

SWYAA Activity Reports – Report from September 2013 to August 2014

Australia - SWY Australia Annual General Meeting in Adelaide

The SWY Australia Annual General Meeting (AGM) was hosted over 2 days in Adelaide (and also online via Skype), the team discussed ideas of reinvigorating SWY, activities and opportunities for SWY Australia alumni and then capped off with a networking and social dinner night in collaboration with the Japan Australia Friendship Association (JAFA). This collaboration resulted in sharing the SWY story with JAFA members and the Japanese community, and also

learning about JAFA's largest annual event: Kodomo No Hi (Children's day). Not to forget, a delicious dinner was enjoyed by all and plans are underway for this year's AGM – we hope to see you there!



Brazil - Homestay+1

In May 2014, Brasilia welcomed Jose Sano from Peru (SWY11/16), Tamae Saito (SWY10, Japan) and Haruko Ishii (Advisor, Japan), making it the largest gathering in the history of SWYAA Brazil. Led by Naiara Martins (GLDP, Brazil), SWYAA Brazil organized its first "Homestay+1" activity, which showed them a little bit of the effort being conducted by a group of university students to bring quality education to students living in low-income communities in the outskirts of Brasilia. Gina Pancorbo (SWY24, Peru), currently living in Brasilia, was also invited to join the activity.

Naiara organized a field-trip to an educational facility in which students from the low-income community of Paranoa receive additional education. The college students, led by Naiara, started preparing the children a month before the scheduled date for the school visit. They conducted a cultural immersion work, teaching the kids about Japan's culture and geography. The children decided they wanted to prepare a presentation so that the visitors could also learn a little bit of Brazilian culture; they



danced capoeira and dances from a famous typical festival called Festa Junina. In addition, they wanted to pay tribute to Tamae and Haruko so they would be remembered; thus, they also presented a Japanese dance. Tamae and Haruko taught the kids a few Japanese words and games; Pepe and Gina, on the other hand, taught the children about Peruvian culture and traditions, giving them handmade toys from Peru. The activity was a lot of fun for everyone, especially because for the first time, the children could meet people from other countries and cultures. This filled them with joy, and it was visible, from the way their eyes sparkled throughout the whole activity, that they did not want the day to come to an end.

It was very gratifying to see how much the children learnt from the visitors, and how excited were they to meet new people and find out a little more about their traditions and different cultures. The impact Pepe, Gina, Tamae and Haruko's efforts had on the lives of each child was clear, and it was very rewarding to have an effect on the spirits of those children.

SWYAA Brazil has been working earnestly to increase participation and organization within the AA, and this was an activity that hopefully can be repeated in the years to come.

Canada - The SWY Spirit is Alive!!

Many things happened this year in Canada! We had three major SWY reunions, gathering people from many places in the world, a New Zealander experiencing SWY Canadian spirit, and a new member joining our big family!

Firstly, we all had the chance to attend a fantastic SWY wedding in Montreal, celebrating the love of Sarah Pinchevsky (SWY21) and Hideki Aniya (SWY21, GLDP, Japan). They met on Nippon Maru (SWY21) and their love continued to flourish over the next 5 years. Many SWYers attended their wedding, including some who came especially for the occasion from Japan, Venezuela and Peru.



reunion, we were able to make a donation to La Maison de la Syrie, a local organisation that was sending donations to Syrian refugee camps in Jordan.

Thirdly, we continued to share our love of Japanese culture by gathering in a newly opened *Izakaya* style Japanese restaurant in Montreal. We enjoyed many cross-cultural treats, such as Japadog (Quebecois hotdog with a Japanese touch.)

We had the great pleasure of hosting our dear Dana McDiarmid (SWY24, New Zealand) who stayed in Canada for about 9 months. We enjoyed so much having her here with us and being able to share Canadian culture and many different Canadian experiences with her. We hosted her in various cities, enjoying homestay+1 while volunteering at some local events. We miss her so much already and hope to be able to host other ex-PYs again soon!



