



SWYAA Activity Reports – Report from September 2010 to August 2011

Izmir International Mini SWY Reunion – August 18 to 21, 2012

After getting off of Fuji Maru back in 2010, we came up with ideas of a possible road trip from Greece to Turkey. Although we got very excited about this idea, we unfortunately could not make it happen. It wasn't until the GA in Egypt in 2010, that we had any plans regarding a wider international reunion in Turkey. It was an amazing experience to get together with ex-PYs from SWY1 through SWY22 in Egypt. We realized that we can reach out and get to know many more ex-PYs than our own batch mates through organizing a reunion. We came up with the idea of organizing a mini international reunion in the summer 2012. In order give some kind of Greek-Turkish feeling, we decided that it should be organised in the Aegean area of Turkey which to this day has Greek influence through its residents, architecture and history. With constant supportive feedback of some SWYAA Greece members, we finally decided that the mini reunion should be held in Izmir.

After many sessions and hours of planning, and a lot of effort spent on the putting together of the event, the structure of the mini reunion finally came together. As always, when the time came for the actual get-together, it was a wonderful feeling to have 28 SWYers from 14 different countries in Izmir after not having seen many for the past year(s) or meeting them for the first time.

Our first day was spent in a town called Çeşme whose bays we travelled by boat; which unexpectedly became more interesting with the performances of a male belly dancer who was also the host of the tour. On the second day, we headed up to a town called Foça where

the main beach cleaning activity was held. As we had a good number of helpers join us in cleaning the beach, we once again experienced how an organised movement can lead to change



and raise awareness in society in young and old alike. We spent our third day being tourists in Ephesus, Şirince and the House of the Virgin Mary, followed by the farewell dinner held on a boat touring by night, which reminded each and every participant of SWY. The last day of the reunion was spent exploring Izmir City Center.

Having learnt a lot through organizing this mini (but great!) reunion, we on our behalf enjoyed it a lot and hope that everyone who participated shares similar feelings towards having gotten together once again. Reunions are usually just an excuse to make us feel the SWY spirit once more and we really hope to have achieved this. If one day we feel the same fire again, we hope to make a bigger scale excuse... ☺ Keep SWYing!

Costa Rica

Celebration of Japanese Speech Contest (October 30, 2011)

This activity is organized every year by the Japanese Embassy. During this occasion, more than 40 students of Japanese Language participated, demonstrating their skills in the use of this language. Upon request of Mr. Yoshikazu Furukawa, First Secretary of the Japanese Embassy in Costa Rica, we helped during the activity as masters of ceremonies on behalf of the SWYAA Costa Rica. (Please find a picture attached).

Japanese Festival (November, 12-13, 2011)

As is tradition, our association participated of "The Japan Festival" an event organized for Japanese Embassy and several Japanese Associations located in Costa Rica. This year, we conduct an

interactive exhibition that included photographs, videos, music, Japanese souvenirs and art donated by a SWY20 JPY. The whole idea was named "Why Japan?" (¿Por qué Japón, in Spanish) like a way to demonstrate why we are grateful with our Japanese friends for the memorable SWY experience.



More than 20 Costa Rican OPY's were part of this exhibition. I'm happy to share with you that the money we earned (with the Japanese Art donated) during the activity, was donated to an Animal Shelter.

Egypt

Always in Our Heart Japan...EASWY and the SWY

Under the theme "Always in our Heart Japan...EASWY and the Ship for World Youth," the Egyptian Alumni Association for the Ship for World Youth (EASWY) in cooperation with Japan-Egypt Network (JEN) and the Japanese Embassy in Cairo hosted the 9th JEN Open Salon on May 17, 2012 at the Multi-Purpose Hall of the Japanese Embassy in Egypt. Based on invitation from the Japanese Embassy in Cairo, preparatory meetings took place with JEN members. The Salon, open to the public, was started by a Welcome Speech of H.E. Mr. Norihiro Okuda, Ambassador of Japan to Egypt. "Thank You" is what EASWY expressed throughout the event and in its Welcome Speech for all the efforts of the Japanese Government and the continuous support of the Japanese Embassy in Egypt for Egyptian delegations to SWY Program throughout the years since 1990 till 2012. The Egyptian audience navigated in our world of SWYers through the interactive dialogue between EASWY members and the audience (in English and Arabic interchangeably) following a script telling the history of SWY

program and Egypt's participation, intersected by short movies on 4th SWYAA GA Egypt in 2010 attended by 180 ex-PYs from all over the world and a movie where some of EASWY members themselves expressed how they benefited from their participation in this program and lessons learned. The audience lived the SWY experience through the Photo Exhibition on the side of the Salon which included photos for EASWY activities throughout the years and the most significant and prominent social contribution activities.

H.E. Mr. OKUDA, Ambassador of Japan to Egypt was pleased with the 9th JEN Open Salon. EASWY members expressed their wish during the Salon that Egypt continues to participate in this Program and look forward to having Egypt as one of the Ports of Calls AGAIN.

The audience was happy and felt proud of EASWY members and they said they enjoyed the Salon and learned a lot about the SWY program and the activities of EASWY.

Fiji

SWYAA Signs MOU with Fijian Government

The signing of the Memorandum of Understanding and handing over of donations for the SWY Kindergarten Projects was certainly a Mile-stone achievement for SWYAA Fiji. The Permanent Secretary for Ministry of Youth & Sports, Director – Youth & Sports, Muana and Navuso Village Elders and the media were appreciative of the SWY

program and the values it instills in each of us after participating and the exchange / homestays /on-board programs, the post program activities, contributions towards the community, the environment and the country as a whole.

Long Live the SWY Spirit and all the best to the new National Leader and SWY25!!

Japan (IYEO)

IYEO Voluntary Activities Support Fund (Challenge Fund)

The IYEO Challenge Fund was launched in FY2011 to encourage IYEO members to initiate new projects targeting the general public. If the applicants are successful, they can receive a subsidy for maximum of up to 100,000 yen to implement the project.

In FY 2011, two groups applied of which one was selected: “Our Turning Point.” Saga IYEO ran an event for the participants of international youth exchange programs sponsored by Japanese Government and local government to make presentations to show their leanings in public.

In FY2012, five groups applied of which two were selected: “Youth Welfare Forum for the People with Disabilities” by former participants of the Young Core Leaders of Civil Society Groups Development Program; and “J-SSEAYP” by the members of the SSEAYP38 program. They ran a one night residential program including discussion and cultural exchanges targeting students so that they can have similar experience like SSEAYP.

One More Child Goes To School

The project in Japan was officially started in 2008 in cooperation with SWYAA Sri Lanka. From 2010, IYEO has been focusing on the scholarship project, and currently, 53 Japanese Foster Parents are supporting 59 Sri Lankan students (ages 5-10) who are going to the Buddha Jayanthi Vidyalaya Primary School in Matara, the southern part of Sri Lanka. Every year IYEO receives more foster parents and the program is gradually growing.

In November 2011, the project leader, Mayumi Kobayashi visited the school again and donated a microphone, an amplifier, lockers for teachers and some Japanese books based on the school teacher’s and the student’s needs. Mayumi taught Japanese culture in the special class during her visit.



In addition, IYEO organizes charity events in Japan to raise fund to purchase educational materials. During SWY24 in February 2012, IYEO sent some stationaries to the school in cooperation with SWYAA Sri Lanka and Post-Program Activity Promotion programs committee. The annual charity lunch was held at Sri Lankan restaurant in March 2012 with many guests attending.

