

SWYAA Activity Reports

Disaster Relief Action

Sri Lanka, Flood (May, 2017)



Book Donation - 2017 - Sasitha Lakmal (SWY28, Sri Lanka)

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the future." (Nelson Mandela)

In last May 2017, there was a disaster done by flood in southern part of Sri Lanka. It was a big new tragedy for those who never faced a flood before. Hundreds were disappeared & hundreds were killed. Flood made a massive disaster to the rural family economy by destroying their farms, businesses, and even the dwellings. By the time as a person who has been working for the sustainability of the communities, I was thinking to give some help for those children who have lost all their possessions including education materials because of the flood.

Through my colleagues on the flood effected area and the responsible educational government authorities of the southern province, I've collected & confirmed the details of the victims. And at last I got a list of 176 school children from three schools.

By the help of office staff (Solus Marine Lanka) I started a contribution, and got a huge support from IYEO through Tamae Saito (SWY10) & Shabab Al-Khair through Aisha (SWY28). The plan was to donate a pack of educational needs to each & every student. Aiming at the target we completed the project by July 7, 2017. When they were receiving the pack of parcels we were witnessed their faces filled with glimpse of smile.

I would like to thank all those who gave support to accomplish this humanistic task, IYEO, Shabab Al-Khair, Solas Marine Lanka office staff, Manula Chamal Perera (Secretary to Presidential Secretariat), Buddika Iddamalgoda (President, SWYAA SL) Chamal Randum (SWY27) also Divisional Federation Youth Clubs-Kotapola Young People, eVOL youth Group, all other donors who gave me every support and courage during the program.



Kumamoto, Earthquake (April, 2016)

Privilege of being an Ex-PY - Koki J. Fukasaku (SWY18, Japan)
I was asked to write an article about the disaster relief activity that I devoted my time last year. First, I tried to write what I did and how I started it, but when I look back the activities and their results, I realized the privilege of being an ex-PY.

Two major earthquakes have caused significant damages in and around the city of Kumamoto (1,200km southwest of Tokyo) in April 2016. More than 50 people were killed and more than 100,000 were displaced. Numerous buildings were damaged during the quake and landslides, including homes, businesses, and hospitals. I flew there a week after the quake and volunteered to remove rubbles for 2 weeks. I met many victims who lost their homes and businesses, and some people who lost their loved ones. Their stories touched me and I decided to visit the area again. Even after I returned back to my home town, I couldn't forget the people in Kumamoto and the situation that they were facing. Two weeks later, I was back in Kumamoto, and since then, I visited there more than twice a month for about a year. While I got to know more about the needs of the victims and the local people, I decided to organize a gathering event in November, which was 7 months after the earthquake. The biggest temporary housing complex in Mashiki-town has 516 households where more than 1,300 victims are living. They were forced to live in a temporary housing with unfamiliar neighbors and needed to create a community. I decided to collaborate with locals to organize one day festival so that those residents can interact with each other and get to know their neighbors.

While I was preparing for the event, I participated in a pre-departure training for SWY 29 JPY and met with many ex-PYs who were there as volunteers for the training session. I shared with them what I was doing in Kumamoto and my plans for the event. Then unexpectedly many ex-PYs asked if they can join, and within few hours, a group of people was formed to participate in what I was planning. They decided to join in the festival by offering tea and coffee from all over the world and to promote SWY program.

Many ex-PYs traveled to Kumamoto all the way from Tokyo, so I did not want them to just help the event and go back home, but to have them learn something from the affected area and gain a life's lesson. Next day of the event, ex-PYs toured the worst affected area and visited victim's homes. We were allowed to go inside the damaged house and listened to their stories. Many of the houses around the area were waiting to be torn down and the house we visited was scheduled to be torn down the day after our visit. We visited many affected buildings and talked to many victims, but I did not want the PYs to remember Kumamoto as disaster affected prefecture. I wanted them to become fans of Kumamoto, so in the afternoon I planned a sightseeing tour including horseback ride for them.



Since SWY18, I have always tried to be active in the society and be a future leader as the program aimed, but I have never intended to involve SWY community to any activity that I was doing. I was trying to be a role model as an individual ex-PY but not a member of the SWY community. After 11 years, however, I realized the simplest thing that I have SWY network next to me that can support and enhance what I was trying to do. I believe that each and every ex-PY has this privilege. Do what you feel passionate about and do not forget that you have great supporters around the world.



Common Activities

Blood Donation Week



This project was proposed in the SWYAA International joint statement signed at Tokyo Conference held in March 19 – 24, 2016 as one of the common activities. Many events related to this Global Blood Donation were held all over the world in 2016.

