

SWY News

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Voyage for the Next Generation Global Leaders

Article from the Cabinet Office, Government of Japan

In today's globalized world, where cross-border cooperation, coordination, and negotiation are indispensable at every field, leaders who are able to play a key role in addressing globalization are required at local communities as well as international society.

With this perspective, the new program named Next Generation Global Leaders Program "Ship for World Youth Leaders" which inherited the spirit of SWY and added a new purpose of developing youth leaders has started. The participants from 11 countries gathered in Tokyo and visited India and Sri Lanka last February. We believe that the experience from the program helped the participating youths develop the ability to deal with different cultures and improved their communication, leadership and management skills.

We sincerely hope that the participating youths will contribute to international human development utilizing the knowledge they gained and the social network they built during the program. The post program activities that continued from SWY will go on to make the new program unique among various international exchange programs.

The ship will visit New Zealand and Fiji next year. The program will provide the participating youths with memorable experiences and help them create new social networks. We would like to express our gratitude to the respective government representatives of the participating countries, the Ship for World Youth Alumni Associations and their members for their continuing support to the program.

The Next Generation Global Leaders Program 2016

- Ship for World Youth Leaders - Jan. 17 to Mar. 4, 2017

Outline

The Japanese Participating Youth (JPY) and Overseas Participating Youth (OPY) from 10 countries around the world shall partake in the following activities.

A. Onshore and Onboard Training Sessions (6 days and 34 days respectively): Course Discussion, Seminars, National Presentation, Club activities, Sports and Recreation, Letter Group activities, voluntary activities and others.

B. Activities in the visited countries for the ports of call: courtesy call, visit to various facilities, exchange with local youth etc.

Participating Countries

Federative Republic of Brazil, Canada, Republic of Costa Rica, Arab Republic of Egypt, Republic of Fiji, India, Japan, Republic of Kenya, New Zealand, Kingdom of Tonga, and Ukraine

122 JPYs and 120 OPYs (12 participants from each country)

Schedule

Arrival of the OPY and activities in Japan (OPY only)

Jan.17 (Thu) to Jan. 22 (Sun), 2017

Pre-Departure Training Session (JPY only)

Jan. 21 (Sat) to Jan. 22 (Sun)

Onshore Training Session

Jan. 23 (Mon) to Jan. 28 (Sat)

Onboard Training Session

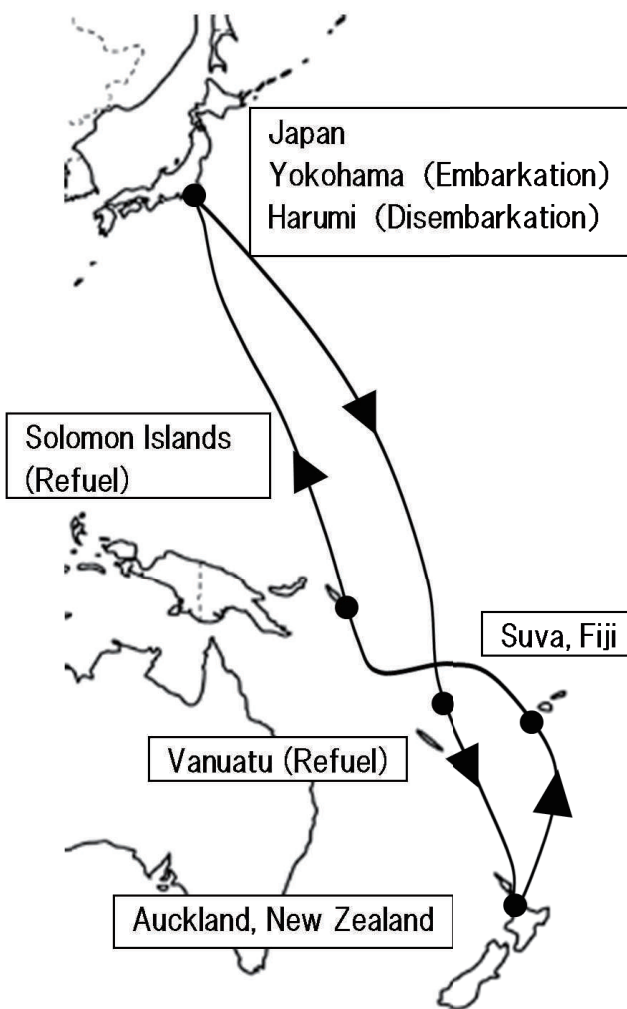
Jan. 29 (Sun) to Mar. 3 (Fri)