Apart from the project, Mayumi took new challenge to talk about Sri Lanka and the project to Japanese elementary school students in June 2012. Most of the students didn’t know about Sri Lanka so the aim of this activity is to create a bridge between Japanese students and Sri Lankan students. We will keep you informed of our activities and results through the SWY website, mailing lists, and newsletters. Please search “One More Child Goes To School” on Facebook page too. For detail, contact IYEO Sayoko Tanaka: onemorechild@iyeo.or.jp

Mexico

Selecting Mexican Delegates for SWY25

The selection process of the Mexican delegation for the SWY25 has been a remarkable one and it is worth sharing. It consisted of four stages: a) Registration and individual essays, b) Written examinations, c) Social impact activities and, d) Personal interviews.

This year, SWYAA Mexico was authorized to take an active role in choosing the future Mexican PYs in cooperation with the Mexican Institute for Youth and the Embassy of Japan in Mexico. Two major changes in the selection process were introduced:

- Offering a second venue for examinations and social impact activities
- Social impact activities as a core requisite in the selection process

Up to this year, Mexico City had always been the only venue where the selection process for SWY Mexican delegations took place. Since our country is very big and diverse, SWYAA Mexico lobbied for a second venue in another region of the country to assure that young people everywhere



wouldn’t miss the chance to apply. Having a close cooperation with Coahuila’s Institute for Youth, the Japanese Embassy agreed to authorize an alternate venue in the city of Saltillo, Coahuila, providing an opportunity to young people from the northeastern states of Mexico to apply to SWY more easily.

Introducing social impact activities as a core requisite in the selection process was also a big achievement. It allowed us to see the applicants’ leadership abilities firsthand and it created a direct positive impact in the communities where activities were held.

Coahuila’s Institute for Youth proved to be a great ally with the organization of the Saltillo venue. Not only did they help advertise the program, but they also provided the material needed for the activities of social impact that applicants performed at a small marginalized community called “El Jazminal.” Throughout the weekend, applicants painted houses, designed sport fields, organized games with the local kids, distributed groceries among the poorest people, talked to the

community about further needs and made a commitment to keep helping them, no matter the results of the selection process for SWY25.

At Mexico's City venue, activities of social impact consisted on tasks dedicated to protecting and preserving green areas of the National University within the surroundings of its Olympic Stadium by cleaning garbage and weeds in those areas. Participants also separated, classified, cleaned and packed donated food, facilitating its delivery to

people in need who cannot afford it.

We can say with great satisfaction that this year's selection process improved a lot compared to previous ones: more young Mexicans had the opportunity to apply to SWY by offering a second venue for the examinations (giving as a result a more diverse and representative delegation), and the social impact projects allowed the applicants to create an immediate impact in a community and to experience the SWY spirit, even before participating in the program.

Oman

SWYAA Oman Day

On the July 31, 2012 SWYAA Oman held their annual event SWYAA Oman Day. This event is being held for three years consecutively. In this day Omani SWYers who are usually busy with life and work all try their best to spare one whole day from their life to enable themselves to do as much events as possible of SWY activities. Therefore, all Omani SWYers agreed to have this day once in a year to do these activities and to gather and have great time together with all SWYers from different cities. Due to prior organization of the event we usually have a very nice number of participates from different batches that enable them to meet the new SWYers and get to know them very well. However, SWYAA Oman Day is usually held in the Holy month of Ramadan were all Muslims around the world are fasting. SWYers in Muscat are aware of the difficulties of some Muslim foreigners have who can't afford to get a proper meals after a long day fasting. Therefore, all the SWYers donate from their saving to buy a proper meal for some people who usually gather in certain places to get the free food provided for them. After buying the food and reserve the places we distribute the food for them and smooth the place for them to be comfortable while eating. The alumni already

make arrangements with some of the decent restaurants to provide the quantity of meals needed for them all. After all of them finished their meals we start help in the cleaning process for the place and move to the next event. Most of the SWYers who are willing and are in a proper health move to the blood bank in the public hospital to donate blood and leave their information in the hospital in case of emergency donation needed.

