

We decided to dress in traditional costumes and ask for donations for Nepal. In appreciation we wrote their names in Japanese and Arabic, took pictures with them and told them about our different cultures. And the people in the fair loved it! People started lining-up wanting to know more about foreign cultures and get their names written in foreign language. Many asked questions and wanted to learn about different countries. Others were also interested about us volunteering and were keen to learn about the SWYAA and the SWY program. Our campaign to support Nepal turned out to be

New Zealand

- A Wedding! Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Acushla Dee Sciascia, (SWY25)

- A musical! Mamma Mia, Rotorua Musical Theatre, featuring leading man Steve Holmes (SWY16) and dancer Leah Fitzpatrick (SWY7)

- An evaluation.
Dee Sciascia did a thorough



successful. I remember writing over 1000 names in Arabic. My friends from Japan Mihato Shoda (SWY25) wrote even more. People's curiosity of wanting to know paid off and their kind hearts and willingness to help supported the cause. At the end we were able to collect more than \$450 in total. Regardless of that, we truly hope that our volunteer activity helps inspire more ex-PYs around the world. Special thanks to all those who supported in this campaign.

evaluation of the SWY program for NZ's Ministry of Youth Development. It was a huge task including a survey of ex-PYs and interviews. The resulting report showed clearly the profound impact and value SWY has had for participants.

- New executive members for SWYNZAA, welcome to Copresident: Anna Hoek-Sims (SWY27), Arish Naresh (SWY27) Vice President Social Contributions: and Ramon Narayan (SWY16/24)

SWY for life! Until we meet again peace and blessings to all.

Oman

- Boosting SWY Spirit by 6 Events

This year, Omani SWY Family had been very busy, active and productive, starting from final preparations and departure of the SWY 27's Omani delegation in January. Many Omani ex-PYs attended at the airport to wish them the good luck and to show their support.

In March, SWYAA Oman Board members organized for general meeting to welcome the new SWYAA Oman members after the SWY27 program to introduce themselves to the family and to share their experience and to get together with other members. At the meeting, Board members shared the updates, challenges and upcoming plans. A total of 32 members from 8 different batches attended the meeting and shared their thoughts and suggestions.

SWYAA Oman members took a big role in Youth Summer Camp in June which is an annual event since few years back by the Ministry of Sport Affairs and takes place in few different parts of the country. SWYAA Oman shared many events with the Ministry and there is a good collaboration between them. We are expecting bigger role in the Ministry's coming events.

SWY Day in Oman as usual is mixed of team gathering and voluntary activities. As usual, this event was organized in Ramadan (June 18 – July 17) and this year we organized three different Iftar (Breaking the fast) in three different cities in different areas in Oman (Nizwa, Salalah and Muscat).

Our main voluntary activity for this year is digging 2 water wells and Iftar (Breaking the fast) for public in the Republic of Chad. The donations were collected during the Iftar gathering in Muscat and given to Anas Al Dheeb (SWY27) who is a member of a charity and aid organization and he represented SWYAA Oman there. The project is still in progress and will be completed soon.



In our efforts to bring SWYers from all over the world, we have started "SWY Family Competition" in the SWY Family page on facebook.com. The compaction is directed by Mahmood Al Farsi (SWY20 and 22) with the support of volunteers from other countries and this seemed to be very active from old and new SWY batches.

Peru

- We Can All Help Save Lives!

The World Health Organization (WHO) of the United Nations has proclaimed that annually, each June 14, World Blood Donor Day is celebrated. The primary objective of the formalization of this day is to promote universal access to safe blood through blood donation, voluntary and unpaid.



Each year, many countries join this celebration, through local and national events, promoting new initiatives and many activities in order to ensure the healthy blood supplies.

SWYAA Perú could not sit with folded arms. This year, it encouraged its members to join the noble cause, and taking advantage of the visit of Aaron Gordon (SWY27, United Kingdom), and aiming Homestay + 1, members' blood donation was conducted.

