



January - March 2008

# IFUNA *news*

Quarterly Magazine of Indian Federation of United Nations Associations



**‘WE<sub>the</sub> PEOPLES,’**

World Federation of United Nations Associations

a peoples'  
**MOVEMENT**  
in SUPPORT of the  
**UNITED NATIONS**



# MAHARASHTRA UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION (MUNA)

Report by: A. A. Syed, Secretary General (MUNA)

## UN DAY

**T**he Maharashtra United Nations Association – MUNA celebrated UN Day 2007 in Mumbai on Saturday 3 November 2007.

The function was held at magnificent Darbar Hall of Raj Bhawan. His Excellency Mr. S.M. Krishna, Governor of Maharashtra and Hon. Patron of MUNA was the Chief Guest on that evening.

The programme was flagged off by an Audio Visual presentation by Ms. Ami Goradia, who was the compare. It featured the “Evolution of United Nations” from First World War to League of Nations and to Second World War and finally formation of UN with the vision to achieve global peace and development.

The Visual presentation also gave historical background and the struggling role played by the UN in peace keeping process.

Ms. Pheroza Godrej, President MUNA welcomed the guests and further in continuation of presentation said that today we should reaffirm the commitments and ideals spoken about peace. She also read out the message of UN Secretary General and recalled the values given by Mahatma Gandhi for Non-Violence.

Ms. Mohini Mathur, Executive Chairperson MUNA, gave brief history and activities of MUNA. She also explained and emphasized the objective of MUNA, since its origin. MUNA had promoted brotherhood



UN Day 2007 held at Raj Bhavan on 3rd November 2007 at Mumbai  
L to R Mr. Gopi Nath; T. Menon, State Representative of UNICEF; Mr. Walter Stechak, Council General of Germany; Mrs. Pheroza J. Godrej; H.E. Mr. S. M. Krishna, Governor of Maharashtra; Mrs. Mohini Mathur; Ms. Vicki Treadell, Dy High Commissioner of UK; and Mr. A.A. Syed



UN Day 2007 held at Raj Bhavan on 3rd November 2007 at Mumbai  
Photo of Audience

and is creating awareness among people about the broader objective of UN.

The distinguish guest speakers on the dias were Mrs. Vicky Treadell, British Deputy High

Commissioner, UK, Mr. Gopinath T.Menon, State Representative UNICEF, and Mr. Walter Stechel, Consul General, Federal Republic of Germany. They highlighted the role of UN and international situations with statistics of different countries



worldwide, which were very informative.

His Excellency Mr. S.M Krishna, Governor of Maharashtra addressed the gathering, which was very informative and appreciated by everyone. He stated in his address that the UN Day should be observed in all the colleges and schools like other days are celebrated and being observed. His Excellency also appreciated and congratulated MUNA on its effective functioning.

At the end, Vote of thanks was given Mr. A.A Syed, Secretary General, MUNA, he thanked all the guests on and off the dias, diplomats corps, people from judiciary, academia, media lawyers, doctors, print and electronic media the youth of different colleges and other elites of the city.

A grand HI-TEA party was hosted by Mrs. Pheroza J. Godrej on the well-manicured lawns of Raj Bhawan.

## HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

The Maharashtra United Nations Association observed World Human Rights Day on 17 December 2007, at the magnificent Hall of D.G Ruparel College of Arts, Science and Commerce, Matunga Mumbai.

The programme was flagged off by inaugurating the eight posters of Millennium Development Goals by UN to be achieved by 2015. The audiences comprised of youth from 40 different colleges and schools of Mumbai city.

After lighting the traditional lamp, Dr. Pradeep Kulkarni, Principal of Ruparel College gave welcome



Human Rights Day Observance

From L Mr. Vikas Pandey, Mr. Ashraf Ahmed Shaikh, Ms. Rajvi Mehta, Mr. Juzer Tambawala, Principal Dr. Pradeep Kulkarni, Mr. M. R. Mirzaei, Ms. Pheroza J. Godrej, Mr. Gul Hussain Ahmadi, Ms. Mohini Mathur, Mr. Lakshitha Ratnayake, Mr. A. A. Syed, Mrs. A. A. Toke, Mr. Arjun Madhavan, and Iranian Student Delegate



Human Rights Day Observance

Ms. Rajvi Mehta offering flowers and felicitating Mrs. Pheroza J. Godrej, President MUNA

address. He informed all about the historic developments and achievements of the college and young students. Mrs. A.A. Toke Vice Principal read out the Secretary General of UN Mr. Ban - Ki - Moon's message on Human Rights Day.

Executive Chairperson of MUNA, Ms. Mohini Mathur spoke on Human Rights(Rights and Responsibilities). Mr. M.R Mirzaei, Director Iran Culture House gave an insight of Iran and the Human Rights situation.



Mr. Lakshitha Ratnayake, Consul Sri Lanka, spoke on United Nations and Human Rights. Mr. Gul Hussain Ahmadi, Consul General of Afghanistan shared Human Rights situation in Afghanistan and gave useful information about education, universities, culture and trade in Afghanistan.

Mr. A.A Syed, Secretary General, MUNA enlightened the students on the topic of Human Rights in International Law; He emphasized the rights given by various international documents, rights of states and individuals in International Law.

President of MUNA Mrs. Pheroza j. Godrej presided over the function. In her presidential address she motivated the youth by congratulating them in taking interest in the international affairs and their key role in changing scenario of MUNA and IFUNA.

The programme was compered by the Mr. Ashraf Ahmed Shaikh, the youth member of MUNA and concluded by the Vote of Thanks by Mr. Arjun Madhavan, student of Ruparel College.

