

ISU Tromso Report

The General Assembly of the ISU Tromso held a meeting on Wednesday, September 7, 2005 and elected members for the new board. Thus, the international students at the University of Tromso have new representatives. These are Gemechu Jemal (Ethiopia) as the President, Anastassia Leonenko (Russia) as Vice-President, Julia Shevstova (Russia) as Secretary General, Abdul Hoque (Bangladesh) as Treasurer, Alberto Parada (Spain) as Public Relations Officer, Dragana Surkalovic (Serbia), Katlin Roovik (Estonia), Charity Mwape Namukoko Salasini (Zambia), and Miriam Leicht (Germany) as Organizing Officers, and Marek Zakrzewski (Poland) as the Web Master. Also, for the first time in the history of the ISU an international student, namely Dragica Vidovic (Montenegro), occupies the position of International Coordinator. This new board represents the interests of almost 600 international students at the University of Tromsø, which means 10% of the students at the university.

The board mainly deals with the academic and social issues of international students at the university. It works closely with the university community at large and the municipality of Tromsø. Some of the weekly program to be organized by the board for this semester are social gatherings such as coffee and tea gatherings on Fridays every week, parties such as Christmas party, various cultural activities such as international cousins, and different sports competitions such as foot ball, basket ball, and volley ball. There will also be field excursions outside of Tromsø to get to know the surroundings and people living outside of the city.

The board, in collaboration with the university and the municipality of Tromsø, will undertake the task of integrating international students with the Norwegian students at the university and the society at large. This will be done by the initiation of what is called the Host Family Program, in which one voluntary Norwegian family picks one international student as a family till the student completes his study at the university. With the help of the Counseling Center at the university the board has started some moves to materialize this activity.

So far, the board has undertaken a trip to Sommaroy, enlisted voluntary students who would like to have Norwegian family here, organized social gatherings(coffee and tea gatherings) every Friday, and big party as a fare well to the previous board members, as wel come to the new board and all the student community at the university.