



ANNUAL REPORT

FAUMUN
DELEGATION
2024

MODEL
UNITED
NATIONS
AT FAU



Moving Diplomacy.

PREFACE

FAUMUN PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Distinguished Reader,

We are honored to present to you this year's annual report of the FAUMUN Delegation 2024 of the Model United Nations (MUN) project at the Friedrich-Alexander-University Erlangen-Nuremberg.

This course, lovingly called FAUMUN by everyone involved, not only strives for academic excellence, but also for fine-tuning our delegates' soft skills.

On the one hand, FAUMUN prepares the participants academically for successfully taking on the role of delegates at MUN conferences. Our delegates learn in detail about the United Nations, how to research a country's position regarding topics they might never thought or heard about before joining FAUMUN, and how MUN conference proceedings are conducted. Additionally, our delegates participate in multiple MUN conferences during the course, putting their theoretical knowledge to practice.



On the other hand, our delegates learn crucial soft skills, as well as how to work in teams with people they might not (yet) know or which have a different cultural, social, or demographical background. To further increase their skills, they participate in speech trainings, which equip them with all necessary tools to write and deliver compelling speeches in front of a large audience.

Additionally, the negotiation training teaches them how to achieve the best possible result in a negotiation without compromising their own position. As a further training, intercultural competence is a subject of the course to enhance the delegates' understanding of how complex intercultural conversations can be and how to avoid misunderstandings.

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As a second time FAUMUN Project Director, it amazes me to accompany different delegations along their FAUMUN journeys. What this project shows me year after year is the willingness, persistence, and dedication our delegates show to excel at MUN. It is striking to me how two delegations exhibit the same traits, striving to learn about the UN and master serving as a delegate at MUN, putting in the extra hours to achieve their goals and forming long-lasting friendships with their delegates, and still they are unique in their own ways. Watching them take on the same journey and finding different angles to their experiences makes my position so worthwhile.

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As FAUMUN Project Manager, it was my task and my pleasure to make sure our study excursions to Erfurt, Berlin, and New York go smoothly, as well as organizing expert lectures and many other little things that go on behind the scenes of such an interesting, diverse and compelling course. And, of course, supporting our Project Director, Anabel, in her multitude of tasks. It was a true joy to see the Delegation grow together as a team. I remember when we first interviewed candidates for a spot on the delegation we discussed the potential we see in each of them. Observing how they not only exceeded our expectations, but also gained confidence in themselves was remarkable.

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We are incredibly proud of how far they have come over the course of the program and can confidently congratulate them for their success during not only our time in New York, but all other conferences we attended.

This preface, of course, would not be complete without giving thanks where it is earned. Our heartfelt thank you goes to Prof. Dr. Markus Krajewski and his secretariat, namely Ms. Wehrhahn, for taking on the role of our academic host for yet another year and supporting us in our endeavors, to our university president Prof. Dr. Joachim Hornegger for his sponsorship and expanding his support even more, to our vice president Prof. Dr. Bärbel Kopp for her constant support to make the project more accessible for participants from diverse backgrounds, to our expert lecturers in Erlangen, Berlin, and New York for taking time out of their busy schedules to offer our delegates a glimpse into their work and world, to our alumni society United Nations Society Nuremberg (UNSN) e.V. and specifically Lea Manger as UNSN pillar lead for Model UN for her guidance, and – last but certainly not least - to our FAUMUN team without which FAUMUN would not be possible and who create the safe space FAUMUN offers to our delegates.

We hope our journey documented in this report will inspire you to join us in our ongoing mission to increase global awareness and to support us in the global endeavor of fostering sustainable development.

All our best,



Anabel Kummer and Sophia Lindemiller
FAUMUN 2024 Project Director and Project Manager

PREFACE FAU PRESIDENT

Dear readers,

It is with great pride and enthusiasm that I present to you the FAUMUN Annual Report for 2024. This report chronicles another remarkable year for the Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg Model United Nations (FAUMUN), highlighting the achievements, experiences, and growth of our dedicated participants as well the broader FAUMUN community.

Model United Nations (MUN) programs offer students an unparalleled opportunity to delve into the complex world of international relations, diplomacy, and global policy-making. At FAUMUN, we strive to provide our participants with a comprehensive and immersive experience that fosters critical thinking, public speaking, negotiation, and leadership skills. The 2024 academic year has been no exception, showcasing the resilience, ingenuity, and commitment of our students and staff in adapting to an evolving global landscape.

This year, FAUMUN participants engaged in various national and international MUN conferences, each serving as platforms for learning, exchange, and collaboration. From simulating high-stakes Security Council debates to addressing pressing global issues in General Assembly sessions, our delegates have demonstrated exceptional preparation, insight, and diplomatic skills. Their participation has not only enhanced their academic and professional competencies but has also reinforced FAUMUN's reputation as a leading MUN program in Germany and beyond.

One of the highlights of this year was our trip to Berlin where our students had the chance to visit the Federal Ministry of Defense and Foreign Affairs. They were also received by the Embassy of Japan and the Japanese-German Center Berlin while our delegates represented Japan at NMUN in New York. Their performance at NMUN is a testament to the rigorous training and support provided by our faculty advisors and the FAUMUN team.

This year, we received awards for position papers and as delegation as well. I congratulate you to this success. The success of FAUMUN in 2024 would not have been possible without the unwavering support of our sponsors, partners, and the FAU administration. Their contributions have enabled us to succeed in this high-quality program that is accessible to all students, regardless of their financial background.

I would also like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of the FAUMUN Team and the countless hours invested by our student organizers, who have worked tirelessly to ensure the smooth running of all our activities. Their commitment to excellence has been the driving force behind our success.

In closing, I invite you to explore the FAUMUN Annual Report 2024, which offers a detailed account of our activities, achievements, and future aspirations. Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to another year of growth, learning, and diplomacy.

Yours sincerely,



Prof. Dr.-Ing. Joachim Hornegger
President of Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg



PREFACE

UNSN PILLAR LEAD

MODEL UN



Dear Delegates,

It is with great honor that I pen this foreword for this year's journal, dedicated to a project that is very close to my heart: Model United Nations (MUN). As a former participant and by now pillar lead for Model UN of our alumni society, United Nations Society Nuremberg e.V., I can attest to the unparalleled experience that the FAUMUN program offers. It is not merely a platform to learn the intricacies of diplomacy but also a forum that inspires young individuals to think on an international level and become global citizens.

The skills of negotiation, debate, and compromise are invaluable not only in international politics but in all walks of life. Through the MUN program, you learned to raise your voices, but also to listen and understand the perspectives of others. You learned that behind every nation lies not just policies but people with their stories, cultures, and hopes.

This project not only offers the chance to forge new friendships but also allows you to integrate into a community that extends its support beyond the project's duration. In my experience, the relationships and connections formed have become a valuable part of my life, enriching my experiences, and providing ongoing fellowship.

As an alumna, I look with pride at the progress each one of you has made. We are not just witnesses but also architects of a world shaped by dialogue and mutual understanding. I invite you all to read this edition to explore the successes and challenges of the MUN project and to see how it shapes the next generation of leaders.

All the best to you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Lea Manger'.

Lea Manger
UNSN Pillar Lead Model UN

PREFACE

UNSN PRESIDENT

Distinguished Delegates, Brilliant Faculty,
and Honoured Reader,

Every day, we are bombarded with news from all around the world. With crisis and disasters. With news about rising nationalism and increasing isolationism all around the world. Tendencies that we experience here in Germany as well. But the world is also increasingly more inter-connected. The United Nations offer a place for meetings, debate, and international cooperation. But they play a minor role in our day-to-day life, despite the important role we assigned them in their Charter. For me, the United Nations were a distant entity that I did not understand at all before I participated in FAUMUN - to the point where I had to look up the difference between UN and UNO.

Participating in FAUMUN offers many opportunities, such as learning about international relation, politics, and law. It calls for intensive research about any one country in the world to prepare to argue for that country's standpoint on any topic on the UN agenda.



This level of research forces you to assess your own standpoint on a topic. It allows you to understand differentiating viewpoints better. It enables you to understand the discussions about global issues that happen everyday and allows you to see the bigger picture and the impact one decision can have on multiple issues.

Traveling to MUN conferences in Germany and New York allows you to interact with a diverse group of people, to hear about their thoughts, and the thought of the country they are representing, on any number of topics. One of the things I loved about the topics discussed at MUN conferences was realizing that we are not just scrambling blindly to clean up after what seems like a never-ending flood of disasters. But that the UN and all its organizations are working to better the lives of everyone. Programs and ideas for pre-emptive action to tackle tomorrow's problems are being developed, to ensure that we will not be bombarded with more suffering when we watch the evening news.



While learning about the UN and its work, and bettering one's soft skills are often cited reasons for participating in FAUMUN, it is the genuine exchange with others that has kept me invested in the project and encouraged me to join our alumni society, the United Nations Society Nuremberg e.V. FAUMUN is organized by incredibly invested and talented project leads and head delegates, who offer their time and expertise to allow yet another FAUMUN Delegation to sit in the General Assembly Plenary Hall of the United Nations Headquarters in New York after a long week of intense, stressful, fruitful, and rewarding discussions. This delegation, like many before, learned that a collaborative approach to finding solutions will be the more rewarding path than isolationism.

Let me take this opportunity to thank our project leads and head delegates for the unfailing efforts during the last year. You thought your delegates well. Thank you to the faculty of the University

Erlangen-Nürnberg for the support of this, as I think, vitally important project. It stands in line with the development plan of the university and emphasises open-mindedness, communication, and cooperation in education and day to day life.

To the delegates: you did amazing work in the last year and were awarded a Distinguished Delegation Award during NMUN NY 2024. I myself had the privilege to listen to your discussions and speeches during BayernMUN and was impressed with the thoughtful, researched, and well-presented statements I heard. I hope you will cherish the time you spent in this project and apply what you learned here in your future. Furthermore, I hope you formed amazing connections, not just within your delegation but also with the people you met along the way.

And as to the difference between UN and UNO: there is none, UN stands for United Nations and UNO for United Nations Organization, both names synonyms for the same organization.

Sincerely,

Laura Folkendt

President of the FAUMUN alumni society, United Nations Society Nuremberg e.V.

