



PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT

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Tübingen in the National Model United Nations

Experience no classroom can offer

Stepping out of the classroom and into the real world of international conference diplomacy-this is what the Tübingen National Model United Nations 2006 (NMUN) delegation has in mind. Together with the internationally renowned political scientist, Dr. Volker Rittberger, a group of twenty-five students will take part in the world's largest United Nations simulation from April 10-15, 2006. There, they have been asked to represent Sweden and its foreign policy in the United Nations. Before arriving in New York, however, students from Baden Württemberg and beyond will gather on March 11th and 12th for the Highlight of the NMUN Season: the Tübingen Model United Nations.

Professional diplomacy is the cornerstone of NMUN. That's why the multinational Tübingen delegation has been pushing out UN resolutions, international contracts and official announcements of the Swedish government since October of last year. Participant Hanna Scheck notes: "Swedish foreign policy is known for its active role in human rights and international development aid. It would like to see these goals implemented on a multilateral basis and advocates the long-term strengthening of the United Nations to these ends. This is what we want to get across in New York."

There is, however, still much work to be done before the first big conference day in New York: in excess of the numerous training sessions which often stretch over many days, the students will be spending the rest of their time refining their position papers in which they set forth a concentrated Swedish perspective on the agenda topics covered in New York. For further preparation, the delegation will travel to the Foreign Office and the Swedish Embassy in Berlin on the January 26th as well. "There we'll learn things that no classroom can teach us", said Raid Gharib, who will speak before the UN General Assembly for both Sweden and Tübingen. "The fact alone that all of the preparation and the conference itself is conducted in English, brings us a new experience. We also learn how to put ourselves in the shoes of other cultures and interests during negotiations."

Tübingen's participation in NMUN holds a long tradition. In fact, this year marks the 10th year that a Tübingen delegation, consisting mainly of political science students, will travel to the city that never sleeps. Director and professor Dr. Volker Rittberger comments: "The current delegation is something quite special- it's the most international group that we've ever had. Roughly half the participants have come to us from abroad- from Australia, New Zealand, Switzerland, Syria, the US and Cyprus. In this sense, our project is truly representative of the internationalization of the university environment."

Two students in particular are faced with a special task this year: Kristen Heim and Jana Warkotsch will sit in for Japan in the UN Security Council. This will surely prove to be a challenge, as those in the Security Council are traditionally confronted with a surprise crisis scenario.

The National Model United Nations will take place from the April 10-15, 2006 in the main quarters of the United Nations on the East River and in the Marriott Marquis Hotel on Times Square.

Reporting possibilities

The main trial run for the New York experience is the Tübingen Model United Nations (TMUN). This simulation is the precursor to the big New York conference. Students from all of Baden-Württemberg will participate and it will be organized by the Tübingen NMUN delegation. Taking place on the March 11-12, 2006 in the university building located on Wilhelmstraße 19, TMUN offers a great opportunity to come into contact with the participants while in their element. TMUN will begin promptly on March 11th at 9:30 a.m.. The last internal Tübingen training simulation will take place on February 26th at 10 a.m. at the same location. Visitors from the press are warmly welcomed here as well.

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