

THE TIERRE SCOOP

VOLUME 4

HARITHKRAM
THE ENVIRONMENT SOCIETY
SHAHEED BHAGAT SINGH COLLEGE



HMUNE



INAUGURATION

And we begin...

The Inaugural Ceremony of the Fourth edition of Harithkram Model United Nations Environment Assembly, Shaheed Bhagat Singh College 2019 commenced with lamp lighting ceremony by the Chief Guest Justice Swatanter Kumar, assisted by Dr. Anil Sardana and Indrani Chandrasekharan, former advisor Ministry of Environment and Forests.

Ms. Mita Hussain, Convener, Harithkram formally welcomed the dignitaries and the delegates participating from various colleges. She emphasized the role of Model United Nations for students towards shaping their skills of diplomacy and negotiating skills. She further added the aim of Harithkram has been to sensitize the students and the surrounding of the college about environment issues, which explains the motto #BeyondTheBoundaries. She expressed her gratitude of how youth come together and give suggestion on various agendas.

The Principal, Dr. Anil Sardana welcomed everyone and suggested that such sessions increase the wealth of knowledge but also give understanding about global health and challenges faced by various countries. He was very hopeful that HMUNEA'19 would give everyone food for thought on the challenges of health faced by different nations. He talked about giving more emphasis on the ideas forwarded by students rather than the senior faculty members as students are face of future.

The Chief Guest for the session, Justice Swatanter Kumar acknowledged the name of the college and suggested that just as Shaheed Bhagat Singh gave up his life for the country, the College should be sincere fighters and must stand for environmental concerns of this country as well as world at large. Dr. Indrani Chandrasekharan, the keynote speaker, acquainted the delegates and the audience with the relationship of Sustainable Development Goals with global health challenges through a detailed presentation.

As the opening session and inauguration drew to a close, the Faculty coordinator Dr. Komal Agrawal conveyed her Vote of Thanks to the guests, the faculty and the organizing committee. She also expressed her gratitude to the delegates for their delightful presence and announced the Conference open, and conveyed her best wishes to the delegates.



DAY ONE- FORMAL SESSION AT A GLANCE

The post lunch session started with a short and crisp address given by Ms. Taru Mehta, Fellow and Area Convener, Environment Education and Awareness, TERI (The Energy and Resources Institute), followed by which the formal assembly was set-up to begin the Model United Nations Environment Assembly.

The Assembly started with the opening of the Speakers' List and the roll call was taken. The Committee then proceeded with the General Assembly speech in which delegates from various countries reiterated their countries' stand on the topic of "Environmental Diplomacy on Global Health."

After the suspension of the GSL (General Speakers List), the committee moved to its first moderated caucus on the motion – climate change, laying special emphasis on global health. The motion was raised by the delegate of Israel which was seconded by the majority and the motion was passed clearly.

During the moderated caucus, delegates of different countries raised significant and relevant points that made the discussions immensely fruitful.

IMPORTANT ASPECTS RAISED IN THE COMMITTEE:

- Sustainable growth and consumption of natural resources and use of cost-effective methods to preserve them to ensure continued availability.
- The delegate of USA raised the point of important administrative policies adopted by the former President Barrack Obama that played a crucial role in ensuring global health.
- The delegate of China highlighted the subject of neo-regional initiatives that have been made by the country and has proven to be an essential aspect for building external foreign relations and curbing health problems in the nation.
- Authorised organisations and local authorities raised issues related to lack of external support and problems relating to finance and economic backwardness.
- The delegate of Georgia raised essential points concerning forest fires, floods and droughts that affected the citizens immensely.
- The delegate of Indonesia raised the issue of high coastal population that results in deterioration of sea water and has negative impact on agriculture and livelihood.

AN ASSESSMENT OF AMBITIONS

#THE SUBTLE ART OF SAVING THE ENVIRONMENT

-Divyanshi Singh

Followed by an unmoderated caucus, the delegate of Australia raised the motion on the issue of 'Climate Change with special emphasis on Global Health'. With a majority of delegates seconding the motion, the floor was open to deliberation. The session started with Australia pointing out important social and environmental issues. Furthermore, the delegate added that according to Australia, one of the major causes of environmental degradation is the emission of Greenhouse gases. With the discussion moving forward, the delegates talked of ocean degradation, agriculture on a contradictory front, being both the cause and victim of environmental deterioration, climate change hindering the health of millions and more such important issues.



