



## MONASH INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS SOCIETY

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### MONASH BREAKING BARRIERS AT AMUNC 2013



The Monash Delegation enjoying a well-earned break as well as some team bonding over dinner in Wellington (Photo courtesy of Dean Williams).

From the 7<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> of July, eight delegates and one director braved the windy chills of New Zealand to represent Monash at the 2013 Asia-Pacific Model UN Conference held in the capital, Wellington.

The Opening Ceremony set the tone for a high quality conference with a rich display of Maori culture and impressive keynote speakers, including former Prime Minister of New Zealand Geoffrey Palmer. From there, it was an intense week of debating, negotiating, resolution writing and of course, socials; all of which gave delegates the chance to form friendships and networks with other like-minded and high-achieving students from across the region.

All Monash delegates were highly influential in their committees with the official AMUNC press corps constantly relaying their words and actions to the Twitter world. To my surprise, I was even re-tweeted by an official UN News Twitter feed!

Of the final resolutions passed, three were drafted by Monash delegates:

- Nhien Dinh, delegate for Brazil in the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)
- Tom Hvala, delegate for Lebanon in the 6<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (GA6: Legal)
- Michelle Cohen, delegate for Spain in the 19<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties (COP19)

Special congratulations to **Nhien Dinh** and **Tom Hvala** who both received honourable mentions for their outstanding contributions to shaping discussion within their respective committees.

Outside of committee sessions, the Conference's goal of *Breaking Barriers* was achieved through a variety of events. Students were treated to world-class speaker panels in diverse fields from the Syrian Crisis to the constitutional recognition of Indigenous people. We were further honoured to be addressed by Dr. John Ashe, the Ambassador to the UN for Antigua and Barbuda and the current President of the UN General Assembly, at the Closing Ceremony.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank and congratulate all of the Monash delegation on a wonderful conference, as well as those who did not travel to Wellington but helped us prepare. I would also strongly urge all Monash students to participate in future MUNs as a mechanism to improve your skills in problem solving, public speaking, legal writing and negotiation – not to mention that it's actually really fun!

Written By: Regina Lee

Monash Head Delegate to AMUNC 2013

Delegate for Brazil in COP19

