

## Updates from Ex-PYs

### SWY changed me

#### Majid Kibsi (SWY21, Yemen)

Have you ever thought that someday you will be forced to go out of your cozy house, leave your hometown and walk to the unknown looking for shelter and food? Over 500,000 Yemeni didn't that this will happen to them, but they were forced out of their houses due to the conflicts between rebels and army in the North of Yemen and another conflict between al-Qaida and the Military in the south of Yemen. Beside my work in Journalism I have witnessed these catastrophe first hand and realized how painful it could be.

Today I am working closely with dozens of International organizations including the UN humanitarian agencies, MSF, IR, ICRC, RI and local organizations to support the internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). The IDPs children, these children are provided with food and shelter, but they lack many things as children, one of these things is clothes. Today we have managed to get a large donation to these children, 3500 clothes set for the Holy Eid expected less than one week. We will make sure to give these clothes to children before Eid hoping that it will bring a little piece of their lost smiles.

In addition I am working closely with the Executive Unit for IDPs Camps that manages the distribution of aid to the IDPs. We have managed to support over half a million person. Hopefully these people

will go home within the next year.

In addition to that, I am organizing some awareness campaigns for the IDPs against the land mines and the UXOs. After the war with al-Qaida in Yemen, al-Qaida planted booby traps and landmines in the residential areas evacuated by the IDPs which caused dozens of casualties for the returnees who were killed and injured due to the terrorism. So in coordinating with the Yemen Executive Mines Action Center, we have organized awareness campaigns to teach the IDPs the method to know how to act when spotting or suspecting a strange item.



Later this year on September, I will be heading to UK to get my MSC of Development and Project Planning from the University of Bradford, I am looking forward to meet SWYers from there.

#### Ezekiel Robson (SWY21, New Zealand)

Kia ora (hello) from the beautiful Auckland, New Zealand! I would like to report on a personal post-program activity, about my efforts to make our communities a safer place to live, learn and enjoy, particularly for children and youths. It is a global initiative so maybe YOU can join in your local area as well!

During the SWY21 visit to my home town, Auckland, all PYs visited local primary schools, and later a number of youth clubs and other NGOs were invited to send young people aboard the magnificent Nippon Maru for an exchange of ideas about issues of importance for youth contributions in society. These are just some of the wonderful memories from my SWY21 experience, which has inspired me to go on helping the community. Around this time I became aware of how much bullying and violence was a major issue, holding back the positive development of the next generation of young leaders. I can remember some uncomfortable and potentially violent situations I was around when I was younger, that I could have handled better if I had had more assertive communication skills and emergency self defense techniques.



Sometimes we do not even realize the full impact of bullying because it is a bit like pollution – although pollution usually does not kill you right away, it makes your

environment less pleasant to live and work in. It erodes quality of life for everyone near it. Emotional toxins can accumulate in your spirit in the same way that environmental toxins accumulate in your body to the point that you feel sick. So I joined the local arm of Kidpower Teenpower Fullpower International, a network of organizations which has helped over 2 million people worldwide by teaching positive strategies to PREVENT emotional or physical violence before it can even happen in the first place. Our belief in ourselves as being powerful, competent, valuable people is the most important self protection tool we have.

I have now completed Instructor Training and started delivering practical and empowering coaching to build self-confidence and effective personal safety skills. I am proud to help people of all ages create respectful relationships with clear boundaries, discover their personal power to prevent potentially dangerous situations from getting more serious, and to ensure all young people know who, where and how to get help to deal with safety problems.

Young people I work with also enjoy hearing the inspiring SWY message of mutual understanding and co-operation. No matter which country we live in or how different our cultures or languages may be, we all interact with people. While most people are good people, sometimes it is other people's behavior which can cause us problems. I think it very important to give ALL young people skills for "just in case" they experience or witness any bullying behavior.

To access free articles and e-newsletters with tips for preventing bullying, child abuse etc. or to join in creating a more peaceful world, please visit: <http://kidpower.org/> or email me: [ezekiel@salubrious.org.nz](mailto:ezekiel@salubrious.org.nz)

#### Research Internship at Tohoku University Jan- Feb 2012

#### Dan Ednie (SWY23, Australia)

This year I was lucky enough to be accepted to do a research internship at Tohoku University in the Centre for the Advancement of Higher Education. During this time I researched how English spoken proficiency is taught in Japanese high schools, and the attitudes towards it by teachers and students. The paper was published in the seventh edition of Journal of Higher Education Tohoku University and recommends that perceptions of the importance and best method of learning conversational English are slowly changing in Japan to reflect

a greater emphasis on communicative competence and interaction. However until the language testing in Japan includes a speaking component, it is unlikely that teachers and students will be able to commit significant classroom time in senior high school to English speaking. While visiting I also had a chance to run English conversation classes and give presentations about the importance of confidence to English conversation to four different high schools in Tohoku.

## From Japan to Central America

### David Zazueta and Malin Öhrman (SWY 23, Mexico and Sweden)

We (David, Mexico & Malin, Sweden) were lucky enough to be part of the Sustainable Global Community Discussion Course on SWY23. The energy around that group was fantastic and encouraged a lot of us to get closer to the term "sustainability." This is when we decided to do volunteerism in the field of organic farming, with the aims of learning more about sustainable practices and to be part of a practical solution to a global problem.