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BERLIN



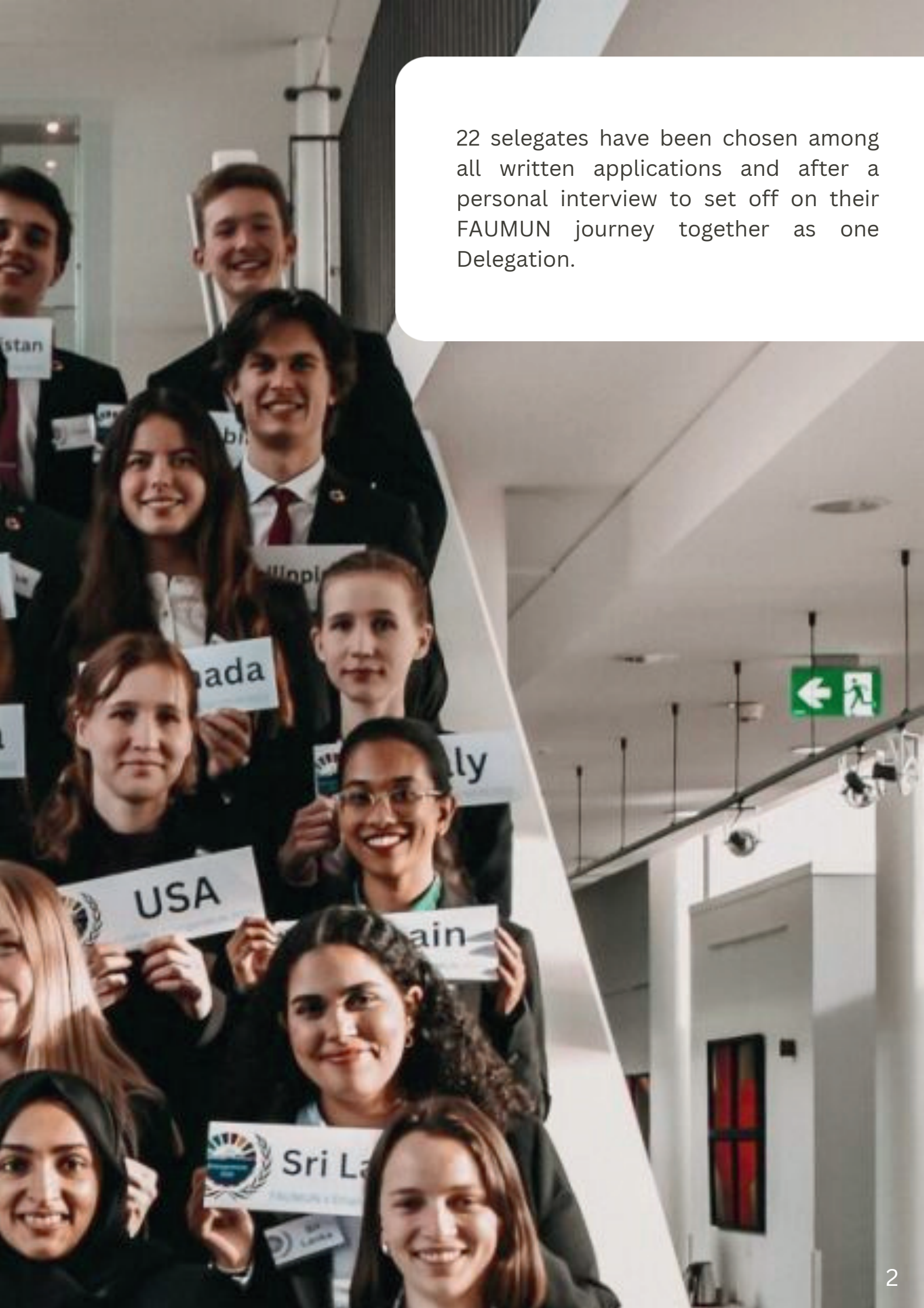
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NEW YORK

THE DELEGATION



22 selegates have been chosen among all written applications and after a personal interview to set off on their FAUMUN journey together as one Delegation.



THE DELEGATION

Yara Amer



Participating in the FAUMUN program offers a unique opportunity to enhance critical thinking and problem-solving skills. It serves as an exceptional elective, even for students not majoring in political sciences, enriching the university's course offerings with a diplomatic focus. Furthermore, FAUMUN exposes students to international issues and debates, fostering a global perspective that is increasingly vital in our interconnected world. Universities are networking hubs, and FAUMUN creates opportunities for students to connect with individuals from around the world who share a common interest in international issues. These connections can extend well beyond their university experience. Moreover, FAUMUN provides an excellent platform for refining public speaking and communication skills, which are invaluable not only in the program itself but also in academics, job interviews, and future careers. In essence, FAUMUN enhances critical skills, global awareness, networking, and communication abilities, enriching the university experience in a concise and impactful manner.

In my opinion, exchange – especially international exchange – can be crucial for each individual, as well as any institution, such as a university. It has the power to connect students from different disciplines with each other, which then connects them with students and universities not only from Germany but from all over the world. Since Model UN happens within a context of diplomatic debate, it gives an educational but safe space for an exchange like this. A university that takes part in MUN shows its openness to international relations and exchange. I strongly believe that any university can only benefit from this impression, as this might not only attract more students but gives these students that impression of an open and safe space.



**Charlotte Gräfin von
Bassewitz**

Anna-Lena Bresch



To me, the United Nations Organizations means the international and intergovernmental discourse between countries, in order to find solutions for problems which transcends the opportunities for action and change of a single nation. These problems can revolve around human rights, maintaining peace or environmental efforts. The United Nations consist of different bodies and programs, which all focus on tackling one of these global challenges. I believe that the United Nations seeks to achieve its goals through negotiating, discourse and interaction between its Member States during the General Assembly session, always guided by the underlying principles of the UN charter, which promotes peace, security and cooperation among nations, by presenting responsibilities of UN Member States and serving as a vital reference point.

*“The United Nations were set up, not to give us heaven,
but only to save us from hell.” ~ Winston Churchill*

I often think of the United Nations as the only smallest common divider of humanity, an institution everyone is a part of, where everyone has a say if and how decisions are made. To prevent future (world) wars and the unspeakable bloodsheds and war crimes that came with them, it is incredibly important to find common ground on which negotiations can be held. The world needs an institution representing the authority of all countries, not as a dictator, but as mediator. But I disagree with Churchill: the United Nations is, can, and should be more than that. Although the proposed goals might often sound very idealistic and sometimes even naive, I consider it very important to have institution that looks beyond the interests of nations, blocks and defense alliances. There are issues just so overwhelming and important that no country is able to tackle them on its own – and as a result many do not even try. Climate crisis, future pandemics, global conflicts, famines; we need the United Nations to preserve who we are and will be.



Simon Clausen

Celina Fackler



I have always been intrigued by the concept of the United Nations, an organization that brings the countries of the world together to promote international peace and security. I strongly believe that it is a common misconception that international organizations like the UN are shifting towards irrelevance. While it is true that we still have a long way to go, the organization embodies hope, as well as humanity's aspirations for a better, more peaceful world. I find it mesmerizing how the organization can foster peaceful international relations, combat inequality, mitigate conflict, and promote human rights. But essentially, to me, the UN are what their Member State and diplomats make of it. The UN represents the outcome of successful collaboration and communication between parties from diverse backgrounds, drawing attention to global wrongdoings. Through initiatives like FAUMUN, this deeper understanding of international relations but moreover also important values like tolerance and empathy are given to the next generation of global citizens.

Sandra Flachowsky



Through my participation in FAUMUN, I hope to gain a deeper understanding of how negotiations can work and how to best manage the resolution process. Along the way, I would also like to learn how to best communicate one's interests as a representative of a country. For me, this includes competence in terms of content on the one hand and linguistic competence on the other. In addition, I hope to gain experience in how to build a good relationship with other countries to gain their support and work together in achieving various goals. Moreover, I wish to learn more about the suborganizations of the UN to obtain an understanding of how different the engagement for a peaceful coexistence and sustainable development worldwide can be.

Participation in this program holds great significance to me as it represents a unique opportunity to delve deeper into the world of diplomacy and the inner workings of the United Nations. I am eager to uncover the intricacies of international relations, gaining insight into the nuanced strategies and delicate negotiations that drive global cooperation. My primary expectation is to acquire a comprehensive understanding of diplomatic processes. Furthermore, I am enthusiastic about the chance to receive training in all the other skills that are not only fundamental in diplomacy but also universally valuable in various professional contexts. Developing proficiency in these areas is a personal goal, and I view this program as a platform for honing these essential skills. Ultimately, I applied to this program with the aspiration of pursuing a career in international relations or closely related fields. I believe that this experience will equip me with the knowledge, skills, and inspiration needed to actively contribute to global problem-solving, peacebuilding, and cooperation.



Jasmin Haagen

Sarah Hermann



I applied for FAUMUN for several reasons, recognizing this unique and rewarding experience. Firstly, I see it as a chance to connect and network with new people from diverse faculties and universities so I can immerse myself in fresh perspectives and viewpoints. Secondly, participation in Model UN will significantly enhance my language skills. As these conferences predominantly operate in English, I will utilize and refine my English in a way that is rarely encountered in my daily life. This skill is invaluable for my professional growth and my ability to communicate effectively in a globalized world. Thirdly, speaking English in general and especially politics is outside of my comfort zone but through FAUMUN I can challenge myself in a safe and supportive environment. Lastly, I applied for FAUMUN because it was not offered at my previous university, and I wish to harness this opportunity to the fullest. My Whys also explains my expectations: meeting new people, acquiring new skills and stepping out of my comfort zone.

Felix Holl



Living in an ever more globalized and accelerated world seems to be a blessing, yet a great challenge at the same time. One global crisis is followed by the next and rapid advances in technology constantly provide new paradigms that the international community needs to adjust to. That is why I am convinced that communicative exchange and coordination of problem-solving processes on an international level have never been more vital than today. The UN is the only multinational organization recognized by the vast majority of countries, so diplomacy on global issues really depends on this forum. Because many important processes and decisions remain hidden from public view, the purpose and power of UN institutions are often underestimated or criticized as ineffective. But from a pragmatic point of view, all the small efforts and achievements add up to make the UN the most important player in global peacekeeping, humanitarian aid, development cooperation and the defence of human rights. Therefore, I am sure that my strong belief in the purpose and the power of the United Nations is not naive, but idealistic.

From my participation, I expect to improve my skills regarding public appearance, negotiation and team working in a long-term project. In general, I expect to grow as a person by facing this challenge. I anticipate that the project is going to consume a not insignificant amount of time and that there will most likely be numerous challenges to overcome, however, I do feel prepared and motivated. I applied not only because learning more about the UN and its work is a personal interest of mine, but also because I feel like working in FAUMUN is going to provide an excellent way of improving my aforementioned skills by having a highly focused team environment and several conferences to put them into practice. Lastly, the possibility to meet people from all over the world sharing a common interest but still providing a different perspective is another factor that drew me towards applying.

Felix Jurgovsky



The United Nations, to me, embodies the profound concept of „Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam,“ which translates to „the world is one family.“ This ancient Indian philosophy reflects the core ethos of the UN, emphasizing the interconnectedness of all nations and peoples. It signifies that despite our diverse cultures, languages, and backgrounds, we share a common humanity and a shared responsibility to care for our planet and its inhabitants. The UN serves as a practical manifestation of this idea by providing a platform where countries can come together, regardless of their differences, to address global challenges collectively. It stands as a beacon of hope, fostering cooperation, diplomacy, and the pursuit of a better world for all.

**Sreeresmi Karippurathu
Ramachandran**



Julia Knopp



As a prospective lawyer, with a special interest in environmental law, I am particularly interested in deepening my legal knowledge – in particular, the legally binding framework in the fight against climate change – and having the opportunity to apply what I have learned and will be learning in practice. In addition, as an active member of a political party, I have a strong desire to have a positive impact. I am aware of the intense preparation, the workload and personal challenges of participating in FAUMUN. For instance, being quite shy, I find it rather difficult to talk to other people and to give speeches in front of an audience. However, by participating in FAUMUN, I hope to overcome this fear and become more confident. Nevertheless, I am always eager to grow from new, demanding and interesting challenges and hope to benefit not only from instructive academic discourses but also from interpersonal enrichment.