Caricature By Punit Suthar

Uganda very aptly spoke about climate change being the most salient factor behind the health issues occurring in today's scenario. The International Union for Conservation of Nature mentioned about the gender responsive and socially inclusive policies implemented by them. The delegate also talked about Ocean Degradation and its crucial effects on the marine and human life. China, while addressing the assembly talked about the initiatives of the Chinese government towards Sustainable Development. Israel talked more of the air pollution in the urban areas and its deadly effects on us. Latin America and Caribbean States talked of their initiative, 'Climate Week' which focuses on improving regional climatic conditions.

India addressed itself as the "Pharmacy of the World", being the chief contributor to manufacturing of several medicinal products. As the Netherlands suggested, at this hour, the assembly was familiar with both global and regional environmental issues. The delegate of the Netherlands also gave free attention to the alarming rise in sea levels due to Global Warming and warned of the drowning of coastal regions if this continues. . With the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change talking of Global Health, an entire web of climate change affecting the flora and fauna of the entire world was discussed. The delegate also affirmed that it aims on keeping the population-resource-relationship in mind while making policies and finding solutions for all. The First Day of UNEA was marked by a series of interesting and positive ideas, promising a fruitful second day of deliberations.



AN ENVIRONMENT-FRIENDLY CONFERENCE



WORLD BEYOND POLLUTION

ASHRAF NEHAL

We hitched a world where we are in our comfort with the pinks
But when we woke up all we were accompanied with was a polluted blink
Fortunately or unfortunately, our world of joy has turned a death bed for us,
Where we selfish souls have earned a devastation, putting none other but ourselves at loss.
Now when pollution is our home, roughness and rudeness turn out to be our siblings,
We advanced for better,
But have been escorted to a destination,
Where point of survival has turned bitter.
I had seen water purify the soul,
Today the purification of water has become our supreme goal.
Creativity has so far omitted environment as a
genre to cover,
But today, environment concern is all that creativity covers.
Today we are hunting for a world beyond this all-killing pollution,
But why crack this irony,
Pollution had come in for human race's promotion.
So aren't we all promoted,
To handle pollution all by ourselves,
To prove that this perception of pollution is merely a false tale.
Unfortunately, this witchy pollution,
Has altered our concept of a fairytale.
Where the devil comes in,
But is unbeaten by the hero, the protagonist.
Occupied world,
Today calls to abolish this promoting phase,
For pollution has made us cover our face.
There exists no world beyond pollution,
Which we have devastated for our petty promotion.

SNAP-O-MANIA



The delegate of Netherlands



The delegate stating facts and figures to prove their point.



The delegate of Farmers' Major Group engaged in some serious discussion

FROM THE BOARD MEMBERS

PRESIDENT, **MR. LAKSHAY YOG**

With immense pleasure I welcome you all to the 4th Harithkram Model United Nations Environment Assembly organized by Harithkram: Environment Society of Shaheed Bhagat Singh College, University of Delhi. Being the president I am elated to observe that the committee has made remarkable progress in the 1st day. The depth of research exhibited in the profound arguments presented by the delegates was phenomenal. It is truly an honour to be on the executive board.



VICE PRESIDENT, **MR. PRASUN BHOWMIK**

The committee is of the view that the assembly has progressed from the 1st session, which is evident by the level of explanation, arguments and the POIs. Moreover the arguments show the level of research and dedication of the delegates. It is really an honour to be a member of the executive board.



VICE-PRESIDENT, **MR. RISHIKESH JHA**

The committee held substantive knowledge regarding the agendas. The POIs have been the key in comprehending the arguments presented by the delegates and their understanding of respective entities. As far as the chits are concerned they have been extensively explanatory and factual. Overall this committee has been informative both for the EB as well as the other delegates too.



RAPPORTEUR, MS. PRERNA RAMAN

The committee has proven to be highly participative. Though more than half of the committee constituted on first time MUNers, the arguments and substantive facts laid down by the delegates were highly commendable. It is an honor to moderate such a committee.

**EDITOR-IN CHIEF, MS. AKSHITA DIKSHIT**

I am sure that in my inherent knowledge, journalism is one of the strongest and the most impactful tenet of the contemporary world. The press team is responsible for reporting of the events of the conference and the progress made by the committee. Observing the debates and interviewing numerous delegates are some of the ways in which the press team produced articles and photographs for this HMUNEA 2019 newsletter. The work experience of this committee will be cherished.

