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DPCR Alumni Association Annual Report 2022 – 2023

The board of the DPCR Alumni Association for the period 2022 – 2023 consisted of Mert Can Yilmaz (President), Juan Diego Duque Salazar (Vice-President), Jenniina Kotajoki (Secretary), Maxine Leis (Treasurer), and Karolina Schützer (Department Liaison). Below follows an overview of the Association's activities during 2022 – 2023.

Activities

During the past year, the DPCR Alumni Board focused on reaching out to prospective alumni at both bachelor's and master's level, connecting current student members with other alumni, and providing a platform for alumni around the world to communicate. We maintained the core activities of the organization's mandate.

On October 19, 2022, the inauguration event of the Alva Myrdal Center took place at the University Main Building. We had a booth set up there all day at the entrance of the hall to spread information about the Association and its work. We aimed to recruit new members and keep in contact with existing ones on this very important day.

On March 1, 2023, we organized our annual mingle event for our alumni with the support of the student organization of the master students at the Department, Pax et Bellum. The event was organized at Teaterbrasseriet in Stockholm and it was a success, with approximately 20 guests attending. The event facilitated connections between alumni that had not previously met, especially between current or recent students and more senior alumni. It also provided an opportunity for those who studied together to reunite. There were discussions regarding career development within different fields and overall, the event received positive feedback.

Initiated at the beginning of 2021, the Association's mentorship program continued throughout the period 2022-2023. As part of this program, early-career professionals from the master's program at the Department were in contact with more senior alumni to share advice and guidance on post-master career and professional life. In March 2023, we initiated a new round of the mentorship program and 16 new mentors were recruited. The recruitment process for the mentees is planned to be initiated by September 2023, as suggested by the Pax et Bellum.

On May 10, 2023, we had an engaging and insightful panel discussion on "Water, Climate, and Peace" co-hosted by our association and the Uppsala Peace and Development Students' Association (UPaD). The event took place in Lewinsalen at Östra Ågatan 19, Uppsala and was moderated by Vivian Hoac, *Head of Education at UPaD*. We hosted Ashok Swain - *Head of the DPCR*, Anders Jägerskog - *Senior Water Resources Management Specialist at the World Bank*, Kyungmee Kim - *Researcher at the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute*, and Jakob Schabus - *Communications Manager at Stockholm International Water Institute*. With this panel, we aimed to explore the intricate connections between water resources, climate change, and peace, with our distinguished speakers from diverse backgrounds in research, policy, and communication.

The event was part of our annual Alumni Talks series, with each year's event highlighting a distinct and timely theme. It serves as a source of inspiration to current and recent students and shows fellow alumni where former classmates are currently working. The talks offer an extensive opportunity to hear from alumni about their current work and career paths that led them there. It also grants the department the opportunity to keep in touch with former students and employees. Nearly 25 people attended the event, and we received positive feedback from the participants.

Information on all activities throughout the year has been distributed via email lists to members, as well as posted in the Association's Facebook and LinkedIn groups. We are grateful to the Department for allowing us to use the department's professional mailing system, Paloma. We also received help from the Department's Communication Officer Karolina Schützer to spread our announcements.

Newsletter

The annual newsletter is planned to be sent out by late-June 2023. The newsletter includes updates from alumni around the world as well as from the department. This year, we are celebrating the 10th anniversary of our association, and the newsletter theme reflects this milestone. In light of the celebration, we conducted interviews with former presidents of our association, Gudlaug Olafsdottir and Marie Allansson, capturing their invaluable insights into the importance of alumni networks.

Our annual newsletter shines a spotlight not only on the latest news from the Department, but also delves into the details of new academic projects. It also includes 'Class Notes,' a compilation of brief updates from our alumni network encompassing former bachelor's, master's, and Ph.D. students, along with past staff members, from across the globe.

Through our newsletter, we aim to build a stronger community and reinforce the connections between our alumni and the Department.

Finances

The Department supported the Association by covering various costs in connection with the Association's activities. Such expenses encompass refreshments for events and the costs associated with the use of the Paloma mailing system. For the period of 2022-2023, the Association did not undertake any financial activities. We hold no assets or liabilities and did not engage in any financial transactions during this period.

Administration

The board worked on strengthening the Association and making it more visible, both through social activities and through contacts with alumni members abroad. An equally crucial part of this work has been to establish routines and meet with other alumni associations through the Uppsala University Alumni Network. The Association had the privilege of attending a mingle event hosted by the Network at the Uppsala Castle on December 1, 2022. The event provided us an opportunity to network with representatives from various alumni associations and share our upcoming plans. Furthermore, on May 25, 2023, we attended another event where we learned about the outcomes of a survey on alumni activities, carried out by the Network.

Collaborations and communication

The Association has worked to build and maintain cooperation and contact with the two student organizations at the Department, UPaD and Pax et Bellum. With Pax et Bellum, the Association collaborated on organizing the annual alumni mingle and the mentorship program. We planned the "Water, Climate, and Peace" panel with UPaD, which was considered part of our annual Alumni Talk events.

On the communications front, we maintained the Facebook and LinkedIn groups. We hope that our alumni continue to join these groups and use them to spread information and connect with one another. The Department supported the DPCR Alumni Association's online presence through its communication channels.



Mert Can Yilmaz
President, DPCR Alumni Board
June 5, 2023