

OYKHON, 19, UZBEKISTAN



TEXT

Hey everyone. So I want to share a story that honestly left a mark on me, the time I volunteered at 150 IPU Summit right here in Tashkent.

First of all, all sessions were held at one of the most beautiful and prestigious places in the city, the Hilton Hotel Congress Hall. Just walking into that space felt surreal. The halls were buzzing with language from all over the world, and it felt like I had stepped into something truly global, and I remember standing there and thinking how beautiful it was, like I was the part of it.

I was assigned to work with Greek delegation and I can't explain how kind, warm and genuine they were. From the very beginning, they treated me not just like a volunteer, but like a member of their group. They shared meals, conversation, laughs, and by the end of the week, it felt like they built a real bond.

One of the most biggest moments for me came unexpectedly. I was asked to do simultaneous translation during a meeting. I was nervous, honestly, terrified, but I started. I pushed through my fear and did it. After, and after it was over, I felt like this huge weight of pride, like I had grown in just a few minutes.

We also visited Greek community in Tashkent. That was emotional, listening to their stories, hearing how their families ended up here, how their families preserved their identity. It made me appreciate cultural roots on a whole different level. And of course, there were incredible receptions, cultural evenings, and everything, but more than the fun, it was the feeling of being trusted, of connected deeply, and finally being confident in expected places. It wasn't just volunteering, it was something that changed me, something I'll carry for the rest of my life. It felt like a dream, like the highlight of the year, I would say, for sure.