



WORLD FEDERATION OF UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATIONS  
FEDERATION MONDIALE DES ASSOCIATIONS POUR LES NATIONS UNIES

*A peoples' movement for the United Nations*

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**Report of the WFUNA meeting for UNA Representatives/ Chaperones at  
the 3<sup>rd</sup> WFUNA Asia/ Pacific Regional Model UN Conference  
21-24 July 2008, Incheon, Republic of Korea**

The WFUNA Secretariat convened daily meetings of the UNA Representatives and Chaperones who accompanied student delegations to the WFUNA Asia/Pacific Model UN conference. The focus of their discussions was on the 39<sup>th</sup> WFUNA Plenary Assembly to be hosted by ROK in August 2009, communication between UNAs and WFUNA, regional co-ordination and a review and appraisal of the WFUNA Asia/Pacific Model UN conference program.

The participants were:

Arpine Danielyan, UNA-Armenia  
Virginia Balmain, UNA-Australia  
Zhang Younfei, UNA-China  
Sundeeep Bhutoria, Indian Federation of UNAs  
Jae-Young Park, UNA-Republic of Korea  
Jeeyin Kim, UNA-Republic of Korea  
Little Jones B. Espeleta, UNA-Philippines  
Bertch Ian N. Ranis, UN Youth Association of the Philippines  
Lev Voronkov, UNA-Russia  
Kwang Boon Lee, UNA-Singapore  
Somsak Triamjangarun, UNA-Thailand  
Cherie Settle, UNA-USA

Pera Wells, WFUNA Secretary-General  
Fruzsina Molnar Straus, WFUNA Communications Strategist

**Preparations for the WFUNA Plenary Assembly in ROK, 2009**

After the introductions, the WFUNA SG summarized recent activities and plans, including

- WFUNA Strategic Action Plan which will be the basis of the report to the Plenary Assembly
- Request to UNAs to designate WFUNA-liaison officer positions, to enhance communications between UNAs and WFUNA in the run up to the Plenary Assembly
- The outcomes of the two conferences held the previous week in Geneva:
  - Students for a Nuclear Weapons-Free World
  - the Annual Human Rights Conference

- The 2008 *We the Peoples* Report on the MDGs

The discussion focused on the policy issues that UNAs in the Asia/Pacific region considered should be given priority in the program for the Plenary Assembly. It was agreed that climate change, MDGs and youth engagement with the UN were key issues.

### **Communications between UNAs in the region and WFUNA**

The following suggestions were made to improve communication between WFUNA and UNAs:

- To make communication truly two-way, UNAs need to respond to WFUNA requests, especially when asked to update their contact information, nominate a WFUNA Liaison, or make changes to their page on the WFUNA website.
- UNAs should aim to communicate with the WFUNA Secretariat on a “need to know” basis
- It would help the two-way flow, if WFUNA’s communications to UNAs focused on certain big issues, such as the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR).
- Both WFUNA and UNAs should take advantage of communication technologies such as yahoo groups, facebook and ning.com

The UNAs in the region have varied capacities and numbers of members, for example, the UNA-Singapore has about 200 members, UNA-Australia has about 600 members, and there are over 3000 members of UNA-China.

The participants shared some of their communications best-practices:

- UNA-Singapore sends a monthly email to its members summarizing upcoming projects and events, which then links to their website for more information.
- UNA-China has improved its communication since employing full-time staff members. They find that participation on the WFUNA ExCo is helpful.
- UNA-Philippines has a Vice-President of External Affairs who is responsible for being the point of contact on all international communication.
- UNA-Armenia has set up standard emails for each program coordinator, a yahoo group for members, and operates a website.
- UNA-Russia has permanent staff at universities that makes communication easier.
- IFUNA sends a hardcopy newsletter to each state chapter.

### **Structure for Regional Collaboration**

For many years, the Asia/ Pacific Regional Office was based in Calcutta, India. However, it has not been active since about 2003. The matter of having a regional office was discussed.

Mr. Sundeep Bhutoria, representing IFUNA, said that he did not mind having the office somewhere else.

