



## **The J8 Evening News - June 8, 2007**

### **The final issue**

#### **Junior 8 Comes To A Close In Wismar**



*The banner with the J8 handprints is presented to the Mayor of Wismar.*

After a long and exciting week, the Junior 8 2007 comes to a close in Wismar today. The 74 delegates from the G8 countries, Brazil, China, Moldova, India, Sierra Leone, Cameroon, Algeria, Tanzania, the Central African Republic and Ethiopia thanked the Mayor of Wismar, Frau Dr. Rosemarie Wilcken for the support and the hospitality of the city throughout this week.

The Junior 8 team presented a picture of the meeting with Chancellor Angela Merkel and UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador Sir Roger Moore, signed by all participants as well as the banner with the handprints of the Junior 8 team, to the Mayor of Wismar.

After a “chill-out afternoon visit” to the island Poel near Wismar, the Junior 8 participants conclude the Summit with a wild (?) party on the sailing boat which has been their “home away from home” for the last week. We wish all participants, their chaperones and facilitators safe travels when they leave for their home countries tomorrow!

#### **Junior 8 Insight – The Meeting With The G8 (by Ellen McCloy Smith)**

Yesterday was, as you all know, a momentous day. Especially for those of us who had the opportunity to meet the world leaders at Heiligendamm. I was one of those lucky nine children who you selected to go to the G8 Summit. The day kicked off with a lot of nerves and lack of sleep as we had all been up late the night before, writing and preparing for our speeches.

The Junior 8 delegates met in the Captain's Room after breakfast to go through our speeches agains and then we were ushered off the boat towards the field where the helicopters were due to land. It must be said that the prospect of helicopters was extremely exciting



*Ellen and Abbie giving an interview to The Guardian on the mobile phone.*

but the best part was the send.off we received. On behalf of all of us who went to the G8, I would like to say thank you for your support and excitement. After a quick photo session we boarded the choppers. The helicopter ride was great and quick and we got the chance to see just how beautiful this area of Germany is. We landed in a field near the hotel which had a red carpet rolled out leading to several armoured vehicles. We drove and then walked to the pavillon where the meeting would be held to discover that we had an hour to wait for the meeting with the G8 leaders. We used the time to calm down and to run through our speeches together yet again.



*Lisa Marie, Marion and Ellen are off to the chopper.*

All too soon, the meeting was due to start, but there was a very relaxed and calm atmosphere and we gradually became more comfortable. The meeting itself was probably the most amazing event of our lives. We stood in a line as one by one the most powerful and influential people in the world shook our hands. There was little time to talk before the meeting and we were asked to sit down to the left of our leaders. Then the meeting started with German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Lisa Marie from the German Junior 8 team.

The atmosphere was very laid back so when I came to speak, I didn't feel as nervous as I was before. When I had finished, Mrs Merkel asked if anyone had a response to my speech. There was an awkward silence and then she put Prime Minister Tony Blair on the spot. Now as much as I like Tony Blair, he did waffle on at it! Everyone gave their speeches very well, but I feel that we were all a bit surprised about how relaxed the leaders were. I don't want to mention any names, but I don't think we had all of their attention for the whole time. Nonetheless, it was amazing and a truly unforgettable experience.



*The official "J8 meets G8" photo.*

After the meeting, we were meant to walk down to have our family photo done. I will let you into a little secret: Straight after the meeting, Tony Blair walked off and I was left alone standing by the table. I asked President Bush where he had gone and I received the answer of "bathroom". Or "loo" as you say in England! We started walking and Tony Blair came running after me and said: "Sorry about that, I was absolutely desperate. I've been drinking coffee all morning." I was chatting with my Prime Minister about why he needed the bathroom! A bizarre experience...

After the photos were taken, we went to the press conference and then some of us went back to Wismar and some went to more press conference and interviews. It was, without a doubt, one of the most important moments of our lives.

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### **Flooded By Interview Requests – Huge Media Interest In Junior 8 Summit**

The Junior 8 generated a lot of media stories and it was hard for the UNICEF media team to keep journalists, especially TV crews, out of the Zeughaus to guarantee a smooth J8 process. Especially the German team, but also selected representatives of the other countries, had to give numerous interviews to explain to journalists and to the public what the Junior 8 is all about. Here is a short account of how it is to be interviewed, written by **Hyeon Su Kim**.

**Journalist:** "Mr. Kim, could you please describe your feelings about giving an interview?"

**Hyeon Su:** “Well, it is fortunately not the first interview. If it were, I would surely be excited and well, it’s actually quite difficult to describe... I probably would have thought things like ‘I mustn’t make any mistakes. I have to try to express myself as clear as possible’ and if it was even a camera team, I would have cared about my outer appearance, additionally.”

**Journalist:** “So you would say that an interview on television is more difficult?” **Hyeon Su:** “I don’t know whether you can say that. But I think it is somehow true. If you are talking to a newspaper journalist, you do not have to care whether your language is 100 percent correct. I mean, you can check afterwards or talk to the journalist and ask him for a draft. On radio it is a little bit different, too. But – as I’ve already mentioned – you don’t have to care about your appearance.”



*Hyeon Su in a live TV interview in front of the boat.*

**Journalist:** “And what do you think about a live interview, just like now?” **Hyeon Su:** “Frankly, I was very preoccupied at first. I am really not allowed to make any mistakes. Everybody may watch me now on TV. But just at the moment, I have realised that it’s quite cool, so to speak. I mean, we are now talking about interviews in general and I hope (laughing) that I haven’t made any mistakes yet.”