*Ports of call activities will be in New Zealand and Fiji

Post-program Training Session (JPY only)

Mar. 3 (Fri) to Mar. 4 (Sat)

Sailing Route



Report of the Next Generation Global Leaders Program 2015 - Ship for World Youth Leaders - **Hoani Hakaraia (New Zealand)**

I had never heard of SWY before in my life; it was only by chance that I noticed a link on the Canteen Facebook page (a charity I work with that helps young people with cancer) and even then the link to the website did not make me jump. But I thought “what is the harm in applying?” I never could have known the typhoon of awesome-intense-exciting-challenging-craziness that was about to hit!

First was the orientation weekend in NZ where I felt like a seed in a forest of tōtara trees standing next to my delegation. I was impressed with the calibre of their character and talents (which would soon be a recurring feeling in SWY).

Then soon enough I am waking up in Tokyo and we have been here a few days meeting the other OPYs and admin before quickly jumping on a train with the Sri Lankan delegation to Mie Prefecture. We were hosted in Mie by wonderful families and despite the language barriers we laughed, learnt and lived together for those few days. In saying goodbye there were tears shed for in this short time real human bonds were formed which is, in my belief, the single strongest feature of the entire SWY program. The ex-PYs and other staff in Mie continued this hospitality, taking us to karaoke to sing AKB48 and to a ninja village where we learnt to “leave no smell.”

On return to Tokyo we had work to do. Presentations, starting course discussions and meeting our groups for a week until we were waving good bye again in Yokohama and sailing the seas of Asia.

If you want to see everyone turn into little kids again, give them a cruise ship for 33 days. Nippon Maru was our new home, or as my roommate Kizu said “My Kingdom.” Here we would make memories, create dreams and forge our bonds.

In the Education Course we did just that; We were very lucky to have Paul Faris as our facilitator who created an open and safe atmosphere where we could exchange ideas and learn from him and each other. Global issues facing education systems were raised and comparative solutions were given. “We support you and we trust you” was our catch phrase and Paul we also all love you for our time in the course.

PY seminars were also an important aspect of SWY and one I hope is more emphasized in future programs. It gave a stage to PYs who were not vocal about their talents and background or did not have strong enough English skills. This is most true for some JPYs who lacked English skills but had a story to tell. Issues like refugee safety and human trafficking were championed by quiet PYs who surprised me. Additionally, I believe academically the best aspect of the SWY program is in the strength of peer to peer learning and, again, I hope to see more of this type of learning in future programs.

Running our Kapa Haka club with my NL Te Oranga and (Queen of Māori) Ruth was one experience close to my heart. Once we began we were moved at how enthusiastic and genuine the appreciation by this international community was for Māori culture. Māori culture is not always met with the same response in our own home so to see this from SWYers was a great gift to all of us.

Of course an SWY report cannot be completed without mentioning Soran Bushi! JPYs performed it in their National Presentation but did it again informally at the Japanese party with some even in their kimonos! OPYs demanded to learn it. So Soran Bushi Master Hikaru said yes! Similar to Haka, Soran Bushi was a uniting banner for SWYers.

Port of calls this year were Chennai, India, Colombo, and Sri Lanka. Not only a good chance to touch land again but more opportunity to discover far away places. The food in Chennai was delicious (if not spicy) and some even saw an elephant. Sri Lanka pulled out all the stops in so many ways but I think the highlight for many was visiting a school for the blind and deaf with the Education Course. At first many were unprepared as we walked down the drive way holding the students hands being uncertain on exactly how to communicate with them. But then we “got over ourselves” and remembered they were kids, so ... let’s play! That was an extraordinary experience that left us all buzzing. Then to top off the port of calls Hikaru invited Matio of Chile, Sofia of Mexico and I onstage to perform Soran Bushi with the JPYs.