**THE EXECUTIVE BOARD****INTERNATIONAL PRESS**

DAY TWO- FORMAL SESSION AT A GLANCE

The second day of the session commenced with the roll call after which the Committee moved to the second moderated caucus of the Assembly. The motion raised in the caucus dealt with women's health and sanitation that specifically emphasized the condition of women in various parts of the world.

The delegates put forth the positions of their countries and laid down prospective submissions in the quorum. The discussion majorly centered on issues related to maternity and menstruation as the main items to be deliberated upon.

Debates and discussions are two major facets of a Model United Nations Assembly and one can gladly claim that both these components were efficiently incorporated in the conference that urged the audience to ponder on crucial yet rarely discussed or tangentially touched upon aspects.

At the very outset, the delegates mulled over their points and researched on the basic outlines related to the status of women's health and sanitation. The discussion revolved around the question of how many women are susceptible to mortality at the time of child birth, or how many women actually end up losing their lives during child birth. The primary reasons for these deaths were air pollution, negative disposal of industrial produce and waste, and exposure to ultra-violet (UV) radiation.

The discussion concluded with a mutually agreed upon closure that the primary culprit behind the deteriorating health of women in different nations is the lack of preventive measures adopted by the countries, which, if taken timely, would ultimately lower the risk to the lives of the female citizens of a country, which is no small deal as they comprise one half of the population, which is the fundamental wealth of any country.

The Committee then proposed to move to a different agenda to be discussed and the motion raised was primarily concerned with the expansion of public health institutions and means of financing public health.

The prominent points debated upon in this moderation dealt with arguments pertaining to lack of financial support and limited infrastructure available for the construction of healthcare institutions and for the promotion of new inventions/discoveries in medical sciences, the absence of which, by and large, limits the benefits of public health.

The next matter that was scrutinized was that of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs). Water-borne diseases such as typhoid, jaundice and cholera were discussed. Such diseases have had a marked impact on the population in developing and least developed countries. Developed countries have a focused objective of preventing such non-communicable diseases and have therefore upgraded their technologies to lessen the risk of deaths owing to such diseases.

Finally, the Committee moved to an unmoderated caucus to proceed with the drafting of the resolution. Each and every delegate raised the solutions in accordance with their country's situation. The countries then unanimously agreed upon the solutions that were recommended, and the resolution was passed successfully with the mutual consent of the delegates.

AN EYE-OPENING VISIT TO THE REAL HOME

DIVYANSHI SINGH

Dear Diary,

Today, I returned to the tapered lanes of my village. The smell of the wet soil hit my mind and the beautiful mud houses caught my attention. As I reached my home, I was struck with the nostalgia of all my summer vacations spent in the same place. As wooden door, carved aesthetically, giving no hint of the inside, was finally opened, I saw amma, dressed in her traditional wear. I hugged her tightly and went to have the food my aunt had cooked. Post lunch, I sat with her for a little chat. As we discussed more, with a pale face, she started talking about our hometown. I could sense a feeling of disappointment.

As she talked further, she mentioned several issues occurring in there. She talked of her friend and she told me about her farmland converting into a barren land because of an influx of contaminated water through the river. She talked of our farms producing lesser produce in recent years. As I was intrigued, I asked her about our cattle. She said, they're fine but they don't seem as healthy as they were earlier. 'Due to high temperature, it is difficult for us to manage them, she said.

We went on with our catching up and then she asked me if I remember going to the river with her? I felt elated as I stated to her, 'Yes, I do!' She said we can go in the evening but I cannot go and sit with my legs inside the water. I was disappointed as she continued, 'because the water is toxicated and contaminated with toxins. One cannot even touch the water'. Listening to this, a part of me was really hurt. From all the conversations, I could make that pollution in our urban areas and toxicity that comes along with 'growth and development' has adversely affected our villages too. Out of concern, I asked her about the health conditions of the people residing there. She told me that there are several cases of new diseases occurring in the village. The condition is worsening day by day, But the solution? We can't find it.

