

## 目 次

— Table of Contents —

第5回SWYAA国際大会 .....	3
「世界青年の船」事業事後活動連携強化プログラム .....	13
「世界青年の船」事業既参加青年東京連絡会議 .....	23
5th SWYAA Global Assembly in Mexico .....	57
Ship for World Youth Program Post-Program Activities Promotion Programs .....	67
Tokyo Conference for the Ex-Participating Youth of the Ship for World Youth Program .....	77
資料編 (Appendix) .....	115

# 5th SWYAA Global Assembly

September 28 - October 2, 2011



## 5th SWYAA Global Assembly

### Purpose of the SWYAA Global Assembly

---

- a) To provide an opportunity for the former participating youths of the Ship for World Youth program (hereafter SWY program and ex-PYs) from various countries and different participating years to meet, and by sharing thoughts, strengthen their international alumni network,
- b) To provide opportunities for the ex-PYs to learn about the culture and people of the visiting country,
- c) To provide opportunities to the ex-PYs to be engaged in volunteer activities so that they can contribute to the society,
- d) To share information about post-program activities that are taking place around the world, and
- e) To revitalize SWYAA by hosting or participating in the Global Assembly.

### Outline

---

- Title of the event: The 5th SWYAA Global Assembly – 16th International Reunion
- Dates: Official Program: September 28 to October 2, 2011  
Optional Tour: October 3 to October 6, 2011
- Hosting organizations: International Youth Exchange Organization of Japan (IYEO) and SWYAA Mexico
- Main event: Conference for Post Program Activities
- Theme: Contribution of SWY Alumni to Society
- Participation fee: US\$400 / Optional tour : US\$400
- Participants: 70 participants from 15 countries

The Mexican Alumni Association for the Ship for World Youth formed its Organizing Committee that prepared for the 5th Global Assembly (GA) of the Ship for World Youth Alumni Association (SWYAA) that was held in Mexico. The official program was held from September 28 to October 2, 2011. From October 3 to 6, 2011 participants had the opportunity to take part in an optional tour prepared by the SWYAA Mexico GA Organizing Committee. SWYAA Mexico GA Organizing Committee prepared the detailed schedule including the selection and coordination of site visits, social activities and formal events. SWYAA Mexico GA Organizing Committee members were divided into several work groups where each group performed its tasks according to the main functions that SWYAA Mexico GA Organizing Committee had identified. Following is the list of work groups that were formed under the SWYAA Mexico GA Organizing Committee:

- Group Leaders
- Contact Person Work Group
- Ceremonies Work Group
- General Affairs Work Group
- Conference for Post-Program Activity Work Group
- Optional Tour Work Group
- Database Work Group

The GA Leader of SWYAA Mexico GA Organizing Committee was responsible for managing each of these working groups.

