

SWYAA Activity Reports – Report from September 2012 to August 2013

Australia – SWY KIVA Project

SWY AU AA has been strong and active, maintaining the SWY spirit and fostering SWY values. This is demonstrated by our efforts in engaging with the Japanese community in Australia, involvement in post program activities and holding the Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 23-25 August 2013 in Adelaide (South Australia). The AGM was held in collaboration with the Japan Australia Friendship Association (JAFA) as a way of sharing the SWY spirit amongst the local community in South Australia. Apart from the AGM, the SWY AU AA would also like to update you on the SWY KIVA Project and give an overview in a brief Q&A session.

Q1: What is KIVA about?

A1: KIVA can be described as a “non-profit organization with a mission to connect people through lending to alleviate poverty. Leveraging the internet and a worldwide network of microfinance institutions, Kiva lets individuals lend as little as \$25 to help create opportunity around the world.”

SWY AU AA members were instrumental founders who established the SWY KIVA project in 2011, lead by team captain Daniel Ednie (who is currently showcasing his talents in on national TV in China!!). We currently have over 30 members across the globe from Europe, Canada, USA, Japan and Australia involved in the team. You can find out more information here: http://www.kiva.org/team/ship_for_world_youth/members

Q2: How is the SWY AU AA involved in KIVA?

A2: The SWY AU AA aims perform 3 things as part of the SWY KIVA Project group (1) to promote Kiva locally in Australia, (2) link into the SWY Alumni Association KIVA Project group and (3) give a preference to provide loans in countries who have participated in SWY.

Q3: What has happened since April 2013?

A3: Since this information was presented at the SWY Tokyo Conference in April 2013, we had 28 team KIVA SWY Project members, which has now grown to 31 members (11% growth), we have increased total loans made from \$16,700 to \$22,075 (32% increase), we have also increased the total number of loans from 542 to 723 (34% increase).

So as you can see, a lot has happened in the last few months, but we need your support!! We are currently 88% of reaching a goal of lending \$25,000 by the end of 2013. The distribution of all loans made grouped by region with Asia (33.89%), Africa (29.60%) and South America (18.25%) receiving the majority (over 81%) of all loans. Anyone can join, lead a local group, contribute and help. We look forward to hearing from you and having you onboard the team to spread the SWY spirit... wherever you are!

Canada – East Coast Winter Reunion

Who wants to be alone during the long, cold Canadian winter? It is very cold, and it snows a lot, but this past winter, we, Canadian ex-PYs, had a warm and cozy SWY-family time in the countryside east of Montreal. There were sixteen people, consisting of ex-PYs from SWY 13, 17, 18, 21, and 24 from Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal, Peru, and Japan, plus some of our extended family.

On the afternoon of January 19, 2013, we chose to brave the snow and icy roads. Despite the weather, we made it to our first destination, Balnea SPA resort, safely. We quickly put on our bathing suits and jumped into a big outdoor jacuzzi. It reminded us of the big grand bath on the ship. The beautiful Canadian nature scenes visible from the hot tub made us forget our daily stresses, and we enjoyed friendly conversation. From the spa, we headed to Louis Pierre Beauregard's, the president of SWYAA Canada, chalet in the eastern township of Sutton, about 1 hour from Montreal. The chalet was huge and welcoming. There are 6 rooms, 3 bathrooms, and a big living room with a fireplace. In addition to that, it has stunning nature views of lakes and mountains.

The next day, we went to Bromont ski resort near the chalet. Some of us skied and others snowboarded. It was the first time for Peruvian ex-PYs to ski, but thanks to Louis's one-on-one coaching, they had a great time. We enjoyed hot cocoa whenever we felt tired and needed to rest at the restaurant at the base of the mountain.

We went back to the chalet, freshened up, and began preparing dinner. Thanks to the leadership skills we acquired through SWY, everyone worked cooperatively and efficiently.



We made salad and lasagna and all sat around a big dining table. We enjoyed good food with good friends just like we did on the ship. After dinner, DJ Louis started playing music, and everyone danced and had fun. An air-band was even formed! The Peruvian ex-PYs made pisco sour, and a few minutes later, the dining room was transformed into the piano/emerald lounge.