With all of these events, the Canadian Alumni Association's SWY spirit became even stronger and the fire and passion in our hearts for SWY continues to warm us.



Secondly, we all met in January for our annual East Coast Winter Reunion at our Dear Mr. President of SWYAA Canada's house. There we enjoyed snowshoeing, skiing, partying and we became very competitive at playing card games. We also stayed in the

Japanese spirit by relaxing in a spa (*Onsen*) and eating very good sushi (with a lot of wasabi!!!) Also, thanks to one of our members at the

Egypt

In Memory of the 3rd Anniversary of the Great East Japan Earthquake & Tsunami: "Egypt & Japan in One Heart"

EASWY wrote its message of encouragement on a prepared banner of messages from Egypt, placed at the Embassy of Japan in Cairo. The banner of messages including ours reached the affected areas of Japan, submitted by the Egyptian Sumo Wrestler Oosunaarashi mid - February 2014. The video of the visit was shown on March 10th, 2014 in the JEN (Japan – Egypt Network) Salon Special held on this occasion at the Japanese Embassy. EASWY Letter to the affected areas was circulated among the prefectural IYEO Representatives.

From EASWY: "We are there for you this year and the years to come. Always in one heart...Egypt & Japan are in one heart."

Branding SWYAA International & Post Program Activities on the theme of "Education," "Today's Challenge Makes Tomorrow's Champions"; during a whole year, EASWY celebrated SWY 25th Anniversary. We ended our celebrations series with the 10th Anniversary of SWY16. On the same occasion, we also celebrated the success of EASWY of completing registration process to have Egypt become full member of the new SWYAA International as of January



2014. **Our Love for You is a Journey...Starting at Forever and Ending at Never;** this is how we ended our journey with SWY and welcomed the new SWYAA International

and SWY succeeding Programs. EASWY gave a presentation at the Japanese Embassy in Cairo to Egyptian public on our activities with Japan and introduced SWYAA International. The

Channel...Throughout Generations...Connect to Each Other; Education is an important theme for EASWY. Mohamed El Waseef, SWY22 & EASWY Vice – President, connecting with young ones, participated in both Al Amal Program (Amal = hope) helping new graduates to bridge the gap between University education and market needs and Ingaz (Ingaz = Achievements) Program introducing youth to knowledge, skills, and attitudes.

EASWY also requested an orientation session on studying in Japan from the Japanese Embassy in Cairo. This was part of JEN (Japan – Egypt Network) event by JEN Youth.

Japan - International Project and Outreach Our Voice to Parliamentary Members

IYEO started FY2014 with new president Mr. Keiichi Sato together with new board members. In line with the IYEO aim for FY2014, “To develop people who can exercise leadership in the society,” the IYEO has been tackling with diverse social activities, aims at strengthen organization to outreach and contribute society as well as reactivating internal activities. We are planning commemorative events to welcome 30 years anniversary since its establishment next year 2015.

One More Child Goes To School – Sri Lanka Educational Support Project

The project was officially started in 2008 and IYEO has been focusing on the scholarship project. Currently 62 Japanese Foster Parents are supporting 69 students in the Buddha Jayanthi Primary School in Hakmana, Sri Lanka. From 2014 IYEO takes whole project initiatives and in July, we implemented the school visit tour with the cooperation of Deshamanya Abeysooriya, president of Sunshine Travels Sri Lanka. 7 participants spent enjoyable time at school. This year, we donated chairs and tables for 400 students, a photo copy machine and other educational materials during the school visit. It helped to deepen

mutual understanding among students, teachers and foster parents so we would like to continue the tour following years.

Report session and Meeting on International Youth Exchange Programs

The session was hosted by Mr. Youhei Matsumoto, Youth Division Director of the Liberal Democratic Party and 22 IYEO members including president, board members and steering committee members attended. There are 15 parliamentary members including Mr. Akimasa Ishikawa, Youth Division Deputy-Director of the LDP who is a SWY12 ex-JPY joined in the event. It was a valuable experience for attended members as they could directly talk to the parliamentary



members about the SWY/GLDP experiences and how it is utilized to the society directly.

