

ISU
Bodø



Welcome to International Student Union – Bodø

Branch Report – 2007

Presenting at National Assembly Fall 2007- October
Bergen

International Student Union - Bodø is the organization that is made by international students in Bodø University College. Here you can find students from different countries and amazing culture.

We have students from Sri Lanka, Nepal, Turkey, Canada, Russia, Denmark, France, China, India, Iran, Spain, Italy, Chile, Germany, Poland, Kenya, Austria, and Australia and so on. We get together from all over the world and study in Bodø. We have many good activities to do every week, like Coffee hours and Movie Nights! If you are interested in the international topic and want to know different language and culture, just come to us and spend a nice time with us!

You are really welcome!!!

Contact us:

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History of ISU- Bodø:

Bodø International was established in September 2000, on the initiatives of our first president, Kate Gordon and they had 30 members. They have believed that it will enable international to get acquainted with each other and to make friendship with fellow Norwegians. At the beginning, they had organised International day, International food party, quiz and Trips. In this first board, a student kate Gordan from UK was the president of Bodø international.

In the academic year of 2001/2002, a Norwegian student Torgeir Skogvold was elected as the president. They have organised the same activities. In the following year, a student from China has been elected as the president and he was the president of Bodø International for 2 years. Under his presidency, chess tournament, coffee hour and movie time were introduced. These activities were very popular. Even though, these activities were very attractive for Internationals, Norwegian participation had been very low, except for food party. At the end of academic year, BI has organized a farewell party for the first time.

Since, 2004/2005, academic year, a student from Sri lanka, has been the President of Bodø International. New BI board decided to organise new activities. First, the board decided that internationals should cooperate with social organisations in Bodø. As the first initiative, BI assisted Red Cross to raise fund for Sudan and to collect funds for mentally disabled people in Norway. And BI helped the red Cross to organise football championship against violence BI continued to organise activities such as Coffee hour, movie Time, International day, food Party, chess Tournament, International quiz and Trips. As BI wants to say good bye to friend leaving from Bodø, the board agreed to organise a Farewell Party at end of each semester.

Changing the traditional way of organising activities, ISU bodø has attempted to participate in activities organised by Norwegian student. For the first time, ISU bodø has participated in student Union day in the school. On the other hand, International took part in Independence Day celebration (17th may). In the academic year of 2005/ 2006, BI organised Funny game to celebrate the Open Day of school. As an innovative way to integrate internationals and Norwegians, BI arrange an international Disco Night for the first time in the history.

In the academic year of 2006 /2007, a Norwegian student Nils-Tore Torbergsen was elected as the president.

In 2006 the name has changed as International Student Union –Bodø, instead of Bodø International, after the new board's arrival.

Structure of ISU Bodø

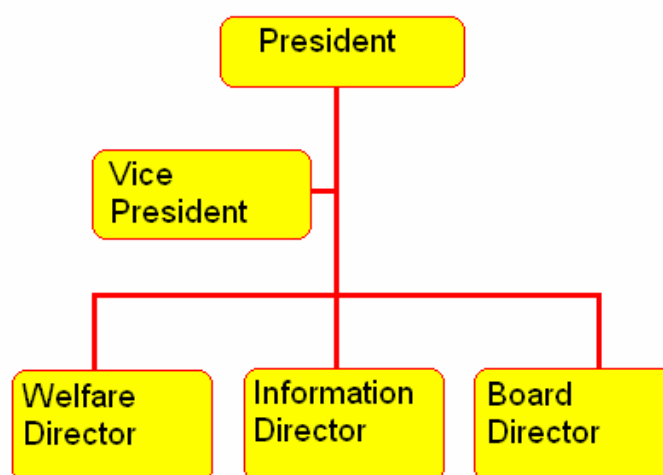


Table No-1: Contact Information of ISU Bodø

Name	Position	Country	Telephone	E mail
Hiroko Wakabayashi	President		9759 0346	heisannOO@hotmail.com
R:M.P. Nilakshi Ranasinghe	Vice-President / Treasurer	Sri lanka	95437726	rmpn_rana@yahoo.com
Rebekha Trunks	Secretary	Australia	7558 1308	rebekaht_au@yahoo.com .au
Lu Ren	Welfare director	China	9442 0754	bodoluren@hotmail.com
Yungia Tang	Information Director	China		

The President: Responsible for the day-to-day business. He/She is the face of ISU, Bodø to outsiders and speaks on the behalf of ISU, Bodø. He/She is responsible to keep in contact with other student unions and with the administration of HIBO. He/She is responsible for the filing of the Semi-Annual- and the Annual Report from ISU, Bodø. He/She is co-responsible for the economy of ISU, Bodø.

Vice-President/Treasurer: Shall do the bookkeeping; make a budget and plan of action together with the leader. Shall at any moment have full overview of economy of ISU, Bodø. He/She acts as the President when the President is absent.