We visited the blood bank of the National Institute of Neoplastic Diseases in Lima, which particularly treats patients of all ages suffering from cancer and illnesses associated with this disease. This initiative was made for the first time, desiring to establish a precedent for future years, so that is instituted as a habit to donate as often as possible, blood transfusions and blood products help to save millions of lives each year, increase life expectancy and quality of life of patients with life-threatening conditions, and support complex medical and surgical procedures. They also play a key role in maternal and child care, natural disasters and man-made disasters caused by humans. Each year many lives are lost due to lack of blood units. SWYAA is aware of this problem and want to remind the world that we can all help save lives.

Solomon Islands

- Supporting the Flood Affected Members

Part of 2014 saw the SWYAA Solomon Islands involved in donating clothes, pots, pans, food, drinking water and providing tools plus anything that is useful to help start up a new home and assist six of our SWYAA SI family members who have been affected by the flood. Our sincere gratitude to IYEO who has also assisted us financially where pots, cutleries, containers and children's clothes were bought to supplement what members have donated to the cause. A meeting was called and members gathered at Mendana Avenue where goods were presented and handed over to those affected. It was also this year that SWYAA SI elected new office bearers.



SWYAA SI members and by then President, Hilda Anihoniara (SWY11) during the hand-over of supplies to affected family members

- Hospital Clean-Up Day

In 2015, SWYAA SI participated with organizers, Solomon Islands Australia Alumni Association for a Hospital Clean-up day which took place on the February 25, 2015. Activities included rubbish collection, grass cutting and raking, flower planting and drainage cleaning as part of our leadership and community service to our nation. There were all smiles on faces of both participants in the clean-up activity as well as the sick patients, giving back something to the community and the needy.

- Live Broadcasting of the 2015 South Pacific Games

And just recently, one of the SWYAA SI members Andrew Tahisi (SWY23) accompanied One News Television from the Solomon Islands to Papua New Guinea for the 2015 South Pacific Games as a camera operator along with a team of 8 who then teamed up with TV crews from the Pacific, making it possible for people in Solomon Islands to watch the live broadcasting of the South Pacific games and related events. Andrew said it was a great experience working with professional experienced producers and networking with others involved in production during the trip. Meeting up with the former SWY23 National Leader for Fiji, Andrew is so excited to see SWYers in different walks of life, both nationally and internationally and encourages that SYWers to remain involved in global events with our different skills, knowledge and talents to help make a change to the world around us.

Tonga

- SWYAA Tonga Supports the Coronation of the King and the Queen

This year 2015 is special for the people of the Kingdom of Tonga include members of the Tonga SWY Alumni Association. The Coronation of the King Tupou VI and Queen Nanasipau'u Tuku'aho was held on Sat. July 4, 2015 followed by Coronation Services on Sun. July 5 at the Centenary Church of the Free Wesleyan. These were important events for all the people of Tonga locally and abroad. The President and members of the

alumni especially to the active members of SWY19 volunteer to take part in preparation for the Coronation, all members of the Alumni in Civil Servant and Board take part in prepared lunch for thousands invited guests for the Coronation on Mon. July 6, 2015.



Yemen

- Most Successful PechaKucha Events Held in Sana'a

PechaKucha 20x20 is a Japanese event that was first presented in Tokyo back in 2003 and since then has been held in more than 800 cities. The innovative idea of the event is that every speaker has simple format presentation where he/she shows 20 images each for 20 seconds. The images advance automatically and the speaker talk along the images.

Why am I talking about this event in particular? Basically because one of the most successful PechaKucha events held in Sana'a, Yemen was organized by a group of Yemeni youth including some participants from SWY program, Zayed AlShaddadi (SWY21) and Saleem AlHumadi (SWY21/SWY22 NL). The event was held in March 2015, attended by more than 200 Yemeni young ladies and gentlemen. In the event two SWY members were speakers and shared their SWY experience with the attendees of the event. Mr. Omar AlKurshmi (SWY19) talked about his experience in the program, about the organizers, homestay, activities inside the ship and shared many other interesting memories. Ms. Maha AlYosifi (SWY22) expressed her experience and her point of view as a Yemeni girl in the program, she also talked about the difficulties she faced at the beginning and how she got acquainted with the situation. She then talked about other things such as, Yemen culture habits, the Yemeni national day which they celebrated on the ship and the way she was teaching other girls how to wear Yemeni traditional costumes. They both expressed their experience in form of attractive pictures that helped the audience to live the

experience with the speakers. Both speakers expressed their appreciation to the Government of Japan for sponsoring and organizing such an amazing program during the show, they also expressed their deep wishes that the program continues in the future so that others can have the same wonderful experience.