México - Dialogues for Sustainability



Think globally, act locally. These words comprise the experience that the opportunity to participate in the SWY has given us. We learned about the value of sufficient and adequate information, of training in leadership skills with social approach, of the design of strategies for social contribution activities and of the effective action and how to measure its results; in few words, we have learned to change the world, but more than the global world, our local world. The need for horizontal leadership is becoming more urgent in every community, because people are choosing isolation instead of being part of a real social network. Dialogues for Sustainability is a post-program activity that tries to take people's eyes back to their community, and followed by their eyes, also their hands, their feet,

their mind, their interest, their affection, their heart. Through the analysis of reliable information, building horizontal leadership skills, designing participative strategies, and implementing actions with measurable results, this activity aims to create a platform where the committed action of the members of the community can naturally find the course to a better place to live. This activity is carried out with the support as a facilitator of an ex-PY, but the actual participants of Dialogues for Sustainability are the people who live, work, and study in the community, determining the group process and the issues and problems that the group will address. Today, in the northern Mexican City of Saltillo, 10 citizens and a former participant of the SWY program, take part at this small pilot group that is already starting to generate results out of an effective citizen participation. Our dream on board was to change the world; today, we're changing our communities, our worlds.

New Zealand

Following on hosting a group of JPY's as part of the SWY25 programme, SWY NZ AA has continued to build on the work of previous years to provide a family for its past and future ex-PYs.

With our growing alumni it was time for a reunion, a chance to gather a discuss opportunities for the alumni. Our theme was “Stoking the Fire.” Why this theme you might ask? Well, we decided that everyone carries a spark, and with NZ have participated in thirteen programmes since the very first ship, it was just time to find a way to turn this spark into a flame and re-activate and build on this fresh energy.



Alumni members gathered in Rotorua to capture ideas for the alumni, ideas that were intended to start small but grow to build momentum. Lots of exciting discussion was held, no doubt prompted by the awesome venue being the Tangatarua Marae. Some of the ideas discussed were centred on getting back to basics and ensuring our

alumni family continued to find ways to get together, even if just for social gatherings, and right through to thinking big by setting goals to enable the New Zealand alumni to one day host a Global Assembly. Watch out guys, one day you just might have to come ‘Down Under’ and see us!

As well as planning for the future of the alumni, we also got out into the community. An afternoon had been arranged to assist a local garden community rebuild their earthen pizza oven. This was a very rewarding task, building a pizza oven from scratch using natural materials (rocks, sand, grass and mud). The most disappointing part of the project was not getting to taste any pizza! During the evening the reunion participants enjoyed a BBQ dinner on a boat on Lake Rotoiti, followed by a very relaxing bathe in some hot pools. A fantastic way to end an invigorating day.

A number of small batch gatherings reunions continue to take place throughout New Zealand, and the spirit of friendship amongst the NZ PYs remains as strong as the first day we all walked onto the ship.

Oman - Oman Day, New Logo



During the holy month of Ramadan, SWYAA Oman organizes SWY Day. This year SWYAA Oman members shared the Iftar (Breaking the fast) meal together. About 14 members from about 8 batches attended the Iftar gathering.

After the Iftar, donations collected from the attended and non-attended members. A call for donations from members was previously announced and members who couldn't attend were able to donate directly to the bank account or by giving their donations to a nearest member for collection. The donations been delivered later by Mahmood Al Farsi (SWYAA Oman VicePresident, SWY20, Oman) to Al Rahma Charity Team which is one of the most active group

working in charity work and helping families in need and people with special needs.

SWYAA Oman announced the new logo which was designed by Abdulmalik Al Kharusi (SWY22, Oman). The logo is a combination of three main elements. The name Oman which represents the Omani Delegation. The other two elements are joined to form the "O" letter of Oman and they are the Helm (Wheel) represents the program relation to the sea and the ship. The last element is the top part of the Omani Dagger which represents Omani culture and traditions curved in the middle of the Helm.