I was worried about her falling ill in such a negative environment. I staunchly said, 'you're coming to the city with me! We will live together now at my place.' To which she said, 'The problems here are not personal. If one suffers, the other is concerned too. I don't want to leave these people alone. They are my family and all that we can do is wait for the higher authorities to notice the loud cries coming from each and every other house and provide us with a solution.' Little did I know that she wasn't happy whenever I used to call her, but as I heard to what she had to say, It created a strong impact on me. The health conditions of people as well as the animals are towards a deterioration which cannot be reversed. At this moment, I just want to help her and the people but I don't know how! The only thing which comes to mind are pictures of all that waste dumped into the waters in the urban region, the plastic bags and other plastics littered on the roads, ill treatment of privileges and exploitation and more. All of it struck my mind and I felt guilty of the conditions the people were going through in my village. Today, it was a rough day and I slept with a hope that I can make tomorrow better for me and all of them too.

THE RESPONSIBLE GLOBAL CRACKDOWN

ASHRAF NEHAL

The second day of HMUNEA was initiated by a Moderated Caucus, discussing on the first agenda being **Women and Sanitation**. The delegate of Israel raised the motion and received the support of majority. The delegates represented their stand on the agenda, first in the list being **Afghanistan** which stated the nation as one of the most hazardous one for living women and child birth. The nation spoke of how malnutrition of women leads in birth rate and something similar was even put in front by **Islamic Republic of Pakistan** and **Republic of**



Indonesia stating the social status of child birth being associated with women in the Islamic Countries. **Australia** mentioned how climate is turning into a factor causing weak infectious diseases. The delegation of **Netherlands** spoke of its Women Health Centre and accused **USA**, where the patients are forced for euthanasia by doctors. The **Islamic Republic of Pakistan** quoted that, *'Every 40 minutes one woman dies out of mortality reason'*. Moving on there was a statement by **The International Union for Conservation of Nature**- In 2015 steps taken pertaining to **Vision and Priority** to ensure better health vision for women.

Next **Agenda** was **Expansion of Public Health Institutions** and **Financing Public Health Challenge for attaining Good Health and Well-Being**. The delegate of **China** was noticeable by his statement, *'Govt. aims to establish modern and traditional ways to tackle'*. Moving on it was **Germany** which discussed it's planning to finance its public health institutions. Later the delegate of the **Federative Republic of Brazil** questioned the delegate of **Taiwan**, that how does Taiwan ensure financial allocation when it's economy is a dependent one?

Towards the conclusion a **third agenda** was discussed which was **Preventing Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) by reducing Environmental Risk Factors**. The delegates discussed the agenda in a very positive response. **Australia** advocated the restricting of NCD related factors. Then the delegate of **Netherlands** reminded of the **Tianjin Explosions and Chernobyl Explosions** and insisted that these accidents should be dealt with accountability of the nation's. **Taiwan** spoke of how city related mortality rate is unchecked and it's stand on the spectrum making it ranked among the countries with least number of diseases in past 30-70 years. With this the committee moved towards the resolution.

