

Model UN Conferences and Education

WFUNA is in the process of organizing the third WFUNA Asia and Pacific Regional Model UN (APMUN) Conference in Incheon, Republic of Korea, in close cooperation with UNA-ROK, Ewha Womans University and the office of the Mayor of Incheon. The conference will take place from 21-25 July 2008 and will be a simulation of the Economic and Social Council of Asia and Pacific (ESCAP).

The theme of the conference is “Achieving the Millennium Development Goals by 2015: Reducing Global Poverty and Improving Living Standards through a More Proactive Approach.” Topics for discussion will include:

- Pursuing alternative energy sources to ensure future peace
- Strategies for poverty reduction that diminish the risk of disasters
- Advancing towards a knowledge-based economy
- Regional collaboration to stop human trafficking

Each UNA from a country that is a member of ESCAP has been invited to send a delegation of four students and one UNA representative to the conference. We expect over 200 participants representing at least 25 countries. In cases where UNAs have become dormant, such as Thailand, Bhutan and Mongolia, we have been contacting Permanent Missions to the UN to assist us in identifying people whom we could approach. In countries where there is as yet no UNA, such as Vietnam and Timor Leste, we have already identified people who are interested in setting up a UNA and sending a delegation.

A meeting of UNA representatives and regional UN Information Center representatives is being planned in conjunction with the Model UN conference.

Registration will take place from 14-21 April. All in country costs will be provided by the city of Incheon. The website is at <http://www.apmun2008.org>

In addition to organizing the third APMUN, WFUNA staff have taken part in several Model UNs held in New York. Most recently, Marcus Wilson and Erin Monaghan served as Dias members for UNA-Dominican Republic Model UN. They hope to participate in more local Model UNs in the future.

Erin has been collaborating with two organizations, Manhattan Multicultural Counseling and Education First Tours, on developing programs that educate young students about the United Nations and WFUNA. Each organization is hosting study tours to the UN this summer and she is organizing lectures and workshops to coincide with these tours.

In close consultation with WFUNA and UNA-USA, the UN-Department of Public Information has organized a Model UN task force. Pera Wells, Fruzsina Molnar and Erin recently met with Kiyotaka Akasaka, Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information, Eric Falt, Director of the Outreach Division, representatives from UNA-USA and several members of DPI to discuss the possibility of the UN convening a global Model UN Conference at the United Nations. The task force will disseminate information about existing Model UNs and help to develop new ones by collaborating with WFUNA, UNAs and United Nations Information Centers. They will create a website that lists every Model UN in the world, provides lessons plans for educators and guidelines for creating a Model UN.