Russia - RUSWY Train 2014 Project, Learn, Live Adventures and Travel the Longest Railroad in the World!

SWYAA Russia held RUSWY train program from June 22 to July 6. The aim was to familiarize the SWY alumni with Russian culture and contribute to sustainable society. We travelled the Trans-Siberian railroad meaning from Moscow to Vladivostok. The term "Trans-Siberian" doesn't imply a particular train, but rather a railway which you may travel along on different trains. Participants of RUSWY Train have visited 5 cities (Moscow, Kazan, Yekaterinburg, Novosibirsk and Irkutsk) and have travelled 3500 km by train, plus optional 1900 km to Irkutsk, Lake Baikal. During the program RUSWY Train participants learned about the Russian way of life, historical and cultural traditions and values; promoted cross-cultural understanding and cooperation of the youth and were engaged in socially contributing activities. We spent 3 days exploring Moscow: walking through the center of the city, watched the "Swan Lake" classical ballet, visited Moscow State University campus, Ostankino TV Tower, Bunker-42 on Taganka and enjoyed SWY reunion dinner. Another 2 days we explored Kazan city where a culinary workshop was held in order to teach the participants how to cook traditional tatar food, and the festival of the Music of Faith. In Ekaterinburg RUSWY

participants volunteered for "We Can Do Everything" festival where they organized cultural master-classes for disabled youth and the participants of the festival. Moreover, RUSWY participants had a great chance to participate in a special seminar "How to be a foreigner in Russia" run by Language Link school. In Novosibirsk we participated in a round table discussion about volunteerism at the local volunteers' bureau "Dom Molodezhi." The final destination was Novosibirsk city, where participants made presentations about their experiences through the program and analyzed misconceptions about Russia. A few of participants continued the way to Irkutsk and Lake Baikal, the biggest and deepest freshwater lake in the world, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Additionally, we got the chance to become special guests in the summer international youth camp "Baikal 2020" there. RUSWY Train program was a unique and fascinating lifetime experience!



Spain - EUSA Project

When Yuichiro Takahashi (SWY13, Japan) told us for the first time about the project "Treasure Box" we accepted without thinking twice. This project intends to help people from Minamisanriku, a small village in Tohoku region in Japan, where the effects of the Great East Japan Earthquake and tsunami (2011) are still, unfortunately, visible. We, as SWYAA Spain, started a close communication with Yui (Yuichiro) and so we could receive in Spain several hand-made products from Minamisanriku people. Some items were sold within the personal circles of Spanish SWYers and other ones were sold in two important events of the Japanese Community in Spain (thanks to the special collaboration of Mr. Hajime Kishi, from the Japanese Embassy in Spain). In January, we took part of the Mochitsuki (Rice cake Festival) and some months later we participated in the Ikebana

Exhibition, which took place in the Royal Botanical Garden of Madrid. We tried to widen our collaboration, so we added to the sale some origami handcrafted earrings as well as some pottery artwork kindly donated by the School of Ceramics in Madrid. As a result, we have raised €606 for the victims. We hope these funds are useful and give some hope to all those who are still suffering. Sometimes, after SWY experience, back in our 'normal' lives, we forget the importance and the power of human cooperation. I personally believe that each of us can do something (even a tiny thing) to help others and SWYAA Spain will keep working in the same direction.



Sweden - SWY and GLDP Alumni was Invited to the Japanese Embassy in Stockholm

The GLDP participants had the great opportunity to meet with the Japanese Ambassador Seiji Morimoto before their departure for Japan at the end of 2013. At that occasion, the ambassador mentioned that it would be very nice to invite the delegation home after the program to learn more about their experiences from Japan.



Fortunately for us, his intent was realised and both the GLDP delegation, as well as members from previous delegations to the SWY were invited to an official reception at the ambassador's residence in Stockholm on May 16, 2014.

