

## HARVARD MODEL CONGRESS – DUBAI

Yet again JIRS had an opportunity to have hands on experience when they participated in the Harvard Model Congress in the American University in Dubai.

Harvard Model Congress (HMC) Dubai Conference is a student managed American government organization at Harvard University. For several decades, Harvard Model Congress has been running internationally acclaimed government simulations throughout the United States, Europe and Asia. The Harvard Students organize an annual conference in Dubai, attended by hundreds of students from all around Asia, North America and Europe.

It was a grueling preparation but very rewarding. The registration was a breeze and the students were into the auditorium for the opening ceremony. The Harvard under graduates introduced themselves and read out the agenda for the coming days. Later the students were guided to various buildings where the actual conference of various committees would be held. Each Committees had two chairpersons who were there throughout to help the delegates and see that the proceedings were going smoothly. The students were exposed to committees, summits, negotiations and finally passing of bills.

The topics given to the students were quite exhaustive and students had to do plenty of research to be with latest statistics and data. In the conference hall it was not just debate, but a collaborative effort and compressive. At times negotiations to get the bill passed so that it becomes a law. It was sometimes a marathon session for seven hours with hectic parleying and lobbying affecting various countries. The issues ranged from gender bias to Americans relationship with Pakistan, The Afghan war and health thrown in.

On 23 January 2015, it was more interesting interacting with the Harvard college panel. Here the undergraduates briefed the students about their experience and the requirements to get into Harvard. In between the simulated congress were also in progress.

On the concluding day, 24 January 2015 the international summit was held, where members from every committee met and discussed international issues and problems. Along with the Congress sessions the students had ample time to check out all the sites worth seeing. The conference was wrapped up with the closing ceremony with hopes of a better future for the world we live in.