

# SWY NEWS

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# Great East Japan Earthquake Relief Efforts

## Activities by International Youth Exchange Organization of Japan (IYEO)

IYEO has been continuously and actively engaged in relief efforts since the Great East Japan Earthquake hit on March 11, 2011.

Total donations collected from individuals, different groups and organizations thus far is JPY15,075,415 as of August 30, 2012. These funds have been used for immediate relief activities to purchase necessary goods to be sent to the victims of the disaster, as well as to provide financial support to the IYEO members whose houses were severely damaged.

Messages and condolences sent to the Japanese people through the IYEO and SWYAA network have also been uploaded on the IYEO website:  
<http://www.iyeo.or.jp/en/index.html>



Relief efforts done by respective SWYAAs can be found on the SWYAA website:  
<http://www.swyaa.org/ReliefActivities/IYEO/index.html>

## Activities by the IYEO Members in the Affected Areas

### IYEO Iwate

One of the outstanding projects by IYEO Iwate members is the "IYEO Café Project." It is aimed at providing a relaxing space for the afflicted people in the evacuation centers: to provide them a place to sit and chat together to ease their minds.

Since June 2011, 26 café projects took place at 31 places such as provisional housing and spaces etc. in Tanohata Village, Kamaishi City, Otsuchi Cho, Rikuzentakata City etc. Approximately 2,500 cups of coffee and various sweets were provided from around the world



such as the Embassy of Dominican Republic and Alumni Association of ASEAN countries as well as IYEO.

IYEO Iwate also organized a volunteering tour as an optional tour for Social Contribution Activities as part of the SIGA (SSEAYP International General Assembly) held in Japan last April. 40 participants joined from ASEAN and Japan to take part in the bus tour to witness afflicted areas, experience oyster aqua farming, join the IYEO Café Project etc. in Iwate Prefecture.

On June 10, 2012, "Shakunage Matsuri (rhododendron flower festival)" was organized by the volunteer committee members in Tanohata Village to cheer up the victims living in this village. IYEO Iwate contributed to this event by providing a place to try some sweets and wearing national costumes from various countries. These costumes were rented out by the ex-PYs.

### IYEO Miyagi

IYEO Miyagi continually donates relief supplies to the hospital, where a member of IYEO Miyagi works responding to the needs of afflicted people. In March 2012, 33 computers were donated to this hospital as a collaboration project of IYEO and PwC (PricewaterhouseCoopers Co., Ltd.)

Following the July and August 2011 "Onsen (hot spring) Tours" for the staff from the hospital in Ishinomaki City and their families took place in March 2012. This was organized with the IYEO

Yamagata. Onsen host in Yonezawa City of Yamagata Prefecture welcomed them with a warm heart and so the participants enjoyed relaxing and reenergizing.



### Fune-to-Tsubasa-no-Kai Fukushima (IYEO Fukushima)

The International Understanding Educational Support Project was held from October 26 to 31, 2011. This was aimed to provide a venue for students in the Fukushima Prefecture to experience various cultures and values. They joined together with foreign guests gathered with the support of the NPO NICE (Neverending International work Camps Exchange) as well as those residing in Fukushima Prefecture to organize the event for the afflicted children in two primary schools in the prefecture. Also discussion on the East Japan Great Earthquake at the Fukushima University students and self-catering camp was organized. Students learnt that there are many differences as well as similarities in lifestyle and culture through interacting with the foreign guests.

International students at the Fukushima University joined the discussion program and had English discussion. After sharing their feeling about this disaster, they talked about what they can/should do to reconstruct Fukushima and summarized in a poster.



Members of IYEO and the victims of the Great East Japan Earthquake are very grateful for your kind support and donation.

If you would like to contribute to IYEO's effort for relief activities in the devastated areas, please contact us at the following email address. Thank you very much.

Email address: [iyeobokin@iyeo.or.jp](mailto:iyeobokin@iyeo.or.jp)

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## SWYAA Activity Reports – Report from September 2010 to August 2011

### İzmir 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 İzmir.

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 İzmir 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 *İzmir 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.



## 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

## 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.

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!!

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:

- a) Offering a second venue for examinations and social impact activities
- b) 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 where 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](http://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](mailto: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.

## Building the Future Today – A Report from SWY24 –

Duran Moy (New Zealand)

The SWY experience is a life-defining one. That much goes without saying. For the 300 participants of onboard the Fuji Maru for SWY24 it was no exception. This year delegates from Bahrain, Brazil, Canada, Egypt, Japan, India, New Zealand, Peru, Russia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Turkey, and Venezuela headed west from the Nippon towards sub-continental Asia. We travelled via Singapore through the bustling shipping lanes of the Malacca Straits and into the warm Bay of Bengal waters. We were bound for Chennai, India and Colombo, Sri Lanka.