Chocolate, Sushi and Soranbushi:

To show our sincere gratitude to the embassy for hosting us, and to Japan for their work with global youth empowerment, the SWYAA-Sweden handed over a small token of appreciation – a gift basket with Swedish traditional gourmet delicacies. After a great discussions, fantastic Japanese delights and mingling the SWYAA-Sweden transformed to a performance squad. It was time to dance a light, and slightly customized, version of the

Japanese dance Soranbushi. Although many of us were rusty, we pulled off all the "sei-haa" and "dokkoisho, dokkoishoo" in the right order. Our finishing moves were followed by loud standing ovations (did I mention it was a standing reception :) by the Japanese and staff.

Jumping frogs and surprise clapping games discovery: Invigorated by the first dance, the entire reception moved outdoors to the lawn – and following a short presentation by the GLDP-delegation members, the entire reception joined in for rehearsal of the upcoming Midsummer's Eve dancing. Together with the ambassador, minister and the rest of the embassy staff we sang, circled the Maypole, and jumped like the small dancing frogs until everyone were out of breath. When we threw in another customary activity to conclude the games session – the Swedish clapping finale called "raketen" (the rocket) – we were quickly matched by the ambassador's team with "San-san-nana byoshi" – literally; three, three, and seven. This rhythmic clapping game, with short exclamations between we were told have the same function as the Swedish rocket-clap; to mark the finish of, or conclude an event in a happy, lively fashion. This was indeed the cultural discovery of the day!

Ex-PYs Updates

Over the Pacific and beyond, the friendship continues - Blanca Rosa (SWY1, Ecuador)

Back in 1989 (yes, the 80s), youth from all over Americas and Oceans joined their counterparts in Japan to embark on a program that had wide goals such as to achieve mutual understanding, tolerance among the nations and perhaps assist with the internationalization of Japan. The program was outstanding, every detail was taken care of, we were overwhelmed by the hospitality and generosity of our Japanese friends. Those were the days in which the fastest means of communication was the fax and no internet was available, so "keeping in touch" with our peers was really a labor of love.

25 years after, those bonds of friendship are stronger than ever. In January 2014, SWYAA Ecuador organized the celebration of the Silver Jubilee. Hugs, kisses and laughter were present all night. Ex-PYs from several batches of the programs came excited to meet their mates. Most of the attendees belonged SWY1, the first program, setting the example of fellowship. There was no one from the administration so we were "free" to party the night away. The festivities continued with a luncheon offered by the Consulate General of Japan in Guayaquil. With this double celebration, the Ecuadorian ex-PYs had the opportunity to share and network.

Later in Panama, we met our fellow ex-PYs from SWY1. Visiting the Panama Canal again brought memories of the Panamanian delegation standing on the base of the Bridge of the Americas waving that Nippon Maru in a gesture that impressed everyone back in 1989. Sadly, we had lost some of our friends. They are not with us anymore. We remember them warmly and know they are alive within our hearts. As an ex-PY from the first batch, I had witnessed the growth of the SWY thorough the years both in my country and among my batch mates. And each one of us had been enriched by the program. Our deepest gratitude goes to the government of Japan for this great experience. Over the Pacific and Beyond.....the program continues. From the Middle of the World.....Salud!



5th Anniversary Reunion of SWY21 held at NYC - Makiko Kojima (SWY21, Japan)



On March 21, 2014, SWY21 JPYs had a reunion at the National Olympics Memorial Youth Center (NYC) in Tokyo to celebrate our 5th anniversary. About fifty JPYs in total joined the reunion and we renewed our friendship.

First we opened the time capsule which had been kept for five years, then enjoyed some workshops. Following the after-party, the second part of the reunion started. About twenty JPYs left for *Hachiojima Island* (a small subtropical island which is located 287km south of Tokyo) by ship, which was just like our journey on Nippon Maru. The idea of this reunion was born on board in the Nippon Maru during the SWY21. One JPY, Shinnosuke Nakano, wanted to hold a reunion after five years and prepare something we could look forward to, and then he came up with the idea of

a time capsule. Before the end of the program, he asked JPYs to write a letter to him/herself in five years, and put them all into the time capsule (a mail box made by another JPY Sayuri Morimoto). He had kept that box at his home until it was finally opened at the reunion. Those who received the letters pondered the meaning of the messages to themselves from five years ago.