Some participants recommended that regional coordination does not actually require a physical presence and can be done online.

It was agreed that the participants of this meeting will ask the Executive Committee to consider allowing the day before the opening of the 39<sup>th</sup> Plenary Assembly to be dedicated to having regional meetings so the UNAs can discuss what is the most effective option for their regions. This suggestion has already been integrated into the Plenary program.

### Evaluation of APMUN 2008

The UNA representatives and chaperones evaluated the APMUN conference while it was in process, and created a list of strengths and weaknesses. Overall, the UNA representatives felt that the 3<sup>rd</sup> APMUN improved upon the standards set by the first two conferences.

The list is as follows:

Strengths	Weaknesses/ Suggestions
<p>Communication:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Easy to get in touch with Secretariat</li> <li>• Website is user friendly and features useful information</li> <li>• Pre-conference communication from Secretariat and WFUNA was very good – they made sure that all deadlines were met</li> <li>• Useful online communication tools to prepare for event</li> </ul> <p>Logistics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Everything is in one location (Ramada Songdo Hotel) – better for host and guests</li> <li>• Secretariat very well coordinated and helpful</li> <li>• Host provided exceptional service in terms of food and accommodation</li> <li>• Delegations kept completely informed about what was going on each day</li> <li>• Room numbers of all delegates and other guests in Delegate Handbook was very useful</li> </ul> <p>Substance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relevant themes</li> <li>• Useful compilation of position papers by Committee in printed publication</li> <li>• Well organized and helpful background materials and handbook</li> </ul>	<p>Communication:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create post-conference facebook group or website</li> </ul> <p>Logistics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Announce conferences earlier – at least 6 months in advance</li> <li>• Conference should be made more environmentally sustainable (i.e. not to waste food and water bottles)</li> <li>• Reconsider judging – being a judge and a head delegate/ chaperone at the same time is inconvenient and difficult.</li> <li>• Consider having no formal judging, only peer-reviews instead to minimize competitive spirit and focus on collaboration and finding solutions</li> <li>• More time should be allocated for tours or other opportunities to explore country</li> <li>• Host could be more flexible with arrival and departure of delegates</li> </ul> <p>Substance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May want to consider trips to visit Universities in the area</li> <li>• Position papers should be required earlier</li> </ul>

The UNA representatives and chaperones commended the UNA-ROK for the very successful conference.

### **UNA Best-practices for Delegate *Selection***

Each participant at the meeting summarized how they select the students who make up the Model UN delegation:

- UNA-Philippines selects the delegates from participants in their youth programs and from students who participate in Model UN at their partner University.
- UNA-Australia created an assessment panel of two members of their Executive Committee. They announced a call for applications at partner Universities, assessed the applications and then interviewed the finalists. They looked not only at the level of Model UN experience of the participants but overall what they had to offer.
- UNA-Armenia asked for applications, including a 500 word motivational essay. A specially-created selection board assessed the applicants and interviewed the short-listed students.
- IFUNA selected the delegates from the leadership at their own Model UN.
- UNA-Russia has a permanent Secretariat for their International Model UN (MIMUN). They selected the students from this Secretariat, and from the UN Summer School network. They made sure to include delegates from every part of the country, especially the Asian part.
- UNA-USA went through the Young Professionals leadership group on facebook and asked for applications.
- UNA-Thailand asked faculty at partner Universities to suggest delegates.

The participants recommended that the faculty of partner Universities be closely consulted in the selection process, and that the eligibility criteria should not be too strict because that might create limitations that do not allow some of the best students to participate.

