

SWY NEWS

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The 25th Ship for World Youth Program

Overview of the Program

The structure of the 25th Ship for World Youth program has substantially changed due to the budget restriction. The length of the activities on board was 19 days making three stops around Japan. International Youth Exchange Organization of Japan (IYEO) helped organize the activities of the three ports of call. At every port, local youth came to join the program.

Following the activities on board, the Japanese participants were divided into their Course Discussion groups and flew to overseas for 8 days activities including theme-related institutional visit, cultural experiences and homestay or home visit. The activities for the Japanese Mission Abroad were planned by or supported by the SWYAA of the respective countries.

Ports of Call in Japan

In Naha (Okinawa Prefecture), the participants learned about its unique historical background and culture. In Kobe (Hyogo Prefecture), the participants witnessed how the city reconstructed after the Hanshin Awaji Great Earthquake hit the area in 1995. In Ofunato and Rikuzentakata Cities (Iwate Prefecture), the participants visited areas

affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake that happened only two years ago and interacted with local people. With all of these activities, they started thinking about how they can contribute to their societies after they returned home.



Visit to Shuri Castle (Naha)



Visit to Kobe Shimbun (Kobe)



Visit to Taiheiyo Cement Cooperation (Ofunato)

Cross-Cultural Understanding Course: Turkey

Gul Eksi & Didem Tari

SWY25 Turkey Program Coordinator and Sub-Coordinator

When IYEO informed us that Turkey will receive SWY25, we felt so proud and honored because the Japanese Government and IYEO believed that Turkish SWYAA could overcome this challenging task. Being aware of our responsibility to make it a successful program, we tried to consider every single detail during the preparations. We had a series of preparation meetings with the Ministry of Youth and Sports, the Japanese Embassy in Ankara, the Consulate in Istanbul, institutions to be visited and local municipalities, and among the alumni members. Some other essential topics discussed in the meetings were the courtesy call, institutional visits, program itinerary etc. SWYAA Turkey was to be in charge of the organization of the activities and the Ministry gave partial support. We prepared a booklet including all the information JPYs would need in Turkey. We arranged 24 families in Ankara and had an orientation program for the host families before the mission started which included a short introduction to Japanese culture and what was expected of them.

In the program JPYs had 4 days in Ankara and 2 days in Istanbul. The program had the following activities: institutional visits, homestay, Turkish culture workshops, courtesy call to the Ministry of Youth and Sports and the Japanese Embassy in Ankara; and institutional visits and meeting the local youth in Istanbul. Upon their arrival JPYs had an orientation meeting followed by the exchange program. TPYs and JPYs exchanged their ideas about how the program contributed to their understanding of the other culture. They explained what they had known earlier and what they learned on board and how their ideas changed. Through homestay, JPYs learned more about Turkish culture, family life, daily traditions and especially food.

During the first institutional visit to Ankara University, Ayse Nur Tekmen SWY4, who is currently the head of the Japanese Language and Literature Department at the university, gave a lecture about how Japanese language was taught in Turkey. She also shared her experiences about Japan and the Japanese culture with JPYs.

In the Turkish culture workshop JPYs enjoyed experiencing paper marbling, a traditional Turkish art.



The courtesy call to the Minister of Youth and Sports was accompanied by the Japanese Ambassador. This visit was important to strengthen up the ties between two countries in political terms. The Ministry officials and the JPYs went to the Ambassador's residence and the second courtesy call was held which was also a very successful event. The Embassy gave full support for the program and hosted the reception in Ankara in the Ambassador's residence.

In Istanbul JPYs met the local youth. The first institutional visit was to the Topkapi Palace, JPYs were accompanied by the local youth in the palace and in some other places. They spent a whole day together which was an unforgettable experience for them. JPYs had their second institutional visit to Bahçeşehir University. Asst. Professor Dr. Murat Dunder, who had finished his PhD at Kyoto University, gave a lecture about the activities organized between his university and the Japanese universities. The reception in Istanbul and farewell dinner was held at Bahçeşehir University. The Vice Council General of Japan in Istanbul also attended the reception.