Thanks to this reunion, I could look back at that time and think about the future as well. I'm really grateful for this opportunity to see my dear fellows and deepen our relationship," said one participant. Shinnosuke Nakano said, "I felt blissfully happy to see everyone's smile and to find out that our friendship had never changed. I thank those who joined the reunion and who helped me to make this happen." Our next big reunion will be for 10th anniversary...? Well, I do hope to have a get-together from time to time including more JPYs, as well as OPYs! Special thanks to: Apisai, Susy, Ezekiel and all PYs.

7th GA in Peru: feeling the Fuji Maru atmosphere again

Adriano Lira, Amanda Freitas, Eduardo Baraína, Matheus Romero (SWY23, Brazil) and Leo Kajioka Nardon (SWY18, Brazil)

Though we had the chance to meet participants from all over the world since we came back from the ship, the 7th Global Assembly (GA) in Peru was the first opportunity for us to feel like we were in SWY again. When meeting new people, no matter how far apart the batches of the participants were, we could instantly feel that we belong to the same family. From breakfast to bed time, that "Fuji Maru atmosphere" came back. We could discover new cultures and new languages. And, of course, we showed how noisy a Brazilian delegation can be!

We had the opportunity to learn about many social projects developed by SWYers, and that inspired us to change our communities for better.

Also, we met a handful of gifted young local leaders who could very well be future participants of the SWY program.

In Peru, we felt that same excitement in a second we arrived. However, it was easier to say goodbye when we left Lima than when we left Japan. The GA taught us that we can meet our friends every year and that the painful goodbyes we exchanged at the end of our SWY journey can become a "see you soon!" Now that we know how incredible the experience of being part of a GA is, we sincerely wish we can meet all of you in Turkey. Até logo!

SWY Peace Reunion

John Burgener (SWY11, Canada)

SWY inspired me to start my own youth group Peaceweaves and for close to a decade after participating on the SWY I developed peace education curriculum centered on the UN's culture of peace program. I gave presentations and seminars in schools and used many photographs and examples from SWY to facilitate discussions with students about global issues. In 2009 I moved to the UK to do a three year undergraduate degree in Peace Studies at the University of Bradford. I decided to also do a Master's degree there too. I met two good friends while doing my Masters who were from Japan and were ex-PYs! It was great to be able to share

Ship stories with them and find out we all had a similar interest in studying peace. We were able to spend some time during the year visiting with many international and local ex-PYs who lived in London too. I think we all agree that SWY is an excellent program which truly reflects that creating a culture of peace is possible. Thank you Yumiko and Mika for the nice SWY reunion we had while in Bradford studying peace.



The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams ~Eleanor Roosevelt~

Nour Rady (SWY24, Egypt)

Back in SWY24, I was asked: what is your dream?

I answered: I want to be the Secretary General of the United Nations.

And now, as I will mention below, I'm one step closer to that dream.

When I joined SWY, I was working for Vodafone UK as a Customer Service Agent, but I knew deep inside that I was meant for more than that, and I promised myself that I will find the place where I'm truly significant

to this world, and truly do something that matters. Working for the UN was like a childhood dream, even before I learnt about the bodies of the organization, and what each of these bodies does. I joined SWY hoping to get a wider prospect in life, gaining skills that would help me become more than what I was, acquiring experiences that would help me go further in this life and push my limits, and above all, I joined SWY to meet the wonderful participants who have later become a huge family. I joined the Volunteerism Course Discussion with facilitator Asako Haga (SWY24, Japan), who was a true inspiration to me and that inspiration was quite clear in the choices I made after SWY. Among those choices was working

