The Daily Bread

Who are we?

The Daily Bread believes in the importance and preponderance of social and political stability and the acceptance of religious and moral relativities, and seeks to eliminate ambiguity and dissent while establishing a cognitive closure to controversial issues. We support and believe that the greater understanding of different countries and cultures achieved by Model ASEM allows for greater acceptance of varying political, economical and cultural policies in place in different nations.

What is Model ASEM?

The name really says it all - it is a simulation of the biennial Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM). The future lies in our youth; greater dialogue and communication can be achieved when youths of different cultures and from different countries come and work together, this promotes a greater understanding between them.

This year’s Model ASEM at Le Havre has promised more than just academic rigour and political debate:

In addition to a whole new repertoire of oral presentation and debating skills; fresh perspectives, a knowledge of the French “savoir-faire”, European culture in general, and many new international friends.

Model ASEM 2009 commences

Participants were welcomed this morning at the prestigious Sciences Po Paris by the wise words of Hervé Crès, Deputy Director of Sciences Po, and Françoise Melloni. They began with the story of the founding of Sciences Po. In 1871, after the downfall of the Second French Empire of Napoleon III, a group of intellectuals saw the need for a new political elite in public and international affairs and set about creating such an elite through Sciences Po. Today, this is an ideal location to host Model ASEM given its great history of producing decision makers. Participants, still “very petit”, were also advised to enter Sciences Po after their current studies.

This was followed by an inspiring speech by Wei Shen from Asefuan, a group of young leaders from ASEM. He noted the interesting fact that the meeting is held in Europe 20 years after the fall of the Berlin Wall and
further pointed out the uniqueness of Le Havre which was completely bombed in WWII and subsequently rebuilt. This parallels what Model ASEM is all about: building up. In our case, however, it is the building of relationships and common understanding rather than physical construction.

Finally, Franziska Zei- ner gave an honest and warm welcome and encouraged the participants to network and have fun. “I believe in it [Model ASEM], and we believe in you”, she enthused.

The British Council

The daily dose of inspiration came in the form of the dinner reception at the British Council, which warmly welcomed our 70 international participants with engaging talks and delightful refreshments. Model ASEM is an “exchange of knowledge and ideas between countries” and about “identifying and bringing together young people with vision”, Jim Hollington, Deputy Director of the British Council in Paris, put forth, setting the ground for a short and compelling presentation of Global Changemak- ers. Changemakers are youths who are social activists, voicing the needs of the community and serving in any place and any way they can. “The world needs change, and youths are creating that change” and “when you are a changemaker, you feel that anything is possible” are maxims that guide and motivate these young changemakers. Yet, while encouraging youth participation is commendable, it is also essential that youths are also taught to remain pragmatic and realistic.

Paris, Je t’aime

Perhaps the most remarkable event of the day was the city tours of Paris, which were, though tiring, worthwhile. For many it was the first experience of France, for others it was a revisit, made memorable because of the people they met and spent the day with.

Krystle led a group to Musée D’Orsay, while those heading to Versailles had Mme Guillouet as their tour guide. Others flocked after Daniel to the Eiffel tower. He enjoyed the attention and to be honest, it perfectly suited him.

Since words can never do Paris justice, we advise you to take a moment and look at these pictures from Daniel’s tour.

Quote of the day

We need you, we need your youth, your strength, and your idealism, to help us make right what is wrong.

Ronald Reagan.