

An Interview with Secretary General - Mr. Georg Latzke by GBZA students:

GBZA: Mr. Latzke, every year you take part in ZAMUN - an annual MUN conference organised by our school. What attracted your attention to take part every year?

G.L.: First of all that it is a conference organised mainly by students and that impressed me enormously. Because this is a new form or a form I didn't know before. Normally the conferences are organised by teachers, headteachers and here I could see that students did the work and put their ideas into practice. Then you have to have a school that allows this, have teachers who tell their students - You can do it! And if something happens, we will help! You can be really proud of being at such a school, secondly of having those teachers and lastly the head as you had the former headmistress.

S: Have you noticed any changes in ZAMUN during those years?

G.L.: It has become more and more professional, the preparations are good, social media and information spread is great as well as Slovak hospitality. All in all it is a beautiful experience.

S: What do you think of the students who participate in these conferences?

G.L.: Well, I have the impressions that what they do, they do very seriously. They prepare what they want to do and they understand that it is something for their future. So it is not seen as any activity, it is something you have to work off longer, not only a day or two. It is a serious project that allows students to speak and present oneself in front of so many people.

S: And now when you have just seen the presentation of the YEL project and the students' results, what's your opinion?

G.L.: again, It is an extraordinary chance as a part of education process of young people. This is not possible in many schools. Out of curriculum reasons, out of a headteacher. You need a good team, the team starts with a head, you need committed teachers, excellent ones like Mrs. Mladenkova and Mr. Milo from your school, then you need students who are enthusiastic and the other way round - teachers trust you and you must trust your teachers. It develops into a very good relation and this relation is called respect.

S: Well, these were the positive things but are there any negatives, something that surprised you negatively?

G.L.: There are always some structural things that can be improved e.g. what is a bit boring at the beginning of ZAMUN is the speeches that last for one and a half hour. It is obvious that if you have important people there you have to give them space to talk. Perhaps a little bit of music in between or a sketch could help, I don't know.