THERE IS NO PLANET B

#TheSnowMustGoOn

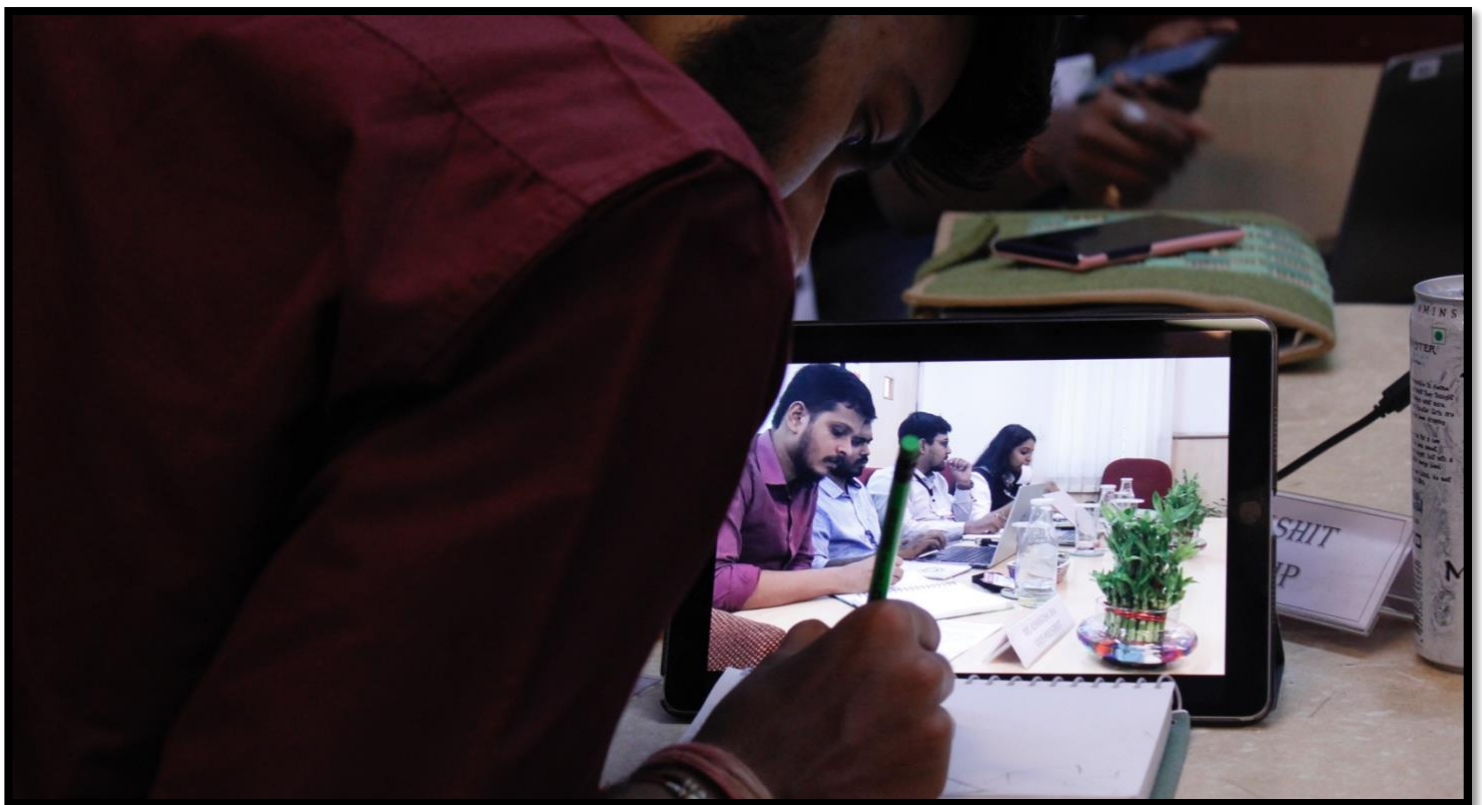
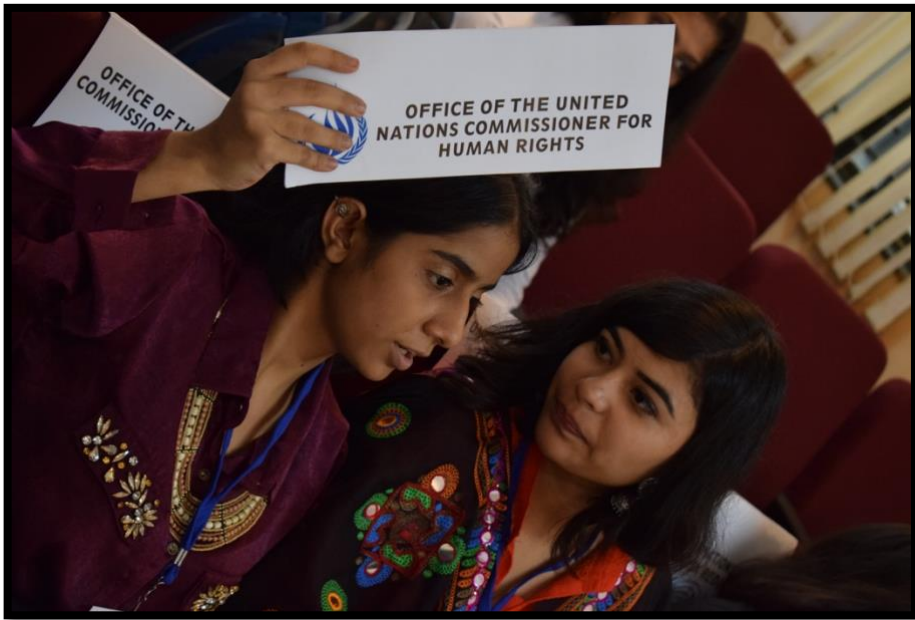
DIVYANSHI SINGH

The environment acquires a motherly nature in our lives; her care is physical, intellectual and emotional support that is inevitable for her children. She provides us food and oxygen, round the clock in every season. How can one convince themselves that she will be able to nurse and nurture even after being injured and unwell?

