

10th of December, 2015

Hamburg Model UN International Conference, Germany 2015: Report

The University of Haifa Model UN society have been blessed with the chance to visit the city of Hamburg and take part in the international MUN conference in the University of Hamburg between the 1st and the 7th of December, 2015. This has been a unique experience since the delegation had the chance to take part in a world class conference; had the chance to be interviewed by the Hamburg Abendblatt, one of the biggest newspapers in Germany; take part in a discussion panel celebrating 50 years of diplomatic relationship between Germany and Israel and more. Besides the unique experience, the delegation grossed four awards in the conference: best delegate award, best position paper award, the most distinguished delegate award and an honorable mention.

On behalf of the students of the delegation and the whole society, and although it can't be summarized in a short report, I would like to take the chance in this report and stress our gratitude to the German Friends of the University of Haifa for their kind hospitality and for making this, and many more, possible.

Below is how this experience is told from some of the students' point of view.

Saleem F. Bisharat

This is actually my first visit to Hamburg and to Germany, but surely not the last; and arriving to Hamburg in December in the Christmas season made it our visit even merrier. Having the chance to be interviewed in the Hamburg Abendblatt and being invited to take part in a discussion panel by the German Friends of the University of Haifa were perhaps one of the most amazing experiences I have done lately.

Then there was the MUN conference at the University of Hamburg. A 4-days conference on an international level. I had the chance to take part in an advanced United Nations Security Council simulation trying to find solutions to the threats for the global peace and security. I also had the honor to be awarded the Best Position Paper award in my committee, being 1 of the members of our delegations to win an award.

After all, this will be one of the most remarkable experiences we will ever have, on the MUN level and on the personal Level.

Mor Beer

The delegation to Hamburg was the most rewarding journey I have yet to experience. We flew as a delegation representing the University of Haifa Model United Nations society at the conference at the University of Hamburg. The conference was four intensive days in which we debated and solved current political disputes. I was part of the "African Union" – representing Egypt. In Model UN, in order to properly represent the country, you have to fully understand the fundamental essence of its mentality, and understand why the country acts and takes its decisions. When you are able to see the world from the eyes of the country you represent, it helps you understand how conflict management and decision making works in the international political system. Representing Egypt, a neighboring country to Israel and in light of the complex situation in the past years was challenging and interesting.

In addition I was honored to take part of the "Bridging the Gap – The Future and the Past" Dialogue at the Thalia Theater, there I met fascinating people and had the amazing opportunity to speak honoring the 50 years of diplomatic relations of Israel and Germany. This subject is very close to my heart, since I am a second generation to holocaust survivors and my grandfather was forced to escape Germany and his home at the age of 11, at 1938.

For this experience I am truly grateful.

Juan Najjar

One year ago Model United Nations became a huge part in my life, where I started to participate in different Conferences inside and outside the country. Hamburg Model United Nations is one of the best experiences I had, it wasn't my first time to Germany and defiantly not the last. We had a 4 days conference inside Hamburg University where I had the chance to meet people from different backgrounds, ideas and thoughts. I participated in the Human Rights Council where we discussed, shared and solved the world's most important issues such as women's education and censorship.

HamMUN did not only give me the academic experience nor the opportunity to meet new people but it gave me the motivation and the power to continue my career, moreover I was honored to win the most distinguished delegate in my committee which made my experience much more priceless.

Tal Horovicz

There is so much to say about the HamMUN experience. As the German representative in the Economic and Social Council I got the honor to discuss policies on the disappearing indigenous people and cultures and also the economic situation in Palestine and Israel. It is very obvious that I played an important role in regards to the International economic points of view and also in the Israeli-Palestinian dispute

which is a subject very much close to my heart. Even though I didn't get an award I felt my contribution was to the finest degree and I also feel very proud to be a part of this amazing MUN society and with this specific delegation that had an outstanding combination of different points of view.

In addition I would like to say that as a first time visitor to Germany I felt very welcome and I had an exceptional experience as I got to discuss my stands on issues and to hear the opinions of fellow German MUNers. To sum this up, visiting Hamburg had been an enlightening and meaningful experience.

Ben Shay

Before I will share my experience of HanMUN, I like to thanks the University of Haifa and the HaiMUN society for making it possible for me to participate and take part of this wonderful experience.

The experience I had, had a lot of first experiences inside of it. It was my first MUN experience, feeling a bit worried that I wasn't ready enough and that I could not prove myself as the right choice. But Soon I found out that to the most of the people in my committee it was a first MUN as well. That enabled me to really learn the rules of MUN and enjoy the committee.

My committee, DISEC dealt with the topics of new weapon technology trade and the use of drone. Discussing such a topic, led to the understanding that things are much more complicated then we like to think. Choosing one side or one policy is not that simple.

It was also my first time in Germany. I discovered the generosity and kindness of the germen people, not only in the HamMUN but also in the streets of Hamburg. As decadent to holocaust survivors I felt I was bridging the horrible past with the better future, living the new age of the relationship between the German and the Jewish people.

Add to that, the people I shared this experience with. The diversity and quality of people was substantial. European, South America, Israeli-Arab, Israeli-Jewish. I learned from each of them not only about MUN but how they see life in Israel and the world.

I feel that this MUN experience, although it's my first, had taught me a great deal of things and gave meaningful tool to continue bridging gaps also within Israel.

Daniel Torban

Being selected to travel abroad in a delegation from the university is undoubtedly an experience that almost every student would like to have, especially if this travel is to Germany, the new fetish of the Israeli youth. Nevertheless, the stay in Hamburg and the MUN experience carry a much deeper meaning for those that were part of it, and, in my case, as a new immigrant to Israel, this week had an even more special importance in the moment that I'm living.

On an individual perspective, the trip gave me an opportunity to meet people from different groups within the Israeli society, practice my Hebrew and, for a week, no more be consider the Brazilian in the Israeli society, to indeed be considered an Israeli, representing my new country, the University of Haifa and our MUN society. On a group level, the stay in Hamburg provided us with a unique academic experience. From the books and lectures in class to actual practice of diplomacy, being players on the political arena, in a high level international conference with students from all over the world. In my case, instead of being in a regular MUN committee, I had the honor of being accepted to an expert joint cabinet crisis, in which I had a position in a Mexican cartel, having to deal with a rival cartel, the U.S. and Mexican governments. In the end, not just my cartel got the prize of the best cabinet, but I got the best delegate prize, which helped turning this cold week into warm and pleasant memories and learnings.

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