The next morning, we woke up early and prepared breakfast. (There were a few people who couldn't make it to the morning assembly. We should have designated someone as AGL!) We enjoyed a late breakfast, then around noon, everyone hit the road to go home. We really had a great time during this reunion, so we are going to make this an annual SWY Canada event. Of course, all ex-PYs are welcome! Come to Canada!!! It is awesome even in the winter! You will not regret it!

Egypt – Message for the Victims of the Great East Japan Earthquake

EASWY was invited by Mr. Hideaki Yamamoto, Director of Information and Culture Center, the Japanese Embassy in Cairo, to deliver encouraging message to the people in the affected areas of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, in the 12th JEN Open Salon Special to commemorate the second anniversary eve in the Embassy of Japan in Egypt on March 10, 2013. EASWY Message was read by Vitta Ibrahim (SWY14) and Samia Moussa (SWY6) along with speeches given by high level officials from Japan and Egypt. Amr

Morad (SWY2), Amani Rabei (SWY6) and Norhan Diab (SWY24) honored us by carrying small EASWY Banner while reading EASWY Message. EASWY Message was very well received and attendees were really impressed. We were grateful to receive a “Thank You” from The Japanese Embassy for, what the Japanese Embassy described as “Wonderful EASWY Message.”

The Head of Information & Culture Center, Embassy of Japan in

Egypt, after the event, sent a report on the 12th JEN Open Salon Special in commemoration of the 2nd Anniversary Eve of Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami of March 11, 2011 through Japanese diplomatic channels to Japan and included EASWY Message that we read at the 12th JEN Open Salon. A hard copy of EASWY Message that was read at the 12th JEN Open Salon was delivered by Vitta Ibrahim, as representative of EASWY Managing Board in Tokyo Conference 2013 and was included in the box that the conference representatives brought to send



some refreshments to the victims, as IYEO members were organizing “Café” events to ease their stress. We wrote in our message how we got to know Japan through the SWY program and who we are and what we did in 2011 and 2012 since we got to know about the drastic natural disasters that took place in Japan on March 11, 2011.

The excerpts of EASWY Message Read at the Japanese Embassy:

“.....This year, in 2013, we, the Egyptian Alumni Association for the Ship for World Youth, are here again at the Japanese Embassy in Cairo Commemorating the Second Anniversary Eve of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami of March 11, 2011 relaying the message and saying it over and over again “Always in our Heart Japan.” Even if these natural disasters have sadly changed the life of many of you in Japan, you are so much stronger and you’ll make it. WE’LL ALWAYS MAKE IT TOGETHER. We still remember you and you’ll always remain in our hearts. Sincerely yours, The Egyptian Alumni Association for the Ship for the World Youth (EASWY)”

Greece – Environmental Awareness Campaign Actions

SWYAA Greece participated in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, the City of Athens authorities and the General Secretariat of Youth, in the environmental awareness campaign actions, organized in the frame of the World Environment Day 2013 on Sunday, June 9 from 18:00 to 21:30 at different points of Syntagma Square (the main square of Athens) and experienced a special evening with:

- Environmental games,
- Planting seeds workshop
- Paper recycling workshop
- Home composting workshop
- Vegetable garden
- Origami workshop
- Inflatable recycling park
- Interactive recycling games



A hidden Treasure game was also organized in order to better acquaint the participants with the city and the urban environment. Athens Municipal Philharmonic Orchestra provided a music program while the Athletic Association of Thrakomakedon “Olympiada” performed a choreographed gymnastics show in the sounds of the “recycling song.”

The day concluded with the screening of the documentary film HOME on a giant screen in Syntagma Square at 21:30.

All actions were carried out with the invaluable help of Athens University, the Scouts of Greece, Environmental and cyclist Association of Kallithea, as well as the Association of Followers Athens 2004 Volunteers. Representatives of the Ministry for the Environment, the Mayor of Athens, the General Secretary of Youth and the Cultural Attaché of the Japanese Embassy in Athens Mrs. Emi Mashiko honored us with their presence.

