

Haarlemmermeer Lyceum

The Hague International Model United Nations (22 t/m 27 January 2012)

A few questions answered by participants.....

How much preparation did you do for THIMUN? What were the themes of the conference?

We, the delegation, had practiced for two and a half months to be as ready as possible: resolutions, debate training, opening speeches and the like. Privately I prepared two weeks in advance by staying extra hydrated to avoid a dry mouth, write test amendments on resolutions I found on the internet and get my parents to ask me questions about my own resolutions. The theme of this conference was: Seas and Oceans and so a large number of topics were somehow related to this, it even had its own commission!

How many different nationalities did you meet at the conference? Were you able to build bridges?

THIMUN is like New York. A melting pot of different nationalities. French, American, Egyptian, Swedish and Chinese were the most common. In total I have to guess that at least 50 to 60 different nationalities were present in my commission. I had the chance to talk to a lot of them and I am still talking to them several weeks after the conference. The furthest away is probably the delegate representing Liechtenstein, his name was Anthony and he came from South Korea.

Does THIMUN make a difference?

For the global community? No. For your personal growth? Yes! Not only do you make new friends, you also gain insight on their culture. Not only do you learn how to talk formally and create speeches in the spur of the moment, you learn how to speak in front of a large audience. And not only do you learn to enjoy a good debate, you learn to participate in it.

Describe what you did that week, any funny or bizarre moments???

I debated on the topic stated above. There were a lot of tense moments, but people did also make jokes or invented funny analogies (your resolution is like a golf course, attractive to the eye, but it is full of holes!)

How well were you able to communicate in THIMUN language and did you make connections?

Communication was not a problem! There were people from all over the world so your accent did not matter at all! I've gained over 180 new Facebook friends in that week. I talk to some of them on a daily basis!

What's the most difficult and important thing about being a delegate?

Having the guts of defending your resolution, daring to crush other delegates and most important, knowing when to be polite, when to make a funny comment or when to be just plainly rude. (Israel said: 'Palestine is a TGO, Terrorist Governmental Organization', which was not taken sincerely by Palestine)

How well were you able to communicate in Thimun language and did you make connections?

THIMUN language is something you get accustomed to quite quickly. After one day of debate you understand how it works and how to use it. Standing in front of more than 150 people is something else though.

What next??

THIMUN 2013! (and the world after I graduate)