

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

Model UN
25/06/09

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

MESSAGE TO ASIA PACIFIC MODEL UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE

Brisbane, 12 – 17 July 2009

The word “model” has a number of meanings. In the context of the model United Nations, it is commonly understood as “a small copy”. But I prefer another of its meanings: “a praiseworthy example to be copied”.

People often criticize young people for their idealism, or even try to talk them out of it. But I think idealism is one of your strengths. Without it, we would have a far more difficult time imagining and building a better world.

Idealism is also a big part of what animates the United Nations. When the Organization was established in 1945, the world was reeling from a destructive period of warfare that had touched the lives of just about everyone on the planet. Those who drafted the UN Charter were determined to prevent any recurrence of such atrocities and upheaval. They wanted to see a new international consciousness emerge from the ashes – one grounded in human rights and peaceful coexistence. They too were idealists, but at the same time **understood** the need, bred of recent experience, to erect safeguards against human cruelty.

The past six decades have not been easy. There have been major advances in the human condition. But war and poverty still plague our world. And we can all sense the perils of the present moment, as a global economic crisis and the gathering force of climate change combine to threaten our future well-being.

As you **participate** in this Model United Nations, you will get a taste for the complexity of international relations. This exercise is no empty role play. Half the world’s population is under 25. You are their representatives. Many of you will move on to positions of real leadership. All of you, by your choices as consumers, by your decisions as voters, will assume real power to shape and change our world.

I encourage you to keep in mind both meanings of the word “model”. I urge you to pursue the solutions that depend **on** imagination and courage, consensus and compromise. Hopefully your time at this Model United Nations will help you become the models the world needs to fulfil the ideals of this indispensable organization.



29-04726

Nathan Henninger/NY/UNO
25/06/2009 01:48 PM

To sg@amunc.net
cc Yvonne Acosta/NY/UNO@UNHQ
bcc
Subject Message of the Secretary-General to the Asia Pacific Model United Nations (AMUNC), 12-17 July 2009

Dear Mr. Jorgensen and Ms. Sampford,

I am pleased to send to you the message of the Secretary-General to the participants of the Asia Pacific Model United Nations (AMUNC), along with our best wishes for a successful conference.

Best wishes,
Nathan



AMUNC 2009.doc

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Yvonne Acosta/NY/UNO
12/06/2009 09:55 PM

To Ruxandra Ferascu/NY/UNO@UNHQ
cc Aldo Henriquez/NY/UNO@UNHQ
bcc
Subject Asia Pacific Model UN request for SG message

Ruxandra,

I am writing to **request** an SG message for the Asia Pacific Model UN conference to be held in Australia 12-17 July.

Chris Woordthorpe who is now in UNIC Canberra has asked if we could assist in requesting a message for the conference. Some background information is provided for guidance of the speechwriter.

I have attached our conference overview document which outlines the key features of AMUNC, but briefly