So the typhoon of awesome-intense-exciting-challenging-craziness had hit and it was the end. Saying good bye to everyone was a tsunami of tears on its own. But we will see each other again some day. Thank you to the Cabinet Office, admin, facilitators, National Leaders, ship crew, ex-PYs, to my own delegation and to each and every single Participating Youth on SWY28.

Post-SWY

Skip forward half a year and how have things changed for me? I was entering 2016 with a blank canvas and SWY has managed to paint a picture for me; inspired by my time in Education and the interactions with JPYs I feel there is a need to teach young Japanese people communication skills with the English language used as a tool to complete this, not as the ultimate goal in itself. Because language is more than a mark on an exam, it is a way to reach others. I am now living in Tokyo to teach English to children for one year. I even managed to sneak into Bahrain to see one of my favorite delegations. #keepSWYing"



SWYAA Joint Statement - Tokyo Conference for the Ex-Participating Youth of “Ship for World Youth Leaders” Program and Related Programs

Duration

March 19 - March 24, 2016

Participating Country

Full Membership Countries: Australia, Bahrain, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Egypt, Fiji, Greece, India, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, New Zealand, Oman, Peru, Russia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Tonga, Turkey, U.A.E., U.K., and Venezuela

Associate Membership Countries: Norway, Paraguay, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Tanzania and U.S.A. (Total 32 countries)

Purpose

The Ship for World Youth Alumni Associations (hereinafter, SWYAA) established by the ex-participating youth in each country are working together to promote understanding and practical initiatives as global citizens, with a sense of solidarity and the shared desire to build world peace and prosperity cultivated through the Ship for World Youth (hereinafter, SWY) program. In addition, they are actively building a global network of all the ex-participating youth from over the years to promote post-program activities, in conjunction with the Japanese alumni association (IYEO). In order to assist their activities and to develop the alumni network further, the Tokyo Conference for the Ex-Participating Youth (Ex-PY Conference) is organized.

Joint Statement

SWYAA International Joint Statement at the Tokyo Conference for the Ex-Participating Youth of “Ship for World Youth Leaders” Program and Related Programs

I. The Aim of This Statement

This statement is written on behalf of the 32 member countries of the SWYAA International and has been written by their representatives at the Tokyo Conference 2016. Its purpose is to detail the history and outcomes of the Ship for World Youth program that has been organized by the Cabinet Office of the Japanese Government. This statement also aims to provide an overview of its successor programs and to emphasize the social, environmental and economic value of its post-program activities.

We respectfully encourage the Japanese Government to continue sponsoring the current Ship for World Youth Leaders program and reaffirm our ongoing commitment as SWYAA International to continue to maximize the program's contribution to society through positive social impact.

II. History and Outcomes

A. History of the program and of the alumni associations

1. In 1988, the Japanese Government reorganized and upgraded the Japanese Youth Goodwill Cruise program into the Ship for World Youth program to develop young leaders in Japan (and globally) who would have the capacity to create positive change and meet the demands of an increasingly international focused and globalizing world.
2. In 1995, in order to build the international network of the Ship for World Youth program, the Japanese Government, in collaboration with the Japanese alumni association of the program, the International Youth Exchange Organization of Japan (IYEO), called for and supported a reunion event for the alumni network onboard the ship. This took place during the program's port of call visit to Mexico.
3. In 1996, in order to develop strong alumni associations, the Japanese Government invited 13 representatives from east bound route countries and held the Tokyo Conference. The representatives at the conference wrote an agreement and started to build a network of Ship for World Youth Alumni Associations (SWYAA). In 1997 countries from the west bound route created a similar agreement.

4. In 2005, the existing two agreements were unified into one SWYAA Charter.

5. Prior to 2007, SWY reunions had been held onboard the ship during ports of call. This process was reviewed and the SWYAA created a formal structure for reunions and the first SWYAA Global Assembly was held in Greece in 2007. All past participants are invited to attend these annual Global Assembly events.

6. In 2013 representatives from 28 countries attended the Tokyo Conference. The SWYAA Charter was amended into a new SWYAA International Charter. This became foundation of an international organization, the SWYAA International.

