

WFM/IGP Congress 11-12 November 2023 via Zoom

World Citizens Association of Australia (WCAA)

Report

(WCAA is an AO of the WFM-IGP)

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Report of activities since last Congress

1. Community Outreach – the IGPSG

Zeny Edwards, our Vice-President for Community Engagement, has taken over the role of President of our affiliated organization the Institute for Global Peace and Sustainable Governance (IGPSG), and is making it somewhat more independent of the WCAA, and focused a little more on community engagement. Her drive and energy are great assets to our cause, and have attracted an active group of young people to assist her. The IGPSG has organized a number of community engagement events over the past two years, including several involving the Filipino community in Australia.

2. Model Global Parliament

The organization of this important event has been taken over by Zeny Edwards and the IGPSG. After a hiatus of several years, A seventh Model Global Parliament was held in the New South Wales Parliament House on 9th September 2022. This year, a schools-based MGP was organized by Rayaan Nabi and friends at Unity Grammar on 25 May 2023. Overall, the MGP was a huge success judging from the feedback from the attendees, teachers and school executives, who were all eager to participate in the next MGP. Mayor Ned Mannoun has indicated further engagement with IGPSG regarding future events in partnership with his local government. Guest speaker James Arvanitakis also responded with continued engagement and participation with IGPSG and its educational programmes.

Schools represented were: Unity Grammar (Russia, India): Malek Fahd Islamic School, Hoxton Park (UNASUR); Amity College (Australia); Hurlestone Agricultural High School (Pacific Islands Forum); Malek Fahd Islamic School, Greenacre (China); Malek Fahd Islamic School, Beaumont Hills (ASEAN); Birrong Boys High School (USA).

3. Pacific Islands Community campaign

As part of our campaign for stronger governance at both the regional and global levels, we have been campaigning for an upgrade of the Pacific Islands Forum to a Pacific Islands Community, following the European template.

The parliamentary Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade called for submissions to inquiries they were holding on aspects of the government 'step up' program. PeraWells and Chris Hamer made submissions to two of these inquiries, the first one on '*Australia's Defence relationships with Pacific Island nations*', and the second on '*Strengthening Australia's relationships with countries in the Pacific region*',

The final report of the Defence inquiry appeared in April 2021, and may be found [here](#). Our main arguments in the Defence submission were for a Pacific Islands Maritime Patrol, and a Pacific Islands Regiment, as components of a new regional organization, a Pacific Islands Community. Our submission may be viewed [here](#).

The DFAT report appeared at the end of March 2022. Our submission may be viewed [here](#). The report was published on the Committee's website and is now available to view or print at

https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Joint/Foreign_Affairs_Defence_and_Trade/PacificRelationships/Report

4. Education Project

Our Director of Education, Daryl Le Cornu, has been working on ways to support teachers and students doing 'The Nuclear Age' and 'World Order' options as their last topic in Year 12 for Modern History and Legal Studies. Both have substantial content on the nuclear threat, past and present, and measures to deal with it. This ties in with his education role in ICAN as well.

He is planning a website for 'The Nuclear Age' as a 'one-stop-shop' for anyone teaching or studying this topic. The idea of 'future focused history', inspired by the recent book by US-based Mike Maxwell, could be a unifying theme for lectures that we might have on our website.

5. Bangladesh Aid Project

To demonstrate our solidarity as world citizens with less developed nations, we have undertaken an aid project for the relief of flood victims in northern Bangladesh, led by our Vice-President Wali Islam. Progress here has been largely stalled by COVID, but a considerable sum has been channeled through our Aid Project fund over the years, in particular towards the establishment and operations of a primary school for the children of flood victims in the area. Wali has recently been working on sending approximately 20,000 books in a container to establish a community library and resource centre in Dhaka. A big new project for the future is to establish a vocational education centre in the region.