## Activity Schedule

Date	Time	Activities
<b>Official Program</b>		
Sept. 28 (Wed.)	All day	Arrival of participants
	20:00 - 21:30	Welcome Reception and Orientation (dinner included)
Sept. 29 (Thu.)	8:30 - 9:15	Breakfast
	9:30	Walk to Ministry of Foreign Affairs
	10:20 - 11:30	Official Opening Ceremony - Speeches
	11:30 - 11:50	Coffee Break
	11:50 - 12:15	Keynote Speech
	12:15 - 14:15	Conference for Post-Program Activities (Part 1) - Report of the SWYAA Ex-PYs Conference in Tokyo 2010 - Presentations: Challenges faced by ex-PYs to implement post-program activities and some successful examples. (Mexico, Japan, Bahrain, Peru, Ecuador, Australia)
	14:30 - 16:20	Lunch
	17:00 - 18:30	Visit to the National Museum of Anthropology
	19:40 - 22:00	Official Reception Dinner
	Sept. 30 (Fri.)	8:30 - 9:30
11:00 - 14:30		Visit downtown in small groups
14:30 - 16:30		Lunch
16:30 - 17:30		Move to hotel, break
17:30 - 19:10		Courtesy call on the senate
20:50 - 22:30		Mexican Wrestling Night
23:45 - 02:00		Garibaldi
Oct. 1 (Sat.)	7:30 - 8:30	Breakfast
	9:00 - 10:40	Travel to Teotihuacan by bus
	10:40 - 11:45	Welcome Ceremony in Teotihuacan
	2:00 - 16:30	Visit to Teotihuacan Pyramids
	17:00 - 18:30	Lunch
	18:30 - 21:30	Move to hotel
	22:00 - 01:30	Farewell Dinner
Oct. 2 (Sun.)	9:30 - 10:30	Breakfast
	11:20 - 12:30	Conference for Post-Program Activities (Part 2) - Presentation (Miyagi prefecture, Fiji) - Discussion of the possible plans and presentation
	12:30 - 13:00	Closing Ceremony - Closing Speech - Presentation of diplomas - Announcement of the next GA
	13:00 - 22:20	Visit to Xochimilco by bus (Parque Ecologico Cuemanco – World Heritage)
<b>Optional Tour</b>		
Oct. 3 (Mon.)	AM	Transfer by bus
	16:50 - 19:30	St Michel City Tour
	19:30 - 21:30	Move
	21:30 - 22:50	Arrive at Guanajuato (Dinner)
	00:30	Check into a hotel

Date	Time	Activities
Oct. 4 (Tue.)	8:30 - 10:00	Breakfast
	11:30 - 12:30	Move (by bus and cable car)
	12:30 - 16:30	Visit Teatro Juarez, Callejon del Beso
	16:30 - 18:00	Lunch
	18:00 - 21:45	Mercado Hidalgo
	21:45 - 23:40	Dinner
Oct. 5 (Wed.)	8:30 - 10:00	Breakfast
	10:10 - 11:00	Move (by bus)
	11:00 - 14:00	Visit Coal mine, Museo de las momias
	14:30 - 16:00	Lunch
	16:00 - 20:00	Free time
	20:00 - 21:45	Dinner
	22:00 - 00:30	Participate Estudiantina (Walking around the night city with band)
Oct. 6 (Thu.)	8:30 - 10:00	Breakfast
	10:30 - 16:30	Move (by bus)
	16:30	Arrive at Mexico City, finish optional tour.

### September 28th

Members of SWYAA Mexico Global Assembly Committee (hereinafter committee members) welcomed the ex-participating youth holding a banner of the 5th SWYAA Global Assembly (GA) who arrived at the Benito Juárez International airport. Mr. Masateru Yoshida, Principal Deputy Director, International Youth Exchange Division of the Cabinet Office, Government of Japan, Ms. Tomoko Okawara, President of IYEO also arrived safely. Most of the participants arrived as scheduled, however, the airport was closed at night because of the electrical problem, and some flights had to be diverted to another airport. Some of the participants were affected by this problem, but thanks to the appropriate support of the committee members, all participants arrived at the hotel safely. Participants received the program schedule, name tag and GA official t-shirt at the GA reception.

The welcome reception started by the opening remarks by Mr. Kento Watanabe, GA Committee Chairperson and each committee member explained about safety precaution such as information about the immediate area of the hotel, dangerous areas and notice related to transportation. Mexico City is often said to be a city of poor security, but it was emphasized it is not that dangerous if one avoids visiting dangerous areas.

After having a meal, various activities took place as ice breaking, where participants exchanged beyond different countries and generation.

