

# **SIMULATION COMMITTEE GUIDE**

**UNODC**



## **UNITED NATIONS OFFICE ON DRUGS AND CRIME**

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# Contents

## 1. Presidents' Letter

## 2. Simulation: Organised Crime prevention in Asia

- I. History/Context
- II. Current Situation
- III. Key Points of the Debate
- IV. Guiding Questions
- V. Bibliography



## Presidents' Letter

Dear Delegates,

It is with great pleasure that we present ourselves to you. We are Mariana Roldán and Juan David Cano, both students from Colegio Bennett. It is because of fate and all your hard work and bravery that we find ourselves all gathered under the umbrella of one same committee!

UNODC is one of the only UN committees whose jurisdiction includes not only narcotics and its trafficking but also corruption, organised crime, terrorism, crime prevention, and criminal justice. Be it your first model or one of many, we hope to make your UN experience flourish this year and to help you reach your well-sought potential.

As past delegates ourselves, we are well aware of the nerves and anxiety a model can cause. We hope that with our support and your dedication we can work together in making an effort towards the building of our future. This incredible world we currently find ourselves immersed in is a first step in the development of our knowledge, abilities, and mission, as we strive to make our world a better place.

As delegates, you will undertake the role and responsibilities of being a country's ambassador and representative where you will have the opportunity to learn and embody their specific beliefs regarding the topics we have assigned to you. In UNODC, you will be faced with life-changing decisions regarding international criminal and justice laws and we trust you will uphold the utmost severity while doing so. We believe it is wholly within your capabilities to do an outstanding job, regardless of the country you will have to represent. Your abilities as delegates aside, you will always have our unconditional support throughout your whole journey in this 2023 Model United Nations experience.

Please don't shy away from reaching out to us to help you resolve any queries regarding your position as a delegate or about our debate topics. Both before and throughout the model we are both more than happy and willing to be of any assistance, so please do not hesitate in asking for our guidance.

It is equally vital that you as delegates meet the expectations that have been assigned to you upon deciding to join this model. We trust that you will complete all the expected tasks responsibly and on time. As presidents, we have one vital piece of advice that will help serve you not only in this model but in the many more that are sure to come. The preparation you undertake before the actual debate is essential in defining your overall experience as a delegate. We ask you to keep that in mind. We know that you will all do an outstanding job and trust in your abilities!

Your presidents,

Mariana Roldan and Juan David Cano (UNODC Chair)

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## Simulation topic: *Organised Crime Prevention in Asia*

### I. History/Context

The UN has asked countries in the Asia-Pacific region for more collaboration to combat transnational organised crime gangs, which have become "more violent and ruthless than ever." Some, like the Chinese secret societies "The Triads" or the Japanese "Yakuza", take advantage of globalisation to expand their illicit businesses beyond national borders.

#### CHINESE TRIADS



The **Triads** originated from a splinter group as a secret organisation that fought for the overthrow of the Qīng dynasty in the last years of the Chinese imperial era, because they declared themselves loyal to the Míng dynasty. They were involved in revolutionary activities with which many martial arts practitioners in South China sympathised. However, this was not the original purpose of the Triads to arise.

During the 18th century, southern China experienced demographic pressure that pushed ethnic minorities and immigrants to the margins. They were called **Hakka** (客家) while natives were known as **Punti** (本地). The **Punti** saw the growth of the **Hakka** population as a threat so the **Hakka** began to group themselves into secret societies outside the law and paramilitary groups, which were born with the aim of dealing with the socioeconomic well-being of their members. Time passed and the name of the Hakka group changed, the Opium Wars began, therefore more poor peasants decided to join these societies to ensure their survival.

Many years later, it seems that the Qīng dynasty made an effort to interpret these groups as anti-Manchu. So it is possible that they found in the Míng restoration a justification for their activities, a form of legitimation in the eyes of the rest of the population. That is they continue fighting in the shadows and organise themselves under very harsh codes of obedience and loyalty that put the common cause before everything, even life itself.

Over the centuries, the noble initial purposes would degenerate, as happened in many other organisations, towards crude criminal mafia ideas. However, they retain certain old traditions and social structures, such as respect for the elderly. In some cities like Hong Kong, triads still have considerable importance.