My passion and commitment to global issues and my tremendous interest in international affairs drive my desire to participate in Model UN. I applied to FAUMUN, because I genuinely care about having a positive impact on the world and I believe that the United Nations plays a crucial role in addressing global challenges. Participating in Model UN will hopefully provide me with a platform to contribute to meaningful discussions, propose innovative solutions, and work towards a more peaceful and sustainable world. I believe that participating in FAUMUN will provide me with an invaluable opportunity to develop my skills, broaden my knowledge, meet new people and contribute to meaningful discussions on global issues. In particular, I expect that this unique opportunity enables me to tackle the upcoming challenges with a newfound confidence.



Sophia Knopp

Laura Massaro Santos



To me, the United Nations Organization is a sign of democracy, mutual respect and understanding on an international basis. It is a sign of political, social and financial progress. It is a success of globalization. In my personal opinion, the UN is often overlooked and stripped of its essence in the international community. Generally, people seem to forget the fact that the committees are made up of normal people like you and me. People who have different heritages and different beliefs. They come together to find adequate solutions for everyone, as in the entire world. It is truly a very difficult task that does not receive enough recognition due to the lack of empathy and knowledge that is required to put ourselves in someone else's shoes – which happen to be unusually large in this case.

Dina Moajeb



As I would love to make people in need voices hearable, FAUMUN is the first step for me to achieve it. I believe that FAUMUN would help me in improving my skills and experiences which would help me to achieve my dream. I aim to enhance my critical thinking, research, and analytical skills, build a broader understanding and global and cultural awareness of the world, learn to navigate complex diplomatic situations, understand the importance of compromise, and develop diplomatic skills, and most importantly improve my public speaking skills so that I can speak in front of large audiences, engage in diplomatic negotiations, and work collaboratively.

FAUMUN's interdisciplinary nature allows students from various faculties to collaborate. This can promote cross-disciplinary thinking, encourage diverse perspectives, and foster a sense of community among students from different academic backgrounds. For example, in my interview I found it intriguing to see such a wide variety of educational backgrounds to be present and involved in that project. Also, participation in Model United Nations simulations, especially at the international level like NMUN in New York, allows us students to network with others from around the world. These connections can be valuable for future academic and professional opportunities.

Penelope Müller



FAUMUN provides a pillar of our university's global participation. It develops a cohort of eloquent, globally-aware individuals by fostering students' diplomacy and public speaking skills. This not only enriches college debates, but it also encourages inclusivity. FAUMUN also strengthens our university's reputation by showcasing our dedication to comprehensive education and active international involvement. Students explore many views as part of the program, improving their understanding of pressing global challenges. FAUMUN also provides critical networking possibilities, perhaps developing collaborative research and exchange programs. Finally, it acts as an accelerator for both individual and institutional growth. Students contribute directly to our university's academic brilliance and global significance by participating in FAUMUN, making it a necessary and enriching experience for everybody concerned.

Tähus Murawski



Timothy Nkwelle



The United Nations has been pivotal in handling various conflicts globally. In armed conflicts particularly, the United Nations has conducted numerous peacekeeping and peacebuilding missions to mitigate conflicts and support post-conflict stability. Armed conflicts are just a subset of a broader peace and security sphere in which the United Nations, in alignment with its values of maintenance of international peace and security, promotion of the well-being of the peoples of the world, and international cooperation, seeks to proactively settle and erode the likelihood of civil unrest. Furthermore, the competencies of the United Nations span various fields of life, from food security and healthcare delivery to resilient infrastructure essential for human flourishing. The outcomes of these efforts might not be noticed in the short term. Its critiques might further point out its shortcomings by highlighting instances in which the institution and its subsidiary bodies did not live up to the challenges at hand. On the timescale of history, however, its attempts will be a testament, forever etched in our minds, of the very soul of its founding ideals in striving for a better and safer world.

I personally think that the United Nations Organization is a symbol of the collective effort of countries worldwide to address global challenges, promote diplomacy, and advance a more just world. Its establishment in the aftermath of World War II shows that the organization is also a symbol of hope for a better future. The UN's primary purpose was to prevent such cataclysms from happening again and to promote peace and security on a global scale. In this sense, the UN signifies the collective commitment of nations to prevent the horrors of war and to work together to create a more peaceful world. Moreover, the UN is a platform for diplomacy where nations, regardless of their size, have the opportunity to come together and engage in dialogue, negotiations, and multilateral decision-making. In a world marked by diversity in terms of culture, political systems, and economic structures, the organization provides a common ground for states to interact and address shared challenges. While it is not without flaws and limitations, the UN remains the best hope for fostering global cooperation, advancing peace and security. It embodies the idea that nations, working together, can achieve more than they can in isolation.

Gabriela Panayotova



The Model United Nations conferences give an opportunity for us delegates to represent our university on an international stage. By sending dedicated and motivated students from different departments to New York to be part in an international conference simulation shows the university's interest in educating young people on international politics and global matters. FAUMUN highlights the relevance of intercultural communication and networking. It makes our university a global player and gives the opportunity to inspire other universities due to the success of the program last year. Additionally, FAUMUN strengthens the network of students within FAU bringing together people from different fields of studies. Being in the delegation together with people from FAU who will turn from strangers to team mates and friends will give us a feeling of unity and pride.

Carlotta Schnepel



Galina Shakganova



Among the myriad benefits of FAUMUN, two stand out prominently in my opinion. Firstly, FAUMUN acts as a catalyst for fostering an interconnected global community, enriching the cultural fabric of FAU. As delegates from diverse nationalities and backgrounds engage, it promotes valuable exchanges of perspectives, often leading to collaborative research and exchange programs. This fusion of cultures nurtures an academic environment that celebrates inclusivity and empathy, fostering the growth of future leaders. Here comes the second point, since FAUMUN is a crucible for holistic growth, not just academic excellence. Delegates immersed in the practical dynamics of diplomacy, negotiation, and public speaking develop into confident, articulate, and culturally sensitive individuals. Hence, FAU becomes a launchpad for raising new generations of leaders equipped not only with knowledge but also with the wisdom and empathy necessary to navigate the struggles of today's world. This progress drives the university toward enhanced ratings and scientific accomplishments, showcasing its dedication to fostering a globally adept student body.

With my job and study subject being aligned, I hope to broaden my horizon, learn more about international cooperation and the gears that turn when decisions are made on the highest levels of governments. I am looking forward to engaging in discussions with my fellow delegates and gain new perspectives as well as develop my writing skills. Meeting people from different universities during the conferences the delegation takes part in during the semester is also a perk and hopefully I can make a small impact in these conferences and leave them with more self-confidence than I started with.



Maja Warlich

THE PROGRAM

A photograph of a grand, historic hall. A large, ornate chandelier with many lit bulbs hangs from the ceiling. The walls are dark, and the floor is polished wood. Large windows with stained glass panes are visible, letting in light. In the foreground, rows of red upholstered chairs with metal frames are arranged. A statue is visible in the background near the windows.

Model United Nations is an educational simulation in which students role-play as delegates to the United Nations. The participants, known as "delegates," represent various countries and engage in debates, discussions, and negotiations on a wide range of global issues. The goal is to mirror the workings of the actual UN, with researching their assigned country's position, preparing speeches, drafting resolutions, and working together to solve international problems. Alongside public speaking, participants receive training in negotiation, teambuilding, communication, and presentation skills. While the development of soft skills is crucial, it is not the only focus of our delegation's preparation. In collaboration with FAU experts, this year's delegation has undergone extensive preparation to represent Japan at the National Model United Nations in New York City.



FROM FAU STUDENT TO FAUMUN DELEGATE



After successfully managing the application process, our FAUMUN journey was poised to commence with our first meeting at the Villa Spaeth in Nuremberg. Stepping into the historic hall of the villa offered a foretaste of the dazzling beauty that awaits us at future venues such as Erfurt Town Hall, where the forthcoming conferences are to be held.

The air was filled with excitement and anticipation as Anabel Kummer, our Project Director, opened our kick-off event. Together with Sophia Lindemiller, the Project Manager, alongside Head Delegates Julia Klopsch and Kai Langer, she led us through our inaugural gathering. Following some general information, we promptly transitioned to the highly anticipated part - the "speed dating" session.

Within a minute, we had the opportunity to introduce ourselves and ask some additional questions posed by the Head Delegates to lighten the atmosphere. The lively conversations, be it regarding the latest purchase failure or favorite conspiracy theory, were highly enjoyable. I remember talking to another delegate about what superpower we would choose; he replied saying his ideal superpower would be "invisibility", allowing him to go unnoticed due to his rather inconspicuous nature - an answer I will keep in mind for future reference. In addition to our one-on-one conversations, we participated in small group discussions to encourage further exchange.

Once the ice was at least a little broken, we delved into the overview of the program, discussed country selection for upcoming conferences, grading criteria, and other organizational matters. While some tips and tricks immediately provided valuable insights into becoming successful delegates, others, such as the importance of maintaining references, only became apparent later in the course while writing position papers and conducting meticulous internet research. Furthermore, we received guidance on the appropriate dress code for the upcoming conferences, considering business attire is not typically a norm for students. This proved to be helpful, enabling us to better assess the appropriate colors and skirt lengths, and making cost-effective decisions in assembling conference outfits.



During the lunch break, we took the group picture followed by individual shots. A quick note on this: sometimes when people ask me what FAUMUN is about, I humorously consider responding with "taking group photos" because we certainly captured an abundance of snapshots throughout the event. The lunch break was also a good opportunity for further exchange and to get to know each other better.

In the afternoon, our learning continued as we delved, through presentations, into the history and framework of the United Nations, other intergovernmental organizations, and the Sustainable Development Goals. We had prepared these 20 minute long presentations beforehand, collaborating in groups of four to five individuals. These sessions not only expanded our knowledge but also provided the first opportunity to receive extensive feedback on our presentation styles. The feedback helped us improve our speaking skills, crucial for the upcoming conferences. Later, Anastasia Karelskaya, Board Member of the United Nations Society Nuremberg e.V., provided an overview of the FAUMUN alumni society and its activities.

At 6 p.m., feeling a little weary yet content, we concluded our first meeting, with plenty to talk about and eager for our adventures to begin.

SPEECH TRAINING

Day 1

As delegates, delivering speeches is among our most significant and frequent responsibilities. The ability to give compelling and memorable speeches is crucial for successfully representing our respective countries. We were fortunate to receive coaching from both our Head Delegates and Benjamin Klahr, an FAUMUN alumnus with experience as a journalist in radio and various online formats.

Our speech training commenced with the identification of qualities that characterize a proficient speaker. We delved into notable examples of speeches that left a lasting impact on history and the internet, such as Barack Obama in 2004. Following this, Benjamin introduced us to the components of the "speech toolbox," encompassing volume, speech rate, register, prosody, timbre, and articulation.



After a comprehensive explanation, we engaged in fun exercises aimed at cultivating our skills with the speech toolbox. One such exercise involved reciting tongue twisters while holding a cork in our mouths to improve articulation. Subsequently, we participated in vocal warm-ups before each of us received a segment from Emma Watson's UN speech to further practice articulating. Recordings of our individual deliveries were then reviewed to allow for self-evaluation.