Japan (IYEO) – “IYEO Challenge Fund”

In line with the IYEO aim for FY2013, “To develop people who can exercise leadership in the society,” the IYEO Challenge Fund scheme marks its third year since its introduction. The IYEO Challenge Fund aims to best utilize its manpower to contribute to the society and thereby make the organization more active. Applications are reviewed and selected by the board members two times a year, and each of the selected projects can receive up to 100,000 yen as a grant. For the first term of FY2013, seven applications were selected, two of which have been implemented.

Care and Community Rehabilitation Training Workshop under the theme of “To brighten the future of nursing care in Japan - seen from perspectives abroad” was organized by Kagoshima IYEO on May 11, 2013 at Kagoshima Prefectural Youth Hall. This workshop welcomed over 90 participants from various fields, and offered a keynote lecture, reports from former program participants and non-IYEO members, and group discussion. For the keynote lecture, Mr. Yoshikazu Yoshimoto, an ex-PY of the Young Core Leaders of Civil Society Groups Development (YCL) Program and physical therapist in Fukui Prefecture, spoke about how elderly people and people with disabilities can continue to live in communities, purposes of rehabilitation, how the care staff – the leading role in the field of nursing care – should be, and hopes and challenges for the super-aging society to come. The reports were made from ex-PYs of the YCL program who participated in different years, presenting on cases in the UK, Denmark, Germany and New Zealand. Other case presentations were also made on Australia and Kochi Prefecture of Japan by non-IYEO members. The group discussion was conducted only for a limited time and allowed participants to exchange their hopes and

views freely.

Seminar under the theme of “Aiming to Make People’s Late Life Meaningful” was organized by Preparatory Committee for the Establishment of Age Japan on July 27, 2013 at Academic Exchange Center, Niimi College, Okayama Prefecture. The seminar was conducted in two parts: “Exercise Prescription for the Elderly and the Outline of the Promotion of the Healthy Japan 21 (2nd)” and “Possibility of Introducing the Time Banking System in Niimi City.” The first part was conducted by the head of the preparatory committee and former YCL program participant, Mr. Toshiyuki Saito, lecturing and giving instructions on the daily exercises for the elderly and explaining about the national basic guidelines. In the second part, a presenter from the UK spoke about a case in which the time banking system was introduced successfully, and the need for a similar system to be implemented in Japan. A pilot project in a city like Niimi was encouraged. Altogether, 120 participants gathered for this seminar, including not only the elderly citizens but students and alumni studying about elder care. The seminar offered an opportunity for the different generations to learn and explore systems to support the elderly people’s meaningful life together.



Turkey – Charity Fair

Turkish Japanese Women Friendship and Culture Association organized a charity fair to raise money for Turkish students studying in Japan and Japanese students studying in Turkey on April 7. At the fair, several activities took place. There were also some stands where traditional Japanese food and drinks, costumes, jewelry, hand crafts, and china were sold. SWYAA Turkey also had a stand. Our alumni members Nihan Oral (SWY25), Mustafa Sariyılmaz (SWY24), Didem Tari (SWY22) and Gul Eksi (SWY12) volunteered to work at the

stand. They sold traditional Japanese hand crafts and china which had been ordered from Japan. Everything was sold out in half an hour. Didem cooked “Takoyaki” and prepared “Matça” latte to be sold. The Embassy gave full support to the activities. The Ambassador’s wife, Ms. Tomoko Araki, also opened a stand. Our alumni members assisted her. As SWYAA Turkey we did an excellent job and raised about \$1,000. It was a remarkable activity to introduce Japanese culture and provide financial support for the students.

Venezuela – EUSA Project

In 2013 SWYAA Venezuela took part in a new volunteer international project together with five youth led organizations: European Platform for Youth Development (Romania), Aljaraque en Acción (Spain), Cardiff Youth Council (UK), ORPAS (Brazil) and OAJNU (Argentina). This project, called “EUSA - Encouraging Sustainable Action Through Unity,” is supported by the Youth in Action fund from European Union, and has as its main objective to create a comprehensive common action strategy that tackles the major global issue of stimulation of initiative and entrepreneurship amongst youth while spurring Latin America – European Union best practice exchange learning and cooperation. Three SWYAA volunteer Andreína Soto, Carlos Reséndiz and Johalis Ramírez, along with other 15 volunteers from the above mentioned countries participated in a Capacity Building session in Romania. The event seeks to strength the skills and abilities of all the participants and build interpersonal aptitudes.