SWY25 Japanese mission was an incredible cross-cultural understanding experience which helped the participants open their minds to different cultures and ideas while getting rid of the prejudices about different people, religions and habits. The program built outstanding bridges between the countries to give them the possibility to work together, share experiences and strategies to improve the skills that young people have.

Education Course: Bahrain

Ahmed Seyadi
President, SWYAAB



We were thrilled when we learned that Bahrain was selected to be one of the five countries chosen to host a group of JPYs as part of SWY25 program. Bahrain's General Organization for Youth and Sports (GOYS) as well as the Japanese Embassy in Bahrain were as excited as we were, which provided support, and additional resources and means to host a more organized program.

With the support of GOYS, a five-day program was planned for SWY25 JPYs which included many visits, interaction with youth, as well as recreational. The program allowed its participants to experience first-hand the culture, heritage, and value system that they came to learn about from their Bahraini friends during the program while focusing on the main program theme (Education). We had a great time and gained a lot in the process and would like to think that our new JPY friends had the same experience. Unfortunately time flew fast and the program came to an end, leaving us with a head-full of ideas that we wished we had incorporated in the program to share with JPYs and that will certainly be considered for future programs.

It is worth mentioning that not far from the above, we also hosted the 2012 SWYAA Global Assembly in Bahrain, which was attended by over 100 participants. So the past months were full of enthusiasm and excitement for us here in Bahrain. We learned a lot throughout both programs and we certainly are looking forward to enhance and repeat the experiences by reflecting the learned lessons in future events.



←Teacher at the Gifted Center explains about the projects done by the students.



←Participants visit the top public school in Bahrain, Khawla Secondary Girls School, and have some time for discussion with the teachers.

Environment and CSR Course: New Zealand

Dana MacDiarmid
Acting President, SWYNZ

The Ship for World Youth New Zealand Alumni Association (SWYNZ) was very proud and excited to have been selected as one of five host countries for SWY25. We were privileged to host 23 amazing young JPYs from Environment and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) course discussion group, who came to learn about how the New Zealand business community are adopting CSR policies and protecting the environment.

The participants had an action-packed schedule for their time in Aotearoa, New Zealand. In the capital city of Wellington, they were taken for a city tour by local ex-PYs, which included wandering the central city, visiting the beach, and cycling the waterfront on four-person bikes. This was followed by a homestay experience with local families and alumni, where JPYs had many quintessential Kiwi experiences, such as attending a local football match, having a barbecue dinner, and, of course, seeing sheep!



We also arranged a visit to Hongoeka marae (a traditional Māori tribal meeting place), where they learned about the indigenous Māori people. They heard about Māori culture and the people's connection to the environment, received presentations from leading Māori academics on their perspectives on CSR, and discussed similarities with Japanese culture. Before a well-deserved half-day holiday, the delegation visited the local Japanese Embassy and toured the New Zealand parliament. They were also privileged to attend a welcome function at the Beehive, the executive wing of Parliament Buildings, and hear from the Honourable Nikki Kaye, Minister of Youth Affairs.



While in the country, the delegation also visited local organizations at the forefront of social and environmental responsibility. In the capital, the delegation toured Meridian Energy's wind turbine farm and award-winning sustainable offices. And in Auckland the delegation visited Bayswater School to hear about their curriculum, which includes education on sustainability, and to have an exchange with environmentally-active local youth leaders.

To conclude the week-long visit, SWYNZ organized a farewell dinner that was attended by NZ ex-PYs from many different programs. The JPYs and alumni played badminton and volleyball on the beach, swam in the ocean, and watched a fantastic performance by a local youth hip-hop crew. This was followed by an incredible meal (including delicious New Zealand ice-cream!) and a lot of hugs and fond farewells.

Being a host country was an invigorating and challenging venture, and we are very grateful to the New Zealand Ministry of Youth Development and IYEO for their hard work and support throughout the process. We feel confident that we provided a great experience for the visiting JPYs and were thrilled at the engagement and support from local SWY alumni, as well as many other individuals and organizations. We had a great time hosting and would love to welcome more PYs and alumni to New Zealand anytime!



