



Lehigh University Partnerships with the United Nations (UN) and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)

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Objective:

To serve as NGO delegates representing those NGOs outside of the country who lack formal and regular presence at the UN. We serve as liaisons between the NGO and the UN, providing essential feedback to the NGO while gaining valuable educational experience.

Background:

Non-governmental organizations are non-profit, voluntary citizens' groups who perform service and humanitarian functions to:

- Bring citizen concerns to governments
- Advocate and monitor policies
- Encourage political participation through provision of information
- Provide analysis and expertise to serve as early warning mechanisms
- Help monitor and implement international agreements



Delegate Process:

Identified possible NGOs that lack regular representation at the UN

- Created:
 - Contact letter
 - Confirmation letter describing our proposal
- Established relationships with specific NGOs
- Went to the UN on behalf of our specific NGOs
 - Attended Briefings
 - Wrote Reports
 - Created a blog related to our representation
 - Networked for our NGOs
 - Raised awareness
 - Provided representation at conferences



Result:

First students in the world to serve as delegate proxies to UN NGOs

Youth Challenge: Singapore

Goals are to:

- Empower youths by creating opportunities for them to grow into compassionate, competent and socially responsible leaders of local and global communities.
- Encourage youth participation in gainful activities and public discourse
- Promote youth partnership with humanitarian programs in the advancement of international sustainable development.
- Groom youths into visionary leaders through education, training and exposure.



Chernobyl Children's Project International: Ireland/USA

Goals are to:

- Help families and children affected by the Chernobyl nuclear disaster of 1986 through medical and community development projects
- Build hospitals
- Train doctors
- Provide medical supplies
- Develop foster care programs
- Create video documentaries to raise awareness



Chernobyl Children's Project International "Children Make a Difference To Live"

Jigyansu Tribal Research Centre: India

Goals are to:

- Conduct research on tribal welfare and acculturation of Indian tribes in order to bring the tribal population into the periphery of national development
- Undertake projects on capacity building of tribal women and youth in income generating activities like agriculture, nutrition, dairy, fishery, poultry farming and empowerment activities like health and family planning, social justice and self governance in order to enable them to take their share in national development

Tarumitra: India

Goals are to:

- Spread ecological sensitivity
- Equip its members with skills in handling local environmental problems
- Organize campaigns for the preservation of bio-diversity
- Promote a spirituality and a world view that is earth friendly



Conclusions and Sustainability:

- Created lasting connections with the NGOs listed above
- Set-up connection with Secretariado Nacional De Instituciones Privadas De Bienestar Social
- Created application process for future Lehigh NGO representatives
- Acquired funding for participation
- Founded Lehigh University/United Nations Non-Governmental Organization Executive Board Committee