Job Shadowings were conducted in Europe and South America. SWYAA Venezuela hosted two volunteers Lucía Gómez and Cristian Thoma coming from Spain and Romania. During their stay, they research the current situation on youth entrepreneurship in Venezuela. SWYAA Venezuela organized institutional visits to a series on NGOs among them: Asociación de Jóvenes Empresarios de la Universidad Simón Bolívar (AJE USB), Asociación de las Naciones Unidas de Venezuela (ANUV), Superatec, Fundes, Grupo Social CESAP, Banauge and Opción Venezuela. The job shadowers also took part in SWYAA volunteer activities with Fundamusical (El Sistema), Doctor Yasso and SOS Aldeas Infantiles promoting cultural diversity and dialogue. A special visit was organized to elementary school EBE Luis Castro in Caraballeda, Vargas State. The volunteers prepared a series of activities for children ages 6-12 using non-formal education methods raising awareness on the importance of intercultural understanding.

Yemen – Certificate of Appreciation from the National Center of Blood Research

On June 14, the international day of blood donation, the members of the Yemeni Ship for World Youth Alumni Association received a Certificate of Appreciation from the National Center of Blood Research, with a huge attendance of 6 national TV channels and 2 Radio stations, Dr. Fawzi Bahakeem (Chief of the National Center of Blood Research), presented his deepest appreciation for the permanent support and dedication of the members of SWYAA, in a ceremony that included attendance of Government officials, diplomats, public audience and other local civil communities, the ceremony was sponsored by His Excellency Mr. Mohammed Basundowah (Prime Minister of Yemen).

The National Center of Blood Research evaluated the contributions of the Alumni members toward improvement of the volunteer action and positive achievement regarding the regular blood donation activities that became known in the last 3 years. More than 15 thousands of patients are visiting the National Center of Blood Research every month, illnesses like leukemia and other blood cancer patients are being treated and handled in the center, such treating was possible because of the help of the collective work of local volunteer communities. Dr. Fawzi Bahakeem also expressed his hopes for the continuous support and effort of the Alumni members, and wished the success and prosperity to all members and their families.

Updates from Ex-PYs

SWYers joined Morioka Sansa Odori Festival Makiko Kojima (SWY21, Japan)

Have you ever seen or heard about Sansa dance? There is a big festival called “Morioka Sansa Odori Festival” held in Morioka City, Iwate Prefecture, from August 1 through 4 every year. Over 10,000 taiko drummers and dancers parade through the city. Sansa is one of the Five Great Festivals of Tohoku, and even listed in the Guinness Book of Records as the largest taiko drum festival in the world. It has also been performed on board in some SWY programs, so some of you might have seen and enjoyed it.

Recent years, especially after SWY21, some ex-PYs from different batches have joined this festival in summer. In 2013, 24 ex-PYs from SWY21, 22 and 23, as well as one new PY of Global Leaders Development program, joined the Sansa parade wearing SWY T-shirts. Thanks to the intensive lesson by our teacher Masami-san (SWY18), who leads a big Sansa team called “Kato Family,” we could somehow master the dance (roughly) in one-hour practice. During about 40 minutes of the parade, we really enjoyed dancing and we also tried our best especially to show our big smiles and cheeriness to the spectators. We were so happy and satisfied when we reached the goal. It was such an exciting and amazing experience!

Other than joining the festival, we had a chance to visit Nishi-Waga Town, where Naoyuki Takahashi (SWY22) works as a public employee. We learned the lifestyle of local people there and enjoyed local cuisine such as wild plants and fresh milk. The next day of the festival, Akiko Abe (SWY21) organized a bus tour to the coastal area. After having nice seafood for lunch, we enjoyed breathtaking view of Sanriku Coast from a small boat called “Sappa Boat.” That area was hit by tsunami on Great East Japan Earthquake, but it seemed that the reconstruction is progressing step by step. It was a great weekend like a dream with lots of laughter of SWY friends. It was also a good opportunity to broaden the SWY network and deepen our relationships between different batches. We do thank the members of Iwate IYEO who organized this wonderful trip. We hope to join the Sansa Odori Festival next summer again. Why don’t you join us??