Information and Media Course: Mexico

Alberto Negrete & Luciana Yonekawa
SWY25 Mexico Program Coordinators

It is hard to express in words how much being able to be part of SWY25, as a host country, was a most wonderful experience. We, representing the whole SWYAA Mexico, were able to live first hand some of the obstacles and most of the passion that the SWY program coordinators normally have in Japan or abroad when organizing every wonderful trip they have put together for the last 25 years. That experience gave us the opportunity to get a better glance at how important the hard work of the Japanese Government is, every single time the ship moves, carrying so many souls willing to learn and share their experiences. We are deeply thankful for being considered as a host country. We were able to realize how important it is to be conscious about the responsibility it takes to create a valuable experience for the most important asset that any country has, which are their young citizens; the future of their country.

Thinking about that week in February, two memorable things come to our minds: the first one is the homestay activity. We are sure that it worked in a two-way road, touching both the hearts of the participants as it touched the host families' souls. It also gave the opportunity to involve ex-PYs from several previous batches in the SWY25 activities, providing them the chance to give back a little from their own memorable experiences. We are sure that today our countries are closer together as there has been born an invisible and unbreakable connection between Mexico and Japan.

The second memorable thing was the last day of activities, when we were able to take the SWY25 participants to a small community outside Mexico City, a small town called Amatlan, with several problems and qualities. The participants were able to share with those people a small part of their time in a social activity. We deeply admire how Japanese people take special care regarding their social responsibility. Nevertheless, we Mexicans have a long way to learn about that, and having people willing to share part of their lives was for us an important step. I think people that live at that town and the

participants were able to make an important connection as well. Probably the final result will be only showed deep inside the memories of all the people that were present at those special moments, but we do think that every heart and soul was moved by those worthy and unforgettable experiences.

We will never find enough words to thank the Japanese Government for inviting Mexico to the SWY program for so many years. We are also very thankful for trusting us in coordinating this experience, for believing that the SWYAA Mexico was capable of organizing it through the support from CENTERYE and the Japanese Embassy in Mexico, and most importantly: by having the support of all the hard working people that believe deep in their heart that a better world can be possible, regardless of their language, ideals, life choices, orientations or the color of their skin.

MUCHAS GRACIAS! From the bottom of our hearts!



International Relations Course: Sri Lanka

Bhagya Senaratne
Reception Committee

This year, Sri Lanka experienced a difference in hosting the participants of the 25th Ship for World Youth programme. Having to cater to just a Japanese audience, the SWYAA was in full swing embracing the spirit of the relations between Sri Lanka & Japan.

During the week's time the Japanese youth spent in Sri Lanka, we were able to present a glimpse of the Sri Lankan culture and way of life. From spending time with Sri Lankan families arranged by the National Youth Services Council of Sri Lanka (NYSC), to enjoying Sri Lankan cuisine and music at the Sri Lankan Night hosted by the SWYAA, to understanding the religions in the country, the participants of SWY25 were able to understand the 'Sri Lankan way of life.'

Everything was not song and dance during this

program in Sri Lanka. The participants had the opportunity to interact with students pursuing International Relations for their undergraduate course of study at the University of Colombo as well as have interactions at the Lakshman Kadirgamar Institute for International Relations and Strategic Studies, Sri Lanka's think-tank in international relations. The institutional visit to JICA too was instrumental in fermenting the relations between the two countries, as it allowed the Japanese PYs to understand the development work carried out by the Government of Japan in Sri Lanka to foster peace and reconciliation.



↑ Honorable Minister Dallas Alahapperuma attends the farewell dinner

←PYs learn about Sri Lanka's diplomatic policy and the country's relationship with Japan at Lakshman Kadirgamar Institute for International Relations and Strategic Studies