Many ex-PYs were involved in this project in Brazil, Chile, Fiji, Greece, Mexico, and Sweden. In Brazil, Mexico and Sweden, 4 ex-PYs got together and decided to promote this event throughout the year by inviting participants on facebook and almost 50 people donated blood worldwide.

In Chile, 3 Chilean and 2 Japanese ex-PYs joined this event held in Santiago on December 20, 2016. Even though those JPYs were not allowed to donate since they were on a temporary resident status, they did stay around to cheer up other PYs who donated blood this day.

In Fiji, 5 ex-PYs were involved in the event held in Sukuna Park, Suva on June 25, 2016. During this event seventeen pints of blood were collected which could help saving 21 lives.

In Greece, 7 ex-PYs were involved in the event held in all over Greece from December 6 to 11, 2016. They invited participants including ex-PYs, their friends and family, and also the staff from the Embassy of Japan in Greece.

Opportunity without Discrimination (OWD)



by SWYAA-India and SWYAA NZ - Ravi Chopra (President, SWYAA-India)

We began the campaign in April 2017 with 1000 underprivileged children from the Open schools and the government schools in Delhi to raise awareness and start the conversation to celebrate that it's OK to be different as a strong step towards elimination of wider discrimination and to promote inclusion and diversity. We all face some form of discrimination and the lack of quality education is also a form of discrimination.

The future is only brighter when society educates its children. Tirreni

Ratema (SWY25), Arish Naresh (SWY27), Garreth Stevens (SWY28) from New Zealand took the lead to raise funds for the OWD campaign and SWYAA India augmented it by a matching fund. Talks were organized for children who made paintings and performed role play on gender discrimination. Sets of Notebooks, pencils and socks were distributed to the children. These joint SWY activities contributed to the SWY mission of showing leadership and social contribution in various areas of society.

#OWDSOCKS CAMPAIGN in Solomon Islands



The OWD SOCKS day is one of the common activities for SWYAA around the globe and SWYAA SI took pride in promoting a message of inclusion and a form of campaign and awareness against any form of discrimination by participating in this campaign in March 21st, 2017 within the workplace and the community.



By Countries

Costa Rica: Japan Day Festival in Costa Rica



The Japan Coast Guard-training ship Kojima docked on May 24, 2017, at the port of Puntarenas, Costa Rica, which is Kesennuma's (one of the city in Iwate prefecture, Japan) sister city. Prior to the ship leaving on May 27th, the local government and the Embassy of Japan

were the hosts to a festival that celebrated the Japanese culture, in a venue just right next to the sunny beach. Karaoke, dance, music and even performances by the ship crew brightened the event.

On this "Japan Day festival," SWYAA Costa Rica held a stand that contributed to the goal of strengthening the friendship between Costa Rica and Japan, by sharing the SWY spirit with the community, which was large in number and eager to learn and enjoy about the wonders of this country. Small origami workshops were held as people approached the stand: Participants learnt how to make the iconic Japanese paper crane, as well as a paper "Damashibune" or magic sail boat. Another activity that was held in the stand was the use of flashcards for a trivia about Japan.

The ex-PY volunteers to this event were representatives of two generations: Idania Bastidas, Deiber Quesada and Andrea Rojas (SWY29) as well as Jericó Camino (SWY9, Peru). All of us were excited to once again ignite our "pura vida" by sharing our stories and

experiences from SWY. We can tell it was a success by the smiles and openness of the community towards Japanese culture.

Egypt: EASWY cooperated with Japanese Embassy in Cairo Egyptian Ministry of Youth & Sports, in selection process and preparations of SWY29 Egyptian Delegation.

The Ministry referred back to EASWY and sent official letter for nomination of candidates of National Leader for SWY29. EASWY President participated in final interviews held by the Japanese Embassy in Cairo for final selection of both National Leader and members of Egyptian SWY29 Delegation. EASWY organized Orientation Sessions (Nov & Dec 2016) and a lecture by Dr. Hussein Zanaty Egyptian - Japanese Friendship Association (EJFA) within the framework of cross-cultural understanding to SWY29 Egyptian Delegation. Thanks to Ms. Tamae Saito, Dr. Zanaty had a meeting at Cabinet Office of Japan in Dec. 2016. Pre-Departure Gathering at the



Embassy of Japan in cooperation with Mr. Koji Kaneko, Director of Information & Culture Center in January 2017.

Great News, What an Honor!

Prof. Dr. Mohamed Bahaa Zaghloul (SWY2), who was the first Egyptian Advisor received Bestowal of the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon in July 2017 by the Government of Japan for his great contributions to strengthening bilateral relations between Japan & Egypt.



SWY29 ex-PYs visiting Egypt Yuki Yamamoto (Japan) (March 2017) shared his experience in a program on Egyptian TV, organized by Nourhan El Ganzoury (SWY29, Egypt). Takumi Hataya (Japan) (July 2017) and Asami Iba (Japan) (May 2017), shared their experience with the Japanese Embassy in Cairo & EASWY.