Cross Cultural Training Camp

Satoshi Kamoi (SWY22, Japan)

On January 12 and 13, I organized a "Cross Cultural Training Camp" at Aomori Minami High School where I work as a teacher. I called for ex-PYs to join the program through the SWY22 mailing list, and 12 ex-PYs came to my school. On the first day, we had a panel discussion about studying and working abroad. After that, I divided the students and ex-PYs into letter groups and had the students ask questions and discuss with the ex-PYs. Later, we had a presentation about the SWY program, played a "Trading game," ate dinner in groups, followed by an English game as refreshment. Musab from UAE and Hani from Yemen prayed while being observed by my students. It was the very first time for the students to see Muslims pray that it must have had a big impact on them. The students and ex-PYs talked about their life, hobbies, culture, SWY, and their dreams until the sun rose.

On the second day, we did a workshop called, "If the world were a village of 100 people." Students learned about how unequal the world was through the game. When it came time to say good bye, there was

no "ice" between the students and ex-PYs which had existed at the beginning of this program. Each letter group was like one family as I had seen during the last moments of the SWY22 program.

A few months later, I had a chance to talk with one of my students' mother. She said that her daughter had called her while she was on her way home. At the beginning of the call, the mother couldn't understand what her daughter was saying because she was crying. The mother was worried and asked, "Are you OK?" The student said to her mother, "It was the BEST DAY EVER." It was not easy to organize such an event in a public high school, but those memories made me convinced that I did something very special for my students. I am very grateful to the ex-PYs who donated their time, came to our school, and helped to create special memories with my students and me. I hope I can host another camp in the near future.



Kazan Universiade 2013

Elvira Fattakhova (SWY24, Russia)

I am happy and proud to say that I volunteered at the Universiade 2013 in Kazan, this fascinating festival of youth, sport and friendship. The Universiade is the world's largest by participation multi-sport event after the Olympics organized especially for student athletes.



The 27th Summer Universiade was held in Kazan, Russia, between July 6 and 17. Kazan Universiade turned out to be the best and largest in the history of the World University Games and set records in the number of participants (11,778 people), participating countries (162), sports on the program (27), medal events (351), visitors and tourists, spectators who attended sporting events (about 800,000), as well as the number of TV viewers. The largest national teams were from Russia, Ukraine, the U.S., Poland, Japan and China. Russia's medal harvest amounts to the all-time record number of medals at the

University Games (292: 155 gold, 75 silver and 62 bronze).

The Opening Ceremony of the Universiade was breathtaking. It was a combination of art and technology which resulted to the most awesome show I have ever seen. There was even a message from three Russian astronauts from the International Space Centre for the athletes. How cool is that?! The Universiade brought together 20,000 volunteers from 35 regions of the Russian Federation and 24 countries of the world. The volunteers were engaged in more than 40 different activities and everyone had a blast at the Universiade, no doubt. Many of them are already planning to volunteer at the Sochi Winter Olympics in 2014, Universiades in Gwangju, Korea (2015), and Taipei, Taiwan (2017). And there is even more for those willing – Winter Universiades take place every two years as well. Kazan was named the Sports Capital of Russia long ago and the city has definitely proved to be one. In 2015 Kazan is hosting the FINA World Aquatics Championships and the FIFA World Cup in 2018. I am sure there will be a call for volunteers again and if you are interested in Games Making, welcome to Russia, welcome to Kazan!

This is not a fairytale. This is real life.