Countries & Students

Zambia – Cuba – Mexico – Litauen - USA -Afghanistan – Russland – Zimbabwe - Sør Afrika – Etiopia –Tanzania -Uganda – Kina – Algerie -Canada -Burundi -Iran – Filippinene- Tyskland – Portugal -Tyrkia – Nigeria – Romania – Polen- Ukraina - Nepal -Italia – Sveits- Frankrike- Østerrike –Danmark –Sverige - Grønland - Belgium- Ghana- Bangladesh

They study almost all **courses** offered by the HiBØ as ;
Mainly studying Business, Aquaculture and Circumpolar Studies but also in Education, Journalism and Nursing, Master Comparative SW, Northern Heritage & Culture, MSc in Business/MSc in Energy , Norwegian Language and Society , Erasmus , Master Aquaculture , Bachelor , PhD, praxis job, summer school & Internships (at all levels from Bachelor – PhD)

They are staying at various time periods from 1 week, 6 weeks, 2 years, 3 years

- Over 5000 Students
- There are 247 International Students from 42 countries registered at our University College with Largest contingent from Russia. We have many Russian students studying Circumpolar Studies over the internet who are not on-campus.

Brief Description of Activities:

What had ISU Bodø organised in 2006/2007?

1. Coffee hours and movie times (weekly activities)
2. International day (in the first semester)
3. International food party (in the first semester)
4. Chess tournament (in the first semester)
5. Trip to Lofoton
6. Skiing and fishing trip
7. Barbeque
8. Farewell party (end of each semester)
9. Helping Red Cross (to organize football championship against violence each year)
10. Participating in Independent day rally
11. Supporting International office to launch promotional campaign about foreign universities to Norwegian students.
12. Helping international students to get to know Bodo.

What will ISU Bodø organised in 2007/2008?

1. Coffee hours and movie times (weekly activities)
2. International day (in the first semester)
3. International food party and Beer fest (in the first semester)

4. Chess tournament (in the first semester)
5. International Quiz
6. Helping Red Cross (to organize football championship against violence each year.
- 7 Distributing flyers in Norwegian champion's league match between Bodo and Molde
8. Helping the University to organise the opened day (funny games)
9. Semester CD
10. International disco night
11. Farewell Party end of each semester
12. Welcome BBQ

1. Coffee Hours and Movie Time

In every week, Bodo International organised Coffee hours or Movie time as it brings international students as well as Norwegian students together. This is a unique opportunity that allows them to know each other and make friendships with others.

2. International day

An opportunity for the international students to promote their countries and universities in which, they display pictures films music and dress. A multicultural experience for Norwegian students and a great opportunity for the international office to inform students about studying abroad.

3. International Food Party and Beer Festival

A culinary travel around the world where different cuisines will be offered. An opportunity for students to experience tastes from the countries of their peers: the international students.

4. Chess tournament

The chess tournament generates a chance to promote and assess both international and Norwegian students' skills in playing chess. The winners of the tournament will be offered certificates and valuable gifts.

5. Excursion around Northern Norway

We have a wonderful opportunity to learn and see so much about this beautiful country, and for many of us this is a once in a lifetime chance. For this reason, we have planned many trips to see as much as we can, and to guide tours of the cities, and excursions to regions and museums. In this way we can learn about the history and social organisation of Norway. It is invaluable information and learning that we can take home with us and share our experiences with those abroad. We want every international student to have the opportunity to take part in these trips, and feel that a 25% sponsorship will provide a better chance of achieving this.

6. International quiz contest

Quiz competition provide an opportunity to assess the global knowledge of students in the university as the quiz is consisting of questions collected from different countries. We

hope that it assists to improve the general knowledge of both Norwegian and International students.

7. Farewell dinner

The goal of the farewell dinner is to wish a safe journey back home and wish all the best for the examination. As well it provides a great chance to all students to remind their exciting experience and stay in Bodø. For this dinner, all international students, Norwegians students involving in internationalisation process and administrators in the International office and the Vice Chancellor of the University are invited.

8. Semester CD

The CD allows international students to take memories from Bodø University and let them contact their friends in the future, as we include contact information of international students in the CD.

9. Funny games

The aim of organising funny games is to allow everyone to learn about the international funny games which will be an unforgettable memory in Bodo University.

10. International disco night

The objective of disco night is to provide an occasion for both International and Norwegian students to have leisure time and enjoy. These disco nights provide a space where students, far from home, could come together and socialize. Helping Red Cross, organising funny games, distributing flyers for the football tournament and participating in Independence Day will demonstrate that the international students of the University are highly interacting with the Norwegian society. And it will indicate that the University of Bodø is having a huge international net work. All these events help international students to overcome their loneliness. On the other hand these activities assist them to realize that school is willing to take care about them and they will discuss about the experience of these 8 events and the friendly environment in Bodø University which will convince their friends to be an international students in Bodø. We believe that ISU has made a great contribution for the Internationalization programme launched by the University of Bodø and it will enable to attract more international students from different countries.