Global Leaders Development Program to the Future SWY Program

Article from the Cabinet Office, Government of Japan

The Ship for World Youth Program (SWY) was launched in 1989, re-organizing the Japanese Youth Goodwill Cruise Program. Since then SWY proved its great result in developing youth with an international vision and nurturing friendly relations with countries around the world. The number of ex-Overseas-PYs exceeds 3,700 (approx. 2,900 Japanese PYs), and both networks of the International Youth Exchange Organization of Japan (IYEO) and other alumni associations beyond the borders, and the vigorous social contribution activities by ex-PYs have been our irreplaceable property. Since last year, Cabinet Office, Government of Japan, has taken various reviews and verifications on our comprehensive international youth exchange programs under the severe fiscal situation of Japan. In FY2013, we have decided to implement the new Global Leader Development Program (GLDP) with taking over the SWY spirit. Although the navigation dates of GLDP are 9 days, shorter than past SWY, our goal is big enough to develop Global Leaders with leadership, management and cross-cultural communication skills through the whole program including training and cultural exchanges in Japan and visits to foreign countries. As for the program from FY2014 and on, Cabinet Office took review sessions in June through external experts. The experts submitted a conclusion that the Government should review and develop SWY to nurture global human resources, utilizing SWY's strengths. Deliberating based on the experts' conclusion, we decided to request the budget to implement "Global Youth Leader Development Program -Ship for World Youth Leaders-" (abbr. SWY) in 2015. As its name indicates, the new SWY aims to develop youth leaders who can play an active role in the rapidly moving global world while sharing the bond of "SWY family" and "SWY spirit" which are the great result of SWY. After the training in Japan, the participating youths from Japan and around the world will visit two countries during over one month voyage. In the process of finalizing the entire national budget of Japan, the budget request by each ministries will not be approved automatically. A government draft budget will be decided in Dec. through a lengthy coordination after the request. Cabinet Office will make best efforts to realize a youth exchange program inheriting SWY to develop young generations for the future world as a peaceful contribution to the international society by Japan.

We sincerely appreciate for your contribution in writing and sending your petition to support the continuation of SWY program.

Report of Ex-PY Conference 2013

The Tokyo Conference for the Ex-Participating Youth of the Ship for World Youth Program (hereafter, Ex-PY Conference) was held from March 17-23, 2013 where 28 countries participated, namely: Australia, Bahrain, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Egypt, Fiji, Greece, India, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, New Zealand, Oman, Peru, Solomon, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Tanzania, Tonga, Turkey, U.A.E., UK, Venezuela, and Yemen.

In this conference, it was agreed to establish "SWYAA International" as a full scale of international body by developing the SWYAA which was set up in 1995. Therefore, the existing SWYAA Charters was substantially-amended, and then the new Charter for SWYAA International was formed. On March 20, the "Presentation on the SWYAA Activities - Open Forum" was held at the National Olympics Memorial Youth Center. More than 130 participants including the ex-PYs and the general public attended this forum. Moreover, the representatives shared ideas for future post-program activities throughout the conferences. Ongoing projects such as "Homestay +1," "SWYAA Web Radio," will be continued and developed, and new projects such as "Branding SWYAA International" and "Twin Alumni Association Project" were proposed.



- **Ongoing projects:**
- **SWYAA Radio**
 - Proposed by SWYAA Greece, this is a 24-hour web-based radio program which aims to promote communication, intercultural understanding and participation of ex-PYs in social activities. It can also be used for information dissemination and recreational purposes, among others. Through the SWYAA Radio, any SWYAA member can broadcast useful information, SWYAA news, discuss thematic topics/issues, or have live chat with his/her peers after joining the SWY radio server. Ex-PYs from around the globe can be a DJ so the program can run 24 hours. Future plans include getting funding from other organizations.
 - <http://www.facebook.com/SWYradio>
- **Homestay + 1**
 - The project is conducted for the purpose of continuing the spirit of international friendship and collaboration through social contribution. By making available some information about the kind of voluntary activities available in each country on the web with the cooperation of the SWYAA, the participants who travel to other SWY countries will be able to see what they could be involved with beforehand. A "short time project" might include a volunteer project over one afternoon or a day such as planting tree, whereas a "long time project" might be on a month or longer.
- **New projects:**
- **Branding of SWYAA International**
 - The body agreed to adopt one unified SWYAA International logo. Each SWYAA may continue to use their own logos, provided that the SWYAA International logo shall be used at all times for every project, activity, events, and in promotional products by the SWYAA. The selection of SWYAA logo shall be through an open logo competition.
- **Twin Alumni Association Project**
 - The aim of the project is to establish an agreement between two Alumni Associations that brings to life joint projects where both AAs can participate or collaborate, so as to strengthen its ties and encourage them to keep performing social contribution activities.