Veronica Ixtla Garcia (SWY25, Mexico)

Once upon a time in a faraway kingdom a baby girl was born. Her name was Non-Profit Organization, but because that was a very long name for a child, everybody in the town called her NPO. As time went by, NPO grew up into a healthy, beautiful lady, full of energy and loved by all the citizens because her amazing heart, always willing to help others and promoting social causes in favor of the entire community. The people who lived in the kingdom felt they were very lucky, because they barely experienced any problem in their society and they all lived happy and comfortable. One day, good fortune vanished when an unknown sickness attacked the entire town. All the population became ill from weird and different diseases: a woman lost her memory and forgot how to write or read, an old man caught a cold and did not have enough money to afford the medicines, a young mom lost her baby giving birth, starving kids invaded the streets crying for food, the rivers were poisoned and the fishes dead. The list went on and on...full of miseries and the entire town claimed for a help. Only one person remained healthy and full of energy, NPO.

When she realized what had happened, she advised that no matter how hard she tried to solve this situation, this was going to be a very difficult job and she would not be able to accomplish it alone. She had to ask for extra help, but who could possibly lend a hand to the only hero in the kingdom? Maybe it is time to get on Facebook, she thought.

This is not a fairytale. This is real life. The United Nations lists: lack of education, diseases, child mortality, maternal health, environmental sustainability, global partnership, gender equality, poverty and hunger as part of the problems that need to be solved in order to have a better

world. Even when there are thousands of NPOs willing to help people in need, sometimes they need an extra hand from the society: fundraising, food donations, legal assistance, counseling, volunteers...

What if we had a network where to connect all the NPOs we know, with the available resources we SWYers know? SWY25 Mexico has just launched a social project named NetVinc to increase connection and linkage between NPOs and other type of organizations (donors, businesses, volunteers). We want to increase awareness and promote the different NPOs around the world, because even super heroes need an extra hand. Join us: <https://www.facebook.com/netvincmexico>

Gossip Corner from EASWY (Egypt)

- Mohamed Abdel Meguid (Gido, SWY16) is now living in Okinawa.
- Ahmed Samir (SWY24) moved to USA to have his CPA Exam.
- Hany Abdul Wahab (SWY14) got promoted as the World Director of the Youth Program in the World Organization of the Scout Movement & moved to Geneva.
- Ahmed Seddik (SWY14) visited Osaka and Tokyo.
- Ahmed Mamdouh (SWY21) got married.
- Mohamed Selim (SWY21) got a new baby girl.
- Dalia Younes (SWY24) became a Volunteer as Presenter and Editor in an internet radio called Radio Resala.
- Rabab El Menoufi (SWY24) travelled to Spain and Venezuela and stayed with ex-PYs from both delegations from SWY24.
- Rania Mourad (SWY19) appointed as member of the curating committee in "Societe Des Amis De L'Art," one of the oldest Egyptian organizations related to modern art started 1922.
- Sally Mohsen (SWY21) is Cofounder of Egypt Foundation for Youth and Development
- Egyptian SWY6 ex-PYs started to brainstorm and prepare for celebration of the SWY6, 20th Anniversary. Stay tuned!!

The 6th SWYAA Global Assembly in Bahrain, 2012



↑ H.H. Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Supreme Council for Youth and Sports chairman attends the Opening Ceremony.



↑ All the participants assemble in front of the Bahrain Fort



↑ Each country make an activity report at the Conference for Post-Program Activities



↑ Some of the participants visit Muharraaq Elderly Care Center for the institutional visit.



↑ Participants listen to the explanation about the outline of Islam at Al Fateh Mosque.

Quick report from 7th GA Peru 2013!!



↑ All the participants at the ruins of Pachacamac



↑ Panel discussion by the six presenters at the International Conference for Post-Program Activities



Don't forget...
 When you move, please inform your contact details including your name, country, batch, address, phone, fax & e-mail to the following two places.
 1. To your local SWYAA President
 2. To IYEO e-mail address: swyaa@iyeo.or.jp

SWY News can be downloaded from the website.

SWY News Editorial Staff

Tamae Saito (chief editor)
 International Youth Exchange Organization of Japan (IYEO)
 Address: 2-35-14-6F Nihonbashi Ningyo-cho, Chuo-ku, Tokyo, Japan
 Phone: +81-(0)3-3249-0767
 Fax: +81-(0)3-3639-2436
 E-mail: swyaa@iyeo.or.jp
 IYEO website: <http://www.iyeo.or.jp>
 SWYAA website: <http://www.swyaa.org>