### September 29th

From around 10:20 am, the opening ceremony of the official program started at the annex of Ministry of Foreign Affairs. After the remarks by Mr. Watanabe, GA Committee Chairperson, Mr. Miguel Angel Carreon, Chief Executive of Mexico Youth Association, Ms. Okawara, President of IYEO, Mr. Yoshida, Principal Deputy Director, International Youth Exchange Division of the Cabinet Office, Government of Japan, H.E. Ramón Xilotl, Ambassador of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, H.E. Megata, Japanese Ambassador to Mexico, exchange of gifts and commemorative photo taking followed. After break, Minister Aldo Aldama of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs gave a key note speech titled “Importance of Youth in Diplomacy.” Then as part of the Conference for Post-Program Activities (part 1), there was a report of the Tokyo Conference 2010, presentation of various post-program activities at different countries and introduction of Chantal Paydar Foundation.

After lunch at a restaurant in the city, the group visited the National Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology of Mexico from around 5 pm. Precious articles from an anthropological standpoint that were excavated from the remains of Aztec and Mayan civilizations were on display. Aztec altar for sacrifice and Aztec calendar stone were especially interesting as they showcased the concept of life and death at that time and high level of technology.

On way back to the annex of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the group stopped by at the Monument of Independence

and took a commemorative photo. At the official reception dinner, after the remarks by H.E. Ambassador Columba Calvo, Mr. Yoshida gave a speech. Mr. Yoshida gave a comment that the Ship for World Youth program has a large impact on participating youths and how he is impressed by the vigorous activities taking place after disembarkation.

### **Various activities at respective countries and about Chantal Paydar Fund**

#### 1. Mexico

- Deportes para compartir

A human development program for children that aims to foster personnel that can take action against global issues through playing games, sports and learning about the UN Millennium Development Goals.

- Relief Supply Program

A volunteer program that donates spare personal items to the underprivileged people in Mexico. The program started up with 2 members, and now has gained more volunteers support, providing articles to more than 10,000 people.

#### 2. Japan

- Activities of IYEO

Report of IYEO relief efforts for the victims of the Great East Japan Earthquake. There was an explanation of how the support was provided to the devastated area such as confirmation of safety of personnel, supply of emergency relief supplies, volunteer activities and fund raising. Different relief efforts initiated by each country's Alumni Association was introduced and Ms. Okawara, President of IYEO, extended words of gratitude for the assistance given by countries around the world.

- Tupendane

A project initiated by volunteers of SWY22 that supports elementary schools in Kenya. Support activities for instance sending textbooks and financial assistance by fund raising through study sessions and events was introduced.

#### 3. Bahrain

Selection process of the Bahrain delegation and social contribution activities were introduced.

#### 4. Peru

Report on bus tour operated in Peru (Bus for World Youth) and the selection process of participating youths, volunteer activities, and how to establish a good relation with the Japanese Embassy was introduced.

#### 5. Ecuador

Explanation of the establishment of Soran club, and ex-participants that visited Ecuador.

#### 6. Australia

Library Construction Project that is taking place in Fiji. A project that made use of the ex-PY network and asked one person to donate one book each. A large number of books were contributed which were used to establish a library in Fiji.

#### 7. Chantal Paydar Foundation

Explanation of a foundation that was established in memory of ex-participating youth, Chantal Paydar, who lost battle against cancer. Related activities aim to address ethnic, gender and political inequality through humane approaches.

### **September 30th**

After breakfast, the group headed for sightseeing on a bus. The group divided into four groups at Zocalo Independence Square and visited places such as National Palace, Cathedral, and Latin America Tower respectively. At the National Palace, there is a spectacular wall painting in the central staircase and corridor that depicts the history of Mexico from the time of Aztec foundation to modern history. The committee members acted as tour guides, and especially explained about the mural artwork in detail. When listening to the explanation by the committee members, it seemed to be common sense to know about one's own countries history in detail, which reminded the importance of taking pride in your own country and knowing the history to detail.

After returning to the hotel, there was a session to exchange opinions with Congressman Mr. Porfirio Muñoz Ledo, who holds prominent positions such as Speaker of the Lower House. At request by Congressman Mr. Muñoz Ledo, the session started with a short introduction by each participant and the informal meeting took place by participants asking questions related to politics and expressing various views. The topics extended to a broad range from the recent political movements in the Arab

countries including Egypt, politics in Latin America and Mexico, press freedom in Mexico, and youth participation in politics. Mr. Muñoz Ledo expressed his views powerfully in his style and the participating youth actively exchanged opinions.