Through the network WWOOF (World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms) we came in contact with several interesting organic farms and decided to start our learning experience in Costa Rica last January. After spending three months in the central and south region of this diverse beautiful country, we travelled south to Panama to spend a couple of months in the remote south.

We learned a lot about watering techniques and water recollection; how to take care of bananas, pineapples and other tropical plants; how to care for a plant nursery as well as seed saving. During our time in Central America we also took a Permaculture Design Certification Course. The term "permaculture" refers to the idea of a permanent culture where a human settlement is designed based on patterns from nature aiming to create an abundant production of food. We believe that permaculture practices can lead to a more balanced way of living

## Carried Olympic Torch on June 18, 2012 at Manchester

The Egyptian Alumni Association for the Ship for World Youth (EASWY) is very proud to announce that its member Mohammed Galal (SWY2) carried The Olympic Torch on June 18 at Manchester.

Our dear friend Mohammed Galal was chosen as a Torchbearer due to his efforts in contributing to the local communities, which helped inspire others to make big achievements. Samsung has recommended him to run with the Olympic Flame appreciating his commitment to serving the community. He is part and founding member (Board member) of the local foundation that helps in serving the community.

EASWY is honored with social contribution activities of the Egyptian ex-PY, EASWY member, Mohammed Galal throughout the last 4 years, contributed into the following social contribution activities:

- Doing National Certification Program to equip young generation with the right skills to be ready for the labor market.
- Launching the Food Bank of Saudi Arabia in full alignment with the

## Isolated in the Indian Sea

### Maria Paula Brito (SWY24, Peru)

Amidst a roaring sea port breeze; wintry and sharp, the clean odorless scent of a sanitized metropolis, the porous humidity of a foggy saddened Yokohama Port, I covered my neck with my lingering alpaca scarf as I reluctantly tried to readjust to the ice frozen wind of the Japanese coast. As I advanced stupefied, numb, I stopped and turned around; standing before me, the white glimmering starboard, majestic and regal: I saluted solemnly, said goodbye and thank you. From its desolate deck, two half-crazed members of an almost dissolved society, ranted and waned in a feeble attempt to avoid extinction. With the slow disembarkment of its members, like wounded troops marching on instruction, the purest of cultures and the strongest of emotional experiences, ended.

240 young minds slept in their cabins; reenergizing the hopes they would soon share with the world. Every night was only a nap: the measurement of time had become merely instrumental for scheduled activities. Day 15, the port was congested, grey, transmitting a humid heated smell of flavorful curry. Contingents of snack eating Japanese Youth and Sri Lankan star gazing musicians scattered about; a synergy of excitement and wonder spread, as on this night, the Fuji Maru was stationed in Chennai, a city that reeked authenticity.

At 10 am the Mauri Haka blasted out a shout of war. Beaming through their eyes was courage, power and brotherhood. At 12 pm lunch was

and a better interaction with our environment. We look forward to incorporate these practices in our life; share knowledge and inspiration; and learn from others.

We perceive a lot of value in the SWY program hosting discussions about sustainable practices, and we hope this will increase in the upcoming editions of the SWY program.



## Food Bank of Egypt

- Forming a Charity Housing Program where residential buildings that accommodate 1200 families (almost 6000 population) were built and operated by the Program. This is in addition to providing training to these families and find them jobs as part of the Program.

In addition to the contribution to the community, Mohammed Galal established a company 8 years ago which created 2300 jobs and became a market leader in the whole region in its field.

A Torchbearer nomination campaign was held in Saudi Arabia and people who have 'gone the extra mile' were given the chance to run with the Olympic Flame. Every Torchbearer has been carefully selected for their contribution to the local communities and for inspiring others to achieve potential. We are very proud of our dear member Mohamed Galal.

served: miso soup, curry kangaroo, vegan tempura, halal beef stew, soba noodles, and green tea pudding. 3 hours later working in parallel: Japanese calligraphy, Brazilian chapbooks, Peruvian percussion, Arabic coffee, and Indian yoga. By sunset, the Koran was read: Islam liberated its most precious call. Women sitting in lively bordered prayer mats, covered by veils, repeating cyclically their petitions to Allah, taught us the chants of a contagious spiritual connection.

The transformation was gradual, the atmosphere drugged us with its charm and the result was the birth of a transcultural tribe, safeguarded by trust and tolerance, and isolated in the depth of the Indian Sea.

## EASWY Gossip Corner

### Samia Moussa (SWY6, Egypt)

- ❖ Vitta Ibrahim (SWY14) is now Acting EASWY President
- ❖ Babies EASWY (Hany Adel Wahab (SWY14) got a baby girl, Islam Gamal (SWY21) got a baby girl, Sarah Kamel (SWY21) got a baby girl.
- ❖ EASWY Members & Happy New family Mohamed Selim got married, Ahmed Mamdouh (SWY21) is engaged now, Mohamed Mabrouk (SWY8) just got married!!!
- ❖ Around the World: Amani Rabei (SWY6&14) enjoyed the magic of India, Samia MOUSSA (SWY6) enjoyed Malaysia, Mohamed Abdel Meguid (SWY16) is in Okinawa, Japan, Asmaa Afifi (SWY21) enjoyed Japan, Sally Mohsen (SWY21) came back from Finland