World Federation of United Nations Associations
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World Federation United Nations Associations (WFUNA) is a global nonprofit organization representing and coordinating a membership of over 100 national United Nations Associations (UNAs) and their thousands of constituents. WFUNA aims to support, strengthen, and contribute to improving the United Nations. WFUNA's main goal is to educate individuals on the goals of the UN Charter and encourage support for UN. These goals are to be realized by WFUNA's various achievements and efforts, including seminars, research papers, internships, conferences, and training programs.
As efforts to promote WFUNA and provide students a chance to learn about the United Nations, international organizations and the global society in general, WFUNA holds Youth Camps twice a year. WFUNA Youth Camp this summer targets potential and passionate students who are interested in and willing to learn about human rights, debates, and the global society. The camp is held for one week (July 27th~August 2nd) in Kyung Hee University International College campus. Students would be staying in the dormitories while visiting different buildings in the campus for different activities.

This summer’s Youth Camp is hosted by WFUNA, Kyunghee University College of International Studies and KIC Model UN Secretariat. Also, Debate Study, Hope to the Future Association, and United Nations Academic Impact (UNAI) has been our partners in making this event happen. 120 student participants ranging from elementary school students to high school students will be working with the Trainers and Mentors throughout the week, as they listen to lectures and tips about diverse issues regarding human rights, speeches, and debates. On the last few days of the camp, students will be participating in actual debate tournaments.
Overview:
Day #1

Students arrived at Kyung Hee University International College campus at 09:00am as registration started right away. At their arrival, students were given diverse camp supplies and were introduced to their dormitories. Participant surveys and diagnostics were taken, after which the fire drill & safety briefing was held. Students gathered on the track field after the alarm bell, and lined up according to their groups. All of the staffs and participants participated, as safety is one of the most important issues concerned in WFUNA's Youth Camps.

Students were sorted into different classes of organizations of the UN including WHO, WFP, UNHCR, UNEP, UNFPA, ICJ, IMO, IMF, UNESCO, and UNICEF. After, students had lunch at the school cafeteria and moved to the A&D hall for the Opening Ceremony and Orientation. The groups were announced once again and students were seated according to the classes they were assigned to. Students received education regarding safety rules and CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation), held by a fire fighter from Yongin fire department. Opening ceremony took place in the same hall, from 1 to 2pm where students were officially introduced to staff members, including the mentors and trainers, and went over specific schedules for each day.

After the opening ceremony, students moved back to their classes and learned the goals of each of their organizations. All the students went through the Goal setting and Development process with their mentors and trainers. Dinner was served at the same cafeteria after the classes. Before going to bed, students had ice breaking time at the UN QUIZ Night. In general, all the programs were held safely on time and the students and staffs had a good start as they enjoyed their first day of the camp.
Kwon Si On
Student

Q. Why did you apply to the 5th WFUNA Youth Camp?
My dream is to work at the UN where they help people in need all around the world. Ever since I set my goal to become a person working at the UN, my mother and I looked for opportunities that could help me gain better understanding on global issues. The 5th WFUNA Youth Camp is one of the experiences that we thought would best help me learn about the UN.

Q. What do you most wish to learn?
I want to work for the UN in the future, but I do not know specifically what I want to do in the UN yet. So at this camp, I wish to learn more about what the UN does and what I can do to build towards that future. I think I will learn a lot from the trainers and the staff who has abundant experience in working in international organizations.

Q. So you just went through the diagnostic time, what was the most memorable question the interviewer asked?
They asked me whether I have debated before and whether I enjoyed the experience or not. I have debated before at school in English on the topic of moral lessons of a historical fiction book. From this experience I learned that people need to cooperate with each other at all times. I also liked sharing my thoughts with other people. I am definitely looking forward to the debate sessions.

Q. Is there anything that you are worried about?
I am mostly excited about the camp, but I am just a little worried about meeting new friends all at once. I hope I can fit in well with my teammates, learn new things and make great memories.
Q. What program in the camp are you most looking forward to?

I like to debate, so I am most looking forward to the debating sessions. I would like to develop my debating skills.

Q. The theme of the 5th WFUNA Youth Camp is human rights. Do you have any special interests in this specific topic?

I am interested in children’s rights. Children are one of the most vulnerable groups when it comes to protecting and claiming their rights. I strongly believe people need to recognize and help those who are socially weaker than themselves such as children.

