

# Student Engineer meets the UN Secretary General



Wallace Chwalla 2nd right with Ban Ki Moon UN Secretary General, and other delegates during the Model UN Meeting.

To be part of a great event stays with a man, this is what inspires Wallace Chwalla, student of engineering, who travelled to New York, last August, where he met the UN Secretary General, Ban Ki Moon. Chwalla narrates his experiences to Varsity Focus.

I have always been fascinated by the ideals, policies, functions and mandate of the United Nations and so the opportunity of meeting the United Nations Secretary General was a dream come true to me and moreover to any student who is involved with a Model United Nations Programme has

been like a miracle.

When I got the invitation to meet the UN Chief, I was excited, "in life there are no limits to our potentials, indeed the only limits to our potentials is oneself". For someone brought up in an ordinary home, the thought that one day I would lunch with the UN Chief, on the same table, enjoying the same food, laughing at the same jokes whilst talking as if we are old friends, was never envisaged. Then one day, viola, before me, as true and real as life itself, it happened.

From one United Nations

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headquarters to another, from Nairobi to New York, from my interactions and meetings with all the amicable and very social United Nations senior Officials to the friendships that I forged with other

international students, has been an experience. Many of us have dreams and hopes for a better tomorrow, and everyone is striving to play a part in making positive sustainable changes and being that pivotal change that all want to see in the world around.

Back to my meeting with the UN Chief, I believe that the UN Chief believes in the youth and the potential that they possess. It was amazing and inspirational to listen to his story of his childhood days during the war in South Korea and the assistance that the United Nations played in restoring peace to his homeland. This was the time that the "United Nations bug" bit him and he started developing an interest in the United Nations. Little did the world know that little boy was going to be the United Nations Chief one day, one time.

My experiences at the United Nations Headquarters in New York and my meeting with the United Nations Secretary General, have made it clear to me that we all have a role to play in making our world a better place for all humanity and that what we believe and work hard and tirelessly not for personal gain but for the benefit of humanity.