

# Mingdao Debate in iGEM 2020

**Goal:** To host a debate on the legalization of genome editing

**Topic:** GM foods debate

**Date:** July 10, 2020

**Location:** Library at Mingdao International Department (MDID)

**Judge:** IB Teacher Jonathan

**Host of iGEMers:**

1. Edith (Kuan-Yu Huang)
2. Jennifer (Hsin-Hsin Wu)
3. Chelsea (Zi-Yi Kung)
4. Sofie (Shu-Han Liu)

## ABOUT THE DEBATE

In this debate, participants will be either debating against or for genetically modified foods (GM foods). There will be a total of 8 participants, four on each side of the debate. To prepare for the debate, participants will need to investigate why or why not genome editing should be legalizing using environmental, social, and economic aspects. After the debate, the judge will evaluate who wins the debate.

## TIMELINE CHECKLIST

Check	Date	Objectives	Other information
v	6/19	Finish proposal	
v	6/23	Finish the script for the judge and guiding question	
v	6/26	Confirm participants information	
v	7/3	Meeting with the judge and volunteers	
v	7/10	Debate date	

## SCHEDULE OF THE DEBATE

Time	Section	Other information
12:20-12:30	Open debate	
12:30-12:45	Session 1: Environmental aspect	
12:45-1:00	Session 2: Social aspect	
1:00-1:15	Session 3: Economic aspect	
1:15-1:20	Close debate aspect	

## OPEN DEBATE

**Guiding Question:** What's your stance on GM foods?

**Session 1:** Does GM foods affect the health of the environment?  
Why or why not?

**Session 2:** Are GM foods really less healthy than non-GM foods?  
Why or why not?

**Session 3:** Does GM foods affect the economy of the world? Take your country as an example.

### Group FOR

Genetically modified organism (GMO) food is not harmful. In that case, we have the same stance as the National Academies of Sciences and most of the world's scientific community. We support GMOs because it is obvious that GMOs can solve issues such as hunger and poverty among developing countries. In addition, it alleviated the carbon footprint in the agriculture industry. Genetic engineering helps farmers to cultivate crops that resist diseases, insect pests, and drought, meaning that the farmers can harvest more efficiently and generate more profits. To take one of the countless examples, farmers in East Asia and South Asia have been gaining extra profits by growing GMOs which were then exported to Westerners. Our research and personal connection to some scientists suggested that GMOs will help the world to become a better place. We support GMOs because many scientific

experiments have confirmed its positive impact to the society and we believe the legalization of GMOs is a matter of environmental and social justice.

## Group AGAINST

Genetic modification of crops is not suitable for the Earth and its inhabitants. GMOs are associated with devastating chemicals, such as glyphosate, that are detrimental to both humans and the environment. The chemicals not only compromise land quality, but they are the factors behind increases susceptibility in crops and contaminate human's water and food supply. This situation is ensured by increased usage of more deadly pesticides which harm the environment further. Notwithstanding these drawbacks, it's doubtful whether the GMOs really help to increase the potential yield of crops as promised by those who support the legalization of GMOs. Fortunately, the advancement of technology in the scientific field has proposed innovative alternatives to problems of the food supply that are not reliant on GMOs crops.

## Photos in the debate