The training session continued in smaller groups, where each participant randomly selected an object from a bag and delivered an impromptu 60-second speech about the chosen item. Additionally, within these groups, the Head Delegates assigned emotions like shameful, hateful, desperate, and rude, tasking us with delivering an old UN-speech while embodying the assigned emotion. The challenge for the others was to accurately guess the portrayed emotion. This innovative approach to speech training not only sharpened our skills in delivering captivating speeches but also made the learning experience thoroughly enjoyable and exciting.

The primary focus of the second day of speech training was on writing meaningful and high-quality speeches. Our Head Delegates detailed the essential structures that speeches should adhere to during a presentation. Following this comprehensive explanation, we were once again grouped into smaller teams. Our task was to write a 90-second speech on a random topic within a tight timeframe of 10 minutes. Diverse topics emerged as participants chose subjects ranging from insightful and crucial matters like breast cancer to more lighthearted themes such as travel or their favorite wine. After delivering our speeches, our Head Delegates provided feedback, and we iterated on our speeches to incorporate their insights effectively.

Following this initial exercise, we were tasked with writing a speech related to the topics to be discussed at MiniMUN. Participants could choose between an agenda setting speech or a speech addressing either climate change and health, or sustainability in the fashion industry. Within our smaller groups, we delivered these speeches and received feedback once again.

The subsequent segment of the training involved another presentation by the Head Delegates, focusing on enhancing the persuasiveness of our speeches. Various methods were introduced, including addressing the audience more directly and incorporating more facts and statistics to support our arguments. Subsequently, we were required to write another speech, again relating to the topics of our first conference.

As the speech training concluded, we did not only gain the confidence and rhetorical skills to stand before a room full of people but also acquired the ability to craft persuasive and meaningful speeches. These two days of focused training not only prepared us effectively for our first unofficial conference but also highlighted the enduring value of public speaking skills. It became evident that these skills would extend beyond FAUMUN and would also be beneficial for our future careers.



NEGOTIATION TRAINING

Collaborating in a global context, where different groups encounter similar issues but adopt significantly different approaches to solve them, is a common challenge in Model United Nations scenarios. It is crucial to understand how to manage these variations effectively and achieve meaningful outcomes. Negotiation plays a key role in this context. Negotiation skills involve ongoing communication where certain interests align while others differ, all without harming the overall relationship. The central idea revolves around understanding and addressing the shared interests, serving as the foundation for exploring alternative solutions.

Our negotiation training primarily focused on the importance of clearly defining and expressing goals and interests. Having a clear understanding of one's objectives significantly improves the likelihood of a successful negotiation. The training specifically highlighted the distinction between interests, the underlying reasons for negotiating, objectives, the potential outcomes, and positions, the specific demands or statements. This clarity was gradually cultivated through a series of carefully designed exercises that simulated various negotiation scenarios, including both one-on-one and group settings. These exercises demonstrated how the nature of a negotiation can affect the ability to leverage power effectively.

Key takeaways from the training included finding a balance between persistence to achieve substantial results and flexibility to maintain a positive and constructive atmosphere. Principles such as separating individuals from the issues at hand and focusing on underlying interests rather than specific positions were emphasized. This is particularly relevant in negotiations involving multiple parties where resources may be unevenly distributed.



The training delved into advanced concepts such as the best alternative to a negotiated agreement (BATNA) and various stages involved in extensive negotiation processes. We examined strategies tailored to each stage and how to navigate negotiation deadlocks effectively. The scenarios covered a broad spectrum, ranging from economic and geopolitical to socio-economic issues, providing a comprehensive grasp of diverse negotiation dynamics.

Through this hands-on learning approach, we gained unique skills that enhanced our abilities in actual negotiation scenarios. The acquired skills and strategies are not only applicable in Model UN settings but also in a variety of real-life situations where effective negotiation is crucial. The combination of theoretical understanding and practical application ensured a well-rounded development of negotiation skills among all participants.



THE EXPERT LECTURES



During the seminar, delegates attend expert lectures to gain insights into current and relevant topics from specialists in the fields. This year's expert lectures broadened the delegates' horizons and assisted in preparing them to represent Japan at NMUN in New York.



EXPERT LECTURE BY PROF. DR. KRAJEWSKI

Introduction to Public International Law



The FAUMUN Delegation had the privilege of attending an expert lecture on international public law by Prof. Dr. Markus Krajewski, one of our university's professors and FAUMUN academic host. Instead of giving the lecture as he had initially planned, Prof. Dr. Krajewski spontaneously switched to a different approach and built it around the ongoing Palestine and Israel conflict. By looking at the conflict, he explained what international law is, who its subjects are, what the sources of international law are, how it is implemented, and the function and role of the UN and its main bodies in international law.

We gained a lot from this lecture as it provided a unique perspective on the ongoing conflict. By including the perspective of the current conflict, it was easy to find an instant connection to the topic, since most of us were at least somewhat informed about it. Prof. Dr. Krajewski's lecture was informative, engaging, and thought-provoking. We had a lively debate on certain aspects and all questions the students had were answered.

Prof. Dr. Krajewski's lecture was a great example of how international law can be applied to real-world situations. It was fascinating to see how the principles of international law are used to address complex issues such as the Palestine and Israel conflict. The lecture also highlighted the importance of the UN and its main bodies in international law. It was also interesting to learn about the role of the International Court of Justice, the International Criminal Court, and the UN Security Council in enforcing international law.

Overall, Prof. Dr. Krajewski's lecture was an excellent learning experience for all of us. It provided us with a unique perspective on the ongoing conflicts and helped us understand the role of international law in addressing complex issues.

EXPERT LECTURE BY PROF. DR. DR. H.C. BIELEFELDT

Human Rights and his Work as UN Special
Rapporteur on the Freedom of Religion and Belief



On the 4th of December, our delegation had the enriching opportunity to engage with Prof. Dr. Bielefeldt, a distinguished figure in the realm of human rights. His tenure as the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Belief or Religion at the Human Rights Council from 2010 to 2016 endowed him with a wealth of experiences, both profound and diverse. During his tenure, he undertook numerous missions across various nations, including Cyprus, Kazakhstan, Viet Nam, and Lebanon. These journeys allowed him to gather a plethora of experiences, which he generously shared with us, hereby offering a rare glimpse into the complexities and challenges of his role.

Our session commenced with an exploratory discussion on the United Nations' role in promoting and safeguarding human rights. We delved into understanding how the UN, as a confluence point for civil society and various organizations, fosters an environment conducive to accountability. This is primarily achieved through its monitoring bodies which keep an eye on the adherence to human rights standards by member states.

During this engaging discourse, Prof. Dr. Bielefeldt shed light on the four distinct modes of communication within the UN framework: ritualistic, strategic, confrontational, and expertise, with its unique application and relevance in different UN settings.

As our session neared its conclusion, we shifted our focus to Prof. Dr. Bielefeldt's firsthand experiences during his missions. His presentation was not only captivating but also deeply insightful, leaving a lasting impression on us all. His stories, when contrasted with life in the peaceful and quiet city of Erlangen, seemed almost surreal, highlighting the stark differences between the complex realities faced in various parts of the world.

EXPERT LECTURE BY DR. RODRIGUEZ-BAUER

Intercultural Competence

Our multinational Delegation had the privilege of attending a guest lecture by Dr. Vanina Rodríguez-Bauer on intercultural competence. The session emphasized the vital role of intercultural competence in our Model UN endeavors, fostering effective communication, understanding, and collaboration among diverse delegations. To begin the lesson, we were introduced to the Iceberg model, which is crucial for understanding Japan's unique cultural nuances.



Intercultural competence is the ability to interact effectively with people from diverse backgrounds. In the context of Model UN, where delegates come together from all corners of the globe, possessing intercultural competency is critical for successful negotiations and diplomacy. It enables us to bridge cultural gaps, avoid misunderstandings, and forge meaningful connections with fellow delegates.

The Iceberg model, developed by Edward T. Hall, provides a comprehensive understanding of culture's multifaceted nature. Like an iceberg, cultural attributes remain hidden but influential beneath the surface. For Japan, a nation renowned for its rich heritage and distinct cultural values, comprehending the underlying layers of the Iceberg model is crucial to understand its culture and represent it accordingly.

At the surface level, Japan is often associated with its iconic symbols, such as sushi, anime, and cherry blossoms. However, our cultural identity encompasses much more. The submerged aspects of Japan's cultural iceberg include collectivism, high-context communication, harmony, and respect in social interactions.

Understanding these hidden cultural dimensions allows us, while representing Japan, to navigate MUN discussions with cultural sensitivity. Recognizing the significance of consensus-building and avoiding direct confrontations, we can effectively engage with other delegations and contribute constructively to achieving common goals.



Intercultural competence enables us to embrace diverse viewpoints and challenge our own perspectives. By valuing the cultural diversity present in MUN, we enrich our discussions and foster a more inclusive and cooperative environment. It encourages us to approach debates with an open mind, appreciating the unique insights and experiences that fellow delegates bring to the table.

Summa summarum, intercultural competence is essential for FAUMUN delegates. Embracing the Iceberg model and understanding cultural dimensions, we navigate MUN discussions with sensitivity, bridging gaps between diverse delegations. Cultivating intercultural competence enhances our diplomacy and fosters a more harmonious global Model United Nations community.



EXPERT LECTURE BY DR. DAVID GRASMANN

It was a privilege for the FAUMUN delegates to welcome Dr. sc. hum. David Grasmann, a distinguished military police officer working at the Bundeswehr, as one of our expert lecturers. Dr. Grasmann's expertise in investigating war crimes provided invaluable insights into the complexities of international law enforcement. Exploring the challenges faced by law enforcement agencies, Dr. Grasmann shed light on the complicated web of international structures such as the United Nations Security Council, General Assembly, and International Court of Justice, as well as national structures, in addressing war crimes. Dr. Grasmann's interactive approach kept us engaged as he encouraged questions about the topic and assigned us the task of researching the meaning and types of war crimes. This hands-on approach enhanced our understanding and involvement in the discussion.

A focal point of the lecture was the International Criminal Court, a cornerstone of international justice. Delegates gained a deeper understanding of its membership and its jurisdiction over a range of war crimes, including genocide, war crimes against humanity, and the crime of aggression. Dr. Grasmann's thorough exploration of these topics underscored the importance of international cooperation and legal mechanisms in holding perpetrators accountable for their actions.

The lecture proved to be a profoundly enriching experience, highlighting the significance of our role in addressing global challenges as delegates tasked with advocating for peace and justice on the world stage.

Dr. Grasmann's insights emphasized the critical importance of understanding and engaging with international law enforcement efforts. Armed with the knowledge gained from this lecture, we are better equipped to navigate the complexities of international diplomacy and contribute meaningfully to the pursuit of justice and accountability in the global arena.



UN JAPANESE MISSION

As the FAUMUN delegation will represent Japan at NMUN NY 2024, it is of the utmost importance to examine and familiarize ourselves with Japan's role in the United Nations in greater detail. Ultimately, an adequate representation of Japan is one of the most effective measures to ensure a successful NMUN participation.

