

Why Spire?

ISU and Spire (Utviklingsfondets ungdom) signed an agreement last week that will be effective starting 31st of March. Spire is the youth organization for the Norwegian Development Fund, an independent non-government organization that has development projects in Asia, Africa and Latin America. The Development Fund has a Youth Organization that is called Spire, which means a seedling in Norwegian.

Spire's over all objectives is "A better and more equitable world is possible"! They focus their activities and campaigns as per the decisions made during the Annual Assembly on global problems regarding trade, development, the environment and food and agriculture. They target members between the ages of 18 and 30 years but at the same time they do not believe that age should be an obstacle for involvement and action.



Johanne Sæther Houge
Spire National Leader

ISU has been cooperating at both local and national level with Spire. For example, at the Universitetet for miljø- og biovitenskap (UMB) in Ås, ISU have had common members with Spire, as well as, many international students attended their meetings and made friendships. Nationally, ISU has been involved with Spire's Annual Assembly and Winter Gathering to promote further cooperation. ISU and Spire believes that both organizations will benefit from each other.

Since Spire's work is mostly related to the countries that ISU members are coming from, then ISU hope to give more legitimacy, feedback and support for their projects. Also ISU local branches can be actively involved with the campaigns that are directly related to development issues globally. On the other hand, Spire can help to tackle ISU concerns in Norway; such as, acting as a pressure group to solve the challenges that the Quota Scheme Students are going through. The latter are students that are on a scholarship scheme under the development fund that Norway has for students from Eastern Europe, Asia, Africa and South America. The theme of this scholarship is not very far from what Spire is working on.

ISU hopes that this new cooperation with Spire will grow and benefit both organizations in the future.

To find more about the agreement please visit this page: [ISU](#)
For more information about Spire, please visit this page: [Spire](#)