## JAPANESE YAKUZA

The yakuza or Japanese mafia is a criminal organisation with more than 300 years of history with over 100,000 members. It is of great importance within Japanese society in that its integration with the political and business system has provoked coups and relevant decisions for the system on numerous occasions.

They originated in the 17th century during the Edo period, initially inspired by the figure of the ancient **Samurai**. Before, the **Samurai** were servants of the feudal lords (**Shōgun**) of each territory and worked as protectors in times of war. But with modern times and the country's unification under a central government, **Samurai** were fired because they were no longer useful. Therefore, they became mercenaries called "rōnin". Later they formed paramilitary groups whose purpose and goal was to serve as protection in exchange for food and privileges. Little by little their influence spread, extorting and manipulating numerous sectors of society, especially politics and business. Today they have a monopoly on illegal business in Japan.

## II. Current Situation

### JAPANESE YAKUZA

In Japan, The Yakuza are still very active, and although Yakuza membership has declined since the implementation of the **Anti-Boryokudan Act in 1992** has resulted in the dissolution of 192 Boryokudan organisations and a reduction in the influence of remaining groups; however, their loan-sharking activities and other income-producing criminal activities remain significant. There are still approximately 12,300 active Yakuza members in Japan as of 2021, although it is possible that they are a lot more active than statistics say.

These gangs controlled many businesses, and were engaged in sophisticated gambling and loan sharking activities, and invested heavily in sports and other entertainment. They also became involved in drugs, money lending, smuggling, and pornography. A report by **Japan's National Police Agency** says that members of designated gangs numbered 24,100 as of the end of 2021, which was down 1,800 year on year.

The table below shows Japan's main gangs and their memberships as of the end of 2021.

### Membership of the Major Gangs (Japan)

Name	Members	Associate Members
Yamaguchi-gumi	4,000 (+200)	4,500 (+100)
Kobe Yamaguchi-gumi	510 (-690)	540 (-760)
Kizuna-kai (former Ninkyō Yamaguchi-gumi)	90 (-140)	140 (-120)
Ikeda-gumi	80	110
Sumiyoshi-kai	2,500 (-100)	1,500 (-100)
Inagawa-kai	1,900 (-100)	1,200 (-100)

Created by *Nippon.com* based on data from the National Police Agency.

## CHINA TRIADS

The **Triads** are believed to control an empire worth many billions of dollars. The largest and most powerful Triad, **Sun Yee On**, is believed to have 40,000 members. The unnamed "Dragon Head" of Kong Sun Yee On, was named on Asiaweek's list of the 50 most powerful people in Asia. **The 14K (十四K)** is a triad group based in Hong Kong but active internationally. It is the second largest triad group in the world with around 20,000 members split into thirty subgroups.

Just like any other segment of society, **Hong Kong's** triads have adapted to the Internet age. Chat apps play an increasing role in recruitment and in keeping members in touch with each other. This caused the triad hierarchy to be more decentralised than it was a few decades ago.

Revenue sources have also transformed. Smuggling narcotics and running prostitution rings are no longer the triads' primary activities. Instead, they're making most of their money by smuggling high-demand seafood, including endangered fish, as well as selling counterfeit goods online. Some of the more traditional triad operations, such as smuggling cigarettes and running gambling dens, remain in place, but with diminished importance.

Governments around the world must focus on effective ways to curb the violent effects and consequences of the operations of these Asian criminal groups. Many of the operations of these groups affect not only the local territory but the sovereignty of other nations and violate the human rights of many citizens around the globe.



Organisms such as **INTERPOL** run a project known as **AOC** (Asian Organised Crime) that works to combat these complex and pervasive crime networks. The project provides a forum in which law enforcement agencies across the entire globe can share intelligence and experience.

### III. Key Points of the Debate

- Effects on society of Asian criminal groups
- Strategies to deal with Asian criminal groups
- The way in which these groups operate in modern times
- International issues caused by Asian criminal groups

### IV. Guiding Questions

1. What are the rates of organised crime in your country, and what sort of crimes do these criminal groups commit?
2. What strategies does your government have to deal with organised crime in the country?
3. What strategies does your government have to stop young people from entering organised crime groups?
4. In what ways has your country been affected by Asian mafia groups, if any?
5. What has your country done to combat organised crime in Asia, if anything?

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