Fiji

SWYAA Fiji in collaboration with the Embassy of Japan organized an Origami session and screening of a Japanese movie on Saturday 1st April 2017 in Naitata, Navua for the young members of the Vuninokonoko/Naitata Ramayan Mandali as part of their Youth Development Program during Ram Naumi Celebrations. The session was attended by 23 young people from multi-racial backgrounds. With the kind assistance of Mr. Mizutani Masataka, the Second Secretary at the Embassy of Japan in Suva, the participants of the program were introduced to and taught some basic skills on origami. After the origami session, the participants together with their parents

and some other community members had enjoyed the screening of a Japanese movie. Upon completion of the program the participants were presented giveaways such as soccer and netball balls as a small contribution from SWYAA Fiji to encourage participation of young people in physical activities for good health and wellness. An issue faced in the health sector in Fiji at the moment is Non Communicable Diseases (NCD's) and SWYAA Fiji had tried to contribute a little towards the fight against NCD's.

India: Digital education and computer training program in collaboration with SWYAA Norway.



Silje Bergitte Solli (SWY12, Norway) raised funds for sponsoring the education of 12 children for one year, volunteered with the kids of SWYAA Open Schools and donated four laptops for the computer training program. This

benefited 40 children of the Open Schools who were given training in computer skills by SWYAA-India. Other Ex-PYs namely, Havva Yoldas (SWY25, Turkey), Garreth Stevens (SWY28, New Zealand), Kristine Edith (SWY17, Norway) along with 24 students from her university Folkehogskolen, Nord-Norge from Norway, Monga Mukasa (SWY28, Australia), Masayo Tanaka (SWY29, Japan) Simen Solli from Norway, Tomoki Tazawa, Daiki Maejima and Satoru Someya from Japan also volunteered by teaching the kids of the Open Schools. Each of the volunteers gave information about their countries and taught them dance and singing.

Japan

In June 2017, Mr. Masaharu Koge (SWY3) was assigned as the new President of IYEO. Raising "Development of Human resources who can demonstrate leadership in the society" as the course of action, he will make sure to carry out various activities during the fiscal year 2017.



Visit to Mrs. Akie Abe, the First lady of Japan (the wife of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe) November 30, 2016

On Wednesday, November 30, 2016, six members of IYEO visited the official residence of the Prime Minister and had the opportunity to present the significance of the International Youth Exchange Programs by the Cabinet Office. Mrs. Akie Abe was impressed by the history of the programs which started in 1959 and the efforts and actions of IYEO which developed together has such a long history. Also she mentioned that these are unique programs that can only be achieved by the Japanese sponsorship and those continuous actions do contribute to the world peace and should be sustained.

50th anniversary commemorative gathering of the "International Youth Exchange Ship Programs of the Cabinet Office,

Government of Japan The Programs started in 1959, by launching "the Japanese Youth Goodwill Mission Program" to commemorate the royal wedding of His Majesty the Emperor, who was His Imperial Highness the Crown Prince at the time. In 1967, "the Japanese Youth Goodwill Cruise Program" began as one of the commemorative projects of the Centennial of the Meiji Restoration, and counting the latest Ship for the World Youth program, it commemorated its 50th anniversary. To celebrate the 50th anniversary, a gathering of the "International Youth Exchange Ship Programs of the Cabinet Office, Government of Japan" was held on March 31, 2017. 94 participants got together and had a great opportunity to look back the history of the Ship Programs, and to talk about the continuation of the program and development of their post-program activities.

Kumamoto Earthquake Relief Activities For those who were affected by the Kumamoto Earthquake in April 2016, IYEO launched a donation campaign and raised 1,451,738 yen as of July 2017. Kumamoto IYEO implemented the "IYEO Café Projects" aiming at providing "a relief of heart through interacting with the afflicted people in the evacuation centers to ease their minds." They were held at the southern exit temporary housing "Minna no ie" on March 11, June 18 and August 20, mainly targeting 82 evacuees from the South Aso Tatenoa area where a major landslide occurred. Kumamoto IYEO members offered sweets and tea from all over Japan and other countries so that they can deepen communication. They also gave dolls, donated by the puppeteer and provided stretch guidance by occupational therapists.

