Just prior to the 15th World Congress, IPPNW students convened for two days of student meetings. This was the students' second Pre-Congress, the first having taken place at the 2000 Paris Congress. The purpose of the Pre-Congress is to allow students the opportunity to address their governance issues as well as share with one another their projects and initiatives. Given growing student interest and participation, we have found such gatherings to be essential. Our Pre-congresses provide cohesion among existing student members and guidance for new members. Overall, they serve to strengthen our IPPNW student movement.

With growing student membership, we have found the need for stronger leadership and infrastructure. As such, we have re-instituted Regional Student Representatives. This body communicates regularly via email and meets once per year to address regionally specific issues and international initiatives. This year, the regional representatives' meeting took place the day prior to the Pre-Congress (April 30th) at which time they finalized details of the Pre-congress.

At this Pre-congress, we held introductory sessions, shared National projects, discussed current Global issues, and brainstormed on future activities.

**Student Participation:**
A total of ninety-two students participated in the 2002 Washington D.C. World Congress. Sixty-six attended both the student pre-congress and the Congress itself while the remaining twenty-six were only available for the latter.

**Countries Represented:**
Kenya (1) , Zambia (5) , El Salvador (2) , Costarica (2), India (1) , Pakistan (1) , Phillipines (1) ,Australia (1) , Egypt (2) , Morocco (1) , Japan (5) , Romania (1) , Sweden (3) , Finland (1) , Austria (1) , Denmark (1) , Estonia (2) , France (1) , Germany (4) ,Netherlands (2) ,Norway (4) ,Russia (2) , Yoguslavia (2) , Canada (1) ,United States (19)

**Student Participants who missed the Precongress:**
Canada (4) , USA (22)
Student Pre-Congress Program

Wednesday, May 1

8:00-9:00am  Registration and Check-in
9:00-9:30am  Welcome
   Ernest Guevarra and Caecelie Buhmann, Int’l Student Reps
   MaryWynne Ashford, IPPNW Co-President
   Allison Howard, IPPNW
   John Loretz, IPPNW
9:30-10:00am  A History of Student Involvement:
   Lee Francis MD and Jans Frommow Guerra MD
10:00-10:30am  Health Professionals and Students as Activists
   Victor W. Sidel, MD
10:30-10:45am  Break
10:45am-11:15pm  Nuclear Report
   Ira Helfand, MD and Lachlan Forrow, MD
11:15am-12:15pm  International Student Report
12:15pm-1:00pm  Lunch
1:00pm-4:00pm  Country Reports
4:00pm-4:15pm  Break
4:15pm-6:00pm  Working Groups
   A. Nuclear Weapons
      Richard Fristedt, Lachlan Forrow MD, & Herman Spanjaard MD
   B. Small Arms and Gun Violence
      Brian Rawson & Ernest Guevara
      Alvaro Guardado & Antonio Hernandez—El Salvador
      Annie Mwila—Zambia
      Jessica Scanlan & Rebecca Bruno—US
   C. Environment
      Ahmed Geneid, Ivona Iacob, & Janet Lai
   E. War and Immigration
      Stanislava Macura
   F. Peace Education
      Marieke Blokzijl and Wietske Ester
7:00pm-9:00pm  Dinner on the town (Dupont Circle)
9:00pm- Nighttime tour of Washington Monuments

Thursday, May 2

9:00-10:00am  September 11th and Middle East Discussion
   Moderated by Andrew Kanter, MD MPH
10:00-11:30am  Working Group Presentations
11:30- 11:40am  Break
11:40-12:15noon  International Student Representative Elections
12:15-1:00pm  Regional meetings and elections as necessary
1:00pm-2:00pm  Lunch on own
4:00pm  Capital Hill Rally
5:00pm  Capital Hill Reception
6:00pm  Dinner on the town (Georgetown)
8:00pm  Ethnic Night at GW University
Working Group Reports

A. Nuclear Weapons
   Richard Fristedt

B. Small Arms and Gun Violence
   Brian Rawson & Ernest Guevara
   Álvaro Guardado & Antonio Hernandez—El Salvador
   Annie Mwila—Zambia
   Jessica Scanlan & Rebecca Bruno—US

C. Environment
   Ahmed Geneid, Ivona Iacob, & Janet Lai

E. War and Immigration
   Stanislava Macura

F. Peace Education
   Marieke Blokzijl and Wietske Ester

The following reports are of some of the above mentioned workshops.