Ex-PYs Updates

Send the Love Through Art

Luciana Yonekawa (SWY23, Brazil)

It is with great joy that I write to this 23rd edition of the SWY News, since I was part of SWY23. This year, I participated in two very emotional video projects to send the message, developed by the SWYAs from Brazil, Mexico and Sweden.

Every March since 2011 we are reminded of how amazing and fierce nature can be. It showed us its full strength with Japan's triple disaster. It happened a week after I left the Ship. I and all the other OPYs that were in SWY23 spent months with our hearts beating off the pace while searching for news about our beloved JPYs and the reconstruction of the country. Every program since SWY25 has taken groups of PYs to visit parts of Japan that are still to this day being reconstructed.

When the Brazilian delegation of SWY27 came back, they brought Nihon (Japan) in their hearts and an idea in their minds: to produce a video that would send our love to the Japanese people, with the participation of ex-PYs from Mexico, Sweden and Japan. It can be seen here: <https://goo.gl/xbyFtJ> Nevertheless, a few days after that video was produced, nature hit hard on Vanuatu and other islands. Besides sending our good vibrations to our friends on that area, the SWYAs from Brazil, Mexico and Sweden got together once more to show that we stood with Vanuatu. The result is here: <https://goo.gl/NVo200>

I am very glad to be able to show our love through art. To Japan, we sang Hana wa Saku. To Vanuatu, Petter Falk (SWY23, Sweden) wrote a special tune and named it "A song for Port Vila." Petter also edited the video; Érica Kido Shimomoto (SWY27, Brazil) edited the one for Japan. And we could show the world that art and SWY love have no borders.



Picture montage: Takeo Yonekawa

Ex-PY in Every Corner of the World

Dana Reiter (SWY13, Canada)

Hi SWY friends around the world! I hope this note finds everyone well; healthy and happy and surrounded by much love and light and laughter! It's Dana here from SWY13 & 18 Canada and I have a story to share. I am currently in lovely Adelaide, South Australia and I sent a note to the Australian SWY alumni to see if anyone was in Adelaide. I received a lot of heartwarming response and invites to meet, including an invitation to attend dinner at Kirsty Munro (SWY11) and her husband Ant Perry's (SWY12) house. I had never met them, but this is the beautiful world of our SWY friendship family. Other SWYers attending would be Angie Stankovich (SWY14), whom I had met on a previous visit to Adelaide and Carlos Scarone (SWY13, Venezuela) who was on the ship with me!

When I was walking to Kirsty's house, I became a bit unsure and looked around for a local resident I might ask to help me clarify my directions. I settled on a young woman standing beside me and I said, 'Could you tell me which way I go from here to stay on

King William Street?' She smiled pleasantly and said 'of course, no problem, you just go this way' and she pointed my way forward. I thanked her and she then asked where I was going. I replied 'Goodwood' which was the suburb where Kirsty and Ant's house is. She cocked her head to one side and looked a bit puzzled and asked why I was going there. I thought this was a bit of a strange question to ask, but she was so pleasant and kind, I replied 'to attend a dinner party.' She then said 'at Kirsty's?' and I almost fell over in shock. I said 'yes, at Kirsty's' and she shouted in delight 'I'm from the Ship!' and I shouted back 'me too! I'm Dana from Canada!' thinking she probably saw the e-mail I'd sent. She said 'I'm Jane Bowden(SWY3)' and we laughed together in amazement. What are the chances of meeting a complete stranger on a corner of the street on the other side of the world, who is a fellow SWY alumni? It turns out...better than you'd think!

We laughed and walked on together sharing how much we both loved our unforgettable and wonderful experiences on the Ship for World Youth. It turns out she could not attend the dinner that night, but she decided to walk with me to her house and then drive me to Kirsty's so she could pop her head in and say hello to the rest. That evening was absolutely wonderful.