Ship for World Youth Alumni Association International Charter

Following is an excerpt of the SWYAA International Charter which shall come into effect on January 1, 2014.
The complete Charter will be uploaded on the website after January 1, 2014.

Preamble

Each country has an association for alumni participating youth, founded for the purpose of continuing the spirit that was fostered through the SWY program. SWYAA International promotes and supports the spirit of leadership towards achieving cultural understanding, international cooperation and world peace developed during the SWY program.

Chapter I: Missions, Goals, and Tasks

Article 1

Our common missions and goals are to:

1. Maintain the network of the former participants of the SWY program;
2. Sustain international friendship and strengthen cooperation among the member countries;
3. Engage in activities that contribute to the home country and the international society;
4. Support and develop leaders in the home country and member countries who will contribute to society;
5. Strengthen ties with the local government in charge of youth affairs;
6. Strengthen ties with the embassies of the member countries and especially the Japanese Embassy; and
7. Strengthen ties with the Japanese community.

Article 2

Our common tasks are to:

1. Organize activities, locally and internationally, which would lead to social contribution, volunteer initiatives, and development initiatives;
2. Strengthen the network of members in the home country;
3. Enhance information exchange among members in the home country and the SWYAA International member countries;
4. Communicate with, and make periodic reports to, the Japanese Embassy;
5. Provide a means of communication for the former participating youth (ex-PYs) and present participating youth of the SWY program;
6. Support future participants of the SWY program; and
7. Keep and maintain up-to-date information of alumni members.

Chapter II: General Rules

Article 3

1. The name of the organization shall be the Ship for World Youth Alumni Association International and its abbreviated name shall be the SWYAA International.
2. The SWYAA International is a body that is formed by the recognized Ship for World Youth Alumni Associations (SWYAA).

Article 4

Fundamental principles of the SWYAA International shall be designated as follows:

1. SWYAA International shall not be:
 - a. Governmental;
 - b. For profit;
 - c. Political; and
 - d. Religious.
2. SWYAA International is based on the principle of general equality and rights.
3. Every member country of the SWYAA International shall abide by the obligations stipulated in this Charter.

Chapter III: Membership

Article 5

General guidelines for membership:

1. Member countries of the SWYAA International must be those who have participated in the SWY program and have established a SWYAA in their home country.
2. Each country is eligible to have only one formally recognized SWYAA (full or associate member) to the SWYAA International.
3. The procedure for becoming a member is defined in "Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR)" provided separately (Annex A).
4. The process of formal recognition, demotion, and removal shall be attained by a vote of the member countries. This process is detailed in the IRR.
5. Member countries shall inform the Secretariat when there is a change of board members in the respective SWYAA.

Article 6

Full membership:

1. SWYAA that are permitted to join the SWYAA International as a full member shall only be those who have formally established their SWYAA in accordance with the "SWYAA Guideline" provided separately (Annex B).
2. Full members should be actively seeking to accomplish the missions and goals of the SWYAA International.
3. Full members have the responsibility to register two representatives to the SWYAA International Representatives Network.
4. Full members have the voting responsibility of one vote per country at the Voting Session for the SWYAA International Representatives (VSIR).
5. Full members have the right to receive all official information related to the SWY program and the SWYAA International, which will be provided by the Secretariat.
6. Full members have the right to host the SWYAA Global Assembly.
7. Full members have the responsibility to submit an annual country report as requested by the Secretariat.
8. Full members are liable for an annual membership fee of 10,000 Yen or USD\$100 to be paid between December 15 and 31 for the membership fee of the following year, but the payment can be made in advance (remittance fee to be borne by the SWYAA).

Article 7

Associate membership:

1. Alumni groups for the SWY program are permitted to register for the SWYAA International as an associate member.
2. Associate members have the right to join the SWYAA International Representatives Network, but will not have voting rights at the VSIR.
3. Associate members can receive limited official information related to the SWY program and the SWYAA International, which will be provided by the Secretariat.
4. It is preferable for associate members to submit an annual country report and/or future activity plan.