Today, in the name of uninhibited progress and development humans have gorged upon the immaculate glory that once earth was. What we see now is a result of continuous exploitation of its vulnerable and patient nature by humans. The natural resources that the environment provided us with have deteriorated to the utmost level. We have become greedy, selfish and dugged deep into her resources. As a result of this, we have emptied the environment's coffin too. The nations majorly focus on the spectrum of growth and development of their own economy and their people. Icebergs are melting, ocean levels are rising with majority of it being polluted, ozone layer is depleting and the list keeps on going. Today, Human evolution has come full circle; from creation to self-destruction. Both quality and quantity of our natural wealth, air for life, land for forests, water and food, is forsaking us.

One needs no efforts to put in when proving this right. It is needless to repeat the environmental pollution and the spread of its poisonous tentacles, now reaching the afar edges. Look around, the tip of your itchy nose will smell the toxicity and adulteration in the air, you will taste the chemically treated water, brimming with antioxidants to make it potable, your ears will hear deafening horns, your eyes will witness the sad but real reality. The cries of the diseased are louder than before. Due to the toxicity in the environment, our health has been affected the most. The numbers have reached the apex when we make a count of the deaths that have taken place, due to diverse diseases. Looking at all of it, we clearly accept the fact that man has splurged enough on his natural wealth at the cost of the health of nature's creatures, animate and inanimate. We are regressing towards a more unhealthy future for every living creature.

We need to remember that no matter where the effects are worse, be it a developed city of a developed nation or a rural village in a developing one; the signals of depleting health are loud and clear. One and all need to understand that, Environment gives us everything for living but destroying it will never make us forgiving. We've come so far that now; No Pollution is The Only Solution. It's high time that man makes his choice between high standard infrastructure of a hospital or a safe environment resulting in less health issues. Together, with collective initiatives and cooperation, we need to save the environment from exploitation as there is no PLANET B, no other planet for us to fall back.



VALEDICTORY

See you in the 5th edition of HMUNEA in 2021

The closing ceremony that was set to conclude the two days of the 4th edition of Harithkram Model United Nation Environment Assembly (HMUNEA) took place on September 21, 2019. The session had a full house that was addressed by two eminent speakers as guest of honours, Ms. Gayatri Raghwa, Environment and Education Consultant for United Nations in India (UNEP) and Ms. Radhika Suri, Director, Environment Education from WWF-India. Ms. Gayatri Raghwa encouraged and appreciated the delegates for investing time in Environment related issues. She was then felicitated by Anil Sardana, Principal, Shaheed Bhagat Singh College.

Ms. Radhika Suri, Co-Founder, Inspire Education and Director, Environment Education from WWF-India shed light on environmental degradation that is taking place and was much impressed by enthusiasm of youth as the participants thoroughly debated over the concern. Dr. V.A.V. Raman, Staff Advisor, Harithkram also shared a few words upon request and popular demand by the students. Dr. Anil Sardana, Principal thanked the whole staff and student body for success of the event. The work by the organizing committee was highly appreciated by all.

The participants were then commended and felicitated by the Guest of Honours, following which the winners of the two-day conference were announced. The delegate of Georgia, Sibasish Kumar Sen, bagged the Best Delegate award and the delegate of China won the Book Delegate award.



Honourable mentions were secured by the Delegate of Netherlands, Pranav Sachdeva and the delegate of International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Prachi Honey. Journalist from the International Press team, Divyanshi Singh won the Best Press Coverage award too. It was a tough call for the Executive Board as the competition was cut

throat. The diplomatic skills put forward by delegates were commendable and extraordinary.

The assembly that saw participation of delegates from different Universities and various colleges of the University of Delhi, after a brief feedback session, was declared closed by Dr. Komal Agarwal, the Executive Director of the Harithkram Model United Nations Environment Assembly 2019.

The student conveners of this assembly, Ms. Rhythm Patel and Mr. Arghadeep Das presented the Vote of Thanks and thanked the Patron and Principal Dr. Anil Sardana, Convener, Harithkram Ms. Mita Hussain, Staff Advisor, Harithkram Dr. V.A.V. Raman and other faculty members, the knowledge partners, the supporters, the organising team and the support staff for their contribution to the success of this youth conference.

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