Kenya

SWYAA Kenya members participated in the 10th Japanese Cultural Festival hosted by the Embassy of Japan in Kenya. This is an annual event which aims to provide valuable background information on Japanese culture and way of life to the members of the public. This festival was officially opened by H. E. Ambassador Toshitsugu Uesawa, Ambassador of Japan to the Republic of Kenya. Members volunteered to assist in the logistics of the event which was attended by about 400 people. In his opening remarks, Ambassador Uesawa mentioned that the Japanese Cultural Festival is a venture aimed at enhancing cultural exchange between Kenya and Japan. He mentioned that 10 years ago, in 2007, when the first Japanese Cultural Festival was held, only 50 people attended. Half of those who attended were from the Japanese community. But as the years have gone by, the audience has grown steadily. He appreciated the effort young students have made in the Japanese Music Festival. The Ambassador also mentioned that for the very first time Karate would be introduced in the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2020.



This year's main event was the Japanese Music Festival, a Japanese chorus competition, which had participation from 7 Kenyan primary and secondary schools and universities; and a special presentation by the Nairobi Chamber Chorus. Other events were a martial arts demonstration (Aikido and Karate), an anime film screening, onigami, Japanese traditional games and a Japanese dolls exhibition.

Norway: Norwegian contribution to school in India



Silje Bergitte Solli (SWY12) collected on behalf of SWYAA Norway, money, clothes and PCs that were donated to SWYAA Open School in Delhi in November 2016. The school is run by former participants of the Ship for World Youth program, and the cooperation started after the General Assembly

in India. The project has become international, with SWYAA Norway as an important contributor. The cooperation will continue, and new fundraising and small projects will be organized. We are happy to contribute to this great initiative so that even more children can go to school!

Paraguay: SWYAA-PARAGUAY NEWS

The year 2017 has been a very productive year for SWYAA Paraguay. In the first place, the first Secretary Kuni Hashimoto returned to Paraguay after 5 years when she ended her diplomatic mission at the Paraguayan Embassy in Washington DC. This returning to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is a very important way of contact for us with high authorities and she is the second Nikkei Diplomatic at the Ministry, a very important goal. After her arrival to Paraguay, we organized a dinner with the Cultural and Political Attaché of the Japanese Embassy, Mr. Ryotaro Kasai, where we talked about the program, our projects and post-program activities and our desire for the SWY program to return to Paraguay, so more Paraguayans will have the possibility to live this incredible experience and this could strengthen and increase our network of former participants.



As a delegation, we had a courtesy call to farewell the Japanese Ambassador in Paraguay, H.E. Yoshihisa Ueda for his term of mission. He was in Paraguay from 2014 to 2017 and was a great promoter of the celebrations for the 80th anniversary of Japanese immigration in Paraguay. And now we are waiting for the new Ambassador Naohiro Ishida. And we are very happy because after so much time we will visit ex-PYs of SWY13. In July Juan Santiago Malo (SWY13, Ecuador) was in Paraguay for 5 days, a very good friend we haven't seen him for 17 years after the SWY13 ended in Singapore. During his visit we were able to visit a school of children in need and bring them some medicines and food as part of the Home stay plus one program. And now we are waiting for Darwin Castillo (SWY13, Venezuela), our dear friend who comes directly from Serbia to Paraguay to visit us and to be able to perform some activities of Home stay plus one, share more memories and show him the Paraguayan hospitality that characterizes us.

Perú: SWY Network: An Evening of Youth Entrepreneurship, Arts and Leadership

On April 29, 2017, the second edition of SWY Network took place. This event, which was conceived as a post-program activity by SWYAA Perú, had the objective of spreading the SWY spirit and mission to more youth in our country and allowing young people to network and share ideas. In order to do this, the event had four main components: youth entrepreneurship, leadership development, arts and networking.



The event started at 3pm at Universidad de Lima, a local university which supported us in the organization, and was attended by almost 100 young people from Peru. The event started with a brief introduction on the SWY program and the activities of SWYAA Perú. After this introduction, we invited Boris Gamara, founder and director of Recidar (social business in which Diego Padilla (SWY21) is project manager) to speak. He shared his experience as a young entrepreneur in recycling, making his business both profitable and sustainable. After Boris' testimony, all participants were part of a leadership development workshop led by coach Juan Carlos Manning. Through these leadership dynamics, young participants were able to know each other, have fun and develop soft skills.

After this workshop, we moved to a networking break, in which Diego Chávez (SWY27) shared his music and experience as a young musician. It was also an opportunity for all participants to meet and share ideas. Finally, Rodrigo Coquis (SWY27) shared his experience as an entrepreneur in green technology. He spoke about how he got a brilliant idea and started his business, Green Tech, which is now widely recognized in Peru and abroad.

Without a doubt, this SWY Network was a space for inspiration, growth and youth empowerment. As SWYAA Perú, we have a commitment to continue organizing these events and, hopefully, see them take place around the world as well.

Russia

From July 30th to August 13th, 2017 the Russian Ship for World Youth Alumni Association (SWYAA Russia) organized an international educational and cultural project "RUSWY Train"