



## Middle East Partnership Initiative MEPI Alumni Network in Jordan

### Model United Nations Debates “Establishing a Nuclear-Free Middle East”

**MEPI Alumni Network in Jordan held the first Jordan University Students MUN conference on Saturday, September 25, 2010 to educate participants about civics and effective multilateral diplomacy**



This project is funded through the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs, Office of the Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI). MEPI is a unique program designed to engage directly with and invest in the peoples of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). MEPI works to create vibrant partnerships with citizens to foster the development of pluralistic, participatory, and prosperous societies throughout the MENA region. MEPI partners with local, regional and international non-governmental organizations, the private sector, academic institutions, and governments. More information about MEPI can be found at: [www.mepi.state.gov](http://www.mepi.state.gov).

In support of MEPI’s initiatives to empower youth leadership and encourage civic participation and better understanding of global diplomacy, the Jordan chapter of the MEPI Alumni Network held the First Jordan University Students Model United Nations Conference at the Jordanian Parliament. Fifty students from a number of Jordanian universities participated in the conference.

The Model United Nations (MUN) is an academic simulation aims to educate participants about civics, current events, and effective communication, globalization and multilateral diplomacy. In this simulation, students played the role of diplomats, representing different countries on the Security Council and participating in discussions on issues currently on the agenda of the United Nations.

The conference was inaugurated by H.E. Dr. Samir Mutawi, former Minister of Information and former Jordanian Ambassador to the Netherlands, who spoke to the students about the importance of understanding current affairs and the complexity of multilateral cooperation. Following the inauguration, Mr. Mohammed Al-Tarawneh, News Director at Jordanian Radio, spoke about international media coverage of international issues and the role of states when decisions are taken.

Once the session opened, the student-delegates were eager to take the floor to discuss the topic at hand, “Establishing A Nuclear-free Middle East”. In addition to the states making up the Security Council, student-delegates represented the other key states of Iran, Israel, Jordan, and Egypt and argued each of their positions strongly. After a long debate session, the first amendment was introduced by the delegate of Iran but was not passed by the Security Council. The second amendment that was suggested by the delegate of China strongly passed.

The success of the Model United Nations conference can be found in the knowledge and enthusiasm the student-delegates brought to the conference and debate. MEPI Alumni plans to hold other such conferences in the future to promote diplomacy.