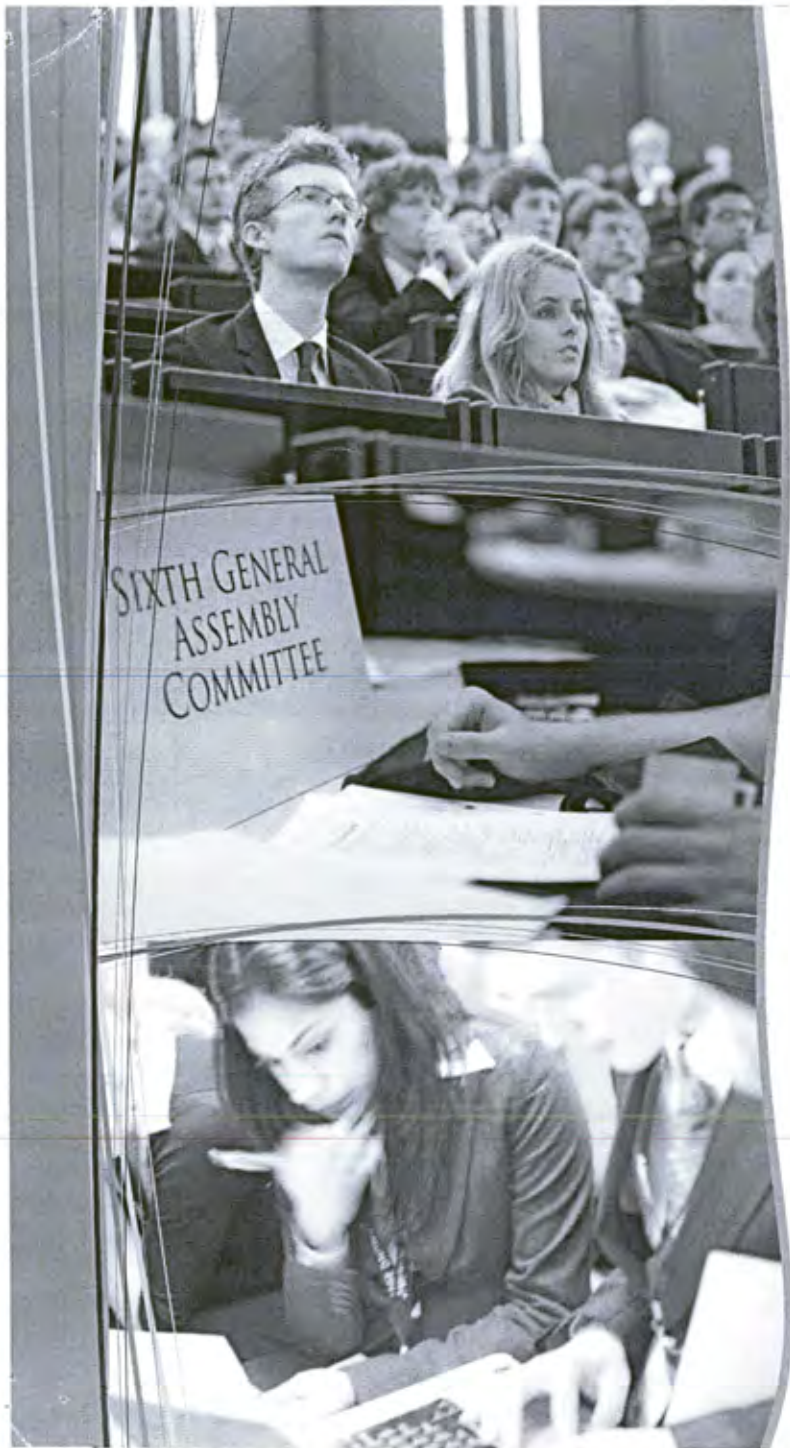
- the conference has been running for 14 years and was, I believe, one of the first - if not the first - MUN to be established in the region. This is the 15th anniversary!
- delegates expected: 400 - 500
- demographic information: delegates represent 42 Nationalities. We have 88 delegates travelling from overseas - 20 different countries - primarily Indonesia, China, Singapore, Malaysia, South Korea and New Zealand
- the conference has primarily been hosted in Australia, also Auckland in 2007. This year it is hosted in Brisbane for the first time, following a rapidly growing interest in model UN and representation of Queensland in national and international arenas. It also coincides with Queensland's 150th anniversary.
- the theme of the conference is "Towards Global Civilisation" which is tied to the Alliance of Civilisations initiative. Please see <http://amunc.net/Program/Conferencetheme.aspx> for more info
-



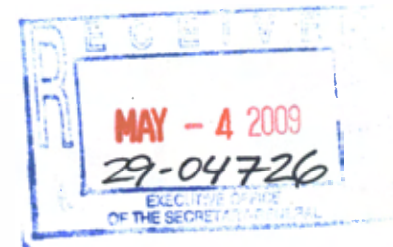
Conference Overview.pdf

- Thank you in advance.
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-
-
- Yvonne
-
-

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INVITATION



Dear Secretary General,

It is with great pleasure that on behalf of the 2009 Asia Pacific Model United Nations Conference, we submit this formal request for a short message from your office to the young participants of our conference.

As the largest MUN in the Asia Pacific and one of the largest in the Southern Hemisphere, AMUNC serves as a valuable meeting place for university students in one of the world's most culturally diverse regions. Attracting delegates from over 21 countries including Australia, China, Indonesia, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea and others, AMUNC 2009 is an important device for creating regional dialogue and this is reflected in our theme 'Towards Global Civilisation'. To this end, we are proud to have partnered with the 'Alliance of Civilisations' initiative in promoting cross-cultural engagement.

