

Modernization and Digitalization

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As we surge into a new age of modernization and technology, MUN is not unaffected by the implications of this era. The environment is rising to challenge the importance of the economy, and many countries have turned to biofuels and Green Programs to counter the consequences of global climate change and CO₂ emissions.

In the past, the MEP Globe has been printed on hundreds of sheets of paper, many disregarded and thrown away. After the conference, the newspaper is forgotten. The trees chopped down and sacrificed to make the newspaper possible aren't self-replenishing, similar to the fossil fuels we consumed greedily over the centuries without a second thought. Environmentalists would cringe at the implications of the printing of the MEP Globe—though it contains invaluable information, does the information trump the importance of the environment? No, it does not, especially not in an age where logging need not occur, where carbon dioxide emissions need not remain elevated. It is because of this that the MEP Globe has been transferred to a new, digital form.

The benefits of this digitalization are enormous. Similar to the advance of the Kindle Reader (digitalized books), the ideas are conserved while the environment does not deteriorate for the selfishness of mankind. Globalization is also encouraged: students across the world interested in the activities of the conference who are unable to attend can read about it as if they were there, though they are not. And, of course, there is the issue of interest. Some delegates aren't interested in reading the newspaper for various reasons, and printing a newspaper for them is, to be frank, a complete waste. Now, if they don't want to read it, they simply don't go to the website or blog. And in doing so, no paper is wasted. No trees are killed in cold blood. Oxygen production is maintained! The carbon cycle continues! These delegates no longer need to feel the reverberations of guilt by disregarding the newspaper, because there *are* no negative reverberations.

It also makes the newspaper much more accessible for the participating students. If they wish, they can translate the newspaper digitally, instead of having to chug through a jumble of English jargon. The implications of this digitalization are completely beneficial, and I, as an advocate of Environmentalism, applaud it wholeheartedly. There is no better pleasure than seeing humans use their intelligence—their powers, if you will—for good rather than evil, evil being selfishness and comfort.

Humans set themselves apart from the rest of the animal population with their language, rationality, and need to understand and question. So why not use this “superiority” to reverse the effects we have wrought upon the world? Why not use this intellectual power to benefit other suffering humans, animals, and natural phenomena? Because we can, I say we *should*, rather than put the job on someone else's shoulders and disregard this responsibility. They say “with power comes responsibility.” Why does that not apply here?

Fortunately, many humans are beginning to think of it this way. Not only are they benefitting the economy by buying into the Green industry, they are also benefitting the environment and the generations to come. Everyone stays happy. And this digitalization of the MEP Globe newspaper is a perfect example of this: easy to do, with endless remuneration.