Q. Can you briefly introduce yourselves?

Dohyun: I study international studies at Hanyang University. My specific major is Economics, and I am an assistant for Environmental Studies professor. My interests are economics, politics, environment issues, and alternative energy.

Tharishni: This is my third year at the WFUNA camp as a debate trainer. I have debated for as long as I can remember. I went to the University of Malaya and my major achievements are national debating champion, Best Overall Speaker, and Best Speaker of the Finals in Malaysia in 2010. Work-wise, I am at the Regional Privacy Counsel for Asia-Pacific of a Fortune 500 company. It is one of my favorite things to teach debate so I take a break from work once a year to teach students debate.
Q. How did you come across WFUNA Youth Camp?

Tharishni: I have worked with Logan before. He posted a notice for the camp a few years ago. I kept applying and have been coming back ever since.

Dohyun: I am a member of Hanyang University’s Debate Society (HYDS.) Logan uploaded a notice, so I asked one of my seniors and they strongly recommended participating in this camp because they also participated in it last year as a trainer and enjoyed it very much.

Q. How did you start debate?

Dohyun: In high school, I participated in a debate competition once. Then when I came to university, I participated in a variety of activities such as the HYDS, band, student council, basketball etc. That is when I found out that debate is one of the most enjoyable activities. At first, I was not able to concentrate on debate because of the other activities. However, I came to think that if I am going to do something I should do it right. So, I put passion into debate activities more than any other activities.

Tharishni: I started debating in high school. Debate has always been my thing. So it was natural for me to join our university debate team. Like Dohyun I also gave up a musical career to debate fulltime, but I think it is the best thing I have ever done. This is because you meet so many different people, learn so much more, and the way you think changes when you debate. The way you think becomes more structured, and you can see the core of the issues which helps a lot in academics and in the workplace. It is also great that you also get to travel a lot for the debate tournaments.

Q. What is most rewarding when you teach debate?

Tharishni: Usually people do not think about why they know what they know. But as I teach, I learn a lot because as I explain an idea, I also become able to ask myself why I think that way. So you are learning as you are breaking the idea down for other people. I love seeing that “pen-penny-drop moment” when the students understand an idea.

Q. What do you hope to take back from this camp?

Dohyun: As I study Economics and Environmental studies, I came to find that there is a limit to how much you can learn from a textbook. You have to go out to the real world because all of the issues of economics and the environment are related to social issues. As a trainer, I want to learn about the connections between the issues through debating, adjudicating, and finally teaching. Different experiences give different perspectives, so I want to experience as much as possible.

Q. Finally, do you have any advice to the students at the Youth Camp?

Tharishni: Don’t be nervous, be open to new experiences, and have fun!

Dohyun: Don’t be shy or timid; try saying hello to trainers and other students because everyone wants to make friends.
Recent Trend of Human Rights Violation in International Conflict

As the trend of international conflict is changing, there is an increased need for international society to protect the human rights. Whereas victims of conflicts were mainly military in the past, recently the target is shifting to civilians. Thus, dramatic increase is witnessed in human rights violations including massacre, rape, detention and also humanitarian crisis such as refugee issues and Internally Displaced Persons. As an example, the rise of Islamic States, the radical armed group that pursues the goal of building Islam-fundamentalism country in Levant, governed by caliph, clearly reflects the current trend. They are criticized for violating human rights through mass executions of soldiers and innocent civilians, execution of beheading foreign hostages and suicidal bombing by children. Accordingly, the importance of international society’s role to protect every human beings’ rights is increasing.
The United Nations (UN) and Inter-Governmental Organization (IGO)

The role of the UN

The United Nations (UN), an international organization established to “save succeeding generations from the scourge of war” (Un.org, 2015), plays an important role in protecting human rights. Among diverse roles it plays, such as maintaining international peace and security, promoting sustainable development, upholding international law, one of the most important goals of the UN is protecting human rights. It is stated in the UN charter, Chapter 1, article 1, “To achieve international co-operation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian character, and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion” (Un.org, 2015). Human rights issues were brought into the realm of international law through Universal Declaration of Human Rights which was adopted by UN General Assembly in 1948 after Second World War.