The amazing Ship for World Youth program keeps giving back and gifting us all with new friendships, many kindnesses and such absolute delight even after so many years! Thank you! Take good care out there and Shine on Shipmates!

Something I Want to Share

Ana Mercedes García Salazar (SWY13, Ecuador)

When I read the message where IYEO was looking for articles to be published on the 23rd edition of the SWY News. I said to myself: "What can I share?" How can I send a present to this beautiful people who changed my life in every single aspect? Therefore I decided to share with you one part of my personal journey, before and after I traveled on Nippon Maru ship.

In 2000 the Japanese Embassy opened us the door to apply to be one of the youngster who will sail "To Our Own Ocean," their representatives emphasized that they were looking for people who can make a positive change. A change made not just in their country, they were looking for somebody who could make positive changes in the world. Therefore being a leader was a requirement. How can we be good leaders? In his speech, Richard John from TED talks, summarized the idea of getting successful in the following steps: 1. Passion for the things that we do, 2. Hard work, 3. Focus, 4. Persistence, 5. Pushing yourself and other people, 6. Serving, 7. Creating ideas (Creativity), 8. Being a good person.

In my case, I have always liked English language, it is a universal language and through this language I had the opportunity to share the SWY experience. Now I am improving my English skills in order to help many people to learn Management, Marketing, etc. since these tools, in combination with English language, create great opportunities around the world.

To sum up, I realize that in my personal life I can work day by day with this eight points to make the difference inside my family, my work, my city, my country and - who knows - maybe one day this could have a positive effect around the world.



Gossip Corner...EASWY---2015

- New Born Babies Congratulations dears Nader Abdou (SWY21) for Andrea and Ahmed Fouda (SWY16) for a new baby girl.

- Lovely Marwa Hussein (SWY22) moved to live in US. This is the lovely married couple Marwa and Andres Cordova (SWY21). Reham Raafat (SWY16), lives now in the USA after she got married last year. Wishing you dear all the best.
- Mohamed Abdel Meguid (Gido) is back from Okinawa to Egypt now! He works now at the Embassy of Japan in Cairo.
- Mushira Kamel (SWY24) got married & Doaa El Deeb (SWY14) got married. Congratulations!
- Hany Abdel Monem (SWY14) is now Youth Program Director at World Scout Bureau Headquarter, and Youth Program Director at World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM).
- SWY4 of 1992, sends their warmest regards from Egypt to all SWYers. They are still active and have their small reunions. Dalia El Beheiri is a very famous actress now in Egypt and the Arab world has concluded a very successful TV serial that received the highest number of audience showing the diary of an Egyptian housewife and a working woman! Congratulations.
- Congratulations our dearest Perihan Abou Zeid (SWY14) for great success! Wonderful Designs in ILO Showcasing of "Studio Embabah" 2015 Capsule Collection, fruitful production of 90 determined women from one of Cairo's most populated neighborhoods: Embabah.

Freedom as a Woman

Capt Priti Sidharth Singh (SWY12, India)

It gives me immense pleasure to reach you out from the sky. Being a mother and a professional is such a demanding job and I am privileged to get connected with such strong versatile lady friends. My life story as young as 5 years started with imagination



then dreams then thoughts. Freedom, what is was as a child to come home alone from school. I remember the incident of sneaking away from the school, walking alone a kilometer or so. In between stopping by a ration shop asking for a toffee having no idea of buying it – luckily getting one with a sweet grin of the shopkeeper and then reaching home declaring aloud...I'm home. Such innocence and ignorance was blissful. But now when I look back, I ask why not a safe environment to walk

and guarded through? As it is said freedom is responsibility, and very much it is.

Here I am to state what liberty is and how I feel freedom as a woman. I am very proud to state the environment of Airlines is very healthy and supportive being a Pilot. Since 2007 I have been in Airlines I have seen and undergone many instance. Some of the instants give an insight on how the society is and how far we have come. The first incident was when I started flying. I was told by senior Captain to take care of house and children. It's not a job for woman. It's a man's job. I wondered then why at all recruit ladies.