for the UN Volunteers under the umbrella of the UNDP. My first assignment, the one I'm currently serving in, was UNHCR where we are serving a huge population of refugees and asylum seekers from every corner of the world; I'm now a part of an organization that counts around 40 million people as people of concern. We provide education, medical care, help for children, and ultimately we provide solutions; to either help people return home with safety and dignity, or to integrate in the societies

of the countries in which they sought asylum, or to resettle in a third country and create new lives in those countries. I believe that my participation in SWY24 generally and the Volunteerism Course Discussion specifically has been a cornerstone in the advancement of my professional career, and I have immense appreciation to everyone who had a hand in organizing this life changing program. SWY will always have a special place in my heart, and SWY family will always be my big family.

Homestay

Roleta Lebelo (SWY20, South Africa)

Recently in South Africa, I met and had dinner with Ravi Chopra (Vice President and General Secretary of SWYAA-India) and Shobhana Radhakrishna (CEO of the SWYAA-India) from SWY6. They visited Johannesburg on an invitation from the Indian High Commission to deliver ethical lectures of Mahatma Gandhi. SWY has instilled in me a sense of togetherness, of unity. I view all PYs, including those I have not met, as a worldwide family. However, this family will one day meet. Hence every time there is a SWY member who visits my country and I get notification, I try by all means to meet them.



I remember Yukako (SWY20, Japan) who came with her husband for the 2010 Soccer World Cup. I drove for 4 hrs to meet them at the airport, before they proceeded to their next destination. It was so lovely to meet them. They carried the spirit of "Ubuntu, Botho" – the human spirit of togetherness. Although we met for a short time, saying goodbye was so sad.

It reminded me of another visit. In 2009, my best friend Nadia Islam (SWY20, USA), whom I met on the ship, visited South Africa. She also came to visit a South African University. I organized her visiting itinerary which consisted of visiting Cape Town, Johannesburg and my neighborhood, a small town in the Province of Limpopo where she visited The Tea Gardens and Magoebaskloof. After the program, I visited Bahrain and Oman and was hosted by SWY families. I have also been to the Dubai reunion. While attending the International World AIDS Conference in Vienna in 2010, I also had the honour of spending time with my dear friend Almu Ramos (SWY20, Spain). We had a great time together, meeting for dinners, shopping, visiting historical sites, meeting with other South African diplomats at South African initiated events in Vienna. Nadia Islam and I have always wished to attend the annual GA, however our work schedules have somehow interfered with our plans. This year however, we will again meet with many other ex-PYs at the upcoming GA and share many more experiences, laughter and once again share the beauty of the SWY spirit. I cannot wait!

Ki a koe e te wahine māhaki, e te wahine whitawhita, e Ying

Kei te tangi mōteatea nei ki tō wehenga atu

Hoki atu rā koe ki ou tūpuna okioki ai, reira ai koe e takoto mai i te āiotanga o ngā mātua tūpuna

Julia Aumua Whaipooti (on behalf of SWY24)

The Ship for World Youth New Zealand Alumni Association continue to express our heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Ying Kong (SWY24) whose life was tragically taken from us in December 2013. Ying was also part of the NZ delegation that attended the SWYAA GA in Peru in 2013 and was one of the most energised, bubbly, free spirited, smiley ladies to come in contact with. She made so many friends everywhere she went and gave so much of herself to various projects and initiatives.

What would Ying Kong do? Although Ying Kong has left this world in person, the energy explosion that is her life lives on. What would Ying Kong do really is a reflection of her legacy. It's a question used to guide lifestyle choices. She really was someone who was willing to try and do anything and everything. Brave, strong, vibrant, a light, a fire, Ying Kong was a firework. She remains at the heart of our SWY24 New Zealand delegation *whanau*.

With Our Deepest Sympathy...

