

SWY NEWS

#27

December
2024

Get the latest updates on the
Ship for World Youth program,
exciting alumni activities,
notable ex-participants, and
much more!



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Secretariat

Ex-PY ... Former participants of the Ship for
World Youth

GA ... SWYAA Global Assembly held every year
for alumni

NL ... Leader of a National delegation in the SWY
program

PPA ... Post-Program Activities or Post-Program
Activities Session

PY ... Participating Youth of the Ship for World
Youth

SWY ... the Ship for World Youth program

SWYAA ... an alumni association established in
each participating country or the collective of
all alumni associations as a whole

SWYer ... participants and alumni of the Ship for
World Youth

SWY2024 Report

Outline

The Ship for World Youth Program was successfully completed in February 2024. This year, the ship program resumed after four years since the COVID-19. Additionally, SWY 2024 is the new program, sailing around Japan with three stops. Port of Call Activities were delivered in two different formats. One was Local Visit Program aiming to touch Japanese culture, and the other was Local Practical Program aiming to cultivate problem-solving skills through implementing projects to solve local issues.

Participating Countries (14)

Argentina, Ethiopia, France, India, Ireland, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Mexico, New Zealand, Solomon Islands, Türkiye, United Arab Emirates, Zambia

Schedule

Online Exchange

Group1: November 4, 11, 25, 2023

Group2: November 5, 12, 26, 2023

Face-to-face Exchange

January 24 to February 21, 2024

*Port of Call Activities in Kyoto, Hyogo and Kochi Prefectures.



Post-Program Activities Session (PPA)

The PPA aims to let PYs to deeper understanding of social contribution activities. Three facilitators shared their PPA with the panel discussion style in order for the PYs to understand how to take actions and implement PPA through SWYAA after completing the SWY program. After the panel discussion, PYs were divided into each delegation and discussed what they want to take actions.



Course Discussion (CD)
Topic: Gender Equality



Local Visit Program in Hyogo
experiencing dying



Summary Forum
Presentation of the result of CD



Performance of Yosakoi
(Traditional dance in Kochi)



Brain Storming on PPA



Sharing facilitator's PPA

We, the Jordanian delegation, would like to establish an alumni association and create a system to support future participants in joining SWY. (Malak Al-Amoush, Jordan)



I would like to organize and join activities relating to Japan to enhance the relation between the youth of Türkiye and Japan. (Ayşe Süreyya Özavar, Türkiye)



We would love to keep creating more opportunities for people to learn about SWY. Part of that is the creation of our alumni association. (Maria Agustina Cuello, Argentina)



SWY taught me a lot and immersed me in many cultures from around the world. Our delegation would like to establish alumni for the next SWYers! (Joud Osaileh, Jordan)



I would like to share at my work about SWY and the possibility of organizing an event about youth and the 2030 agenda. (Brenda Rocio Juarez Salas, Mexico)



Special Features (Oman):



Reconnecting in Oman: Highlights from the 14th SWYAA Global Assembly

The Sultanate of Oman hosted the 14th Ship for World Youth Alumni Association Global Assembly in November 2023, where 153 Alumni of the Ship for World Youth program, representing 25 countries and 27 batches, participated in this assembly. It was the first assembly in four years held after COVID-19. The Official program (November 4-8, 2023) included the followings:

- Opening Ceremony held under the patronage of His Excellency Khalid Hashel Al Muselhi, the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for Administrative and Financial Affairs
- Institutional visits to Royal Academy of Management, Royal Opera House Muscat, Omantel and Amouage
- SDGs Workshop with local youth at Youth Center
- Visit to the Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque

The optional program (November 9-12, 2023) offered visits to Sur (sea environment), Bidiyah (desert environment), and Manah, Nizwa, and Muscat (mountain and urban environment).

Adil Alshanfari, head of SWY Oman, commented, “As Omanis, we are proud and lucky to host our SWY colleagues from all over the world after a long break, and we were able to bring the SWY spirit back to sailing again.”



Gift presentation to His Excellency Khalid Hashel Al Muselhi by Mr. Adil Alshanfari - President of SWY Oman



Shopping at Matrah Souq



SDGs Workshop with local youth at Youth Center

Special Features (Spain): The SWY Forest Project in Spain



Ex-participants



Digging soil for planting trees



Commemorative plaque

The SWY Forest Project took place this time as part of a reforestation project covering amount of 13,000 hectares of pine forest in the Guadalajara, Castilla-La Mancha, Spain, which was devastated by a major fire in 2005. This activity was actualized with the cooperation of the Foundation “Adopt a tree,” a donation from SWYAA International and SWYAA-Spain. More than 100 people pre-registered and final number of 70 participants, including 8 ex-PYs, joined on October 7, 2023. SWYAA-Spain delivered a welcome speech and introduced the SWY Forest Project, the SWY program, and the Foundation “Adopt a tree.”