We come from a land where Durga is a mother and Shakti is symbol of power. It was Lord Shiva who gave Shakti to destroy the evil. So we have a picture perfect family Shiv Parvati Kartik and Ganesh. Having roots there and practicing ritual. Having said so, I am happy to state the health of my organization now. We have so many woman pilots, young, on the way to be a mother or already mother like me. When I was flying with another senior Captain he said so many woman Captains are with us. It never happens on highway in India. It's a women sky now. I turned my head and smiled and said.....Thank you so much Sir. It's our men Captain who are giving this healthy environment and acceptability... So as I write from 37,000 feet from the sky...Rise and arise the surrounding...

New Beginning

Paul Hoyle (SWY24, Peru)

Hello everyone! I wanted to announce you that this year I've been working very hard on what is going to be the first step of a whole new phase in my life. I've decided to gather all the things I've learn, all my experiences, all the stories and present moments within the magic of song-writing.

Yes, it took me some time to figure out where my heart was, and even though I knew it was inside the beauty of music, I didn't know where it was exactly! So after having the opportunity to share my songs here in Peru and also in the US, I've decided that it is time to take them to another level.

Yes, I'm going to release my first album this year! It is going to have songs in English and Spanish and I've included some traditional instruments that are now cultural patrimonies of Peru, such as the "Cajón" and "Checo" (Pumpkin). If you've had Peru in your batch, you'll definitely recognize the Cajón because we've taken it to all of our National Presentations! As some of you may know, I put all my heart into music, so this album won't be the exception. I'll keep you all updated through the SWY NET and let you know when is going to be the exact release date. Infinite Music & Colors for you all!



Writing Textbooks for Japanese Universities

John Rucynski (SWY14, USA)

Passing the torch on to future SWYers. Since serving as advisor for the education discussion course on SWY19, I have settled back into my life as an English teacher in Japan. My side project in recent years has been writing textbooks for use in English classes at Japanese universities. An important lesson I learned in multicultural environments like the SWY program is that communicating proficiently in English requires not only linguistic knowledge, but also cross-cultural awareness. So, when writing textbooks I have carefully considered the best ways to integrate language and culture teaching.

For my first textbook, I focused on helping Japanese students improve their ability to explain Japanese culture in English. I was lucky to team up with Alice Gordenker, a journalist for The Japan Times. We modified articles from Alice's column, in which she investigates aspects of daily life in Japan which non-Japanese find surprising. The result was our first textbook, Surprising Japan, published in 2012. Through this textbook, students get the opportunity to explore unique aspects of Japanese culture which they had probably taken for granted, such as why some Japanese coins have holes in them and why Japanese manhole cover designs are a big hit with foreign visitors. This year, we published Working in Japan, which features video interviews with long-term foreign residents of Japan. This textbook helps Japanese students develop an awareness of world English, as using English often means communicating with fellow non-native speakers. Students can also listen to a variety of stories about cultural differences. Finally, they can learn more about the important contributions to Japanese society being made by residents from a great range of countries.

Unfortunately, it has been several years since I have stepped aboard the Nippon Maru. Through teaching English and culture in universities in Japan, however, it is my hope that I can pass the torch on to some of my students to be future SWY participants!

20th Anniversary Reunion of SWY7

Michiko Schneck (SWY7, Japan)



Something called the 'internet' would keep us connected now and in the future...that was the first time 20 years ago on the Nippon Maru that I heard of this "new technology." As you can guess, at that time not many of us had the chance to start using it until much later on by which time many of us had lost in touch.

10 years later, email had spread and many of us started to reunite, but not to the level of 20 years later! Now on Facebook, SWY7 group has over 140 members! It is so wonderful to catch up with those familiar but matured faces.

Our 20th anniversary on Facebook started on the day the program begun exactly 20 years ago. Many photos and memories uploaded from all over the world for two months. Wow, there are so many things I had forgotten about but memories started coming back just like it had happened yesterday...It was so lovely to know that we are still connecting with "Spirit of WA" as well as teaching of "Suspend your judgement" which was from the Director Matsuo's speech on board.