To achieve the goal of understanding Japan's role in the UN, our delegation had the privilege of being educated on this preponderant topic in depth by the Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations on the 5th of February 2024 via Zoom. Our host was Hanna Kasahara, who is a researcher, consultant, and adviser regarding in particular human rights at the UN.

Firstly, she briefly but thoroughly outlined the history of Japan in the UN and highlighted the significant milestones. Eleven years after the inception of the UN, Japan became the 80th Member State in 1956. Ever since its accession, Japan has contributed to numerous fields in UN settings. Of paramount importance is the fact that Japan has been the second largest contributor to the UN's finances for nearly three decades.

Secondly, Ms. Kasahara expounded on Japan's priorities at the UN. She expressed the country's determination to (1) reform the UN, including the Security Council, and strengthen the UN's own functions, including disarmament and non-proliferation; (2) realize a UN that promotes the rule of law in the international community; and (3) promote efforts based on the concept of human security in the new era.

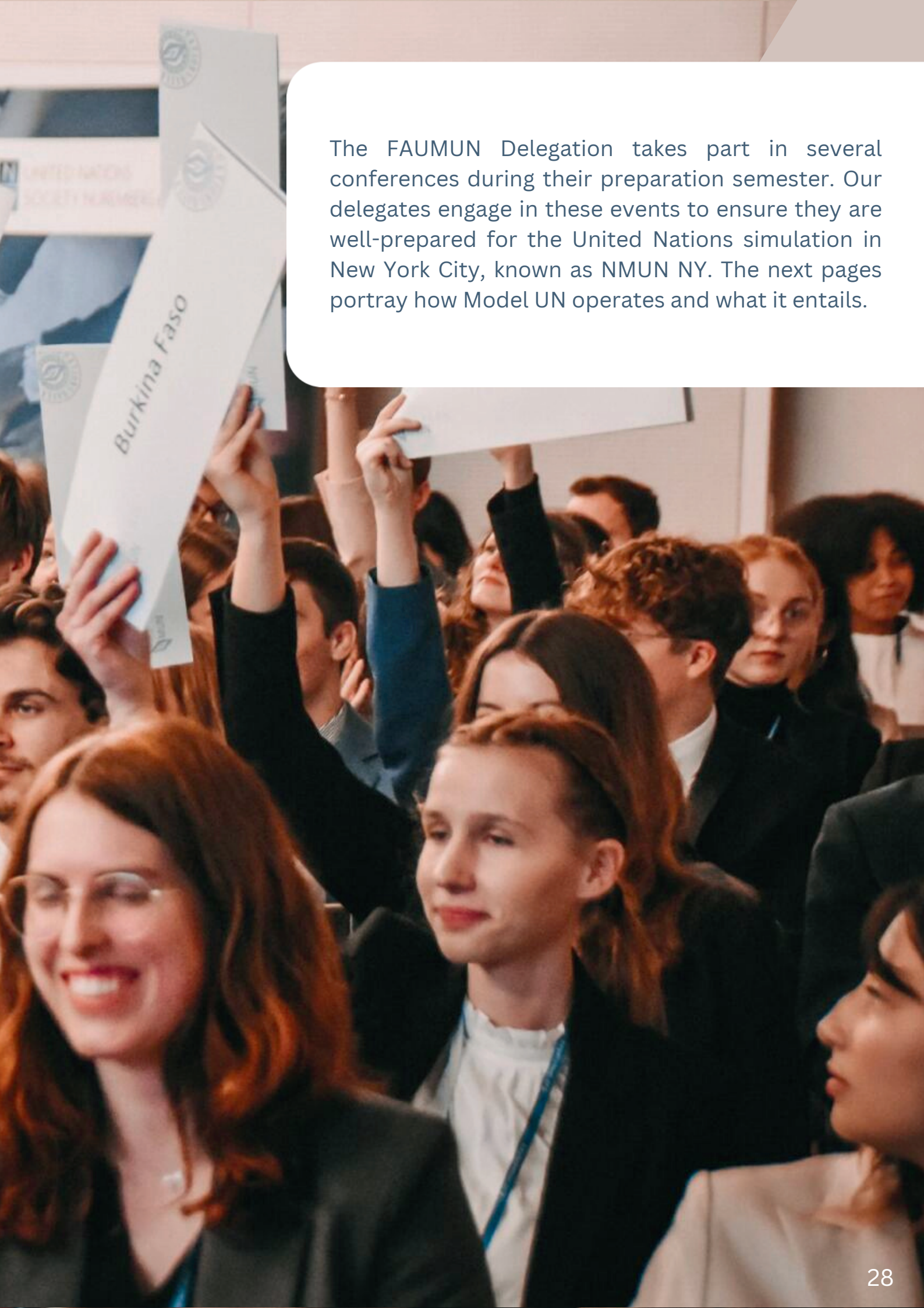
Moreover, after explaining, how the UN works and aptly illustrating the day-to-day work at a Permanent Mission to the UN, she additionally imparted helpful tips and tricks for us when we will be representing Japan at NMUN NY. She answered the question of how the delegation from Japan behaves in the UN and thus, how we should conduct ourselves at the conference in New York City. For instance, focusing on consensus-oriented solutions to build bridges is one of the key components of Japanese participation in the UN.

Finally, she took the time to answer our individual and more specific questions regarding our committee topics and further NMUN concerns, preparing us for our role.



THE CONFERENCES



A group of young people, likely students, are gathered at a Model UN conference. They are dressed in formal attire, including blazers and collared shirts. Several individuals are holding up white signs that read "Burkina Faso". The background shows a banner with the United Nations logo and the text "UNITED NATIONS SOCIETY MEMBERS".

The FAUMUN Delegation takes part in several conferences during their preparation semester. Our delegates engage in these events to ensure they are well-prepared for the United Nations simulation in New York City, known as NMUN NY. The next pages portray how Model UN operates and what it entails.

MINIMUN

Monday, November 6th, was the day of our highly awaited first simulated United Nations conference, MiniMUN, designed to engage the FAUMUN Delegation in an intensive diplomatic dialogue in a closed setting. The committee selected was the United Nations Environmental Assembly. Chaired by our Project Director, Project Manager and Head Delegates, we delved into pressing environmental concerns within the highest authority for environmental issues in the international community for over three hours.

As with every MUN conference, we started our formal session by setting the agenda. We had the opportunity to choose between one of the two following topics: 1. Climate Change and Health, and 2. Environmental Sustainability in the Textile and Fashion Industry. For both topics, an extensive background guide was prepared, providing us with international and regional frameworks, and factual insights on the topics. After hearing numerous impressive agenda setting speeches, we voted to set topic 1 on the agenda first, followed by topic 2. We then proceeded to start our speeches on climate change and health.

As the first informal session began, we quickly found ourselves split into two groups: one group consisted mainly of developed UN Member States in and around Europe, while the other group was made up of developing countries from the Global South. It was intriguing to witness Member States cooperating with counterparts they typically would not engage with. This highlighted how Member States can come together to collaborate on a shared global issue, surpassing expectations of partnership.

After hectic informal sessions filled with working group discussions, we moved to voting procedure and successfully adopted two resolutions! The first resolution emphasized the importance of a collaborative science panel for environmental data, while the second resolution stressed the need for further investments in healthcare to fight diseases caused by climate change.

What was especially noticeable was the impact the speech training the weekend prior to MiniMUN had on us. Not only did every delegate seem much more confident, but various methods and recommendations from the training resurfaced during their speeches. An array of vivid pictures was painted, with the help of metaphors, rhetorical questions and personifications.

The MiniMUN was our first opportunity to gain knowledge about the procedure of Model United Nations conferences with topics prepared beforehand. Not only did we learn when it was permissible to ask for motions, how to ask for motions, how to properly address the Chair and how to set oneself on the speaker's list, we also learned – and were often reminded – of the importance of decorum during speeches. This is especially important since we need to show other delegates the respect and attention that we ourselves wish to be granted when holding our speeches.

While we still have a long way to go regarding negotiation training, spontaneous thinking skills, and deepening our knowledge, MiniMUN certainly marked a worthy and valuable beginning of our Model UN journey!



Downloaded from <http://ajph.org/> on November 10, 2015

During the Closing Ceremony, outstanding delegates were awarded for their great performance and we finished the day at dinner with some of our new friends from the other delegations. ErlangenMUN was a wonderful experience that showed us how a conference works and it deepened our understanding of the dynamics involved in such events.





EFMUN

Day 1

In the heart of a snow-covered Erfurt, the first day of the Erfurt Model United Nations (EfMUN) conference commenced, presenting a unique blend of diplomatic engagement and cultural immersion. FAUMUN Delegates arrived in two distinct groups; while one set off on a city tour to soak in the historical essence of Erfurt, the other headed straight to the opening ceremony, eager to kickstart their diplomatic journey.



The city tour was a captivating experience, beginning at the Erfurt City Hall. This remarkable building speaks volumes of the city's storied past. The group then explored the Old Synagogue, nestled in the charming old town of Erfurt. With its cobbled streets and historic aura, it offered a glimpse into the city's rich cultural tapestry. The tour continued to the Krämerbrücke, a medieval bridge renowned for its distinctive half-timbered houses, now bustling shops that blend the old with the new. The final stop was the majestic Domplatz, dominated by the Erfurt Cathedral, a Gothic architectural marvel.

The students then proceeded to the eagerly anticipated opening ceremony, joining the other group already present. The ceremony began at 3 pm in the ballroom of the Erfurt Town Hall, an impressive space embellished with nine murals created by the painter Peter Janssen between 1878 and 1882. Beneath the glow of four grand chandeliers, all committees along with their respective chairs and tutors were present. This marked the formal commencement of the conference.

Following the opening ceremony, the delegates moved to their respective committee sessions. Apart from the General Assembly and Security Council, the ECOSOC committee gathered in the council meeting room of the town hall. This room, known for its archetypal color scheme, large murals by Otto Hammel, intricately carved paneling, and classic furniture, provided an inspiring setting for the discussions. The hall, adorned with three large-format canvas paintings depicting historical city views and a scene of the fish market around 1720, extends across the entire width of the building and is bathed in natural light from 18 windows. The ECOSOC committee session was overseen by the director and two assistant directors and focused on two agenda topics: Strengthening Partnerships for Sustainable Development in Least Developed Countries, and Promoting Access to Affordable, Reliable, Sustainable, and Modern Energy for All. The committee swiftly decided to prioritize the second topic. The delegates then engaged in intensive discussions, leading to the formation of four working groups and the submission of four working papers by evening.



As evening fell, the delegates took a break to explore the quaint cafes of Erfurt, mingling and discussing the day's events. The day concluded with a debrief for FAUMUN delegates, followed by a city rally, and a treasure hunt that had delegates exploring various parts of the city, collecting clues that eventually formed a passcode.

The first day of EfMUN was a harmonious blend of history, culture, and rigorous intellectual debate. As the day drew to a close, a sense of enthusiasm for the upcoming sessions spread, promising more opportunities for learning, collaboration, and diplomatic engagement.

Day 2



Saturday morning in Erfurt started early, and the delegates went straight to the fray. The delegates were handed back their annotated working papers. When content overlapping between working groups became apparent, delegates decided to merge working groups.