After the opportunity to exchange opinions, the group headed to watch lucha libre (Mexican wrestling) which is very popular in Mexico. The venue was full with excitement, yet it was a weekday night, and some participants cheered for the wrestlers wearing a wrestler's mask. After the match, the group headed for Garibaldi, famous for its Mariachis (musicians who perform traditional folk music). Garibaldi was full with spectators and Mariachi bands were seen all over the place. At a restaurant, a Mariachi band played music for us and we spent a lovely time singing and dancing together. Through the lucha libre and Mariachi experience, we could feel the culture of the ordinary Mexican citizens.

### **October 1st**

Departing at 10 am, the group headed off to Teotihuacan by bus. Upon arrival at Teotihuacan City, a big welcome ceremony took place at the City Hall Plaza. During the ceremony, Mr. Alfonso Humberto Favila Saavedra, Advisor to Teotihuacan City and Mr. Rodolfo Gómez Escobedo, Director of Tourism and Art craft of Teotihuacan City gave a speech, and there was a welcome dance and presentation of a retrofitted car by the students of the local industrial high school. The delegation performed soran dance in return. Afterwards the group departed for the ruins of Teotihuacan.

At the ruins of Teotihuacan, the group divided into two groups and enjoyed sightseeing. During the sightseeing, tour guide Mr. Ricardo Cervantes Cervantes performed an ancient ritual that connects people as part of a ceremony to ask permission to enter the temple and pyramid. Mr. Cervantes is a descendent of an Indio who has been versed in Aztec civilization and is more of an Aztec civilization researcher rather than a tour guide. He provided detailed explanation about Teotihuacan City and the Aztecs. There is the Temple of Quetzalcoatl, Pyramid of the Sun, and the Pyramid of the Moon at Teotihuacan, but because of the high altitude exceeding 2,000 meters above sea level, climbing all sites was quite physically demanding and some participants gave up climbing them all. The magnificent view from the pyramid, however, enabled us to feel the religious view of sun worship during the old times and was very impressive.

Mr. Álvaro Sánchez Mendoza, Mayor of Teotihuacan

as a guest, Mexican food was served for lunch. After returning to the hotel, everyone moved to Reforma 222, venue of the farewell dinner. Farewell dinner took place amid a very casual atmosphere. The participants congratulated the success of the GA and enjoyed the last moment together.

### **October 2nd**

After breakfast, Conference for Post-Program Activities (part 2) took place. At the outset, Mr. Yoshimasa Kikuchi, Advisor of Miyagi IYEO reported on the situation of the devastated area of the Great East Japan Earthquake displaying photos. During the report, the suffering and hardship particular to those living in the area and went through the experience was explained. Restoration at the affected area has just begun. He emphasized the necessity of long term support and expressed gratitude to the support offered through the network including the Ship for World Youth program.

Next, a Fijian participant reported how one of the ex-PY won at a largest competition in Fiji and was chosen Fiji Hibiscus Queen.

Then the participants discussed post-program activities of their interest in four groups by contents and presented the ideas by group. There was an opinion that while various activities are taking place actively in each country, they could be operated and managed more efficiently if there was a universal website, logo and set of rules.

### **Some of the proposals raised at the post-program activities conference:**

- Establish a website to share experiences: Enable to upload/ download presentations materials created by ex-PYs.
- Connect schools at each country: Create a network that connects students from different countries. Ex-PY will offer linguistic support for letter exchange and such.
- Conduct events concurrently globally on Jan. 18th, International SWY Day.
- Unify the website of Alumni Associations: Each country's Alumni Association has created their original website, but with a unified image it would create a stronger presence as an international association.
- Unify the logo: Each country has created their unique logo. To have a unified logo (and country name), however, is better since people can immediately recognize it is an Alumni Association of the Ship for

World Youth program.