## MODEL UNITED NATIONS

**In continuation to Model UN Conference of Asia and Pacific organised by WFUNA & IFUNA in New Delhi, February 2006**

**M**onday, the seventeenth December 2007, spelt a new dawn for Mumbai youth as MUNA in association with D.G Ruparel College hosted its first inaugural Model United Nations. (R - MUN - 07).

The three days Model United



From left: Mr. Ashraf Ahmed Shaikh, Mr. A. A. Syed, Mrs. A. A. Toke, Mr. Juzer Tambawala, Ms. Rajvi Mehta, and Dr. Rekha Bhatkhande. At the closing ceremony of R-MUN-07 on 19th December 2007 at D. G. Ruparel College, Mumbai



Student Delegates (Participants) from various colleges of Mumbai

Nations was entirely organized by the college youth. This Model United Nations got huge response from different colleges and schools of Mumbai within short span of time. The young student on the secretariat had taken care of food, conference, venue, discipline and other arrangements including the budget

on their own during the entire event.

There were three committees 1. Model Security Council, 2. Model General Assembly and 3. Model Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

The student delegates from different colleges have registered



themselves for each of the above committees for three days as per their choice.

The topics for discussion were,  
1. The Indo-Pakistan issue in the Model Security Council. 2. Israel – Palestine Crises in the Model General Assembly and 3. Human Trafficking and Refugee Crises for Economic and Security Council (ECOSOC).

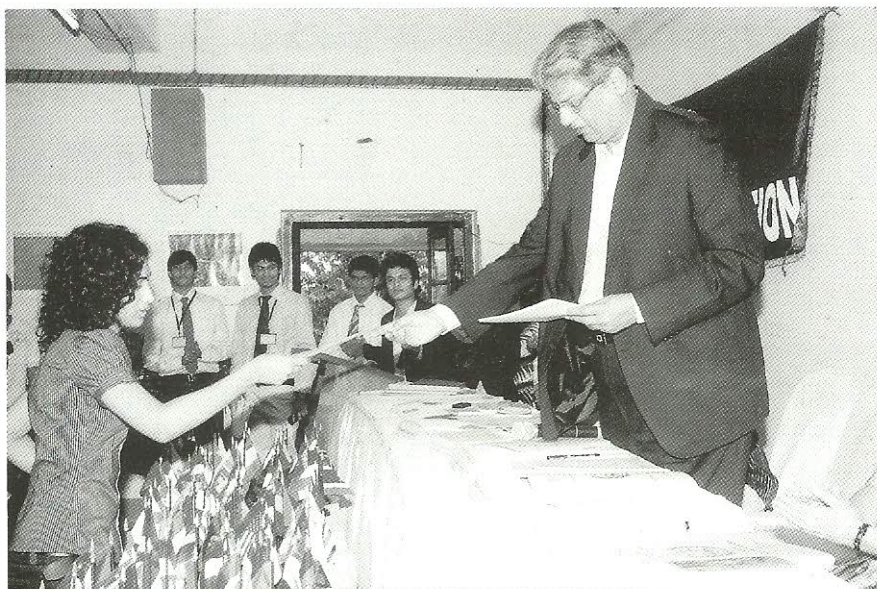
All the student delegates participated in the discussion enthusiastically. The organizer had prepared the study guide for all the above subjects to facilitate the participants in their preparation and was posted on the R- MUN website beforehand. Near about 40 colleges and IB schools participated in the R- MUN 07.

Ms. Rajvi Mehta the Secretary General of R- MUN 07, a 16 year FYJC student of Ruparel College chaired the General Assembly. Mr. Juzer Tambawala Co – Secretary General R- MUN 07 chaired Security Council and another student of Ruparel, Ritvik Chavan chaired the ECOSOC.

The youth members had also formed a press committee to report about the proceedings and outcome of the Model United Nations for all three days.

This three days Model UN got wide publicity both in print as well as electronic media, thanks to Star News, Lok Satta, Navbharat and Yuva News Papers.

The last day i.e. on 19 December 2007 in the evening the student delegates were awarded with the specially designed



Principal Dr. Pradeep Kulkarni of Ruparel College awarding certificate to the Student Delegate Participant for Model United Nations.

certificates signed by Principal of Ruparel, Youth Secretariat and MUNA office bearers. Also the best speaker best delegate in Model UN were declared and awarded by the hands of Mr. A.A. Syed Secretary General of MUNA, Dr. Pradeep Kulkarni- Principal Ruparel College and special guest Dr. Rekha Bhatkhande.

Mr. Ashraf Ahmed Shaikh of MUNA was the Organising Chairman and Advisor of R- MUN 07 i.e. Model UN. Who coordinated between various departments and helped the secretariat in the organization.

Ms. Pheroza J. Godrej, President, Ms. Mohini Mathur Executive Chairperson and Mr. A.A. Syed, the Secretary General of MUNA provided their expertise and experience to the youth organizers in organizing this mega event Mumbai has ever witnessed.

United Nations Information Centre, New Delhi deserves the special thanks for their support by

sending the posters, literature and useful books which were displayed in the committee rooms and were also distributed to the student delegates.

The theme for the three days Model UN was **"Global Concern for Global Solutions"**, as discussed in the above committees. This Model United Nations has resulted in reshaping the young minds to think and focus on various issues and to work collectively towards various international as well local issues rather than conflicting on it.

After seeing the success, all the delegates and distinguished guests requested the organizers to make this Model United Nations an annual event on regular basis.

Heartiest thanks to Dr. Pradeep Kulkarni, Principal of Ruparel College for allowing the student to take up this challenge and for his continuous support, guidance and encouragement.