

Coffee Around the World report

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Coffee Around the World (CAW) is a project to develop the international environment on campus. The goals have been to develop the international environment on campus, have Norwegian and international students come together through common activities, and contribute to the total integration and inclusion on campus.

CAW takes place in the coffee shop on campus (owned by SiS) once a week (have planned 16 CAW this school year). Thursdays from 14:00-16:00. This time was chosen because the majority of students are done with lectures, but is not in the evening, meaning that the students would go home, and maybe not come back. It looks like it was a good choice since we have had a good turn-out most weeks. There is a theme, visit or concert, in addition to an international quiz each week.

The participants are Norwegian and international students. There have also been representatives from samskipnaden, the student chaplain, and other parties (for example, drama teachers here in connection with the Peace Corps) who have participated.

Before the actual project began we met with a graphic designer who helped us make a logo which was the basis for posters, t-shirts, cups, and roll-ups (standing banner). T-shirts have been used as prizes for quiz winners, and cups as gifts to the hosts. We made a group on facebook and have also made an invitation to CAW each week with information about the theme. The hosts received support from the CAW committee with organizing, promoting and resources.

Facts:

Number of gatherings: 10 (completed as of 2.4.09)

Average number of students present: 50

Topics: British Tea, Tropical Coffee, Mongolian Inspired Fashion Show, Cinema Lottery, Film Quiz with SmiS, New Amigos and Language Exchange, Ugå 09, African Dance, St. Patrick's Day Quiz, Taste of Brazil

Upcoming weeks: Global Village, Explore Norway (Turist Forening), MaiJazz, Folken

Successes:

We have had a good mix of Norwegian and international students present at the Coffee Around the World gatherings. We have had CAW every week except for vacations, since we launched the project at the end of January. There has been great variation within the themes and parties involved each week. This has led to a larger group of students getting involved in the project.

Challenges:

We had to delay the start of the project because of long waiting times to complete the designs and ordering of the promotional materials. Some of the weeks we have been challenged by cancellations, thus we had to find new people, and having to put a lot of effort into recruiting people to organize the theme for a week.