- Provide training programs to actively utilize social media such as Facebook and twitter.
- Create a forum to gather by region.
- Share bylaw of each Alumni Association and learn from each other. (e.g. selection process of participating youth and executive members)

Following the presentation, the closing ceremony was conducted. After the closing remarks by Mr. Alberto Negrete, President of SWYAA Mexico, completion certificate was given, commemorative gift was presented to IYEO executives from the committee members, and IYEO President Ms. Tomoko Okawara expressed gratitude and presented a gift to the committee members. Later it was announced that the 6th SWYAA GA in 2012 will take place in Bahrain. There was also a mention to the reunion taking place each summer at the Nordic countries that they will welcome participants from any country from next year, though it was originally open to the ex-PYs from the Scandinavian countries.

After the closing ceremony, the group departed on a bus for Xochimilco, a World Heritage site. Mexico City was built on reclaimed land which was originally a lake, but Xochimilco preserves the original geography before reclamation. After arriving at Parque Ecologico Cuemanco of Xochimilco, participants rode on a traditional paddle boat called Trajineras along the canals and moved to the Plaza. On the Trajineras boats, we could see groups enjoying their meal with Mariachi music. At the Plaza, Mr. Max Corrales, Director of Department of Sports and Culture of Xochimilco extended greetings and then presented commemorative gifts and photo taking followed. At the Plaza, there was an explanation about the Cuemanco and visited the traditional sauna. After BBQ style lunch and break, there was another boat trip along the canals. Among the canal waters there was a quite creepy floating island decorated with dolls, and there was an explanation about the different stories related to the "Doll Island." The official program completed when the group arrived at the hotel with quite a delay from schedule.

### October 3rd

After breakfast participants joining the optional tour departed for Guanajuato by bus. Everyone got on the bus. It would have been the ideal time to rest during the ride, considering the busy days, but there was a lot of singing and a high energy level. Lunch boxes were given on the

bus. After a few breaks, the bus arrived at San Miguel de Allende, a great city with its well preserved buildings from the 18th century. It is known as the City of Arts. In 1926 the town was designated as the National Colonial Memorial City. Everyone visited the San Miguel Church in the city center with the tour guide and then enjoyed strolling around the town on their own to see the old churches and the interesting souvenir shops. Participants tried the typical local snacks, too. Then back to the bus to ride to the final destination, Guanajuato. Since the bus couldn't enter the city, participants got off the bus on the outskirts and walked to the city center. Everyone had dinner at Casa Valdez near La Union Park. There was live piano music available to enjoy along with dinner. Eventually we ended up singing in a big chorus having songs played at our request. As usual, the night was filled with a lot of fun and excitement. As usual, the night went on with a lot of fun and excitement.

### October 4th

The group met late in the morning and took a bus to the cable car station. The medieval town of Guanajuato is known as one of the most exquisite cities in Mexico. It is famous for its historical buildings from the colonial times that contrast with the colorful South American buildings, creating unique beauty. The entire town is preserved as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. From the top of the hill you can enjoy a panoramic view of the town. From there the cable car led down to the city center where the group visited Teatro Juarez, strolled through the Callejon del Beso, a narrow alley with balconies on either side of the street practically touching, and visited the Mercado Hidalgo and Universidad de Guanajuato. There was free time until dinner to do different activities. Dinner started late, but ended just in time to return to the hotel by midnight.

### October 5th

After breakfast the group visited Valenciana San Ramon, a village with silver mines ruins. Guanajuato used to produce a lot of silver but a few mining tunnels are still in operation. Wearing helmets, the participants went down the mine and listened to the guide. Afterwards they visited the Museo de las Momias. Everyone learned how the soil conditions of Guanajuato and the dry climate dries out the body and mummifies the corpses when buried. More than a hundred mummies, from adults to babies, were displayed there. After a late lunch the participants enjoyed visiting churches and museums, meeting up later for dinner. Afterwards everyone joined an Estudiantina,



a band dressed in traditional clothes while roaming the streets playing romantic songs. In fact, everyone toured the town for a couple of hours singing. It was long, fun night exchanging and interacting with the band members.