Nuclear Weapons Workshop, May 1, 2002:
By Richard Fristedt, workshop moderator & IPPNW European Student Representative

The workshop was based on the ongoing Students' Nuclear Weapon Inheritance Project. The Japanese students made a presentation on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Russian and French students presented some data from the questionnaires that have been collected from the student dialogues over the past year.

Since the project was started during the European Student meeting in Uppsala, May 2001, the focus was to engage students from other parts of the world with whom we hadn’t made contact yet, most importantly China, Japan and the U.S. Also we wanted to get feedback on the dialogues as a way to inform students on the nuclear weapons issue as well as how to further develop the questionnaire.

The general opinion was that this is a good way of reaching students in key countries. The plan of action as it looks now;

- American students are discussing a proposal by the Inheritance team, and also how to use the questionnaires to a greater extent
- Japanese student were willing to add their important knowledge on the impact of N.W. to the Inheritance project, possibly by participating in a dialogue. The Inheritance team is discussing to send delegates to a congress in Hiroshima on N.W.
- Further planning on the future student dialogues will take place in August together with the “IPPNW Dialogues with decision makers” planning.

To be able to continue the project we rely on the added participation of more IPPNW students. There were a lot of interested students in Washington, that wanted to learn a great deal more about these issues. A good way of doing this is joining this project, read up on the issues and they use that obtained knowledge to sow a seed in someone else’s mind.
Environment-student working group May 1st, 2002
By Ivona Iacob (IPPNW European Student Representative)

The workshop had 4 parts:

1) Ahmed Geneid presented a Power Point material: “Primer on International Environment and Health Politics” Send to us by Guadenz Silberschmidt (gs@isde.org) from the International Society of Doctors for the Environment-ISDE (www.isde.org).

This overview tried to show an introduction into the politics of environment and health. The main aim of this paper was to give an Who’s Who with links to where to find further information. (selection is based on subjective judgement.). The text focused on international and a few national organizations.

Main contents:
- **Introduction**: Defines some of the key words and concepts. Terminology is important because the same word may have different meanings and it can lead to misunderstandings.
  - Link environment-health --importance
  - Environment and Health: Definition and Classification
- **International System**: Gives an overview of the international system in general with special focus on those organizations relevant for environment and health (internet addresses and WebPages)
  - UN System. Other International Organizations and NGOS
- **Environment and Health** –Key Topics: discussion on specific aspects of environment. Gives an idea on where to start looking for information.
  - Environmental media
  - Health hazards
  - Activities
  - Place of occurrence
  - Vulnerable groups
  - Global change
  - Concepts
--The Who Euro Environment and Health Process

2) The PSR activities on environment and health

A member of the Central office in Washington DC answered a few questions on:
- what environment issues do the PSR approach:
  - Climate change and air pollution: “power plants”
  - Toxins (drinking water diseases—like Arsenic)
  - Persistent pollution: birth effects, asthma
--how the information is spread: newsletters, web site, educational sessions for doctors
--where they look for information: journals, literature ➔ there is a large committee that approves the materials

Janet Lai presented to the students the newest project on climate changing: "A promise to the Earth" (A commitment Campaign to Reduce Global Climate Change). It goes mainly about a personal commitment people are asked to make and do some small changes in their lives in order to decrease carbon dioxide emissions. We received a paper with this suggestions and how much each would reduce the Co2;

Conclusions so far:
The PSR has already experience in this field and is willing to help with suggestions and materials to come up with new projects, every one locally or all together internationally;

3) Every participant had the opportunity to explain to the others an environment problem he knows in the town or in the country he comes from. We tried to find a common aspect that would enable us to think of an international project. A lot of different issues were raised so we decided to take one example and try to see how such a project can be started.