This year's theme was 'Youth Contribution to Society.' We pursued this theme from the very outset. Before long the Fuji Maru was teeming with committees, seminar groups, National Presentations, port-of-call preparations, meetings, morning runs and late night fun. We embraced the spirit of goodwill and cooperation with vigour and earnestness. We spent long days deliberating delicate issues from climate change to animal welfare. We patiently teased out consensus on cultural identity and leadership.

Our onboard Course Discussion modules grounded the whole experience in an experiential learning environment. We were led by expert advisors in creating new knowledge to tackle old problems. If nothing more, these sessions developed our decision-making skills and our problem-solving abilities. These are the very skills which will underpin the multilateral approach to global issues such as development, environment and poverty to name a few.

A defining feature of any SWY voyage is the sense of community which inevitably develops between all participants – PYs and administrative staff alike. We all individually contribute to an onboard identity. During our time at sea we evolve our own custom, ground rules and mutual understandings. We develop a SWY24 banner that galvanises us, particularly when we disembark on the ground at our Port-of-Call destinations. These moments rallied us together towards common goals. We may have had differing views on how to reach specific goals, but we shared the vision as a single batch of PYs to achieve them nonetheless.

For example, all PYs generously supported the Sri Lankan SWY Alumni Association's 'One More Child Goes To School' fundraising event. The purpose of the event was to raise enough funds to purchase two new computers for a rural school in Sri Lanka that we would visit as part of our port of call activities. An itinerary of PY performances was arranged. All delegations learned and then performed pieces as part of the itinerary. The attending audience gave generously to support the cause. Enough funds were successfully received from PY donations to allow the Sri Lankan delegation to purchase the new computers. These were gifted on the day of our visit to the school.

This is but to name a few of the examples of an environment rich in the exchange of ideas and not found wanting for lack of practical outcomes achieved as a result. Every delegation onboard was able to successfully complete a project which started merely as scraps of loose paper, even within our short time together. Japan created an art exhibition to build awareness around the recovery from the Great East Japan Earthquake. Canada and India organised gifts from around the

world for Indian villages outside Chennai which we had the privilege of visiting. Egypt and Spain collaborated to organise a summer youth exchange program abroad, and the list goes on. To this end, SWY24 was outcome focused. It was driven by a challenge to turn ideas into reality, to turn plans into progress.

To facilitate this progress was the inaugural Leadership Seminar Series, led by Advisor Haruko Ishii. The three seminars represented an opportunity to implement and trial the new method of concluding the official on-board program. This consisted of creating a space for PYs to reflect back on what their 46 day program meant for them on a personal level, and to evaluate the skills they had developed on-board; and to create a space for PYs to plan forward post-program activities and goals to continue the SWY24 theme. The end result was a series of action plans for life after SWY24. These concentrated on lighting

the spark from our SWY journey to the powder keg of SWY-themed ideas which we develop in our live as global citizens after disembarking Fuji Maru.

On a personal level my challenge has been in translating the SWY experience from the boat to life back in New Zealand. Onboard we are brimming with ideals and lofty ambitions for a more prosperous global society. But how do we achieve this in our own

backyards miles apart from our SWY friends? This is a question which we all face, and one which we all seek to answer through our Alumni Associations. I have every confidence that ex-PYs do find answers to this challenge. We can see them in the pages of SWY News and in the incredible work that our SWY alumni achieve the world over.

My most enjoyable moment has been in learning more about my own New Zealand cultural identity through the increased understanding of other PYs' cultures. Their cultural stories help us tell our own. The combined effect of this feedback loop is empowering. It produces a level of tolerance and harmony that some dare to suggest is not possible. SWY shows that they are wrong.

As a global community of ex-PYs we should hope and act to continue the SWY program; to build on the progress of generations who have gone before us; and to ensure that the Cabinet Office's world leading youth outreach program continues into the future.







## Post-Program Initiatives

### Post-Program Activities Session onboard SWY24

Three representatives of the International Youth Exchange Organization of Japan (IYEO), Masaharu Koge (SWY3), Naoko Nakamura (SWY18), and Maiko Tsutsui (SWY22) joined the SWY24 program from February 19 to 23, 2012, to conduct the Post-Program Activities Promotion Sessions.

