

Collaboration between Naresuan University and The College of Idaho (NMUN Japan)

The Faculty of Social Sciences (FSS), Naresuan University (NU) envisions becoming a Vital Social Engine, making Social Impact, and achieving a Sustainable Glocal Society. Foremost to this vision is to guide our students to be "Global Citizens." Our participation at the National Model United Nations (NMUN) Japan-Kobe is a huge step toward this vision, especially in advancing our students' understanding of the United Nations, international relations, diplomacy, and contemporary global issues. More importantly, it gave us opportunities to create networks, connections, and impactful international partnerships, particularly with the College of Idaho.

Freshly established by the FSS, the Naresuan University-Model United Nations' (NU-MUN) goals and ambitions for its members were accelerated and drastically achieved with the great, friendly, and all-out support from the College of Idaho, especially Dr. Robert Dayley. He dedicated his precious time, since day one, to help us build a formidable club to represent Thailand at the NMUN conference (5 months). Also, his well-trained students continuously encouraged and gave insightful advice before and during the NMUN conference in Japan.

We cherish beyond expectations the experience from our first MUN trip, the NMUN Japan-Kobe. For our students, this was their first trip abroad and working with people from other nationalities. They developed a deeper understanding of current global issues and improved critical thinking; strengthened their diplomacy skills and creative ideas in offering solutions to contemporary international problems; improved their researching, public speaking, debating, and writing skills (in addition to critical thinking, teamwork, and leadership abilities); and improved their international exposure through interactions and sharing experiences with delegates across the world in person.

Furthermore, apart from the NMUN, the collaboration between the two institutions benefits our students in many ways:

- It allows students to exchange knowledge, ideas, and experiences to identify and develop an appreciation for different perspectives on issues.
- It enables students to value diversity, be aware of cultural differences, and learn to respect others' needs and feelings and share their own appropriately.
- It helps students develop an awareness of and take responsibility for their societies by working independently and collaboratively to benefit others, their community, and the world. Essentially making them advocates to bring about positive change.

Finally, the collaboration between Naresuan University and the College of Idaho will be an invaluable inspiration for our university's next generation of students. Our trip has encouraged teachers and students to get out of their comfort zones and participate in international and global activities. Our achievement in Japan exemplifies a local university creating social impact in the global forum. We treasure this remarkable collaboration between our institutions: a significant initiation, a sign of hope, and a positive change for Thai education and society.

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