Responsibility to Protect (R2P)

Responsibility to Protect (R2P) refers to a proposed norm that sovereignty is not an absolute right and when states fail to protect its civilians from mass atrocity crimes and human rights violations, the responsibility to protect people within the borders shift to the broader international society. The UN agreed on the concept that individual state first has the responsibility to protect its civilians from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. Then, international community has rights to encourage and help states to exercise the responsibility. However, if the state lacks ability, then international community, with the UN, has the responsibility to use diplomatic, humanitarian and other means to protect the civilians. The concept was accepted in September 2005, at the United Nations World Summit. The Security Council has first passed the resolution referring to R2P in 2006 to deploy peacekeeping force in Darfur, Sudan and R2P has continued to be referred in the international community.
UN Sanctions

One of the enforcement measures to maintain international peace and security is UN Sanctions which usually means economic sanctions, but not including military actions. It takes forms of embargo, travel restriction, financial limits and etc which is intended to apply pressure on states to comply with the objectives suggested by the Security Council. The purposes of UN Sanctions are not limited to non-proliferation, democratization, counter-terrorism and conflict resolution, but also includes the objective of protecting the civilians. Unfortunately, sometimes sanctions result in side effects. For instance, economic sanctions against Iraq took place targeting Saddam Hussein regime as a response to the invasion of Kuwait and as a mean to eliminate weapons of mass destruction. However, the trade embargo, banning most trade and financial resources led to the disastrous effects on Iraqi citizens where high rates of malnutrition, lack of medical supplies and disease from dirty water were reported. The situation gradually improved after the Oil-for-Food Program, but it indicates the danger of sanctions where the action taken for humanitarian purpose resulting in further human rights violations where citizens could not maintain their fundamental living.

Peacekeeping Operations

Peacekeeping operation (PKO) is another measure taken by the Security Council for the maintenance of international peace and security. It usually involves military actions along with the observation, monitoring and supervision. One of the important tasks of peacekeeping operations is the promotion and protection of human rights because abuse and violation of human rights is usually the critical consequence of modern conflicts. However, PKOs do not always result in success. For example, it failed to achieve its goal in 1992 Bosnia war due to the inevitable systematic flaws in UN peacekeeping which was ill-equipped and unprepared. The Srebrenica massacre is considered one of the worst failure of UN peacekeeping works. Even though Srebrenica was announced “safe area”, systematic killing of thousands of people took place. Hence, despite some failures, PKOs are developing and is one of the most strongest supporters of international peace.

Non-Governmental Organizations

Amnesty International

There are many Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) that promotes and protects human rights. One of the representative NGOs is Amnesty International (AI). AI is a global movement by over 7 million members and supporters that focuses on human rights. Its main objective is “to
conduct research and generate action to prevent and end grave abuses of human rights, and to
demand justice for those whose rights have been violated” (Amnesty.org, 2015). The organi-
zation works under the motto of “It is better to light a candle than to curse the darkness” and
works to draw public’s attention, mobilize public opinion to put pressure on government that is
related with human rights abuse. AI was inspired by British lawyer, Peter Benenson, who published the article “The Forgotten Prisoners” about students who were jailed just for the reason of
raising a toast to freedom. One of its main activities includes freeing prisoners of conscience which
refer to anyone imprisoned because of their race, sexual orientation, religion or political views.

Human Rights Watch
Human Rights Watch is another nonprofit and nongovernmental organization that strives to
promote human rights. The organization put emphasis on accurate fact finding and publishes
more than 100 reports on the human rights conditions every year. It is famous not only for
precise fact-finding, but also the effective use of media and impartial reporting. Human Rights
Watch works under the mission of “to become a voice of Justice” (Human Rights Watch, 2015).
It originated from the Helsinki Watch which were to monitor the government’s compliance to
the Helsinki Accords of 1975 which was a promise for cooperative relations between communist
bloc and the West. In addition to its success, other Watch committees were created which estab-
ilished Human Rights Watch as a whole.

As the current international conflict and affairs involve more human rights violation and abuse,
promotion and protection of human rights have become increasingly important in international
society. Even though the tasks of international organizations are growing in its significance,
individuals’ attention and interest is critical. If individuals do not pay attention to human rights
issues, then the works of international society will never achieve its goal and will not have posi-
tive influence. Therefore, individuals should also be informed of human rights issues and look for
what they can do at their position.
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