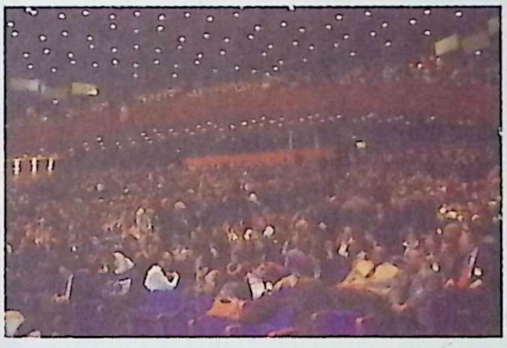
IUBians in WorldMUN 2009

Rubayat Khan & Md. Touhidul Imran Chowdhury

"...Model United Nations will help you become the models the world needs to fulfill the ideals of this indispensable organization" a message to the Harvard WorldMUN'09 by **Ban Ki-moon**, Secretary General, United Nations





As we stepped into the Grand Hall of the World Forum in The Hague, The Netherlands on the evening of March 22 for the opening ceremony, it felt as though we were entering a dream. We wondrously reminisced the day about six months back, when we dared to think for the first time about participating. And now, here we were, two ambassadors from the first Bangladeshi university to be independently represented at the Harvard World Model United Nations (WorldMUN) 2009.

Even before we came here, we knew we were about to have the experience of a lifetime. At the registration held in the Atrium (City Hall) of The Hague earlier that day, we learned that there would be about 2500 delegates in this year's WorldMUN, much more than ever before in its 18 years of history. The ambience of the conference was set even earlier though. Facebook was used extensively to establish network among committee colleagues months ahead of the conference. At the registration, as the queue moved along slowly, students from Lebanon introduced themselves to students of Germany and students from the UK shared their first impressions of The Hague with colleagues from Venezuela.

In the Grand Hall flags were being waved, chants were being shouted, people of all different colours and languages were filling the gallery - it seemed that the entire world's youth had gathered here for a grand carnival. There were delegates from 275 universities of 53 countries and five continents.

The Inaugural Ceremony itself was a blast. Dignitaries like the Mayor of The Hague and a past Prime Minister of The Netherlands delivered their addresses, as did the President of the Host Committee and the Secretary General of Harvard Model UN Secretariat. After the valuable speeches from the prominent leaders, amidst a colorful procession of the flags of 193 countries of the UN, the conference was declared open. We could barely contain our excitement as we pondered on the kind of experience awaiting us for the next five days.

To say the least, we were not disappointed. The next five days were packed with exciting committee sessions, behind-the-scenes diplomacy, NGO workshops, in-conference visits and nightly social events and parties (opportunities for even more "informal" diplomacy)! A special highlight was the Global Village, an incredibly colorful cultural festival where all the countries were hosting stalls with traditional clothes, artifacts, food and drinks.

Notice

Recognizing the significant role of mothers, Star Campus will be dedicating its 10th May issue on International Mothers Day. Share with us your opinion on how your mother has influenced you to be the person you are today. Send us a short article along with some photographs on or before 4th May to starcampus@gmail.com