Now in its 15th year, AMUNC 2009 is set to attract 550 students from around the world and as an entirely student-run event, will focus on energizing young people into effective civic engagement through volunteering in projects at the local, national and international level.

We would be delighted if, in your capacity as Secretary General of the world's only truly global multilateral institution, that you were able to provide a brief message to be read out at the commencement of this year's Conference on July 13th. Such a message would provide invaluable inspiration to conference delegates as well as reflect the inclusive and supportive attitude of the United Nations in addressing the needs of young individuals. To this end we are also proud to be working with the United Nations Information Centre for Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific.

For a further (brief) summary of AMUNC 2009's conference theme, organizing team and list of supporters, please refer to the attached AMUNC briefing document. Please don't hesitate to contact us for any further information.

Yours faithfully,

Hugh Jorgensen & Jo Sampford
AMUNC 2009 Co-Secretary Generals

Contact details on final page.

AMUNC SUMMARY

The Asia-Pacific Model United Nations conference is a unique youth event which engages university students in contemporary global issues through a simulation of the workings and institutions of the United Nations. AMUNC is an intensive week of youth diplomacy, leadership development and intercultural exchange designed to enhance the sense of community among students from around Queensland, Australia, the Asia-Pacific region and beyond.

Entering its 15th year, AMUNC was established in 1995 in order to promote to Australian students the values and principles of the United Nations, to engage them in contemporary global issues and encourage them to think laterally about possible multi-lateral solutions. With an increasing contingent of foreign students and international bidders, the conference was renamed the Asia-Pacific Model United Nations Conference. AMUNC 2008 saw 500 delegates from 25 different countries, and 2009 is determined to build upon this successful platform.

KEY POINTS

- **Event:** 15th Annual Asia Pacific Model United Nations Conference
- **Lasts for an entire week from July 12-17**
- **Attracts:** Over 500 Young University Delegates with participants from over 20 countries
- **Aim:** Introduce students to the values and mechanisms of the United Nations in a friendly and educational environment
- **Conference Theme:** "Towards Global Civilisation"
- **Age Bracket:** Generally between 17-26 years
- **Organised by:** 60 Volunteer University Students
- **Scale:** Largest Model United Nations Event in the Southern Hemisphere,
- **Speakers:** Include—Ramesh Thakur, former UN Assistant Secretary General, Mike Smith CEO of AUST-CARE, Penelope Wensley—Governor of Queensland and former head of the Australian Mission to the UN
- **Supported by:** The University of Queensland, The Australian Federal office for Youth and AusAID (Chief Australian Aid agency), The Queensland 150th Anniversary body, Green Cross Australia, The United Nations Alliance of Civilisations Initiative and Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd.

CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

Dates

Sunday 12th – Friday 17th of July, 2009

Venues

Committee sessions:

The University of Queensland,
St. Lucia Campus

Opening and closing ceremonies:
City Hall—Main auditorium

General Assembly:
Brisbane Convention Centre

Social Events: Various

Attendance

500-600 delegates from Australia and
the Asia-Pacific



Conference Programme Highlights



Opening Ceremony July 13 @ Brisbane City Hall.
Speeches from Queensland Governor Penelope Wensley and former Assistant to the Secretary General Ramesh Thakur.



15 diverse simulated UN committees, including some exciting new innovations: a Crisis Council, Pacific Islands Forum, Copenhagen Protocol and International Press Gallery



Major midweek debate July 16 @ Brisbane City Hall (open to the public) 'What do the Millenium Development Goals say about us? As Australians? As a Global Society?' Invited Speakers: Tim Costello—head of World Vision Australia, Simeon McKeon—head of Macquarie Bank Investments, Bob McMullan—Parliamentary Secretary for International Development Assistance, Sir Gustav Nossal—Vaccine extraordinaire and former WHO adviser, Salil Shetty—head of the End Poverty by 2015 campaign.



General Assembly July 17 @ Brisbane Convention Centre for a review of the conference week



'Futures Fair' showcase of employment, volunteering and postgraduate study opportunities in the international field.



CONFERENCE THEME

'Towards Global Civilisation'



ALLIANCE OF CIVILIZATIONS

In September 2009, an initiative titled the 'Alliance of **Civilisations**' (AoC) will come before the United Nations General Assembly. This project reflects the importance of inter-cultural exchange and engagement as a means of overcoming the most challenging issues facing the future of global multilateralism – a core ambition of the 2020 summit on Australia's engagement with the world.