### **UNA Best-practices for Delegate *Preparation***

The participants had some useful tips to help with preparing the delegates for participating in a Model UN conference. These included:

- Constant communication through email, including weekly update emails
- Send a text message to notify them when an important update email has been sent
- Online meetings through MSN, AOL, Google or Yahoo messenger
- Use Google Docs to collaborate on position papers
- TakingITGlobal project page
- Weekly teleconferences
- Provide delegates with a deadline calendar and remind them of upcoming deadlines
- Create a facebook group for the delegation

### **UNA Best-practices for *Follow-up***

In most cases, the follow-up is more Model UN! Some other follow-up initiatives include:

- The Commonwealth Model UN conference sent a video of the conference to each participant, and included a list with all their contact information.
- Use facebook or TakingItGlobal to keep the delegates in communication with each other after the conference.
- Have follow-up Model UN nationally, with APMUN delegation serving as Secretariat.
- Organize the students to give presentations about their experiences to local Model UN clubs – utilize them as a “promotional team” at University campuses.
- Create a document, film, or website tracking the progress of delegates from previous conferences.
- Participation in STAND UP Against Poverty campaign in October.
- Lobby to make Model UN a part of the core curriculum at local schools and Universities.
- Create a film based on their experiences that teaches about Model UN.
- Ask delegates who are from areas where there is no UNA chapter to initiate a chapter or Youth UNA.
- Send a thank you letter from WFUNA SG or President to principal supporters of the delegation.

The participants recommended that one student from each delegation should be assigned responsibility for follow-up.

It was emphasized that in the follow-up phase, just as in the preparation phase, the students must have the right support and resources from the UNA in order to succeed.

### **UNA Best-practices for *Fundraising***

One of the most important questions is always: how do you fund the delegation? For APMUN 2008 the hosts kindly agreed to cover the accommodation and meal costs of all delegations, and did not charge a registration fee. The travel to Korea was the main cost that has to be covered by the delegation. Most UNAs pursued one the following options for this:

- Students were asked to cover their own costs
- UNAs fundraised to cover the students’ travel
- UNAs and students agreed to share travel costs on a 50-50 basis
- Separate funding application was created, and students received funding on a competitive basis
- Universities were approached to sponsor delegates enrolled in their program
- Part of the registration fees from national MUNs went towards covering the cost of the travel
- Special event, such as raffle or fundraising party, held to raise the travel costs

### **Youth Engagement**

In addition to Model UN, most UNAs in the region have other initiatives for engaging young people with the work of the United Nations. These include:

- UNA-Australia has both a UN Youth Association and a UN Student Association. The UNA makes a special effort to include young people in all its events, and they organize specific youth events, such as the State Youth Conference for high school students.
- The UNA-Philippines has a University Student Association and they plan to create a “Junior UNA” for high school students. Their major annual youth event is the celebration of

International Youth Day, and they have a crime prevention program in partnership with the National Police Commission and National Youth Commission.

- IFUNA has Youth Association branches across the country.
- The UNA-Armenia has a Youth Division that is directly involved in all projects of the UNA. They have a partnership program with the Georgian and Swedish UNAs that includes Summer and Winter UN schools. The UNA collaborates with the UNAs of Azerbaijan and Georgia on the “Sports Unites” project. The UNA-Armenia is working on a Model UN book, has annual chess competitions, and organizes International Youth Day events.
- The UNA-Russia has a Model UN website, annual International UN Summer schools, and an annual competition on UN issues (i.e. this year for the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of UDHR students wrote essays to the President on what needs to be done on human rights in Russia).
- The UNA-USA has a Young Professionals for International Cooperation network and organizes annual essay competitions for high school students.
- The UNA-Singapore has a Chairperson for Youth Activities on their Board, and they organize seminars, essay competitions (i.e. on the food crisis) and STAND UP Against Poverty events, they fundraise for the Darfur Project and work with International Schools in Singapore.
- The UNA-ROK has a UN Students Association and a UN Youth Association and holds an annual essay competition in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

### **Looking to the future**

On the morning after the APMUN 2008 closing ceremony, the UNA representatives and chaperones met with Mr. Kiyotaka Akasaka, United Nations Under Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information. They shared their ideas and experiences about conducting Model UN conferences, as well as discussing how WFUNA could support the first Global Model UN Conference, to be held under UN auspices, that will be taking place at the Palais des Nations in Geneva from 5-7 August 2009.

Report prepared by  
Fruzsina Molnar Straus, WFUNA Communications Strategist

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