A project can follow 3 major points:
- It can educate generally on the issue (brochure)
- It can show what can be done to change something
- It can change

Idea for an international project: on Air pollution
Create a: Survey about air quality followed by a brochure to show the reality
First step: Research: some ideas were given in order to do that.

Find out:
- which and how the problem is;
- how the impact on the human health and/or on the environment
  (there are supposed to exist reports on the polluted areas, web page, books, professors, PSR, www.noharm.org, the authorities)
- those aspects that are of most interest for physicians
- how the situation looks like for real (go and see!)
- alternatives/or how to prevent;

Workshop conclusions:
IPPNW students worldwide are well aware of the existing relation between health matters and environment damages, but it has yet less experience to deal with such problems. Therefore it has been decided to start up a project and to do this by communicating on the internet in order to see if it will be done a specific local project or a common international one (like that suggested at point 4)). The guiding help of the PSR is to be expected (and has been confirmed), probably Janet Lai will facilitate this relations. New ideas are to come on the email!
Small Arms Working Group, May 1, 2002
By Ernest Guevarra.

Speakers
Brian Rawson, Small Arms Coordinator IPPNW Central Office
Rebecca Bruno and Jessica Scanlan, Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR)
Annie C. Mwila, student from IPPNW Zambia
Antonio Hernandez and Alvaro Guardado, students from IPPNW El Salvador

Participants
Karla Fernandez, Duc Vo, Mats Sundberg, Anna Hellman, Matthew Wylie, Peter Yarbrough, Debbie Accetta, Juha Ranniko, Ernest Guevarra, Proochista Ariana, Neil Arya, Matt Longjohn

Proceedings

The panelists were each given time to present information and current projects and initiatives on small arms work among each of the affiliates and within IPPNW as a whole. Brian started by presenting a newly-created slide presentation on the medical and public health effects of small arms. Also, he briefly presented the proceedings of the just concluded IPPNW conference on small arms entitled Aiming for Prevention held in Helsinki, Finland. He touched on the different levels by which medical professionals and also students can get involved in this campaign.

Then Rebecca Bruno and Jessica Scanlan of PSR presented the small arms situation in the US and the different ways by which PSR and its different chapters are responding to these issues. They gave the participants an idea of the different lobbying strategies that are being done and also the different legislative moves being supported by PSR as with regards to the small arms epidemic.

Next, Annie Mwila presented the small arms situation from the perspective of the global south and the different factors that come into play with respect to the issue of small arms. She discussed the concurrent issues of war and refugees and how the uncontrolled supply of arms in these areas of conflict contribute to the dire effects of small arms on health and safety of people.

Lastly, Antonio and Alvaro, both students from IPPNW El Salvador shared to the group the results of the study they conducted on small arms injuries and their experiences of working on a research aimed at getting information regarding the circumstances of gun mortalities and morbidities in a hospital in El Salvador. Their efforts in research showed how both students and doctors can work together in this campaign.

When the presentations were done, Dr. Neil Arya from PGS then facilitated the group into trying to identify points of intervention and action that can be done by students hand in hand with the doctors. Research was one area that was undoubtedly a point of convergence as shown by the experience in El Salvador. Also, public health advocacy is another area where students can contribute.
Election Outcomes:

Regional Rep of Middle East
Fady Aziz Azer (Egypt)
mideast@ippnw-students.org

Regional Rep of Africa
Annie Mwila (Zambia)
Africa@ippnw-students.org

Regional Rep of North Asia
Tomoko Inoue (Japan)
northasia@ippnw-students.org

Regional Reps of South Asia
Shyam Teegla (India), Suzein Diano (Philippines)
southasia@ippnw-students.org

Regional Reps of North America
Janet Lai (US) & April Kam (Canada)
northamerica@ippnw-students.org

Regional Reps of Latin America
Antonio Hernandez & Alvaro Guardado (El Salvador)
latinamerica@ippnw-students.org

Regional Reps of Europe
Ivona Iacob (Romania) & Richard Fristedt (Sweden)
Europe@ippnw-students.org

International Students Representatives
Proochista Ariana (US) & Ahmed Geneid (Egypt)
international@ippnw-students.org