7. Three programs were held within Japan (the program visited several Japanese locations as port of call activities), namely the 25th Ship for World Youth program, the Global Leaders Development Program, and the Global Youth Leaders Development Program 2015. Following these programs, the program returned to its overseas route in 2016 in The Next Generation Global Leaders Program “The Ship for World Youth Leaders.”

B. Significance and the outcomes of the program

1. Significance of the program
This program intends to develop young leaders who are aware of their own national identity and that of others, who are able to adopt a global perspective and who are able to establish cross-cultural connections and networks in order to develop strong collaborations. This is a very unique and valuable program for developing youth leaders and for contributing to the establishment of international peace and collaboration. The fact that the Japanese Government not only organizes the program but also supports the building of network among participating countries, further strengthens the long term benefits of the program for Japan, the participants, participating countries and beyond.
2. Outcomes of the program and the post-program activities
The participating youth develop their leadership capacity throughout the program, and particularly their ability to deal with, understand and cooperate with different cultures. Past participants become leaders in various fields such as politics, public administration, education, international cooperation, private companies, and nonprofit organizations. The members of SWYAA International from each country

are leaders and change-makers who are involved in wide range of social activities such as youth development, promoting cross-cultural understanding and creating positive change in the local and global community. The projects that have been conducted locally and internationally include, but are not limited to disaster relief, education, microfinance support to developing countries, projects with environmental and/or social benefit, cross-cultural exchange and the promotion of Japanese culture within their respective countries.

III. Specific Requests for the Continuation of the Program

The program is very valuable for its social capital development and for the contribution to international society. To maintain these benefits, it is imperative that the program continues to be delivered on the same scale so that the participating youth can benefit from the range of experiences that come with such a diverse program. We would like therefore to respectfully request the following:

A. Length of the program and the visiting countries

1. Continuation of the ship-based program.
2. Seven days or more of joint training (based in Japan) for Japanese participating youth and overseas participating youth.
3. That the on-board training (based overseas) preferably be extended beyond the current length of 34 days.
4. That the program include two or more ports of call outside of Japan.

B. The number of the participating youths and the participating countries

1. Invited countries from overseas: Ten countries or more from five continents around the world.
2. Twelve participating youth or more per country.
3. Approximately 120 Japanese participating youths.

IV. Vision for the Activities of SWYAA International

A. Contribution to the SWY program

1. Support for the port of call activities.
2. Offer their expertise in the selection and recruitment of new delegations within their respective countries as appropriate.
3. Contribution to the preparatory and post-program training session by the ex-participating youth.
4. Continue to pursue new avenues to promote the SWY program and its post-program activities to internal and external stakeholders.

B. Proactively foster positive social contribution through the delivery of post-program activities (SWYAA common activities).

Individual SWY alumni associations may pursue a range of activities within their individual alumni (and promote these globally). These individual projects are developed as the alumni identify a need within their local community or the wider society. Individual projects are guided by the three pillars of SWY:

1. International understanding and cooperation.
2. Youth leadership.
3. Promote youth contribution in society.

The following are the common projects that will be pursued by SWYAA International as a collective body:

1. "SWYAA Natural Disaster Relief" - to offer immediate and ongoing relief to areas affected by natural disaster.
2. "Educate for Tomorrow" - to facilitate local projects that will deliver quality education and increase opportunities for children in challenging environments.
3. "SWY Forest" - an environmental initiative to support the sustainable development of SWY Forests.
4. "Blood Donation Week" - to promote awareness and encourage organization of an annual SWYAA blood donation week.
5. "Opportunities Without Discrimination" - to take part in an international social media campaign to promote social inclusion and diversity on SWY Day.
6. "Homestay + 1" - to accommodate ex-PYs who wish to perform social contribution activities when they visit other SWY countries.

C. International Communication Committee

The SWYAA International intends to establish an International Communication Committee to oversee public relations, international brand development and digital strategy to communicate SWY program news, updates, mission expansion and to promote international common projects.