For lunch, a three-course meal awaited the delegates at the Italian restaurant next door and the break from formality allowed everyone to recuperate some much-needed energy.

In the afternoon, two working groups put together a paper focusing on funds and debt relief programs, while the two working groups were more invested in community-based approaches directed at mini-grid solutions, renewable energy, and education. As no major programs had to be scrapped during the merging process, the mood among the delegates was friendly and cooperative.

After a much-needed coffee break, it was time for the ECOSOC working groups to pitch each other how exceptional their working papers were. While the informal sessions were spent with inter-group discussions and the recruitment of signatories, the speaker's podium was occupied with delegates praising the cooperation among the Member States and advertising the programs and ideas set down in their working papers. Fortunately, this singing of praises took turns with some actual, albeit modified song lyrics, bringing back creativity into the council. Finally, a heated debate between the delegate of Brazil and the delegate of Portugal roughened the 'Kumbaya' mood. Egged on by another delegate, the delegate of Brazil began demanding a sincere apology from some Member States for past colonialism. He went so far as to completely miss the subject of the session that even the chair decided to chime in and remind the delegates of the topic at hand. However, this laying down of the law was quickly overshadowed by the calm response to the delegate of Brazil's accusations given by the delegate of Portugal. Their speech was as placating as it was cutting and the perfect end to the debate.

Having been given the last opportunity to speak that evening, the delegate of Denmark decided to sum up the topic, the day, and the mood in the most fitting way possible by demanding:

*"More passion, more passion,
more energy, more energy,
more footwork, more footwork!"*

In the evening of the second conference day, this musical vein was continued in the Presseklub, where the delegates could relax in more casual outfits, enjoy the evening with drinks, and dance to loud, fast-paced tunes.

Day 3

The last day of the conference would prove to be a challenge in multiple ways. With many delegations on minimal sleep after the delegates dance on Saturday, and some also being distinctly malnourished, waking up and making our way to the town hall in the snow already felt like an adventure in and of itself. At 9 am, it was time to commence the final day of caucusing, negotiating, and perfecting our working papers.



In the ECOSOC, two draft resolutions were being worked on intensely. Many speeches focused on the fruitful collaboration that had taken place previously, while advocating for their approach to ensure energy access for all. Due to most of the substantial work having already been completed, the new day saw few major changes or additions to the papers, though the aftermath of the merger still kept the working groups relatively busy.

Amendment time brought new life into the debate, with particularly intense discussions about clauses regarding blockchain technology, nuclear energy and debt-for-climate swaps, an economic model for debt relief and sustainable development funding. In the end, all amendments – six in total, with three on each draft – were passed and incorporated into the final documents. Voting was a relatively smooth affair initially, with the first resolution by the smaller working group being passed almost unanimously. However, there was sudden tension when a division of the question was tabled on the first clause of the second resolution; it ultimately failed and the resolution was passed unanimously. The council then turned to topic 1 on strengthening partnerships for least developed countries. But as there was barely any time left, and after a couple of speeches as well as a relaxed informal session, the debate was adjourned until next year.

After a short notice change of schedule, it was finally time for the closing ceremony. The speakers from EfMUN highlighted the outstanding engagement of all delegations involved and extended special thanks to their Bavarian friends due to three of the universities present residing there: Erlangen, Bamberg, and Würzburg. Additional gratitude was also given to the other universities who had travelled long distances, such as the delegation from Trier. They reflected on the past days and stressed that this conference is a special experience for all people involved, from delegations to staff, with lots of new knowledge and acquaintances.

FAUMUN turned out to be stunningly successful in the following awards ceremony, with 13 out of 29 awards, i.e. 44%, being awarded to our delegation, showing that our hard work had paid off. Even without this, EfMUN in winter wonderland Erfurt was a thoroughly enjoyable experience for all of us. We spent three interesting and fun days together with motivated students from all over Germany, getting our first taste of a larger, multi-day conference and learning one or two things about each other – and even ourselves. At the end of the day, we left Erfurt with new confidence and a smile on our faces, proud of what we had collectively achieved. But alas, there was also a somber feeling that it was over, and that we would not meet the other delegations again until the end of March in most cases. In conclusion, EfMUN was a true success for FAUMUN, and we left snowy Thuringia with lots of pleasant memories, looking forward to what was yet to come in Nuremberg and New York City, and not least also to our beds.



BAYERNMUN

Day 1



The BayernMUN conference, the last conference right before the climax of the FAUMUN program – the NMUN conference in New York – served as a general rehearsal for us delegates. It also holds two novelties: Firstly, BayernMUN is the first conference in the FAUMUN schedule that is attended by students from other countries such as Bulgaria and the United States and secondly, it provides the first opportunity for our committee pairs to familiarize themselves with working in their respective pair and sharing the conference workload in the fast-paced setting of a Model UN conference.

Following an introductory program, the Lord Mayor of Nuremberg, Marcus König, emphasized in his opening speech the importance of young people standing up for democracy, human rights, and the rule of law. As a representative of the FAU, Prof. Dr. Freitag reiterated the need for action on the topics of terrorism and misinformation. These greetings were followed by a panel discussion with renowned journalists and scientists, addressing the effects of misinformation on the quality of journalism and societal development.

Afterwards, the first formal session started. The BayernMUN 2024 General Assembly was the largest committee our delegates had worked in so far. During formal session, this meant more listening and less talking per delegate, as well as a broader spectrum of opinions and ideas. During informal sessions, students were at first overwhelmed by the sheer number of delegates, working groups, and concepts, but quickly adjusted to the new work environment. By the end of the first formal session, the agenda was set, and our attention was directed towards the first topic.



After dinner, which was served at the conference location, and a second committee session, us FAUMUN delegates gathered for a debrief, which serves as a safe space to discuss hardships of the day, as well as positive experiences and reflections. Although there was consensus among delegates that the scale of the conference was making things much more chaotic, everyone was looking forward to the next day's events. The day was rounded off by a gathering at a local bar, where the delegates were able to get to know other students on a more personal level and network in a more casual setting.



Day 2

The second day of our conference began with an optional morning workout and vocal warm-ups at 7 am, followed by an ample breakfast in the accommodation's dining hall. The official part commenced with the third committee session at 9 am, extending until 11:30 am. During this time, we engaged in a blend of formal and informal sessions, delving deeper into the topic at hand. Six working groups submitted their initial drafts of working papers before lunch.

Following a comprehensive photo session capturing conference staff and delegation pictures, everyone gathered for lunch. The afternoon featured heated debates, including the right to reply in formal sessions, and attempted mergers in informal sessions, resulting in only four working groups by Saturday evening. A joint dinner preceded the Delegates Dance at Basement 11, providing a chance for delegates to socialize outside of their committees. This marked the end of an exhausting but exhilarating second day.

Day 3

After a too short night, we embarked on Sunday, March 3rd, 2024, towards the conference's final day. On the final day of a Model UN conference, delegates finalize and vote on resolutions, participate in a closing ceremony where awards may be given, offer feedback on the conference experience, and engage in networking and socializing activities. It is a culmination of diplomatic efforts, reflection, and relationship-building among participants.

The highlight of the days of rigorous yet rewarding work was met with triumph as FAUMUN claimed numerous accolades. Among the notable awards, a scholarship was bestowed upon the Italian delegation, and Timothy, representing India, earned individual recognition. Additionally, six Position Paper Awards were secured by Nigeria and FAUMUN claiming the remaining five, with standout performances from delegations representing France, Portugal, South Korea, Sweden, and Turkmenistan.



Further recognition was garnered through six awards for outstanding delegation, with Bosnia, Russia, and the USA among the recipients, alongside delegates from Burkina Faso, France, and Thailand within FAUMUN. The Peer Award, a testament to peer recognition, was proudly claimed by FAUMUN for their exceptional representation of Sweden, along with awards for delegates from non-FAU delegations Madagascar and Russia.

In total, FAUMUN amassed an impressive tally of 10 out of 17 awards, underscoring their contributions to the conference. BayernMUN 2024 proved to be an astounding success for FAUMUN, fostering group cohesion, enriching experiences, and camaraderie amongst its members. This experience has significantly contributed to personal growth and development, providing invaluable lessons in diplomacy, teamwork, and problem-solving. We enhanced communication skills, expanded our understanding of global issues, and reinforced the importance of collaboration on an international scale. As we reflect on our journey, we celebrate not only our achievements but also the bonds and memories created during this unforgettable experience.



BERLIN

A photograph of an audience seated in a lecture hall, viewed from behind. The audience is diverse in age and appearance, mostly young adults. They are seated in rows of black chairs. In the foreground, a man with short brown hair and glasses, wearing a black shirt and tan pants, is seen from the back. To his left, a woman with long black hair is also seen from the back. Further back, a man with dark skin and a maroon hoodie is visible. The audience is facing a stage area with a large, deep red curtain. To the right of the curtain, there is a wooden wall panel and a small black rectangular object, possibly a screen or a light fixture. A white podium is partially visible on the far right. The lighting is warm and focused on the stage area.

Before heading to New York, we embarked on an educational trip to Berlin. This provided us with unique insights into governmental offices that would not have been possible without participating in FAUMUN. On the following pages, you will find glimpses of these exceptional moments.



FEDERAL MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Being welcomed to the Federal Ministry of Defence, we were told the rules of entering the ministry including turning our phones off and always wearing our visitor's passes visibly. Before entering the building, we had to pass through security checks. Upon arriving at the room, where we were going to spend the morning, we were greeted by our two hosts, who introduced themselves as Oberstleutnant Schanhorst and Major Schönowski.

After a very warm welcome, both gave a quick introduction to the ministry itself. They showed us some of the hierarchical orders within the ministry, with the Minister of Defense, Boris Pistorius, at the top and the different Secretaries of State following. They also discussed some of the better-known affairs of the BMVg.

When the introduction into the ministry's matters was concluded, Oberstleutnant Schanhorst and Major Schönowski invited us for coffee and tea where we were able to exchange our first impressions. Over the next 1.5 hours, we were able to ask all of the questions we had concerning the ministry's missions, their internal affairs or the topic of the steady decline in Bundeswehr numbers. Our hosts made every effort to try to answer each question thoroughly. Oberstleutnant Schanhorst and Major Schönowski were even kind enough to add 30 minutes to our original time slot, as there were so many questions.

Even after we had finished the official meeting, they took the time to take a group picture with our whole delegation and yet continued to answer more upcoming questions. We thank them for hosting us so graciously.



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS



At the German Foreign Office, we were welcomed by FAUMUN alumnus Andreas Glossner. In a very interactive session, he gave us many interesting insights into German foreign policy and his role as a diplomat. He talked about his experiences at the Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations in New York, his involvement in the inquiry committee on the German Armed Forces in Afghanistan, and his current work with the Parliamentary Committee on Security Policy.

Probably the most relatable story for us as MUN participants was about the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, where he saw the first resolution he worked on being adopted. This being one of his favorite memories, he also shared some personal opinions about the life of a diplomat, which can be challenging, especially for families. However, he pointed out how rewarding a career in international relations can be, and that graduates of all disciplines have the opportunity to apply to work for the Foreign Service. Unfortunately, his time with us was much too short as we would have liked to hear more of his stories, but we still spent quite some time in the building taking pictures in the beautiful atrium. Andreas has our heartfelt thanks for inspiring yet another FAUMUN Delegation.

CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE OPERATIONS

On our way to the Centre for International Peace Operations, or ZIF in short in German, we were excited and curious about what awaited us. We were warmly greeted, and it was great to see our Project Manager Sophia reconnect with her former work colleagues. We felt appreciated and prominent to be so kindly received at such a special place.

Dr. Annika Hansen was the one to give us a special insight lecture into the work of the ZIF, and more specifically, into her work. As leader of the Policy, Partnerships and Innovation Team, she was able to pass on super-interesting information. Dr. Hansen herself has partaken in multiple peace operations on-site for several years. Nowadays, she mostly works on administrative aspects within missions, including the coordination of employees, and the evaluation of the development of arrangements and agreements within and after the missions.

Two topics in our conversation stood out the most: the philosophical and political concept of peace and whether it is attainable, as well as peace-keeping operations, evaluating their scale and effectiveness. We talked about peace in its most controversial context - dictatorship and terrorism. Is it attainable? What can we as civilians, but also democratic governments and international organizations such as the UN do?

Dr. Hansen explained how sometimes there was no singular solution and solid international peace might not be achieved the way we would expect. She explained to us that traditional peacekeeping missions are constantly evaluated for their usefulness, and are eventually stopped if they do not fulfil their purposes. Because of this, they are not always the best approach, especially since the circumstances in different Member States vary greatly.

However, there are many other alternatives outside the traditional peacekeeping missions. These include electoral assistance, border control, institutional capacity building, and governance, as well as aiding with the environmental impacts of peacekeeping, to name a few. The world of UN peacekeeping and its associated programs are much larger than we had thought and serve the same purpose of helping those who need it most and ensuring international peace and security.

Overall, we left on a very positive note as Dr. Hansen reiterated that we can in fact aid to save the world, if we prioritize working together and focusing on details combined with diplomacy. If we look at possible spillovers in the areas of conflicts, we may discover where assistance is needed, but often overlooked. We extend our gratitude to the ZIF and Dr. Annika Hansen for the wonderful lecture and experience!



JAPANESE EMBASSY



Our encounters with the Embassy's Second Secretary, Ohata Kai, who helped our group prepare for the New York conference by addressing our queries ahead of time, were incredibly informative and personable. During our preparation for NMUN, many of our questions centered on the study of Japanese foreign policy. It was critical that we understood Japan's position on numerous geopolitical concerns to successfully represent the country and negotiate difficult diplomatic scenarios during the conference.

We explored Japan's connections with North and South Korea and obtained firsthand information to back our positions. Furthermore, our conversations included relations with Taiwan and China, alongside topics related to interactions with Russia. Particularly noteworthy was Japan's adherence to the one-China policy while maintaining friendly relations with Taiwan. The complex political dynamics between Japan and South Korea proved to be a nuanced problem, with official relations strained but individual interactions remaining positive.

Remarkably, he shared his unprompted views on the Security Council, claiming it was outdated - an opinion expressed earlier in the day during our visit to the Berlin Foreign Ministry. He also underscored Germany and Japan's cooperation on several subjects, as well as the strength of their diplomatic relationship. We discovered surprising parallels in the economic frameworks of Germany and Japan, providing useful comparative insights.

Participating in these conversations gave us a rare and invaluable opportunity to acquire firsthand knowledge and deepen our understanding of Japanese foreign policy. All of us valued this experience and acknowledged its significance in molding our attitude to international relations at NMUN and beyond.

JAPANESE-GERMAN CENTER BERLIN



Situated amongst otherwise unremarkable buildings, the Japanese-German Center Berlin immediately stands out with its front garden of lush pine trees and a glass façade. Once inside, we settled down in the library, where a small platform at the back of the room provided space for two chairs. These would be occupied by our lecturer and host Dr. Julia Münch, as well as a Japanese intern.

After everyone had found a comfy space on the carpet floor, Dr. Münch introduced us to core concepts of Japanese culture, such as ‘face’, in- vs. out-group dynamics, and decision-making processes. The value of harmony and consensus was especially important for our work as future Japanese representatives on the international stage.

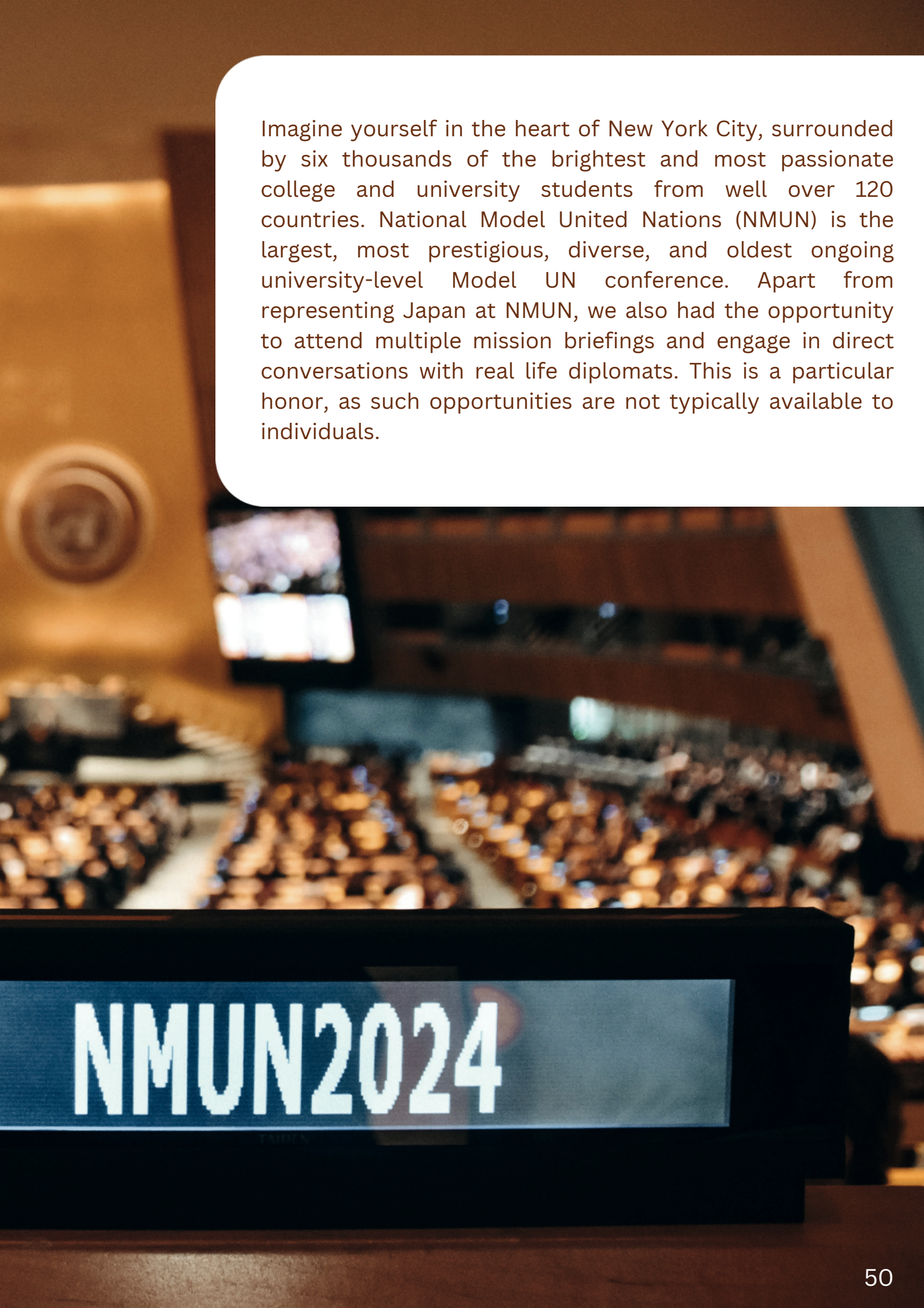
Not only did we gain deeper insights into the culture of the nation whose human faces we were about to take on at NMUN, but were also able to distill practical applications out of them such as internalizing Japan’s mediating and moderating role in global matters. This would become relevant in several committees, and albeit it was not always easy, it was an integral part of staying in character – a crucial goal of MUN. This mix of knowledge and application with self-gained insights made this afternoon particularly enlightening.

After the presentation had ended, the team took time to answer some more questions we had about all kinds of matters. From life in Japan to cultural similarities and differences, we used this unique opportunity to hear from an expert and a native Japanese citizen. Our group photo was taken in the lovely inner courtyard, which was designed in the Japanese style – Sakura and rock garden included. We thoroughly enjoyed our visit and were equipped with the cultural knowledge we needed for our New York adventure to come.



NEW YORK

A large, dimly lit auditorium filled with people, viewed from the back. A large screen on the right shows a bright image. The foreground shows the backs of people seated at desks.



Imagine yourself in the heart of New York City, surrounded by six thousands of the brightest and most passionate college and university students from well over 120 countries. National Model United Nations (NMUN) is the largest, most prestigious, diverse, and oldest ongoing university-level Model UN conference. Apart from representing Japan at NMUN, we also had the opportunity to attend multiple mission briefings and engage in direct conversations with real life diplomats. This is a particular honor, as such opportunities are not typically available to individuals.

NMUN2024

GERMAN MISSION TO THE UN



The building of the Permanent Mission of Germany to the UN is situated right next to the UN headquarters, where we were eagerly anticipating attending the closing ceremony in just a few days. Upon arrival at the mission, we underwent the familiar security protocols, a routine we had all become accustomed to by now. Alongside students from two other German universities, we were welcomed by Holger Dreiseitl, the Public Relations representative of the German Mission to the UN.

Mr. Dreiseitl began by providing an overview of the German Mission, emphasizing its primary objectives and the numerous functions it serves within the UN framework. He also revealed his own professional journey, offering a personal touch to the institutional insights. Although he had diligently prepared a presentation for occasions when questions were likely to be sparse, he opted to foster an interactive environment from the start by inviting questions from the audience.

This sparked a lively and fascinating discussion, covering pressing global issues such as the conflicts in Gaza and Ukraine, as well as the crucial role that the UN plays in conflict resolution. His openness to speak openly with us was greatly appreciated, as it offered a unique glimpse into the complex realm of international diplomacy.

Thanks to Mr. Dreiseitl's insightful responses, we obtained a deeper understanding of the obligations and obstacles faced by German diplomats at the UN. The experience was not only educational but also inspiring, as it underscored the significant impact that diplomatic efforts can have on world peace and security.

EU MISSION TO THE UN



After having wrapped up the conference and before making our way to the UN headquarters for the closing ceremony, we were invited to visit the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations. After ascending 31 floors, we were greeted by a mesmerizing view of New York City. Upon entering the conference room, we noticed 27 placards of all the EU members in front of us – similar to the ones we know from our MUN conferences.

The Delegation of the EU to the UN coordinates and represents the interests of the EU within the framework of the UN, having a shared UN-EU agenda at its core interests. In the UN system, the EU functions as an observer. Despite having no voting status, it is part of more than 50 multi-lateral conventions on issues such as sustainable development, human rights, peace building, and climate action. This visit showed us the importance of upholding neutrality in diplomacy, serving as a reminder to stay unbiased during all times. Moreover, the carefulness with which choices were made emphasized the patient aspects of diplomatic discussions, where even the placement of a comma can carry a high amount of significance.