Article 8

Former participants of non-member countries:

1. Countries that have participated in the SWY program that do not have any form of alumni group will be considered as non-member countries.
2. Individual former participants of the SWY program of non-member countries are eligible to receive information

related to the SWY program and the SWYAA International through SWY News (annual newsletter) and SWY-related mailing lists.

Article 9

List of full member countries and associate member countries shall be listed here after January 1, 2014.

Article 10

Annual country report:

1. An annual country report is to be submitted by each SWYAA to the Secretariat by the end of January of each year.
2. The format of this report must follow the template designated by the SWYAA International.
3. The template for the annual country report shall be provided by the Secretariat in December.

Article 11

1. SWY News is published by the Cabinet Office, Government of Japan, and edited by IYEO.
2. Each SWYAA should make an effort to contribute at least one article to the SWY News upon request.

Chapter IV: SWYAA Global Assembly

Article 12

General guidelines:

1. The SWYAA Global Assembly is hosted by the IYEO and the SWYAA International, and is co-hosted and coordinated by the SWYAA of the hosting country.
2. The SWYAA Global Assembly takes place in conjunction with the Conference for Post-Program Activities.
3. Any ex-PYs of the SWY program and IYEO members are eligible to participate in the SWYAA Global Assembly.

Article 13

Main purposes of the SWYAA Global Assembly are to:

1. Provide an opportunity for ex-PYs of the SWY program, from various countries and different participating years to meet and; by sharing thoughts, strengthen their international alumni network;
2. Provide opportunities for ex-PYs to learn about the culture and people of the hosting country;
3. Provide opportunities to ex-PYs to be engaged in volunteer activities so that they can contribute to the society;
4. Share information about post-program activities that are taking place around the world; and
5. Revitalize the SWYAA by hosting or participating in the Global Assembly.

Chapter V: Decision Making Body

Article 14

1. Voting Session for the SWYAA International Representatives (VSIR) is the highest decision making forum.
2. VSIR shall basically take place at the SWYAA International Representatives Network.
3. VSIR shall review and make recommendations or decisions about any matter addressed in the Charter.
4. A decision at the VSIR shall be determined by a two-thirds of the votes of the member countries.
5. Decisions made by the VSIR shall not violate the right of self-determination and independence of the SWYAA members.
6. Each SWYAA shall designate the order of those who have voting rights, from the President to Vice President(s) and/or Secretary General, and inform the Secretariat upon registering to the SWYAA International, as well as updating the information in the annual country report.

Chapter VI: The Secretariat

Article 15

General rules:

1. The Secretariat shall execute the general affairs of the SWYAA International.
2. The Secretariat shall be established in the IYEO.
3. The Secretariat shall comprise a Secretary-General, a Deputy Secretary-General, and such staff as the Secretariat deems necessary.

Article 16

The duties of the Secretariat shall be as follows:

1. To gather and disseminate information related to the SWY program and the SWYAA International;
2. To collect the annual country reports of the member countries and take charge of documentation; and
3. To manage financial affairs and make a financial report to the SWYAA International member countries once a year.

Article 17

Term of service:

1. The Secretary General and the Deputy Secretary General must be former participants of the SWY program.
2. The Secretary General and the Deputy Secretary General shall be approved by the SWYAA International at the VSIR.
3. The Secretary General and the Deputy Secretary General shall hold their office for three years and they may be reappointed.

Chapter VII: Financial Affairs

Article 18

General rules:

1. The source of revenue of the SWYAA International shall be membership fees paid by the member countries and donations.
2. Receiving donations, special revenue, and sponsorship from other sources will be considered by the Secretary General in order to confirm that there are no attached conditions or commitments that jeopardize the objectives of the SWYAA International.
3. Revenue of the SWYAA International shall contribute to the expenses needed for the Secretariat.
4. Revenue of the SWYAA International may contribute to the expenses for common activities of the SWYAA International upon approval by the VSIR.

Article 19

The fiscal year of the SWYAA International shall begin on January 1 and end on December 31 of each year.

Chapter VIII: Rules and Regulations

Article 20

The document on "Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR)" is an integral part of the SWYAA International Charter, and is annexed to this document. All changes to the IRR will necessitate a two-thirds vote of all full members.

Miscellaneous Provisions

Membership to the SWYAA International is not associated with a country's invitation to the SWY program.