D. Summary and our determination

1. The SWYAA International believes that the unique SWY program positions Japan as a global leader of positive social change. The SWY program plays an invaluable role in spreading an understanding of Japanese culture and creates strong ties between Japan and the rest of the world.
2. The SWYAA International believes that the SWY program promotes mutual international cooperation and cross-cultural understanding and has established the SWYAA network of young leaders with the capacity to work collaboratively to create global change.
3. The SWYAA International believes that the tangible and intangible benefits of the SWY program and the post-program activities have an unmeasurable positive impact at an individual, local and international level.
4. To this end, the SWYAA International is committed, and determines to:
 - a) Realize the vision for the activities of SWYAA International.
 - b) Proactively foster positive social contribution through the delivery of post-program activities.
 - c) Maintain and develop local SWY Alumni Associations and SWYAA International networks.
 - d) Establish an International Communication Committee.
 - e) Continue to foster a strong relationship with the Japanese Government and support them to realize their vision for the SWY program.
 - f) Work in a spirit of international co-operation to promote the spirit of SWY.



SWYAA Activity Reports - Disaster Relief Action

Report on Tropical Cyclone Winston Relief Project (Fiji, Tropical Cyclone)

Purpose

The SWYAA Fiji organized a Cyclone Relief Project to assist families affected in the Western Division during the Tropical Cyclone Winston in February 2016. The project was aimed at assisting affected families living in informal settlements along Barotu Road in Ra whose homes were partially or completely damaged during the cyclone. The families to be assisted were identified through the assistance of Mr. Kaie Nawasa of the Disaster Management Operations Office in the Western Division.

Project Date

Initially the project was to be undertaken on April 2, 2016, however this was not possible to TC Xena, TC Amos and the floods. Nevertheless the project was successfully completed on May 14, 2016.

Project Team

The team comprising of Gul (SWY3), Joe (SWY19), Devina (SWY19), Wiliame (SWY19), and Prem (SWY21) had taken time out to accomplish the project on behalf of SWYAA Fiji.

Assistance Provided

Assistance provided to recipients was in the form of relief packs containing some essential household items such as: cooking pot [stainless steel], cooking spoon, kitchen knife, butter knife, table spoon x 4, fork x 4, tea/hand towel x 2, laundry basket, bucket, scrubbing brush, Fabuloso Cleaning Detergent, Axion Dish Washing Paste, scourer & sponge [3 packs], steel wool, clothes pegs, washing soap [1 bar x 900grams], bathing soaps [3 packs], mosquito coil. The value of each pack was approximately \$90.

Acknowledgments

SWYAA Fiji would like to say domo arigato gozaimasu to Ms. Tamae Saito and IYEO Japan for the generous donation towards this project. We also highly appreciate the donations from the respective SWYAA's of Bahrain, Ecuador, Sweden, and USA together with all the SWYAA International Conference participants for their contributions. Our heartfelt appreciation also goes to the Fiji Ministry of Youth and Sports for coming to our aid in transporting the items and the team to the Western Division.



A big vinaka vakalevu also goes out to: Gul (SWY3) for availing herself and her car for shopping of items and assisting with the distribution; Filipe (SWY13) for availing himself and his car for shopping of items; Joe (SWY19) for the safe keeping of items and assisting with the distribution; Wiliame (SWY19) for assisting with the distribution; Devina (SWY19) for assisting with shopping, packing and the distribution; President of SWYAA Fiji for his guidance and support; and last but not, least Mr. Tevita Watekini, MYS driver for facilitating our transportation need and bringing us back safely.



Recipients

Assistance was provided to 50 families. One of the recipients of the assistance was a member of SWYAA Fiji, Ms. Litiana Naiqilai [SWY21] who resides in Navitilevu Village in Ra and was badly affected during the cyclone. While other families were given standard relief packs, Ms. Naiqilai was assisted with food ration as well in addition to the standard relief pack. In choosing the area to focus on, SWYAA Fiji was mindful that we did not have the capacity to go into villages and formal settlements as these families were badly affected and unfortunately we could not cater for them all. Therefore, SWYAA Fiji opted to assist those who were affected and living in informal settlements. In doing so, perhaps we had managed to reach out to those who had missed out on assistance provided by other organizations/groups along the main high way.