We all had the privilege of getting to know our mate, her passion for life and to see her energise all the participants who sailed on Fuji Maru. The outpouring of love, affection and memories shared from all over the world showed the impact Ying Kong had on the lives of many, in particular the SWY24 *whanau* (extended family), once news of her passing was shared. She was so creative, empathetic and giving and for those of us who had the blessing of knowing Ying Kong know she really lived life to the fullest.



Although our SWY24 New Zealand *whanau* are missing our sister, the question of what would Ying Kong do keeps her very much alive in our worlds today. She touched so many lives and we carry her with us forevermore. Moe mai ra e hine. Together forever we all are one...

In memory of Vi Lam...

Paul Gaffney (SWY12, Australia)

The SWY Community lost one of its true legends and nicest people with the passing of Vi Lam in May this year. Vi was a much loved and respected figure within the SWY Australia alumni and also the global SWY community around the world.



Vi's first ship program was SWY11 in early 1999. This was the start of his long and distinguished association with the SWY program. At the young age of 24 Vi was chosen as an Assistant National Leader for the Australian delegation. Just 6 months after his PY experience Vi was selected as National Leader of the Australian delegation for SWY12. From the start Vi impressed me with his character and style. Immediately I felt confident that Vi would be a great National Leader for our Australian delegation. At 25 years old Vi was one of the youngest ever NL's.

During the 2 months of the program Vi was an exceptional National Leader, a brilliant leader for his letter group and a leader amongst the NLs. Throughout the program Vi displayed strong leadership to the whole Ship.

He was a source of wisdom, experience and advice to anyone who needed it. Vi became a counsellor to many people on the ship especially many of the JPYs. Vi is a man of morals, principles and ethics and this ensured people trusted him and were able to go to Vi for support.

Two years later I was lucky enough to be selected as the Australian delegation NL for SWY14. Immediately I turned to Vi for help. Vi was an amazing source of support and advice. He played a very active role in supporting the SWY14 Australian delegation and was a major reason for our success. Vi spent a couple of years as President of the SWY Australia Alumni Association and helped transform and professionalise our operations with the creation of the SWY PY Preparation Manual, NL Preparation Handbook and SWY Australia Charter. In the past year Vi travelled the world. He travelled to many countries and met up with many SWY friends. Vi loved the SWY program. He loved Japan. He loved the ideals of internationalism and cultural understanding. He loved helping people!

The reaction to Vi's passing was an indication of the person he was. The comments, emails and messages all talked of people's great admiration for Vi and their strong friendship with him. I am fortunate to have also had that friendship. Farewell traveler.

The 7th SWYAA Global Assembly in Peru, 2013



Ms. Saeko Obu (Principal Deputy Director for International Youth Exchange, Cabinet Office) makes a speech at the opening ceremony. At the Conference for the Post-program activities, sharing the information of what they implemented in each country. (She read the message on behalf of Ms. Masako Mori, Minister of State for Youth Affairs, Cabinet Office, at the welcome reception dinner.)



108 participants from 18 country join the Global Assembly.



Participants plant trees with a wish for the friendship between the participating countries and Peru.



Social Contribution Activity: With the assistance of the organization which promotes conservation of Peru's nature and history, and of which ex-PY is an active member, participants pick up trash around the site and paint stones on the path at the ruins of Huaca Fortaleza de Campoy.



Institutional Visit: Gastronomy, participants visit the first historical market in Lima called Jesus Maria District's market, and then experience the cooking of traditional dishes. The three dishes were "Causa" "Ceviche" "Lomo Saltado".



Participants observe the repair work of the Machu Pichu.(Optional Tour)

Big applause to the GA coordinating committee!!!

The 8th SWYAA Global Assembly
TURKEY 2014

Official Program took place at Istanbul from Aug. 30 to Sep. 3, 2014 and Optional Tour to Cappadocia was from Sep. 3 to 7. All the participants had so much fun that no one wanted to go back to home.



At Machu Picchu (Optional Tour)

9th SWYAA GLOBAL ASSEMBLY
Fiji 2014

9th SWYAA Global Assembly
See you next year in Fiji

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.
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2. To IYEO e-mail address:
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