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Middle East simulation 2009 in Konstanz – Germany

June 13th, 2009 > [Ziad Khalil Abu Zayyad](#)
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A couple of days ago, an international conference named the Middle East Simulation started in Konstanz to discuss the Middle East conflict and the possibility of making the Arab Peace Initiative a solution which can be accepted by both the Arabs and Israel.

In this conference forty students from around the world gathered to try to simulate the role of more than eleven countries who are directly involved in the conflict. Efraim Sneh, who is a former deputy minister and Elan Alaim, who is a Palestinian foreign affairs deputy joined the participants to try to take a close look at what they are trying to do.

The most challenging point is that the students who are participating are not representing their countries but are placed to represent other countries. This created a kind of a challenge because the students were representing the interests of countries which are considered in reality enemies by their mother countries.

The conference seems to be interesting and the participants succeeded in finding out several suggestions which could be helpful in dealing with several issues such as the Israeli Palestinian conflict, the security situation of the Middle East, the relations between Arab Countries and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Although in reality it seems to be hard to end conflicts and disagreements between countries, one can learn from this conference that leaving doors opened may give a chance to end conflicts in an easy way. The issue of challenge and competition do affect countries policy and reactions to each other.

President Obama stated that humans should not become enslaved to their own beliefs and these words indicate the importance of respect and mutual understanding between the nations of the

world. This can be done not by surrendering to someone's beliefs but indeed by listening to the other side. This will give a better chance to try to explain one's position to another.

The conference may not change the world but the result which it bring in the end of it will be not only suggestions for how to change the situation in reality but also a hope that indicates the possibility of changing if true will exists.

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