### October 6th

After breakfast the group departed the hotel and arrived back to Mexico City in the evening after several stops along the way. Some extended their stay in Mexico City, some continued traveling and others left for home. Everyone lingered to say good bye, promising to meet someday,

## Comment by the President of IYEO

---

The SWYAA Global Assembly 2011 has successfully achieved the objectives as described below, thanks to the combination of enthusiasm for the Ship for World Youth Program and expectations for the Global Assembly (GA). Latin passion brought additional excitement to the GA 2011.

### **To bring Ex-Participating Youth (Ex-PYs) from different participating years together to exchange information and strengthen the alumni networks all over the world**

Among the participants, there were many who met for the first time, that are from different participating years and from a variety of countries. Since they are all members of the SWY family and thus share the same ambition and direction, everyone could open up in a short time to take part in activities together. I find the attraction of the GA lies right there.

### **To report how ex-PYs are utilizing their experiences and learnings from the Program in their respective societies after disembarkation**

This time, the following examples of activities were presented among others: 1) Human resource development program officially recognized by the United States Association of Mexico (AMNU), 2) Project to support elementary schools in Kenya, 3) Social contribution activity in Bahrain, 4) Bus for World Youth program in Peru, 5) Establishment of the Soran club in Ecuador, 6) Project started in Australia to build a library in Fiji, 7) Chantal Paydar Foundation, 8) Relief activities for the Great East Japan Earthquake. I strongly felt that the fact such wonderful ideas are realized and being put into action with keywords such as cross cultural understanding, social contribution and peace is precisely the accomplishment of the Ship for

somewhere in the world. Clearly, the optional tour ended successfully.

Thanks to the dedicated support and acceptance from the Mexican government and the former participating youth, this year's GA and optional tour was done with great success. All participants were able to create a once-in-a-lifetime memory. GA is a good opportunity to embrace friendship fostered through SWY and acknowledge the importance of post program activities. Everyone could actually feel the "SWY Spirit" spreading globally.

Tomoko Okawara

World Youth Program.

### **To realize what has been discussed at the Ex-PY Conference**

Many opinions were exchanged on topics including the construction of a website to share experiences, connecting schools in different countries, organizing synchronized events in different parts of the world on the International SWY Day (Jan. 18), integrating the websites of Alumni Associations, standardizing the logo, usage of social media, and holding assemblies on regional basis. I hope Ex-PYs will continuously put effort toward the realization of each of them.

### **To understand the culture and people of the hosting nation**

I was able to take in the heart-warming Mexican hospitality of remarkably cheerful local ex-PYs and of people of the country through my skin. The lectures presented by Ambassador Xilotl of the Secretariat of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, Ambassador Calvo, the advisor of the Secretariat of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, and Congressman Porfirio Muñoz Ledo, who has served multiple key positions such as the chairman of Mexico's Lower house of Congress, were helpful in understanding the country.

For cultural understanding, we could learn the history and culture of South America from diverse perspectives by visiting three World Heritage sites: Historic center of Mexico City, Pre-Hispanic City of Teotihuacan, and Xochimilco, as well as by watching Lucha Libre (Mexican professional wrestling) and listening to Mariachi (traditional music played by bands).

For the optional tour, we have visited the ancient capital Guanajuato for four days and three nights. There were many scenes which further reinforced the purpose of

the GA; it was a very enjoyable and fruitful time where friendships and mutual understanding were even more deepened.

I would like to express my gratitude to Mr. Kento Watanabe, the chairman of the Executive Committee,

Mr. Alberto Negrete, the president of the Alumni Association of Mexico, and all who were involved in organizing the GA 2011. VIVA Mexico!!!