The last event is to buy some gifts for the children who are hospitalized in a certain hospital. Those children are unfortunate to be hospitalized when we have an event for children in the half of the month called "Qaranqashoo" where children go around in the neighborhood at night and collect candies from the neighborhood houses. Therefore, we visit them and provide for them some gifts to make them feel happy and not regretting being in the hospital during this time.

Finally and after all the events we gather together and have some nice conversation with the remaining SWYers and chilling out

Peru

Youth Working for Hope

On June 23, 2012, SWYAA Peru visited the Association "Un Día de Esperanza" (A Day of Hope), to handover more than \$1,400.00 collected in the fundraising activities SWYAA conducted in the months that followed the arrival of the Peruvian delegation of SWY24. The relationship with "Un Día de Esperanza" dates back to November of 2011, when the newly selected delegation decided to execute volunteer activities with this non-profit institution. Here, they learned first hand about the work the institution does and the needs they have.

"Un Día de Esperanza" aims in improving the quality of life of children with HIV/AIDS. It is led by young striving professionals, head-strong in creating a home for children of all ages. However, "Un Día de Esperanza" struggles in obtaining the material and financial support it needs to finish implementing infrastructure and for obtaining a license to operate- as is required by the Ministry of Development and Social Inclusion. Inspired by such laudable work, SWYAA committed itself in making further and meaningful collaborations. Under the common theme of "SWY Fest 2," two activities were organized to support "Un Día de Esperanza": (1) a technical advisory workshop and (2) a fundraising charity concert.

On May 17, SWYAA Peru organized a workshop inviting three specialists in Public Health and HIV Assistance Projects

On June 1 the concert "SWY Fest 2" was held with great participation

of members of the SWYAA Peru. Ex-PYs from SWY24 performed songs they learned on board, while guest artists (including TV celebrities) amused the more than 200 people gathered. Without a doubt, the activity served as a way to strengthen SWYAA Peru, uniting ex-PYs in a common fundraising goal. The result was a positive one as S/. 3975.00 Nuevos Soles (US \$1483.20 dollars) was collected.

For SWYAA, collaborating with "Un Día de Esperanza" was a way of transmitting the values of youth empowerment and change, learned and strengthened in the SWY program. The activity was a worth wild opportunity through which we hope to have proven that youth volunteer work can make important contributions to society.



Tanzania

SWYAA Tanzania continued with its post program activities with the aim of supporting SWY. In this year SWYAA Tanzania represented by some of the ex-PYs performed several activities as follows:

Volunteer Work at Mkono wa Mara Secondary School

At Mkono wa Mara secondary school in Kilosa region swyaa Tanzania through their representatives conducted a volunteer work in teaching

students (form I to form IV) computer courses. The courses conducted were : Introduction to computers, Ms word, Ms excel, Ms publisher and Ms powepoint. During the course the students were excited with the knowledge they got.

Japanese Movie Events and Japanese Handcraft Exhibition

SWYAA Tanzania continues to establish tie with Japanese embassy in

Tanzania. At the end of each month always there is a Japanese movie event at Japanese ambassador residence in Dar es Salaam Tanzania. Ex-PYs from Tanzania always attend the events where they meet with other friends of Japan. Japanese handcraft exhibition was held last month where ex-PYs attended and they met with ambassador of Japan in Tanzania.

SWYAA Tanzania Meeting

On July 12, 2012, SWYAA Tanzania held a meeting with the aim of strengthen the SWYAA and the post-program activities to be performed. The following were discussed during the meeting:

- We agreed that our SWYAA should be registered. This will led SWYAA to have power and constitution in fulfilling its responsibilities.