Afterwards, the participants had a commented hike about 4 km to the tree-planting area. They spent around 2 hours planting trees. A commemorative plaque was placed in the area at the end. Of the 900 trees, 350 plants were successfully planted on the day, and the rest of trees will be planted by students or other groups interested in recovering the natural area. After lunch, participants engaged in activities - “Tree of wishes,” “Origami,” “Name in Japanese,” and “Tree Workshop.”



Tree of wishes



Origami workshop



Participants of the event

What is the SWY Forest Project?

The project was launched as one of the post-program activities to commemorate SWY 20th anniversary. It was to produce and sell T-shirts with an original logo which was solicited from ex-PYs, and all proceeds, excluding production costs, will be used for tree-planting activities around the world. Spain was selected by vote among SWYAA International members in 2019, and after the COVID-19 disaster, the project was realized in 2023. It was the third planting activity following the 2008 (Bali, Indonesia) and 2013 (Iwate, Japan) projects.

SWYAA Country Reports

Connect New SWYers: Random Coffee Meetings Organized by SWYAA Australia

SWY Australia first launched the 'Random Coffee Meetings' project in 2020 to connect SWYers from around the world with another participant for a chat. These meetings aimed to keep the SWY spirit alive and allow participants to connect with each other and learn more about the world. The program resumed in March 2023, and involved almost 50 participants.

Here are some comments from participants;

- I have been meaning to reconnect with SWY social networks because I feel I need to make new friends. This popped up at the right time!
- Amazing initiative! I am really looking forward to having a good chat with a SWYer and feel I'm back at the Umi Lounge on the ship
- I participated in this program last time and loved it! Thank you for organizing and I look forward to connecting with more SWYers :)



Having meetings with ex-PYs from different countries

Connecting Generations: SWY Costa Rica's Reunion and Giving Back Initiative

In February 2023, a social gathering allowed several generations of SWY alumni to meet in the house of former ex-PYs and brother, María Lourdes Borbón (SWY 9) and Alberto Borbón (SWY 5). 8 people participated. Prior to the meeting, the AA did a fundraising campaign to gather basic need products and educational materials or monetary contributions, which would be



A Spotify playlist was created to treasure and share some memorable songs among different Costa Rican SWY generations.

donated to Transforma, an international foundation from third sector led by Vanessa Valenzuela, SWYAA Costa Rica vice president. Her project has been doing social interventions in impoverished communities of the country. Alejandro Hernández, the AA President, joined Vanessa on the day they offered the donations in Montes de Oca, San José.

The AA plans to replicate activities of this kind, as they remind the participants of the value of the network, the extended family that the ship represents, the opportunity to give back to society and why not: a chance to find some hidden gems such as a t-shirt signed by SWY 5 ex-participants that Alberto Borbón has kept all these years. Costa Rica says loud and clear: SWY forever!



(above) Invite for the event
(right) T-shirt from SWY5





Workshop on composting and recycling

Social Activities of SWYAA Ecuador: Donation to Türkiye and Workshop

Donation to Türkiye and Donation to Alausi landslide

SWYAA Ecuador collected money from the voluntary contributions from the members and decided to make a monetary donation to the victims in Türkiye through AKUT Search and Rescue Association. Furthermore, SWYAA Ecuador donated money through the Tipti and Impaqto platforms to the victims of a landslide that occurred in Alausi (a southern small town in Ecuador).

Workshop on Composting and Recycling of waste and e-waste in Mashpi

SWYAA Ecuador coordinated an activity with: “La Cuica Cómica” (organization that promotes composting), “Basura Cero” (organization that promotes waste recycling) and researchers of Escuela Politecnica Nacional (Ecuadorian public university) to promote composting of organic waste and recycling of waste and e-waste. On October 19, members of SWYAA Ecuador, La Cuica Cómica, Basura Cero and Escuela Politecnica Nacional travelled to Mashpi, which is located in an Ecuadorian Biosphere Reserve. They conducted a workshop to teach students and parents of Mashpi about composting, waste classification, and recycling of e-waste.



Teaching students and their parents

The Timeless Voyage: Sailing on the Nile River of Egypt

On January 6, 2023, several Ex-PYs and their friends embarked on a delightful New Year's trip on a sailing boat along the serene waters of the Nile River.

The purpose of this activity was to celebrate the New Year with a social gathering and to plan the next alumni trip to Port Said, which would take place a few weeks later. The participants also shared their plans for participation in the GA in Oman, and enthusiastically discussed the possibility of holding another GA in Egypt, which many alumni would like to see happen.



Sailing on the Nile River



Social gathering on the boat

Participants

The participants were from a wide range of generations, SWY2, SWY6, SWY16, SWY24 and SWY32, and the intergenerational participants exchanged stories from their experiences and what they had learned from them.

