief adjudicator for numerous local and national tournaments. She is actively involved in expanding both the WSDC and WUDC circuits within Pakistan and has achieved great success in both formats in Pakistan. She has been on the National Team Selection Committee for WSDC since 2009.

Aisha recently graduated from Harvard Law School and will be pursuing further education in Development Studies at Oxford starting this October.

Paidamwoyo Mangondo *South Africa*



Paidamwoyo is a Zimbabwean who currently lives in South Africa. He is finishing his Master's degree in Computational Chemistry and will begin a PhD later this year at the University of Pretoria.

Paidamwoyo began debating during his last two years of high school in Zimbabwe. Since then, he has a great deal of adjudication experience, having been the National Chief Adjudicator of the South African National Schools Debating Championships in 2012 and 2013, the co-Chief Adjudicator of the South African University Nationals in 2013, and a Deputy Chief Adjudicator for the Pan-African University Debating Championships.

Paidamwoyo has judged and spoken at numerous other tournaments on the local circuit. In 2014, he coached the national champions of the South African Schools Debating Championships. He adjudicated at WSDC in South Africa in 2012 and in Thailand in 2014.

When he is not studying or debating, Paidamwoyo can be found listening to music, dancing, teaching and tutoring, or playing games on his iPad.

**Branislav
Fečko-Čegiň**
Slovakia



Brano attended his first World Schools Debating Championships as a judge in 2008. Since then, he has judged at 5 WSDCs. He has served as a member of the Chief Adjudicator's Panel in 2009 and 2013, and has judged the Grand Final 4 times.

In 2011, Brano coached the Slovak team. He is currently a member of the Tournament Committee Executive. He is scheduled to serve as one of the Chief Adjudicators for WSDC 2016 in Stuttgart.

Besides WSDC, Brano has been part of the debating community for almost 15 years as a judge, trainer, debater and coach. After winning the Slovak national final in 2002, he remained active within the Slovak debating association in various roles ranging from judging, through running the tab, all the way to serving on the Supervisory Board.

He was Vice-Chair of the Charles University Debating Club and the Convenor of the Allen & Overy Prague Debate Tournament in 2008. He has attended the IDEA Youth Forum as a member of the organising committee in 2007 in the Czech Republic, and as a trainer in 2009 in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

He has also been on the CAP for the Bratislava Schools Debating Competitions in 2011-14, the Eurasian Schools Debating Championship in 2013 and 2015, the Prague Debate Spring in 2014 and 2015, as well as the ARGO Open in 2013 and 2014. He will also serve as the Chief Adjudicator for the ARGO Open 2015.