- Selection of PYs in the SWY program should be considered well. Apart from that the PYs should get enough training before they participate in the program.
- In order to develop our association SWYAA Tanzania will cooperate with Japanese Embassy and community to perform volunteerism programs in schools, hospitals etc.
- Launch SWYAA Tanzania Website. This will enable our association to publish SWY News to the web. The address of the web site will be www.swyaatanzania.com. We expect after three months the website will be ready.
- To have annual meeting
- To have SWYAA Tanzania email: swyaatanzania@gmail.com

Turkey

'A Fun Day' with the Kids of Ercis

The earthquake with the magnitude of 7.2 hit Van in October 23, 2011. Many people, but severely the children suffered from this catastrophe. Members of SWYAA Turkey, Seda Yıldız (SWY22) and Sultan Kılıç (SWY24) decided to devote a day for the children in Erciş, a town damaged the most from the earthquake. Ex-PYs arranged the activity with an elementary school and prepared a program, filling a day with many activities such as painting, playing games and folding origami. Luckily, with the participation of another ex-PY from Bahrain, Jassim Darwish (SWY22) and teachers from Van, the program took more attention and became more beneficial for the children.



On the activity day, the kids were divided into five groups, defined as colors. Each ex-PY and teacher became the leader of a group. After the introductions and Jassim's presentation about Bahrain, the kids were becoming more comfortable with the instructors. They were sharing their problems and feelings regarding the earthquake and life's harshness on them. Following the chats, kids were asked to paint in groups of three, about their understanding of 'hope and happiness.' Each group shared their feelings and dreams with the others, through their paintings. After that, the game and competition session started outside the school building. Thanks to the sunny weather with a nice breeze of Van Lake, all the participants enjoyed the games and competed for their color groups. Following the outdoor activities, Seda showed the kids to fold origami cranes. Surprisingly, the students knew how to fold it from before, yet they did not know about the story of 'Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes.' The students were moved with her story of hope, and wish for peace. Also, Sultan taught the kids to sing and dance 'Tutira Mai,' a traditional Maori song from New Zealand. This multicultural activity with the participation of a Bahraini ex-PY, helped the students to widen their horizons and gave them inspiration to follow their dreams.

The activity ended with photo session and exchange of contacts. Not only the students but also the manager and teachers of the school were glad to host such an activity, and were willing to have the continuation of it in the coming semesters.

Venezuela

Learn Live Love Project

SWYAA Venezuela along with other 6 NGOs around the world under the Coordination of Finlands Svenska 4H, Finland; presented a collaboration project on volunteering through active participation for the Youth in Action Programme. The Project was approved by the European Commission (Project N2011-2776). Nathalie Wierdak (SWY21) is the National Project Coordinator for the Learn Live Love (LLL) Project and Edwin Solórzano (SWY21) is Local Coordinator, Andreína Martínez (SWY21) and Ricardo Reséndiz (SWY21) are also taking part as youth participants. LLL is a collaborative project between Europe and Latin America that seeks to generate, through educational initiatives of cultural exchange, collaborative strategies with a view towards reducing poverty and marginalization. LLL is an active project, experiencing the realities of others, generating a positive change in the local society.

As a Local Action Programme for 2012 SWYAA Venezuela is supporting three rural schools for Primary Children "Escuela Bolivariana de Sicarigua," "Escuela Integral Mapoyo" and E.B.E "Luis Castro."

From March 27 to 30, SWYAA Venezuela hosted the LLL Project Preparation Meeting, having representatives from the above organizations coming to Venezuela to plan and discuss the Volunteer

Projects. As part of the local program, participants visited the "Centro de Acción Social por la Música" from "El Sistema" and "Núcleo Montalbán."



The timing was propitious for other members of SWYAA Peru Diego Padilla (SWY21), SWYAA Norway Linn Landmark (SWY21) and SWYAA Venezuela Liliana Sivoli (SWY21) and Ricardo Gonzalez (SWY24), to meet once again as part of the LLL Project. In addition SWYAA Venezuela is giving the opportunity to other young Venezuelans to be part of the volunteer's team.