#### Objectives:

Two Post-Program Activities Promotion Sessions were implemented onboard with the following goals in mind:

- ✦ To enable the PY have deeper understanding of the International youth exchange program implemented by the Cabinet Office, IYEO and SWYAA.
- ✦ To introduce examples of post-program activities by ex-PYs as National Delegation Leader of each countries, administration and advisor in order to PY can understand how to take action for the post-program activities through IYEO or SWYAA after the disembarkation
- ✦ To tell the importance of utilization and cooperation with the SWYAA network and organizations which ex-PY belong to so that PYs can enrich the post-program activities.
- ✦ To understand there are many different ways how to get involve and how to take action for the post-program activities, so that PY can think post-program activities is not so difficult.
- ✦ To enable PY have an image what they want to do after the disembarkation through listening to the ex-PY's story.
- ✦ To exchange an idea for the post-program activities and to provide PY with an advice for the onboard activities.

Particularly, the post-program activity sessions of this time were designed to make the PYs have an image of the post-program activities and motivate the PYs so that they can take a first step for the post-program activities. During the two sessions, PYs experienced discussions, workshops and presentation by ex-PYs that enable them to deepen about the post-program activities.

#### Monday, February 20 (Session 1)

14:15 – 15:35	Introduction of the Post-Program Activities Sessions - Ice breaking (Quiz on SWY/ SWYAA) - Introduction of SWYAA and activities in each country - Introduction of ex-PYs on board SWY24 Presentation of personal post-program activities
15:50 – 17:00	Small group sessions - Presentations on post-program activities by ex-PYs

#### Wednesday, February 22 (Session 2)

9:35 – 10:55	Wrap up of the Session 1 Presentation of activities by SWYAA
11:00 – 12:20	Small group session - Discussion by country or by region Summary of the session



## Post-Program Activities and Reunion by the Past Batches

### SWY4 Reunion in Madrid, after 20 years!

On the occasion of the 20th Anniversary of the program, we, SWY4 (1992), had reunion in Madrid, Spain, from April 27 to May 1, 2012. About 40 ex-PYs, from ten different countries plus friends and families participated, and a total of more than 50 people met in Madrid. When we left the ship "Nippon Maru" 20 years ago there was no internet or Facebook, and many of us tried to keep contact by writing letters. The last two years we started using Facebook, and created our own "SWY4-group." Now we have found about 200 ex-PY from our program, much thanks to Eme Cuervo Pinto from Spain, now living in Germany.

Eme Cuervo Pinto and Mercedes Carreño Vicente from the Spanish delegation had prepared a wonderful program for us. We visited the Royal Palace, Prado museum and the Monastery of El Escorial. We also made a full day excursion to Toledo, where we were received by the Mayor Emiliano García-Page at the City Hall. His speech to us, comparing the city of Toledo with our Ship for World Youth program was very touched and we learnt that Toledo and Nara (Japan) are twin cities since 1972. The city of Toledo arranged a tour through the city including places which are not regularly visited and it was a real mix of all cultures in one. In the evenings we went to eat traditional Spanish food and to see Flamenco dancing. There was not much time for sleep - just like old good SWY times!

To meet all these friends after 20 year was a very special feeling. It



took just a short time and then all of us become twenty year younger talking memories laughing and made new memories for next time, because there will definitely be a next time. This success made us start planning for the 21 anniversary. This reunion really proves that the SWY program had change our life and made us more open minded for the world. It also proves that the program gave us lifelong friendships that we are now sharing with our children and families.

Until next time, take care out there and keep up the good work you're doing in the spirit of SWY!





## SWY22 Tupendane Project

Tupendane was founded as one of the post-SWY activities of SWY22. This Swahili word “Tupendane” stands for “Let’s Share Our Love” which was the slogan for SWY22. Tupendane was sparked by the friendship between Kenyan and Japanese youth. Before joining SWY22, David Jonathan Okwiri, one of the Kenyan youths, established Eve’s Day Junior School in Dandra slum, Nairobi. Some Japanese youths who were inspired by Okwiri’s experience decided to support his school after the SWY program.

### **Tupendane never stop walking to the future**

Facing a serious chronic financial problem, we have been struggling to overcome a tough situation. However, by investing a donation from an ex-JPY from SWY22, we finally solved the problem. A M-Pesa agency, as a new means of income generation, generates finance for hiring four teachers and monthly rent of the school building, which is

unavoidable expenditure of running the school. This cash plant allows us to proceed to and work on Tupendane future plans by providing stable monthly bread. In addition, this project contributes to the community in a way that it hires four mothers of children at the school. They were chosen through interviews, and they work at the agency seven days in a month with a responsibility to pay small monthly contribution to the school. We believe this makes them aware of responsibility to education, which would consequently lead to a virtuous cycle within the community.