**Journalist:** “Can I tell you a secret? We are not live on the air yet...” **Hyeon Su:** “I obviously know, I have been correcting my sentences all the time... I mean I am just writing this interview myself.”

It is more than obvious that the J8 summit is watched closely by the media. Especially, the team of the German channel “ZDF” stayed near the ship to film as much as possible. Thus, interviews are nearly inevitable. It is of course a great experience. But it is important, that you still have in mind that (for those of you taking Latin): Errare humanum est!

### Changing Sides

(by Adriana, Lisa Marie and Claudia of the J8 Media Team)



*Lisa, Adriana and Claudia in the interview with the German journalist - changing sides.*

Some journalists had already interview us, but for the first time in the long long history of the J8 Summit 2007, **we interviewed a journalist:** Stefan Klein from the German daily newspaper *Sueddeutsche Zeitung*, who had come to the Zeughaus to observe how we, the young people, were working with each other. You now have the unique chance to read what he told us.

**Q:** "Why did you come and see us?" **A:** “The G8 Summit is really important and your summit is linked with it. It is interesting to listen to young people's ideas and opinions. With your point of view they can influence and finally change the future.”

**Q:** “So what are your first impressions?” **A:** “It's definitely not boring and it seems to me that everybody is involved in the discussions.”

**Q:** “And what do you think about our discussions?” **A:** “It's good that the groups are mixed because there are lots of different perspectives from young people who come from different parts of the world. Your ideas are really good and I'm sure they're useful for the G8!”

## The Youth Facilitators

Short interviews with the youth facilitators Manja, Natsuno and Tony – who worked really hard this week and deserve our very special thanks!

### Interview with Manja (Germany):

**Q:** “How was the J8 2007 as a youth facilitator compared to the C8 in 2005 where you were a participant?” **Manja:** “It was interesting to see it from a different angle. It was a lot of work, a lot of headaches. I learned a lot, but it was surely hard work.”

**Q:** “What did you like most?” **Manja:** “The fact that all 74 participants were so cool, so nice, so motivated. It was really great to work with all of them.”

**Q:** “What did you not like about the Junior 8?” **Manja:** “As a youth facilitator, you work almost around the clock, but you get very little appreciation for it. That made me a bit sad, but I guess that's just the way it is.” (*Evening News staff: “Manja, maybe the appreciation doesn't show, but it's there, it's definitely there...!”*)

### Interview with Tony (Russia):

**Q:** “So, could you please share some impressions of this J8 Summit compared to the one in St. Petersburg last year?” **Tony:** “I can't really compare them. Everything is so different. The atmosphere, the organization of the events, etc. Last year there was more free time and young people could interact more, but there were also more psychological problems. What was really good about this Summit was that Isaya had a chance to go to the G8 meeting.”



*Manja and Tony discussing on the boat.*

**Q:** “What was more difficult – to be a participant or a facilitator?”

**Tony:** “Definitely to be a facilitator. You've got so much more responsibility. But if I had to choose between being a participant or being a facilitator in the next Summit, I'd choose to be a facilitator. It's really fun and I loved the job.”

### Interview with Natsuno (Japan):



*Natsuno with Andres.*

**Q:** “What was your overall impression of the summit?” **Natsuno:** “Super! It was tough, challenging, chaotic, but it was a great experience. To be honest, I thought I was not suitable for this kind of work, at first, but everyone is happy.”

**Q:** “If you could change anything about the summit, what would you change?” **Natsuno:** “I would improve the language and communication between delegates whose native language isn't English. I want to make a system where participants can choose what they want to do.”

**Q:** “Is this your first time as a youth facilitator? If not, was this experience better or worse than the others and why?” **Natsuno:** “This is my first international experience, but I have been doing this kind of things in Japan

for a while. I can't compare because this is so different.”

**Q:** “Why were you chosen to be a youth facilitator, would you like to be one again next year?”  
**Natsuno:** “I had been doing similar things in Japan or UNICEF, and I speak English as well. I would love to be involved, but I don't know whether I will be in Japan by then, as I am going to Uganda as an exchange student.”

### A Hard Working Group – The Junior Drafting Committee (by Abbie Banczyk-Sturgeon)

The key document of the Junior 8 Summit 2007 is surely the “Wismar Declaration“. The group that worked extra hard on getting this document drafted and finalized was the J8 Drafting Committee. To show our special appreciation of their hard work, here is a short interview with Ruth Bryson of the Drafting Committee.

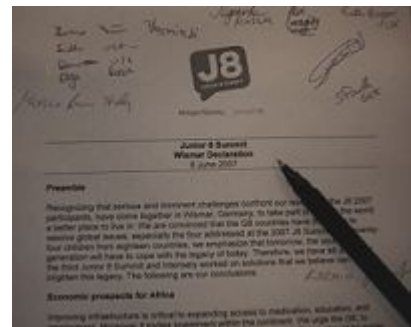


*Members of the Drafting Committee at work.*

**Abbie:** “How did you work out what you were including in the draft for the Wismar Declaration?” **Ruth:** “We looked through all the ideas and chose the ones that came up the most and the ones that seemed to be the most practical and strongest.”

**Abbie:** “How did you work out who of you should write what?” **Ruth:** “We all helped to write it all and in the end people whose first language was English copy-edited the document.”

**Abbie:** “How did you feel when it was finished?” **Ruth:** “Really pleased and proud that we had done a document that was going to be presented to some of the most influential people in the world.”



*The signed Wismar Declaration*

The Wismar Declaration is online in different languages at:

[http://www.j8summit.com/summit/summit\\_news.php?id=139](http://www.j8summit.com/summit/summit_news.php?id=139)

**And now on to tomorrow's news...**



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