Even after spontaneous shifts in our schedule, Mary Clune as representative of the Delegation of the EU to the UN has still been able to accommodate us on short notice. She answered all our questions with much patience and honesty, hearing as many of our delegates out as possible. I believe I can speak for all of us when I say our visit to the Delegation of the EU to the UN was a unique experience, blending the realms of Model United Nations with real-world diplomacy.

NMUN NEW YORK

Day 1 & 2

The National Model United Nations (NMUN) conference held annually in New York is a platform for young minds to engage in diplomatic discussions and negotiations in order to tackle global issues. It is a beacon of global cooperation, inviting students from around the world to step into the shoes of diplomats, navigate complex geopolitical landscapes, and seek solutions to pressing global challenges.



The NMUN conference mirrors the inner workings of the United Nations, offering students a simulated platform to delve into the intricacies of diplomacy. The event began with the opening ceremony that featured inspiring speeches from prominent figures in international relations. Among them was the United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres, who addressed the delegates personally and expressed gratitude for their active participation. Continuing with the first committee sessions, delegates engaged in intense debating and negotiating. They were able to discuss the importance of each topic within their committees and set the agenda.



Delegates represent different countries and address real-world issues across commissions such as the Security Council, General Assembly, and specialized agencies. The conference simulates the United Nations' proceedings, requiring delegates to research their country's stance, official press releases and draft resolutions, allowing them to engage in diplomatic dialogue to advance their nation's interests while also fostering global cooperation.

The second day of the conference continued with two more committee sessions in which, through interactions with fellow delegations from diverse backgrounds, we as delegates of Japan had the chance to network, forge connections that extend beyond the conference, and through cooperation, draft working papers with proposed solutions to the topic at hand.

As a delegate at the NMUN conference, the experience was profoundly impactful for me. Engaging in diplomatic negotiations, advocating for my country's position, and collaborating with peers from around the world instilled in me a deeper appreciation for the complexities of international relations. Moreover, the conference honed my communication skills, resilience, and ability to think critically in high-pressure situations. It cultivates leadership skills, enhances cultural competency, and fosters a sense of global citizenship. Furthermore, the conference equips delegates with practical skills such as public speaking, negotiation, and consensus-building, invaluable assets in both academic and professional pursuits. In conclusion, participating in the NMUN conference in New York serves as a catalyst for personal growth, academic enrichment, and global engagement.

By providing a platform for young leaders to delve into the complexities of international affairs, the conference empowers individuals to become agents of positive change in an increasingly interconnected world. As we reflect on our experiences at NMUN, we embrace the lessons learned, the connections forged, and the commitment to building a more peaceful and prosperous future for all nations.

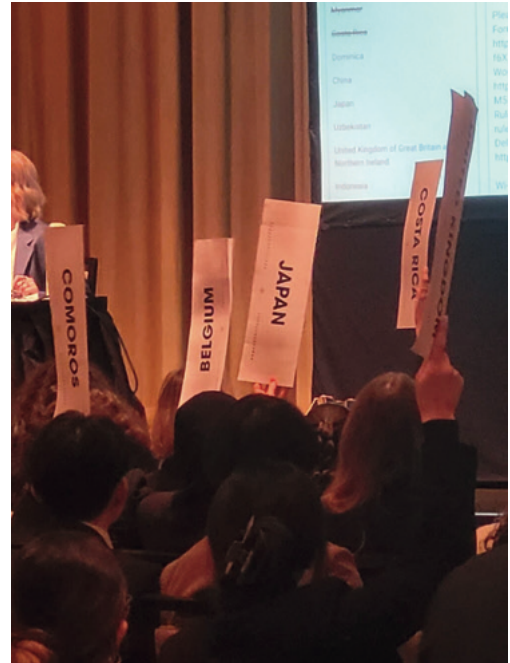
The day ended with the usual debrief session where we were able to share our experiences of the day, speak freely in a safe environment, and receive crucial feedback and understanding from our experienced Head Delegates and Project Management.



NMUN NEW YORK

Day 3

The third day at the NMUN conference witnessed a notable shift towards more intense debates within the working groups, particularly concerning the topic of merging. This trend was evident across all committees, including the UN Environmental Assembly. In the preceding sessions, delegates diligently worked on drafting the main sections of their working papers, which were expected to develop into draft resolutions. However, as discussions progressed, delegates noticed a significant similarity and overlap in content within their respective groups. Consequently, my working group decided to merge with another working group, while my committee partner experienced a merger involving three other working groups. Similar consolidations were happening in all committees.



The merging process in our case went smoothly, buoyed by the eagerness among all delegations to collaborate towards crafting a stronger draft resolution. However, the process of merging proved to be more complex than expected, as is often the case. Nevertheless, we put forth our best efforts to navigate this complexity, driven by the collective goal of delivering the most refined version of our work.



Personally, I focused on collaborating with fellow delegates to ensure the incorporation of indigenous voices in addressing biodiversity loss, aligning with the Kunming-Montreal Framework. In the end, our collective efforts resulted in a commendable outcome, characterized by the seamless integration of ideas and a logically constructed text.

However, notwithstanding our progress, several challenges persisted. Other sections of our working paper awaited thorough scrutiny by their respective drafting delegates. Still, there remains a significant amount of work to be accomplished in the forthcoming days to bring the paper to its conclusion. Nonetheless, the day commenced with discussions on mergers and concluded with delegations diligently finalizing their merger arrangements.

On day 4, the curtain fell on the NMUN conference, signaling the end of a remarkable FAUMUN journey. The last day was filled with laughing delegates and a sense of accomplishment, marking the culmination of weeks of preparation and debate.

The final day was profoundly emotional, marking the conclusion of not just the NMUN event, but an entire journey filled with seminars, trainings, and conferences. On the last day, the most important thing is to pull through and hand in amendments to add any last changes to the resolutions before voting upon them.

Amidst the hustle and bustle of the end of the conference, moments of reflection emerged. The dias of the Commission on Social Development shared personal anecdotes, underscoring the importance of the relationships we build during our MUN journey. Ines, the assistant chair, recounted her journey to the UN, making half of the room tear up as she speaks about her humble upbringing and how she made her dreams come true, offering a reminder of the opportunities afforded by platforms like NMUN. As applause filled the room, it became evident that beyond the formalities, it was the connections made and the challenges overcome that defined our experience.



The NMUN conference may have ended, but its impact on the FAUMUN delegation will remain, serving as a testament to the value of diplomatic engagement for aspiring young leaders worldwide.

But if someone wanted to quantify our success during the NMUN journey, they would have to point out that Celina and Dina, and Anabel and Sophia won a Position Paper Award, which was announced on the last day of the conference.

All in all, the last day was a success and will be cherished by all the delegates.

Day 5

As the curtains closed on NMUN New York, the FAUMUN Delegation stood tall, adorned with honors and memories that would linger long after the event. The climax of this transformative experience was undeniably the closing ceremony held at the iconic General Assembly Plenary Hall of the United Nations in New York City.

Before the actual event with more than a thousand NMUN participants began, we were given a tour of the magnificent building and had the opportunity to look in the rooms of the ECOSOC and the Trusteeship Council. Unfortunately, due to a meeting of the Security Council, this prestigious body was not accessible to us. Our tour ended right where the ceremony was about to commence, and it was impressive to see the most prominent meeting place in diplomacy with our own eyes, standing where otherwise diplomats from all over the world come together.

Amidst the grandeur of the General Assembly Plenary Hall, the FAUMUN Delegation, along with fellow participants, eagerly awaited the announcement of the coveted Delegation Awards. The tension was palpable as the organizers revealed the recipients, and to the delight and pride of FAUMUN, they were bestowed with the Distinguished Delegation Award. It was a moment of triumph, a testament to the dedication, preparation, and diplomatic prowess exhibited by every member of the Delegation.

The atmosphere in the General Assembly Plenary Hall was electric, as participants basked in the awe-inspiring ambiance of the iconic venue. The towering seats, each representing a nation, and the solemnity of the space added gravitas to the occasion, elevating the sense of accomplishment for all involved.

Following the announcement of awards, speeches ensued, delivered by the organizers, who expressed profound gratitude to all participants for their unwavering commitment and contributions to the conference. The collective effort, passion, and determination displayed throughout the NMUN were acknowledged and celebrated, emphasizing the significance of diplomacy, collaboration, and global citizenship.





However, the pinnacle of the ceremony came with the appearance of a distinguished figure – Dennis Francis, the President of the General Assembly. His presence commanded attention, and his words resonated deeply with everyone present. With eloquence and conviction, he delivered an inspiring speech that encapsulated the essence of diplomacy, unity, and the imperative of addressing global challenges collectively.

President Francis' speech served as a poignant reminder of the immense responsibility borne by future leaders, urging delegates to harness their newfound knowledge and skills to effect positive change in the world. His words echoed in the hallowed halls of the General Assembly, stirring hearts and igniting a renewed sense of purpose among all those in attendance.

As the FAUMUN Delegation bid farewell to the NMUN conference and the illustrious General Assembly Plenary Hall, they carried with them not only accolades but also invaluable experiences, friendships, and a deeper understanding of the complexities of international relations. The closing ceremony marked the culmination of a remarkable journey, one that had empowered them to become ambassadors of change in an ever-evolving global landscape.



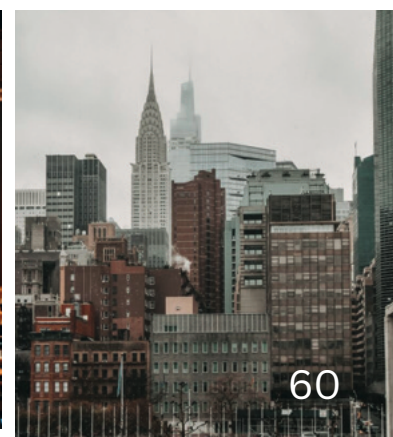
UN VISIT



One of the highlights of our visit to the United Nations Headquarters in New York City was the comprehensive tour of the magnificent building. Our knowledgeable guide began with an overview of the UN's history and its mission. We admired the rich display of international gifts in the lobby, which added to the building's vibrant atmosphere.

We first visited the ECOSOC Chamber, where key discussions on global economic and social issues take place. The sleek, modern design of the room impressed us as we learned about ECOSOC's vital role in international cooperation. Next, we toured the former Trusteeship Council Chamber, a significant part of UN history, especially during the decolonization process. Though no longer active, its semi-circular seating reminded us of its past importance in promoting dialogue. Unfortunately, the Security Council Chamber was inaccessible due to an ongoing meeting.

The tour culminated at the iconic General Assembly Hall. The grandeur of this space, with its distinctive green marble rostrum and gold backdrop, left us in awe. As the main deliberative body of the UN, the General Assembly Hall is where all 193 member states convene to address global issues. Seeing these significant rooms firsthand deepened our appreciation for the UN's efforts in fostering global cooperation and peace. The experience of standing in the General Assembly Hall, a symbol of international diplomacy, was truly inspiring.



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