

# SWY News

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# Voyage for the Next Generation of Global Leaders

Message from the Cabinet office, Government of Japan

In order for Japan and other countries to work together, it is essential that young people learn to build a future based on a sense of mutual understanding, as they are the ones who will be responsible in the time to come.

The Government of Japan has been positively engaged in conducting various programs to support development of young people across the border.

Ship for World Youth Program is one of these programs helping to make historical progress.

The purpose of this program is to promote a mutual understanding and friendship between the Japanese youth and youth from other countries, to cultivate the spirit of

international cooperation and the competence to practice it, and furthermore to foster the youth with capability of showing leadership in various area of international society.

The ship will visit India and Sri Lanka next year.

The program will provide the participating youth with important experiences and help them create new social networks.

We would like to express our gratitude for the cooperation offered by all members concerned, including governmental representatives, members of the Ship for World Youth Alumni Associations, and the other youth organization.

## Ship for World Youth Program FY2017, Jan. 17 to Mar. 3, 2018

### 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, Cultural introduction activities, Sports and Recreation, 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

Australia, India, Japan, United Mexican States, Republic of Mozambique, Sultanate of Oman, Republic of Peru, Republic of Poland, Republic of South Africa, Kingdom of Spain, and Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

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

### Schedule

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

January 17 to 21, 2018

Preparatory Training Session (JPY only):

January 20 to 21, 2018

Onshore Training Session:

January 22 to 27, 2018

Onboard Training Session:

January 28 to March 2, 2018

\*Ports of call activities will be in India and Sri Lanka

Post-program Training Session (JPY only):

March 2 to 3, 2018

### Sailing Route



Port of call in New Zealand, ex-PY sending off the Nippon Maru



Port of call in Vanuatu, ex-PY on stage



Port of call in Fiji, singing the "No PY, No SWY"



# Lifelong Lessons and Human Connections

Report of SWY29 -Ship for World Youth Leaders-

Álvaro Rutkoski Didio (Brazil)

The 29th edition of the SWY program was composed of 12 countries and 240 absolutely talented people. Brazil, Canada, Costa Rica, Egypt, Fiji, India, Japan, Kenya, New Zealand, Kingdom of Tonga, and Ukraine joined altogether this voyage of lifelong lessons and deep human connections. 2017's theme was BLOOM, Be a Leader and Open Other's Minds. Not only this invitation was made towards us, but also our very own minds have been opened by this fantastic and multicultural environment. We celebrated our differences, and mostly were open to all that connected us all as humans.

## Local Program

In Japan, Brazilians and Ukrainians flew to Yamaguchi prefecture, located in the southwest of Japan. Being very welcomed at the airport by local youth, we were driven to different beautiful sites of the city, had a kimono wearing experience, and a meeting with the city Mayor. On the following night we were taken to our new homes and I had an incredible home stay experience. Neither my home stay parents knew English nor I knew Japanese, but that was absolutely not a problem. We were able to communicate through several other ways: drawing, making gestures, using our apps, and mostly through our happiness, excitement and gratitude. Next day, my host father was kind enough to drive me to Hiroshima prefecture to spend the day at Itsukushima Shrine, one of the most beautiful places I have ever been to. On that night we cooked, laughed, and watched Japanese TV comedy shows together. It really felt like home.

## National Youth Center

Back to Tokyo, we started our academic studies. My Course Discussion was Dialogue as Means of Building Peace (DP), and among many learnings from fictional and non-fictional situations provided throughout our course, in which establishing a peaceful dialogue was our aim, one learning stroke me very hard in the first or second meeting we had. We were asked to write down our expectations on the course; in a group of six, we received three sheets of paper; immediately I took one and started to write down what we had been discussing. On that moment, a very kind Canadian whispered to me: - Man, don't you think it'd be nice if the people who have not spoken much in our group get to do the posters? I became speechless. With the best smile I could find, I said to a quite shy girl in front of me: Would you mind finishing the posters for us? As soon as she presented what our group had discussed to all the people in the room, she bursted into tears of gratitude for what we had done to her; dedicated our time to help her presenting our work. I felt great joy for her, cried too, and realized that the moment that made me the happiest was the one I was just holding the posters, not saying a word, not being in the spotlight. The happiness of stepping back and letting others shine was very likely the greatest lesson I have learned from SWY.

## Nippon Maru

After our moments in Japan, it was time to enter our newest home: the Nippon Maru. Sharing my cabin with two fascinating people,

our moments on the ship solidified our friendships and made us as grow closer as a global community. Along with the academic and cultural parts, we had many interesting seminars from PYs (Brazilian Portuguese Language included!). We also had supportive groups, like SWY Brothers and SWY Sisters, and available admin and staff who were always willing to help and support us throughout the journey. Maybe the hardest time for us all were the influenza periods, in which we would have to stay in our cabins for a couple days. Although stressing, seeing the efforts of admin and having plenty of time to talk and watch movies with our cabin mates made those moments easier.

## Ports of Call

In this edition we stopped at Fiji and New Zealand. In Fiji, we (DP course) visited the University of South Pacific, had a great time there with cultural presentations from some Pacific Islands representatives, and had a deeper understanding of how dialogue happens among that community. All delegations also performed their National Presentations in Vodafone Arena for the Fijians! In New Zealand my letter group (B group!) visited a beautiful primary school called Bairds Mainfreight. There, we presented general aspects of our countries, and were very well received by lovely children singing welcoming songs. Later, we got to study, play and interact with the children, and understood better the educational system and related projects in Aotearoa.

