

Model Global Parliament program

The 2018 Sydney MGP took place in the Legislative Assembly on Friday September 28. Attendances were very low, only about a dozen MPs showed up on the day. We will have to do much better at recruiting next year.

Nevertheless, I believe all our participants thoroughly enjoyed their day. Our invited speakers were excellent. We heard about two major Australian initiatives in the field of global peacebuilding. Darren Lewis talked about the Global Peace Index, which was compiled by the Institute for Economics and Peace, founded right here in Sydney by Steve Killelea; and Gem Romuld talked about the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, pioneered by ICAN, which won the Nobel Peace Prize for its work last year, and was founded in Melbourne some years ago. Our MPs were thrilled to have their pictures taken with the Nobel Prize medal on the day. Other speakers included Pera Wells, founder of the program, who talked about the need for a global parliament, and the possibility it could be established right here in Australia! Zeny Edwards talked about the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, while I gave an overview of our project on a World Security Community of democratic nations.

It struck me that Australians are making a real impact on the movement for peace worldwide, which we can be enormously proud of. First of all, obviously, is the Nobel Peace Prize awarded to ICAN for its amazing efforts towards nuclear disarmament; and secondly, the creation of the Global Peace Index by Steve Killelea and his team, which I see quoted everywhere in the peace literature these days.

Our committee this year included Daryl, myself, Rada, Pera, Zeny Edwards, Paul Neeraj and four young people, Henry Chen, Joyce Chen, Luiz Bispo, Nayonika Bhattacharya, and Perkins Lui. Unfortunately neither Nayonika nor Joyce could be present at the event itself, so were a bit short-handed. Our ‘permanent’ committee from last year vanished from this year’s event.

Zeny Edwards has volunteered to act as Director for the 2019 Sydney MGP, and promises to reinvigorate the event entirely! We wish her all good luck in that enterprise.

Chris Hamer