Tupendane are now ready to go on to the next steps that are; finding a financial source for lunch monthly provided at the school; establishing foster parents system which allow the best performance students to a boarding school; building up “Tupendane Academy” For achieving those goals, we are willing to share our loves.

## SWY23 Microfinance

Since disembarking from SWY23, a small but growing group of ex-PYs have been helping promote economic development and job creation in developing countries through microfinance. The group is based on the microfinance platform Kiva, and enables members to lend small amounts of money to individuals and groups so that they can for example buy more animals for milk, eggs or meat, invest in irrigation or go to university. Once the loan is repaid by the borrower, we are able to relend that same money to another group. So far the 25 members of the group have lent just over US\$13,000. Loans can be as

small as \$25 and we have made over 400 loans in total. Anyone can get involved, although we find that most ex-PYs don’t really understand the concept, if you are interested please look more closely at it and if you have any questions please ask on the group board. [http://www.kiva.org/team/ship\\_for\\_world\\_youth](http://www.kiva.org/team/ship_for_world_youth)

Dan Ednie (Australia), Frances Hennessy (Australia), Sam Taylor (\*\*\*\*), James Reade (\*\*\*\*), Yosuke Furuya (Japan), Ryosuke Kusano (Japan), Mary Aruga (Advisor).

## Great East Japan Earthquake Relief Efforts – continued

### Donation Message from SWY Canada

The news on our SWY community has been difficult in the last few days. The great people at the IYEO have worked incredibly hard to make the ministry understand the importance of this fabulous program and its abilities at building bridges between nationalities all over the world. For all of us who have participated, it’s a bond that is easily understood, it is obviously not as easy for government officials to understand.

But today I want to write to you about some good news. After the horrific Tsunami happened last year in Northern Japan, we as a SWY Canada family, decided to donate money to the IYEO organized relief fund. As we were planning our donation we were aware that initially, after large disasters, people are quick to help, and the media keeps reminding people of what has happened. However when the media turns its attention to other things, and attention from the general public fades, the need for help continues. It was with this thinking that a promise was made to give another donation in approximately a year. With that plan in mind I want to announce to all of you, and to all those Japanese people affected, that Canada’s SWY alumni has donated another \$6,500 to the IYEO Tsunami Relief fund. We know that it will help tremendously and we know that the local SWY chapters will do their best to help many people. If it weren’t for this amazing SWY program, we would not have this money, so it only seemed natural to give back to the people who made it all possible.

I wish you all the best, sending you Love and positive energy from Montreal, Canada.

Louis P. Beauregard  
SWY Canada Alumni president



**IYEO Iwate:**  
picture from  
“Shakunage  
Matsuri” – IYEO  
volunteers lending  
out national  
costumes for the  
event.



**IYEO Miyagi:**  
picture from  
“Onsen tour” to  
Yonezawa, invited  
by the IYEO  
Yamagata  
members.

もう 1 枚、福島の写真

## 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.

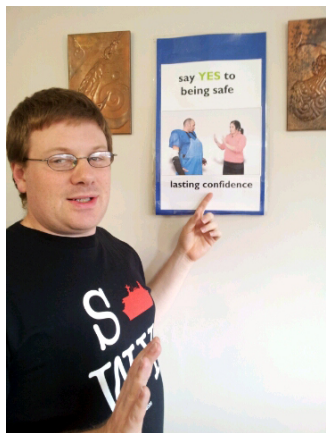


Later this year on September, I will be heading to UK to get my MSC of Development and Project Planning from the University of Bradford, I am looking forward to meet SWYers from there.

#### 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

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.



## 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

## 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.

## 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 waved 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

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



# The 5th SWYAA Global Assembly in Mexico, 2011



↑ Opening Ceremony

← The 5<sup>th</sup> SWYAA Global Assembly was held in Mexico from September 28 to October 2, 2011. A total of 69 ex-PYs came from 15 countries (including Mexico) and enjoyed a variety of programs.

Participants join a traditional ritual before entering the Pyramids in Teotihuacan.



↑ Lecture by a local indigenous guide

Participants enjoy music by mariachis at the Garibaldi. ↓



← World Heritage site – Xochimilco



The participants exchange various information about social contribution activities during the Conference for Post-Program Activities – Part I and II.



## Announcements



### 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](mailto:swyaa@iyeo.or.jp)

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