Sailing Route

They sailed around a small island in the middle of the Nile River for about two or three hours on a Nile River sailing boat in the suburb of Maadi, south of Cairo.

Beyond the SWY community

This Nile River trip included a Japanese guest who was engaged in the Cross-cultural Association. It made for a great bonding opportunity beyond the SWY community. They enjoyed lunch on board and one of the participants played music on the traditional 'oud,' which we sang along with and enjoyed.



Participant performing music

Hosted Cancer Awareness Session for Female Market Vendors in Fiji

SWYAA Fiji hosted a morning tea for a group of market vendors, 20 women who sell flowers at Suva Market. During the morning tea, an awareness session about breast cancer, an annual fundraising event of Fiji Cancer Society, was conducted.

During the presentation, a staff from Medical Services Pacific talked about the facts on breast cancer and the importance of breast cancer awareness. The presentation covered topics such as causes of breast cancer, warning signs, breast cancer screening (self-examination and clinical examination), early detection, diagnosis and treatment. The participants were also taught the self-examination skills. They also learned where they could get help and more information about breast cancer.

SWYAA Fiji members donated some refreshments while they raised funds to Fiji Cancer Society. Through participation in this activity, SWYAA Fiji donated \$440 to support the programs and activities of Fiji Cancer Society.



A nurse from Medical Services Pacific conducted an awareness session on Breast Cancer.



The participants learned self-examination skills.



SWYAA-INDIA provided digital education and academic support in language, general science and math.



Activities in the Open Schools included teaching multi-level, multi-age and multi-grade children.



Japanese culture and language were introduced through songs and books.

India's SWYAA Open Schools: Empowering Girl Students in Delhi with Digital Education

SWYAA-INDIA implemented the in-school interactive project for education of girl children studying in the Municipal Corporation primary schools of Delhi in the academic year 2023-24. The project was implemented in close collaboration with the Department of Education, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi and DISHA. The project started after obtaining the required permission from the Department of Education to carry out the project in two Municipal Corporation primary schools.

From January to December 2023, SWYAA-INDIA provided digital education and academic support in Hindi and Math to girl children studying in class 3rd to 5th. The academic support was given to students in the classroom as well as in the digital resource centers to enhance the quality of education. SWYAA-INDIA also engaged the class teachers by sharing information and outcome of the innovative pedagogy used by the school facilitator, successfully through school curriculum interventions in the Open Schools.

SWYAA-INDIA intends to provide inclusive and fair quality education for disadvantaged girl children to promote lifelong learning opportunities. One of our focus areas is inclusive education through innovative approaches for underprivileged children, in order to achieve quality education for all by 2030. SWYAA-INDIA aims to play a transformative role in shaping young minds and molding their characters.

Shaping the Future: “SWY Connect!” Sparks New Possibilities in Japan

On October 14th, 2023, a reunion was held for SWYers in Tokyo. More than 100 people from SWY4 to SWY35 participated and this time, 11 SWYers active in various genres took the stage.

This reunion’s theme is “Spark the Future.” In 2022, the theme was to Connect with SWYers, but this time, the organizers wanted SWYers to not only connect, but also to build stronger connections with each other and create opportunities for them to take the next steps or actions.

The overall program consisted of four parts: ice-breaking, SWY pitch, discussion, and social gathering. For the SWY pitch, the host invited guest speakers of SWYers who were active in various fields such as multicultural coexistence, regional revitalization, and the media.



Social Gathering for taking actions



All attendees

After listening to their activities, each participant selected one speaker they were keen to talk with, and had a free discussion in their groups.

Later, the organizer invited to this social gathering some SWYers as guests, who lived up the event with songs and music so that the participants could mingle more across generations.

After the reunion, various information was shared in the SWY Connect! group, ensuring the host that they were able to achieve the goal of “connecting with people and taking action.”

Celebrating the 60th Anniversary of Japan-Kenya Relations in Nairobi

On November 16th, 2023, H.E. Ambassador OKANIWA Ken hosted a reception at the official residence to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Kenya. The reception was attended by government officials, Members of Parliament, former JICA trainees, alumni of Japanese universities and individuals and organizations with linkages to Japan.

During this gathering, SWYAA Kenya was represented by Mr. Samatar Jama (President), who expressed and affirmed the AA’s dedication to participate and contribute to various social and cultural activities to further mutual understanding and friendship between Japan and Kenya.

In recognition of the great contribution in furthering mutual understanding and friendship between the two countries, H.E. Mr. OKANIWA presented the Ambassador’s commendation to select individuals for their immense contribution to these relations.



SWYAA Kenya President Mr. Samatar Jama (standing, left corner) joined for a group photo with Ambassador OKANIWA and his wife.



Amb. OKANIWA delivered a speech on the 60th anniversary occasion.