In his address to the AoC, former Secretary General Kofi Anan pointed to

“the need for a committed effort by the international community – both at the institutional and civil society levels – to bridge divides and overcome prejudice, misconceptions and polarization”

This initiative is composed of four key elements: media, migration, education and most importantly, youth participation. As **AMUNC** begins to truly realise its Asia Pacific potential, the future leaders of our region will have the opportunity **to participate** in cross cultural dialogue and develop lifelong friendships. By focusing on the common threads of humanity, our conference will be a catalyst for unity and understanding within the Asia Pacific region and beyond.

Our theme '*towards global civilisation*' reflects the fundamental underpinning of the UN; despite all of our differences, our future is dependent on realising our common humanity. Diversity, inter-cultural respect and breaking down misinformation are essential to overcoming the major challenges that we face today. Poverty, global hunger, climate change and terrorism are problems that cannot be solved by acting alone.

Throughout our conference, our theme will be the driving force behind every committee session, guest speaking opportunity, discussion panel, workshop and even our social events. In this regard we are proud to have partnered with the AoC Office in New York to integrate the principles and purposes of the AoC initiative into the conference.

We want our delegates to feel **that** they have participated in creating change through regional **engagement**.

This is the purpose of the Asia Pacific Model United Nations Conference.

DELEGATE PROFILE

Demographic

Age—

Official Delegates will be between 18-26 years of age

Geographic—

*Majority from Major Urban areas in Australia, also a sizeable representation from rural areas and overseas (particularly the **Asia-Pacific** Region—with delegates attending from some 20 countries). University delegations traditionally herald from South Korea, Japan, China, Singapore, Hong Kong, Malaysia and others*

Socioeconomic— *Ranging from low to relatively high levels of disposable income.*

Education—

Undergraduate and postgraduate students studying a wide range of academic disciplines including law, economics, journalism, engineering, political science, medicine, commerce, international relations and liberal arts.

Motivation—

Delegates are opportunity seeking individuals who are highly active in all aspects of student life and who are keen to apply their passion for positively contributing towards society.

Benefits of Participation

- Honing of skills in public speaking, negotiation, compromise and writing skills
- Fosters a mature understanding of interests and institutions
- Develops empathy, compassion and cross-cultural understanding
- Encourages creative, outward-looking approach to problem-solving
- Facilitates networking and lifelong friendships
- Raises awareness of global issues and solutions
- Encourages volunteerism and community participation



HOST TEAM

History

AMUNC 2009 is a non-profit student initiative organised by student volunteers and achieved incorporated status on 26 September 2008: AMUNC 2009 Inc.

The AMUNC 2009 Bid Team was formed on 20 July 2007 and was awarded hosting rights for the 2009 conference through a competitive bidding procedure. The detailed bid - stretching over 70 pages - received endorsements from the Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd, Lord Mayor Campbell Newman, UQ Vice-Chancellor, Paul Greenfield and Green Cross Australia.

Support

The group is well supported by the University of Queensland, which provides valuable in-kind support, guidance and advice. The team's office is located within the Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences, and the team is supported by staff of the Faculty and the School of Political Science and International Studies. Accounting, risk management and auditing advice is provided by the Assurance and Risk Management Services (ARMS) Unit at UQ. The Team is currently applying for the support of a pro bono solicitor and pro bono or low-cost professional accountant.



Experience

Key members of the organisation have been responsible for organising successful delegations of Brisbane University students to regional and international MUN Conferences, including previous AMUNCs, the Sydney Model United Nations Conference and the World Model UN (WorldMUN). The organisation has been invited by the United Nations to send 4 delegates to the first Global Model UN Conference in Geneva in August of this year.

Members of the organisation are postgraduate and undergraduate students from 18 to 26 years and hail from diverse backgrounds, and bring with them a great deal of leadership experience from other community organisations.

The organisation also has a proven record of organising **major tertiary** Model UN events and founded the Brisbane Model United Nations Conference (BrizMUN) in 2008. After only one year, BrizMUN currently holds the record for being the largest ever city-based MUN in Australia.

CONFERENCE SUPPORTERS

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INTERNATIONAL STUDIES**



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PARTNERS



ALLIANCE OF CIVILIZATIONS



UNSA
United Nations Student Association
University of Queensland

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