International Students Union, Bodø Budget Autumn 2007- temporary

		Expenditure	Income	Explanation of Income
Educational Activities				
• International week				
	International Day -Except food party	2000	0	
	International Food Party	10000	10000	100 people @ 100kr
	International Beer Festival	0	1000	50 people @ 20kr
	International Quiz	0	800	40 people @ 20kr
	Music Group	300	0	
	Chess Tournament	300	600	15 people @ 40kr
	Trip to Lofoten	5000	0	
	Trip to Trondheim	5000	0	
	Welcome BBQ	1500		
Remembering Bodø				
	Farewell Dinner	8000	4000	50 people @ 80kr
	Semester CD	1000	0	
	Semester Book	500	0	
Regular activities				
	Coffee Hours	2500	0	
Other things				
	Movie Nights	600	0	
	Stationary to office work	1000		
	Advertising	500	0	
	ISU National Assembly	2000	0	
	Further activities depend on the fundings expected by the SOB & I.O.	6200		
	Funding from International Office		15000	
	SOB		15000	
	Total	46400,00	46400,00	

Information about election

The election for the next academic year 2008/2009 will take place in April 2008. The present board is responsible for arranging it. Board Elections - calendar year or academic year (Decided to change to academic year elections). There will be a phase in period where we will have two Presidents and two Vice-Presidents. We feel this will enhance the efficiency of ISU Bodø.

Challenges and Problems

ISU is not a student Union functioning without challenges and problems. The major challenge is to establish a strong relationship with Norwegian students. We think that organizing more Disco Nights will assist to overcome this challenge. The problem is that this activity takes more time from board members to organize it and hiring a DJ is also expensive. The low participation of Norwegian students in activities such as coffee hour and movie time is a major problem and it is a challenge for us to get their attention. Lack of Finance is a problem and our challenge is finding more sources of income. We think that we can apply funds from City Council.

Political Involvement

At the moment, ISU is not politically active. From next year, we will have a position in Student Union. From September 2004, we represent internationals at International Board in the school.

Social and academic Issues

Language classes

Students have requested more teaching hours in the Norwegian language courses, especially more oral work. We plan to propose the introduction of small group discussion hours with a mother tongue Norwegian to supplement the current instruction.

Housing of International Students

Most of the international students live in Flatvold- the one student accommodation located in the city and not in Mørkved near the campus. This makes it harder for them to get to the campus and hence they do not participate fully in the social activities organised outside of regular class time. They also stick together and do not mix with Norwegian students. The accommodation is allocated on a 'first come first served' basis and international students often get the paperwork later than the Norwegians. We believe the easiest way around this problem is to allocate a certain number of rooms in each of the accommodations to incoming international students.

Advice for incoming students

We wish to improve the quality and quantity of information available to incoming students. We plan to include information about Bodø International in the welcome pack given to each international student by the International Office. Where possible we intend to contact the incoming students before they arrive and offer advice. We intend to buddy up incoming students with current students from the same country as they will know the most important things to pass on and that the work is spread among many students. We also intend on improving our webpage.

Computers in English

All the computers on campus operate in Norwegian which causes some grief to international students. We intend to contact the IT department and request that some are changed to operate in English. These computers would then be made identifiable so that the students can find them. Ideally we would like a few English computers in each computer lab.

Important signs in both languages

Some signs around the campus are bilingual but many are not. We intend to make the school aware of this and ask them to have all important signs in both Norwegian and English. We will offer assistance in translating. Many of the notices/emails posted by the other student organisations are only in Norwegian so will ask them to be more bilingual.

Bodø International Network

We have connections with the following organizations:

SoB - Student organization of Bodø University College: we request funding from SoB and they request international activities from us.

SSiB - Welfare organization of Bodø University College: they provide us with some equipment and advice for activities.

The other student organizations- Inter, Salut, Corpus, Nugla, Ajour: we join up for activities

International Office: we work together to support students and request funding from the board of the school through the international office.

Arctic Student Union: they have conferences each year discussing circumpolar issues and we have been invited to attend

HHBS- business school at Bodø University College: together we organise some international events and invite guest speakers

Student Samfunnet- student pub: they provide us with a venue for our parties

Red Cross: we support and participate in special activities related to international issues.

ISU: we received general assistance.

This year we aim to improve and extend our connections with organisations outside our school eg Nordland County, Internasjonalt senter.

We would like to develop connections with other international student organizations from other Universities/ University Colleges and have joint activities. We are happy to assist other organisations with tours of Bodø and surrounds.