

Louis Pierre Beauregard
President SWY Canada

The Honourable Masako Mori
Minister for State for Youth Affairs
Cabinet Office
Re: **Ship for World Youth program (SWY)**

December 28th, 2012

Dear Minister,

Allow me to begin by congratulating you on your successful campaign in the recent election and the victory by the Liberal Democratic Party. We trust that you will guide Japan and its youth to the best of your abilities.

As you are likely aware, this past summer during the review of programs in your ministry the **Ship for World Youth** program was slated to be cancelled; it would appear that some of the reasons cited were a lacking positive effect on Japan and its people, as well as difficulty in quantifying the program. I have to respectfully disagree with your predecessors decision, and I write you today to express the opinion of our association on this matter.

The official **Ship for World Youth** web site speaks to the purpose of the program;

"...to broaden the global view of the Japanese youths, to promote mutual understanding and friendship between Japanese and foreign youths as well as to cultivate the spirit of international cooperation and the competence to practice it, and furthermore to foster the youths with capability of showing leadership in various areas of international society."

These objectives are desired by every free-thinking country on earth, and for every country other than Japan, these are lofty ideals and words only spoken during elections in a cheap attempt to garner votes. However since 1967 these words have been followed by actions in Japan, you have tried and succeeded at achieving these goals. To have the vision and desire to educate your Youth in international cooperation, leadership and mutual understanding was as ground breaking in the 60's as it was necessary, in our world today it is still very much avant-garde and possibly even more needed than it ever was. I can certainly understand some in the Japanese populace who would not fully comprehend the purpose of this program; there is an expense to it but the result cannot be monetized as easily.

Since 1988 (the year of renaming the program to **Ship for World Youth**) just over 2700 Japanese Youth have had the privilege of participating in the **SWY** program, along with Youth from over 60 countries on 24 voyages. Those thousands of Japanese youth act as international ambassadors for the rest of their lives; your program has given them the experience and tools needed to transact in an ever globalized world. Moreover this experience gives them the desire to want to step out of their comfort zone and learn other languages, customs and cultures. This is an incredible asset for Japan because these past Japanese participants, who now have a family network of brothers and sisters in over 60 countries, become Japan's "face" abroad.

They also become your strength at home due to their newly gained perspective of the world acquired because of their new friends from the four corners of the globe. They have a refreshed outlook on the issues and problems that exist within their own communities, and tools to help innovate and solve those

problems because they've heard, have been shown, and understand how others around the world deal with similar issues.

Another equally important and valuable aspect to the **SWY** program for the Japanese people, is the group of past participants that I belong to. There are thousands of us from over 60 countries that have benefited from this program in much the same way as the Japanese Youth, with one major difference. Thanks to the incredible program that we've experienced as guests of the Japanese, we now have a wider perspective of the world much like our fellow Japanese participants/family, however the focus of our newly formed knowledge of culture, language and customs is Japan's. We return home forever in your debt, we give presentations, we host events, we participate in the local Japanese community centers of our towns and cities... we are in effect your junior diplomats for life. The amount of goodwill that this creates internationally could never be calculated, and it should never be discounted. When the tragic Tōhoku earthquake and tsunami hit in 2011, there was a mobilisation of the **SWY** friends of Japan in over 60 countries trying to do anything and everything possible to send, bring, give help to the people of Japan. Our Canadian organization within hours, decided to send \$10,000 USD once the IYEO had established where it needed the funds. A few months ago, as per a promise made, we sent another \$6,500 to the IYEO. Those are two very small gestures, but those were just two actions out of so many more around the world that was done almost instinctively, as if an innate part of our character or spirit, to help the people of Japan whom we view as members of our family; and all of those actions due to the **Ship for World Youth**.

We agree that this program is hard to measure and at times difficult to defend to your citizens, but we think that this immeasurability reaches well beyond the mandate of the program and is the exact reason that the **Ship for World Youth** must be cherished, held up as an example and continued. There aren't enough programs like this in our societies today, we must protect the ones that exist.

I wish you and yours a very joyous 2013 with health, and happiness!

Very sincerely and with great appreciation.



Louis P. Beauregard
President
SWY Canada



EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA

http://www.kenyarep-jp.com
E-mail : kenrep@kenyarep-jp.com

3-24-3, Yakumo Meguro-ku,
Tokyo 152-0023, JAPAN
Telephone : 03-3723-4006/7
Facsimile : 03-3723-4488

REF. No KET/CUL/37/VOL.VII

10th September 2012

Hon. Masaharu Nakagawa
Minister of State for Youth Affairs
Cabinet Office,
Government of Japan
1-6-1 Nagata-cho, Chiyoda-ku
TOKYO 100-8914

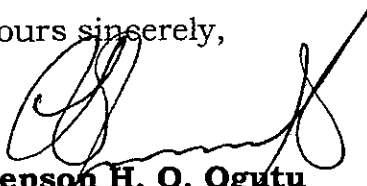
Dear Hon. Nakagawa,

I have the honour to forward herewith letter from Hon. Dr. Paul N. Otuoma, EGH, MP, Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports of Kenya.

On behalf of the Government of Kenya, the Minister is appealing for your favourable consideration in continuing the Ship for World Youth programme given its contribution in promoting deeper understanding and commitment to leadership, cross-cultural respect, volunteerism and interdependence among the youth participants.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,



Benson H. O. Ogutu
AMBASSADOR



REPUBLIC OF KENYA
MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS
OFFICE OF THE MINISTER

KENCOM HOUSE, 3rd Floor
P.O. Box 34303-00100
NAIROBI, KENYA

Telephone: +254-20-2240068
+254-20-310909
Fax No. +254-20-2223496
E-mail: minister@youthaffairs.go.ke

When replying please quote date & ref

Date: 30th August, 2012

MOYAS/MIN/VOL.1/65

Mr. Masaharu Nakagawa,
Minister of State for Youth Affairs,
Government of Japan

JAPAN

Dear *Mr. Nakagawa,*

RE: SHIP FOR WORLD YOUTH PROGRAM (SWY)

I write to express my appreciation and gratitude to your Ministry and to the Government and people of Japan for support of the SWY program. Since 1992, Kenyan youths selected to participate in the program have demonstrated deeper understanding and commitment to leadership, cross-cultural respect, volunteerism and interdependence. The benefits of the graduates of SWY have touched various communities in Kenya as well as leadership within government and private sector.

It is against this background that the Ministry has learned with sorrow that the Government of Japan is in the process of making a decision on whether the program would continue. Kindly consider this letter as an appeal to your office and the Government of Japan that the SWY program be considered favorably. Through the program many young people in Kenya have deep understanding of Japan for there has been projects initiated in local communities and exchange visits among the ex-participants of the program.

The education and leadership that the people of Japan have provided through the program is invaluable to our people and, I believe to other people all over the world.

Yours

HON. DR. PAUL N. OTUOMA, EGH, M.P.
MINISTER FOR YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS