

(<http://ruswyaa.org>). The main goals of the program are to help alumni of the international SWY (Ship for World Youth) program become familiar with the culture of Russia and positively contribute to the development of society. Many young people from different countries demonstrate a high level of interest in Russia and Russian culture, however, their knowledge and perception of Russia is limited by stereotypes. They do not know what to expect from a trip to Russia and that oftentimes causes fear. During RUSWY program they became acquainted with the culture, traditions and way of life much better. The participants of the RUSWY Train program worked on their own projects in four various fields of their choice. That strengthened cooperation between Russian youth and SWY-alumni of different countries. RUSWY Train Participants represented the following countries: Australia, Bahrain, Japan, Chile, New Zealand, India, Jordan, Oman, Russia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates and USA. The RUSWY Train followed the route from the very East to the capital of Russia: Vladivostok – Irkutsk (Lake Baikal) – Novosibirsk – Kazan – Moscow. During the trip, participants were working on projects in four fields: “Youth Entrepreneurship,” “Volunteering,” “Eco-tourism” and “Cross-cultural communication.”

The schedule in cities was as follows:
 Vladivostok: 30-31 July
 Irkutsk and Lake Baikal: 3-5 August
 Novosibirsk: 7 August
 Kazan: 9-10 August
 Moscow: 11-13 August

During the program participants worked in the teams in the train and had official visits to various institutions (depending on the topic of the project) in the cities. The presentation of the projects took place in Moscow on August 12th, 2017. Also participants could get familiar with the Russian culture, share and exchange their own cultural background, make unforgettable memories and find lifelong friendship.



Solomon Island

The Ship for World Youth Leaders, Nippon Maru planned refuel stopover in Honiara, Solomon Islands on February 23, 2017 was received by SWYAASI as a golden opportunity to host an International SWY Reunion in country with participating youth onboard from 11 different countries with the aim to:

- Help broaden our Solomon Islands young people's international awareness
- Foster Youth Entrepreneurship and Employment opportunities/awareness
- Establish mutual friendship and understanding, educate and build confidence in our Solomon Islands Young Leaders through exposure, experience sharing with other young leaders around the globe
- Give an opportunity to cultivate an international network of cooperation across various fields
- Showcase Solomon Islands tradition, arts, crafts, music, traditional culture/games and local food to visiting international youths in collaboration with Youth at Work.

The reunion plus the entrepreneurship talk presented by some of the SWY29 PYs have inspired young Solomon Islanders and have also



given these young people a taste of the life and journey onboard Nippon Maru. SWYAASI plus other young Solomon Island Leaders involved in this event have made connections with stakeholders, partners, volunteers and youth leaders both in country and abroad and we will stay connected as we strive to achieve the hopes of youths in our Solomon Islands Society. Flying the SWY29 slogan, SWYAASI reminded all members, Let's BLOOM.

Tanzania: Youth Capacity Building

My name is Victoria Mwanziva; from Tanzania. I had participated in SWY28 in 2015 and had been able to take so much back from the program. It is always my priority to give back and invest in Tanzanian young people through youth related activities as advocacy and capacity building. I believe that young people are the driving force of progress and development to our nation and world at large.



As the Vice-President of the SWYAA-Tanzania, I had taken an initiative to share my experience in the youth advocacy field; at an annual youth convention in the region of Arusha-Tanzania in June 2017 as a part of my post-program activity after the SWY program. I had spoken to the youth about the importance of volunteering, seeking more knowledge through reading and participating in various co-curriculum activities, shared my views on community development and more importantly on how youth should capitalize on solution oriented approaches to tackle issues in the community. I touched base with the fact that investing in oneself is key, through education, networking and doing the best in all fields that they are in.

Foreign exchange opportunities are very important for young people: to help them build their network, build exposure and give them new perspectives on what they can do back home. I touched base on my experience of the SWY program and all the experience that I had through the program. It is my hope that we will continue to plant the seed of courage, passion, determination to the youth for the improvement of our nation at large.

United Kingdom

SWYUK had their summer meet up in London, at the Lambeth Country Show on July 15, 2017. It brings together the traditional British fair, with the modern multiculturalism of the UK today. This includes quirky competitions such as “largest vegetable,” “best sheared sheep” and flower displays, alongside world music performances, theatre, dance and international food and drink. It was great to see some of our international friends, as well as ex-PYs from a number of UK delegations of SWY. It marked the start of the new board set up in the UK, with the delegation from SWY27 stepping up to take roles on the board of the alumni association. Our next event will take place in the autumn. If any ex-PYs are in the UK, please let us know, and we will try to meet up! You can contact us at aaron_gordon123@hotmail.com



Ukraine: Ukrainian SWY Alumni Association has successfully joined the global SWYAA network

The 2017 SWY program was the 29th in its history and the first for Ukraine, which was largely symbolic as the year of 2017 is the Year of Japan in Ukraine. The Ukrainian delegation, consisting of 11 bright professionals, successfully completed a responsible mission of representing Ukraine to the respected international SWY community. Six weeks of intense schedule with young leaders from 11 countries granted the Ukrainian team with more experience than anyone had expected. As a result, the draft of the future Ukrainian SWYAA founding documents was created already on board the Nippon Maru and main resolutions were officially registered as soon as the team returned to Ukraine. To further promote the Japan-Ukraine relations and the SWY program, the SWYAA Ukraine started with organizing a press-conference with the Japanese Ambassador to Ukraine Shigeki Sumi, where the results of the Program and its future for Ukraine were highlighted. In order to raise the awareness about SWY program, SWYAA Ukraine members gave 10+ interviews to national and regional TV channels and shared their impressions with numerous Ukrainian print and online media. During the 4+ after-program months, SWYAA Ukraine members managed to successfully deliver the following Post-Program Activities:

- Informational events: “What should we learn from Japanese people?”

“SWYAA Ukraine is open for cooperation” and others;
 - “1000 cranes for peace in Ukraine” Project;
 - “Kawaii club,” a series of workshops about Japanese culture, where Ukrainians learn about origami, calligraphy, Japanese food and clothes;
 - “Be Profi” Project, organized in cooperation with SWY participants from Egypt, where the high-school students go through 4-days of intensive workshops, visit local companies and even find their first jobs. “Be Profi” helps youngsters choose their future profession and inspires to make responsible decisions.
 SWYAA Ukraine started to successfully deliver the “Home stay + One” Project, having hosted ex-PYs from Canada, India and New Zealand. SWYAA Ukraine organized visits to the Ukrainian Parliament, Ministry of Youth and Sports, several City Councils, Schools and Universities, where ex-PYs shared their SWY experience and held presentations. SWYAA Ukraine is new to the SWY Global Community, and while we are happy to be part of it, we are also ready to work hard to prove that choosing Ukraine for SWY29 was a worthy decision. And of course, we are looking forward to new visits and cooperation.

across Asia on the topic of sustainability in architecture, and we were fortunate to have the Korea's National ship to fund our project. 24 outstanding students from seven ASEAN countries (Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam) majoring in architecture & civil engineering were selectively enrolled in the first edition of this innovative program. The 5-week program focused on courses such as green building, natural disasters, design resilience, seismic structural design, computer building simulation, as well as Korean cultural understanding, history and language. In keeping with the spirit of SWY, through global and collective sharing of culture, knowledge, skills, we are striving to make the world a greener, healthier, safer and more sustainable place.



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Anytime, Anywhere: Social Media Helps SWY Delegations in Training to Japan

Jean Robert Souza (SWY7, Canada)
 SWY 29 Delegations from Canada, Ukraine, and Brazil made use of free online instructional videos available through Social Media for the better training of their PYs prior to embarking to Japan. The videos presented a wide range of key themes such as inter-cultural understanding, Japanese language and culture, dos and don'ts when eating sushi, relevant travel tips such as avoiding jet lag, and even a video tour inside Nippon Maru. You can access these videos through Twitter and Facebook through the following Hashtags: #SWY #SWY29 #SWYAACanada #SWYUkraine #SWYABrazil



Cross Cultural Understanding in a Globalized World

Kevin Kobayashi (SWY29, Canada)
 Diversity and inclusion is a concept best learned by experience, not research. On March 20, 2017 I was fortunate enough to deepen my understanding of cross-cultural understanding with a group of fascinating students from Kyiv, Ukraine. Coincidentally, the visit to The European Collegium was to speak about just that. The importance of meeting, interacting, and exchanging with others is more relevant than ever. National borders should be crossed, not armed. The word foreign should be celebrated, not feared. Curiosity is a natural beauty, not sin. Through speaking and learning from a class of teenagers from Ukraine, I realized that cross-cultural is not a two way street, but an open sea. We do not travel down a road with a single intention in sight ahead. Our bearings lead us in many directions and learning is a constant process along the way. The Ship for World Youth Program fosters this international journey for all participants, and expands its reach to friends and family all over the world. A very special SWY alumnus once said that life on board is just an appetizer. The real feast begins when we disembark the ship and join the global family for dinner. I didn't know what they meant at the time, but I do now. This experience was enriching beyond anything imaginable while sailing



the South Pacific on Nippon Maru. I am so thankful to have had the



By Individual

Connection Nations through English Language Learning

Daniel Ednie-Lockett (SWY23, Australia)
 As a linguistics student boarding the SWY program I was amazed by the way English was used by the participants to build lifelong relationships. All the theories of English as a Lingua Franca (ELF) were coming to life right before my eyes. After leaving the ship my interest and expertise in Second Language Acquisition (SLA) grew as well as my love of languages. Subsequently, I did my Master of Education in China (taught through the medium of Chinese) with majors in curriculum design and teacher training. Back in Melbourne I wanted to start an English school that could bring speakers of different foreign languages together to learn and grow just as I did on the ship. The result has been Level Up English. We predominantly run classes for students learning English but also tutoring for Australians learning Chinese. In addition, in the evenings we have language exchanges, and group translation workshops. In the future I hope we can run classes for people learning Japanese, Spanish and many other languages. We are hoping to develop more partnerships with education agencies all over the world.



Please contact me if you are involved with international education:
 dan.ednie@gmail.com
 Our website is www.levelupenglish.com.au
 Here is a video: <https://youtu.be/DWH810YAPRI>

Global Education on Climate Change and Sustainable Architecture

Henry Tsang (SWY29, Canada)
 I am currently a registered architect and assistant professor at Keimyung University Department of Architectural Engineering in South Korea. My personal interest is topics related to the environment and climate change, and my post-program activity is to increase global awareness of the effects of climate change and develop know-how on building sustainable architecture that would lessen the impact of the construction industry on the environment. In July 2017, my team and I put together an educational and training program for students all

opportunity to educate the leaders of tomorrow about a fantastic program called SWY.

Thank you to SWYAA Ukraine for their generous hospitality. To the greater SWYAA family, I cannot wait to meet you all in the future. After all, it's all about the journey.

2nd UNDP Pacific Youth Forum Against Corruption



Miliana Iga (SWY26, Fiji)
The UNDP Pacific Office together with the Pacific Youth Council hosted the 2nd Pacific Youth Anti-Corruption Forum in Nadi, Fiji for three days from April 27 to 29, 2017. The forum was attended by youth leaders from 15 Pacific Island Countries and Law Students of Washington & Lee University, USA. Fiji Islands was represented by three youths, which included Miliana Iga (SWY26, ANL). She participated at the forum as an executive of Youths for Integrity Fiji, a youth network that mobilizes youth in the fight against corruption.

The forum focused on the immense responsibility of youths in the fight against corruption. It was wrapped up with discussions on Climate Change and Corruption, including a statement to the next Pacific Island Leaders Climate Action Program. An outcome document or resolution was tabled after the forum and the Pacific Anti-Corruption Youth Network are currently implementing projects to meet the objectives of the resolution. Continuing the true spirit of youth exchange at a regional level.

The world I live in – Communicating biocultural diversity

Sofia Camacho (SWY28, Mexico)

During the past few months I've been writing a book called *El mundo en el que vivo* (The world I live in). It describes my experience going around the world with SWY28 and visiting my SWY friends afterwards. The book has both cultural observations as well as the results of a research on environmental projects. Because of SWY I was inspired to dedicate my career to defend biocultural diversity. I've worked with indigenous communities most of my life, but I wanted to learn more about the different ways to protect biodiversity. As part of the Environmental Course of Discussion I visited Tokyo's landfill, Sri Lanka's Institute of indigenous medicine and Chennai's amazing educational project Kalakshetra. Later that year, in Bahrain, Mohammed got me an interview with the responsible of Environment Protection of the Kingdom, where I was convinced of the importance of making alliances with the private sector. In UAE, with Maryam we visited Al Hefaiyah Mountain Conservation Centre where we admired the endangered animal species native to the region's fragile ecosystems. In Thailand I went to the Elephant Jungle Sanctuary, an ethical and sustainable eco-tourism project where I could learn from their business model, make suggestions and even bathe and feed the elephants! In New Zealand I hiked through Castle Hill and Mount Cook while learning about prehistoric forests and the National Parks' legal framework. In Australia I visited Phillip Island to observe the thousands of little penguins that come of the ocean every night. Beautiful! If I add up all my adventures from 2016, I visited more than 20 projects in 13 countries. I am very thankful to everyone I met, it was a life lesson that I will never forget.



Being a bridge for a life-long friendship

Hasanithi Praharsha (SWY14/28, Sri Lanka)

The Young generation is the future of any nation. Thus, the utmost duty of the present generation is to deepen their understanding, share

values that they gained from their ancestors and to strengthen them to face challenges of life by exchanging their experiences through various activities. As a proud representative of Sri Lanka and an ex-PY of SWY, I got such a rare opportunity of conducting two presentations in Japanese about Sri Lanka for a group of 16 students of Kosei Gakuen Girls' high school in Setagaya, Tokyo, who are planning to visit Sri Lanka in August 2017. During their pre-departure training



session, I was requested to introduce 5 major topics of Sri Lanka; a brief history, nature of bilateral relations between Sri Lanka and Japan, Education System, food culture and clothes of Sri Lanka. Kosei Gakuen Girls' Junior and Senior high school is a prestigious institution which is designated as

a 'Super Global High School' by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan. This school conducts international understanding programs with the collaboration of Sri Lanka, New Zealand and Australia. A group of Sri Lankan students who participated in the First Japanese Language Camp of Sri Lanka visited this school in March as well. The girls of Kosei Gakuen high school were extremely brilliant and enthusiastic, so that it was easy for me to carry on my presentations as well. At the end of the sessions, I was inspired by the questions brought out by them. I expect that their visit to Sri Lanka will be a memorable one. Even though my involvement is minimal, I am extremely happy and proud of being a bridge which connects and enhances the life-long friendship of Japan and Sri Lanka.

Former SWY USA & Turkey PYs RV Adventure through Canada

Auggie Bartning (SWY17, USA)

From June 13 to 17, 2017, Onur Erdogan (SWY17/22NL, Turkey) and Auggie Bartning (SWY17, USA) relocated a 5-Berth RV for an Australian company over 1000km from Vancouver to Calgary in Canada. On the first night, Onur and Auggie parked the RV in the backyard of Jordan Marr (SWY17, Canada), and former SWY cabin mate of Onur. Coincidentally, Onur and Auggie had also been cabin mates in 2005. The three shipmates shared a dinner made with the fresh veggies from Jordan's farm located in Kelowna. The next day, Jordan gave Onur and Auggie a tour of his 5 acre parcel from which he has been planting, harvesting and distributing organic veggies and herbs to local customers under the name *Unearthed* (www.uneearthedfarm.com). It was a special 12 hours together with Farmer Jordan, as it had been 12 years since the three shared moments on board the *Nippon Maru*.

Onur and Auggie continued driving to Banff and they encountered a picturesque Canadian landscape from snow-capped mountains to greens and blues and other hues that are unique to this region. They have shared many magical images on Instagram and Facebook. For Onur and Auggie, this marks the third time in three years in three countries that they have been able to spend time together. Before the 8th Global Assembly in Istanbul, they had a five-day reunion in Izmir, the hometown of Onur where he is the Stage Director of the Bornova



Municipal Theatre. The following year Onur visited Arizona, the home state of Auggie and they journeyed together to Sedona and the Grand Canyon, Arizona's most coveted real estate. It has been a new dawn of friendship and this recent RV trip their biggest adventure. Thank you to these strong SWY connections for creating unforgettable memories and dialogues.

Cover photos

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1. Port of call at Honiara port, Solomon Islands
2. RUSWY Train, Russia
3. Being a bridge for a life-long friendship, Hasanithi, Sri Lanka

When you move, please inform your contact details including your name, country, batch, address, phone & e-mail to the following two address.

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Ship for World Youth New Official Website open



The website has been renewed and it introduces about overall SWY program, messages from Ex-PY, Media Coverage, how to join, post-program activities, and SWYAA activities.

Please contact us anytime if you wish to post something on this website to following email address.

Email: swyaa@iyo.or.jp We hope this website will be useful for all the SWYers!

Please introduce this page to people around you to promote SWY!

<http://swy.international/>



Have you started using SWYAA-Hub??



What is SWYAA-Hub?

It is a closed SNS just for SWYAA members. From this site, you can search ex-PYs online and share SWYAA information :)



How to join?

You need to receive an invitation email and register online to join the SWYAA-Hub. If you wish to receive the email, please go to [<http://swy.international/swyaa/>] click the post on [Updates] and send your information. We will then email an invitation to you.