## Human Connections

JPYs very well be gifted us with an amazing sentence in their NP: smiling is an international language. In the end of our journey, despite our different proficiencies in English, nothing stopped us from loving, caring for and hugging each other. We had shared so much by then, we would just look at each other and understand what was going through. This ability to establish deep human connections is what I have most enjoyed about SWY and its context. And just like smiles, the tears we dropped when saying goodbye are also part of this international language, this human language.

## Post-Program Activities

Having this everlasting debt with the Japanese Government for the above mentioned, it has been an honor and a duty to take part in SWYAA Brazil. In June I started a national clothing drive project, which quickly became international provided help from other Brazilian SWYers from previous batches and SWYAA Canada. Our project now is called "Winter Clothing Donation Campaign," and is happening both at the southern and northern hemispheres. Also, I am currently working on one more project related to my field of study, Linguistics and Language Teaching. I want all PYs to feel confident about the English they already have as they broaden their language repertoire. Nothing we will ever do will fully repay what the Japanese Government has given us. However, the feeling of gratefulness and the duty and pleasure to engage in our SWYAAAs will be safe harbors in which we will always berth in.





## Post-Program Activities Session

Every year, during the SWY program, two Post-Program Activities Sessions are being held so that the PYs would have deeper understanding of the international youth exchange program implemented by the Cabinet Office, IYEO and SWYAA. Three ex-PYs are dispatched to the last port to join the last leg of the program to introduce examples of post-program activities by ex-PYs in order for the PY to understand how to take action and implement post-program activities through IYEO or SWYAA after completing the SWY program.

The importance of developing projects using SWYAA network is stressed so that the PYs would be able have some help from the ex-PYs to realize their projects.

### Schedule of the Two Sessions

#### Session 1: February 24

9:30-9:50	What are the aims and expected outcomes of the SWY program
9:50-10:10	Example of the post-program activities using local network
10:10-10:30	Introduction to SWYAA International and some examples of the activities using the network
10:50-11:30	Sharing of the current post-program activities plans among the PYs (small groups)
11:30-11:55	Plenary session – sharing of the post-program activities plans
11:55-12:00	Summary and introduction of the PPA session committee members

#### Session 2: February 25

9:30-9:45	Introduction
9:45-10:40	Presentation of the current activities and plans by PYs and ex-PYs
10:55-11:55	Speed Networking Session
11:55-12:00	Summary

### Excerpts of the post-program activities plans by the PYs

**Kevin Kobayashi (Canada):** I would like to develop an application for ex-PYs that they can be connected in professional or business manner. This platform can connect ex-PYs from different batches and will be beneficial to enhance post-program activities.

**Gabrielle Tremblay (Canada):** I will develop activities in SWY countries in need, especially in the areas of gender equality and cross-cultural understanding. The fund can be obtained through selling handcrafts, which will empower women.

**Satya Swein (India):** I would like to be active in the field of politics and make a social change. I would like to do this not only in India but collaborate with the members that I met through SWY29 to make a global change for peace.

**Satoi Anzai (Japan):** 1) I will do "Homestay + 1" in all 11 countries, and 2) I want to do something in 2020 during Tokyo Olympics, and continue the same event in every Olympic year.

**Kaori Suzuki (Japan):** I would like to make appeals not only to Japanese but also to non-Japanese people about the attractiveness of the rural areas of Japan. In order to do this, I would like to use this network to find out what people are interested in.

**Yuriko Ozawa (Japan):** I would like to convert the mindset of the Japanese high school students so that they can think about their future from wider perspectives.

**Naomo Takemoto (Japan):** I would like to organize inter-cultural tourism back in my home town, Okinawa. It will be an opportunity for people in Okinawa to encounter foreign culture, and at the same time, I would like to promote about our culture and the challenges we face in Okinawa to foreign tourists.

**Iaroslav Kucher (Ukraine):** I would like to plan a "Peace Conference" where ex-PYs will be able to join and organize "Homestay + 1."

**Lidiia Kozhevnikova (Ukraine):** I would like to deliver 1,000 origami cranes to dispute areas in Ukraine. By making this project universal as much as possible, I would like to deliver messages from all over the world to the affected areas. Also, this project will help people to encounter Japanese culture.

**Yuki Satake (Japan):** I would like to be involved in the field of politics and become a mayor of my city at the age of 38. I would like to utilize SWY network for this purpose.

**Chetana Tamadaddi (India):** I talked about organic farming with other PYs and I would like to continue sharing more information. I also enjoyed sharing information with a JPY who is interested in food waste issues.



01. PPA committee is formed to discuss the running of the second session. 02. PYs discuss about the projects they would like to initiate. 03. PYs talk with many people through "Speed Networking" method. 04. PPA committee members conclude the session by encouraging the PYs to continue their activities. 05. A booth is set up during the evening time to talk about PPA in a casual atmosphere. 06. SWY T-shirt is a PPA - a fundraising tool to collect money to plant SWY Forest.