On March 14 2015, 55 of us joined together for a reunion party in Tokyo. About 10 had participated via internet on video conference and some watched us live on video streaming from overseas! Each members' one minute speech on "How did SWY experience affected your life?" was good fun. Watching video, Dancing "Macarena," Singing original theme song and the Director Matsuo's speech, silence for those who had passed away...4 hours was well used and the time went by so quickly. As half of us stayed at the National Olympics Memorial Youth Center including our big boss (Oyabun), the Administrator Matsuda, afterwards, the party went on through the night just like 20 years ago! Instead of getting exhausted, we only got more energized! Since then, we feel even more closer to each other as we realize we share "something special forever" and we are just on the other side of the screen.

3rd Anniversary of SWY24 Reunion

Izumi Matsunaga (SWY24, Japan)

It's my great pleasure to share SWY24's post-program activity to you all. We, JPYs, have been holding reunion every year since SWY24 program ended. As you may know, this year marks 3rd anniversary, thus we arranged the program to focus on "re-connecting each other," involving not only JPYs but also as many OPYs as possible. This year's reunion was held on June 20-21 and 40 JPYs participated.

In the program for both JPYs and OPYs, we shared our life experience including SWY and our future plan / passion / desire with the following procedure:

- 1) We took a photo of our own and printed it on a post card. Later on, we split into the Letter Group and each group member wrote the current life, what we are doing in daily lives with SWY spirits to the OPYs of their own group. After the session, the Gathering Committee member collected those postcards and put them in the post. (JPYs wrote letters to 90 OPYs in total)
- 2) Once OPYs got the post card, they shared the same things on Facebook accordingly.

Looking back on this year's gathering including preparation, I've learnt tremendous things. I've been busy with work and preparation to apply for MA program. Hearing JPYs and OPYs the current life and future plan, I admired their energy to make the most of their lives and make the world much better. Even if we don't meet often, I feel we are all close. I'm sure the re-connecting will be a wonderful experience and feel close to SWY family. To finish, I would like to say you all "together, forever, we are all one."



SWY18 Reunion

Save the Date: January 23-24, 2016

It has been 10 years for SWY18 since our once-in-a-lifetime journey and we are starting to plan a batch reunion in Tokyo. The latest updates will follow in SWY18 group mail and Facebook. It's time to be

Bonding Beyond Borders!

Cover Photo

1. The 8th SWYAA Global Assembly in Turkey
2. GA Optional Tour Cappadocia
3. 3rd Anniversary of SWY24 Reunion
4. SWYAA India Clean India Mission

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	4



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

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The 8th SWYAA Global Assembly in Turkey 2014



Big applause to the GA Turkey organizing committee members



↑
Speech from Ms. Saeko Obu
(By then Principal Deputy
Director for International
Youth Exchange, Cabinet Office)



↓ PYs at the museum

More than 150 participants from all around the world came together. Official Program was held from August 30 to September 3, 2014 in Istanbul. Optional Tour was from September 3 to 7 in Cappadocia to experience Turkish culture. Global Assembly is a good opportunity to

meet old and new friends, discuss SWY issues and share information about post-program activities. It also refreshes our memories, and reminds us the days we spent onboard together. It ties people together one more time.

Institutional visit

Persons with disability course



The participants visit "Down Cafe"
where Downs syndrome staffs are working

Aging society course



The participant showing how to fold Origami
at "Darulaceze Almshouse"

Volunteerism and Cross-Cultural Understanding course



The participants visit Balat Or-Ahayim Hospital
where a Jewish Turk volunteer group called
Pink Angels provide their services

Education course



The participants receive explanations about
Yildiz Technical University by the Staff

Arts and Turkish culture course



The participants learn how to make
Turkish traditional sweets at the Culinary Arts Center

**The 10th SWYAA GA
will be in India 2016**

The 9th SWYAA Global Assembly in Fiji 2015 - Details will be on the next SWY News (Vol.24) -



Excerpt from "The Fiji Times," August 15, 2015

45 young people from 14 countries across the world including Fiji will be part of a four-day program during the 9th Global Assembly of the SWYAA in Nadi this week. The program also includes institutional visits, cultural exchange with youth groups in selected villages and a day cruise. The participants were welcomed by Youth Minister Laisenia Tuitubou in Nadi yesterday and he also commended the community contribution of the SWYAA Fiji namely the cyclone relief assistance provided to students and families in the Western Division, distribution of stationery packs, food rations and mangrove planting in Levuka.