

PPAD 531: Simulation conference on a Middle East WMD free zone (Sat, Nov 2nd, 2013)

As part of the graduate class PPAD 531 on “Armament, Arms Control, and Disarmament” on Saturday, Nov 2nd, 2013 conducted by Amb/ Prof Sameh Aboul Enein, students were required to participate in a simulated conference on a Middle East WMD free zone. Each student represented one state, an international organization, and NGO. The students would delineate their respective delegations positions on the issue at hand and then students had to reach an agreement that would remain constructive towards the goal of meeting. The conference consisted of different representatives of crucial countries, such as Egypt, Iran, Israel, Russia, US, and also two representatives from international organization e.g IAEA and League of Arab States as well as a representative from Non-governmental organization (NGO).

The conference hosted a young dynamic diplomat from the Egyptian Foreign Service who represented Egypt, which added a heated debate. Whereas the conference hosted NGO representative/ ICAN who made a productive presentation, which added to the real interaction of the simulation. The experience was very helpful since it introduced students how to act as diplomats, which required them to use formal decorum while presenting their positions. This required extensive knowledge and research of each delegation's own positions in order to properly participate. With delegations of Egypt, Israel, Iran, IAEA, Russia and the US, there was enough diversity in the representation to allow for a fruitful and interesting debate. Accordingly, this was a practical exercise in disarmament diplomacy & negotiations, especially after the class visited the League of Arab States & the Egyptian Foreign Affairs Council.

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