



The J8 Evening News – June 7, 2007

Junior 8 delegates take the heli to Heiligendamm (by Abbie Banczyk-Sturgeon)

”You're going on a helicopter????” was our first reaction when the nine delegates representing us at the G8 meeting told us they were going on choppers to the G8 meeting. After the initial shock and the reassurances that they would be safe, we all screamed, laughed and celebrated. Not many people get to go on a helicopter to meet some of the eight most influential people in the world! It added to the excitement that we had already felt at the J8 Summit.

About 12 hours later, we were standing on a patch of grass with expectant looks on our faces, the wind ruining our hair. Then the helicopters started to land and our emotions exploded. Memories of our experiences that led to this day and this moment ran through our minds, and we could not keep the smiles off our faces. When they touched down on the grass, we all looked at



Bye bye for now...



*Gleb & Michelle
in the chopper.*

each other - all our nervousness was replaced with pride for our friends and colleagues from around the world that were representing us in front of the world leaders. They were our views, the views of people in our countries, and the views of the world.

The nine delegates walked towards the helicopters, looking important but small against the big black bulk of the aircraft. Now that the blades had stopped spinning, they looked rather bendy and thin in the bright blue sky.

As the delegates got into the helicopters, our shouts of 'good luck', 'have fun' and 'J8' filled the air, adding to the excitement that was there already. Then as they started to go into the air, everyone started taking pictures to remember the moment. Some people started crying and others cheering. After many days of hard work, our communicate was finally done and our ideas were going to the people who could make them reality.

Then as suddenly and as noisily as they had come, they lifted into the air, looking like something from the American war movie 'Black Hawk Dawn.' As the helicopters flew away into the distance, we had only had one thought on our minds: would they listen to us and would they act on our proposals and ideas...

The big moment – Junior 8 delegates meet G8 leaders and present their Declaration

It all happened behind closed doors in Heiligendamm, but German TV brought it live into the living rooms of millions – and also to the 65 Junior 8 delegates who did not fit in the helicopters. Here are

some of their first reactions and statements, collected by **Olga Peshekhonova**.

Claudia from Italy: “I really liked it that the leaders listened to our opinions. I did not like that the time was limited and that the Italian and Canadian delegates didn't have time to speak.”

Manja from Germany: “I was proud of all the J8 presenters. They were all very confident and well prepared. I'm also very glad that Isaya was there and that he had a chance to express his opinions. What I did not like was that some of the leaders did not directly comment on what the J8 delegates presented. I had the impression that some of them were not very interested in the meeting.”

Anna from Russia: “Most of all I liked listening to President Putin. I really respect him and in my opinion he's a very good leader. I didn't like that some of the J8 representatives were reading and just looking at the document when they were presenting. I think that when people try not to read but to talk, their message becomes stronger and clearer.”

Andrea from Canada: “I really liked how the leaders welcomed the J8 delegates. I did not like that there was no time left for questions, so there wasn't real interaction between the young people and the leaders.”

Wismar team meets with First Ladies & the German Chancellor's Husband

After the meeting with the G8 leaders, the Junior 8 team that had stayed in Wismar had a chance to meet with the First Ladies of the world leaders and the only man in the “spouses group“, German Chancellor Angela Merkel's husband, Prof. Joachim Sauer. **Hyeon Su Kim reports.**

His world consists of atomic structures from aluminium or oxygen that can work as catalyzers. Prof. Joachim Sauer is a professor for physical and theoretical chemistry in Berlin. Since Germany is the host country of the G8 summit, Mr. Sauer accompanied the other spouses to Wismar to have a discussion with the J8 delegates. We were very interested whether it is more difficult to be the only woman among the G8 leaders or to be the only men among the G8 spouses. Prof. Sauer answered that he thinks our Chancellor probably has the tougher job. He also thinks though that it is not unusual that he is the “odd one out” in the spouses meeting. When he has a conference or a seminar or just a dinner, his wife Angela Merkel accompanies him, so he did the same now.



Prof. Sauer and Eva from the German Junior 8 team

Prof. Sauer cannot stay very long in Heiligendamm. Actually, he had to hold a chemistry lecture a few hours after our meeting. Prof. Sauer is not a politician and therefore he has not dealt much with the topic “Africa” so far. Instead he asked us, what we did concerning Africa and what we have learned. Normally, Prof. Sauer does not give any interviews about topics that have nothing to do with his academic work. So we are very privileged and very thankful that he gave us answers to our more “off-topic” questions.

At the end of the meeting, Prof. Sauer congratulated us to our work and said: “*The Junior 8 is a very good idea and I think your work is already highly sophisticated.*”

Produced by the Junior 8 youth media team in Wismar, June 2007: Julien Tremblay & Sophie Casgrain (Canada) – Stéphanie David & Cyril Gaillard (France) – Lisa Marie Ullrich & Hyeon Su Kim (Germany) – Claudia Turatte & Jenni Provenzi (Italy) – Michelle Nakajima & Yutaro Miwa (Japan) – Gleb Nikitin & Olga Peshekhonova (Russia) – Ellen Smith & Abbie Banczyk-Sturgeon (UK) – Kritika Kailash & Rohit Nalamasu (USA) – Ismahane Benamar (Algeria) – Isaya Yunge (Tanzania) – Adriana Solovei (Moldova)