Let's carry our passion to next year's GA in Bahrain!

## Comment by the SWYAA Mexico President

Alberto Negrete

It was a pleasure for all of us being able to receive all our friends from so many different parts of this world. It was an honor being able to have a special trust from our Japanese friends to receive them in our home.

Our country is now going through a very difficult situation, being able to share part of our culture and show our guests the wonderful treasures that we have has been a most wonderful opportunity that brings hope and strength for these times of change.

For some strange reason we all felt a wonderful communion with all the people that was able to share this experience. Even if we came from different batches we got very close one another, and the beautiful energy of friendship had surrounded each and every day of this journey. With no doubt I feel that a seed for peace has been placed inside of us.

Like the Ship for World Youth program many good things came back to us, as we were able to live again those memories and we were also capable of viewing our reality from a more mature point of view, or at least from a different perspective. It is a great effort for keeping the fire burning for new projects to emerge.

We are extremely thankful for being able to have this opportunity, like every invitation that we have received in

the past from the generosity of the Japanese Government. I hope we were able to give back part of what we have been able to breed in our existence thanks to this visionary Program. The Global Assembly is with no doubt the best way to continue with that big endeavor to organize the ideals of future dreams for the new generations of this world. As always please receive our most sincere and profound thankfulness for every minute that keeps on bringing good memories in our hearts and souls.

I want to thank specially Mrs. Tomoko Okawara and Tamae Saito from IYEO for trusting us in organizing this event, also to the Cabinet Office represented by Mr. Masateru Yoshida for being all such special guests for us. I also want to express my recognition to all the members of SWYAA Mexico, the wonderful people that helped and gave us support or their precious time in organizing this event. Thanks to Jesus Jimenez from the local government of Mexico City for their big hand. To all our guests I hope we can let them know that we are missing them deeply, hoping to see them again soon. Finally a special appreciation to Mr. Kento Watanabe for having this wonderful idea and making it a reality of bringing the "Ship Spirit" back to Mexico, as I bet that we were all very touched deep inside for being able to live this experience.

## Comment by the GA Organizing Committee Leader

Kento Watanabe

It gives me great pleasure to present the official report of the Organizing Committee for the 5th Global Assembly, hosted by the International Youth Exchange Organization of Japan (IYEO) and the Mexican Ship for World Youth Alumni Association (SWYAA Mexico). This report should not only serve as a memoir of this wonderful experience, but also as a primary source of information to any SWYAA and members seeking to organize a Global Assembly in the near future.

Organizing the 5th Global Assembly has been a true privilege for everyone involved. It gave us the opportunity

to rekindle our "SWY Spirit," reconnect with companions and meet with other ex-PYs who share similar goals and passions, and in a small way provide a small token of appreciation to everyone who has made SWY possible. It is true that for many of us, SWY has shaped our lives, helped forge our destination and touched our hearts in more ways that we could have imagined.

During the GA, the organizing committee had as a principal objective to foster discussion on the "Challenges ex-PYs face to develop their ideas and social contributions once they disembark." To this end, several ex-PYs shared

successful social projects that have sprung after SWY. All participants were deeply moved by the strength many of these projects achieved and the multiplier effect and benefits these projects create in the communities where they operate. In addition, GA participants shared ideas on different actions all ex-PYs can implement to overcome the challenges ex-PYs face upon disembarkation.

For many of us, it was clear that the SWY does not end once we stepped down from Fuji Maru or Nippon Maru, that step only represents the beginning of SWY. A journey that lasts a lifetime, a force that drives action that comes from within the spirit, the SWY spirit.

I would like to take this opportunity, to extend my deepest gratitude to all those who made the 5th GA possible.

- To the Japanese Government, through the Cabinet Office and the Japanese Embassy in Mexico for joining us and demonstrating their commitment to the SWY program and its post-program activities. I can never repeat how grateful I am with Japan for organizing the Ship for World Youth program.
- To the IYEO and its entire staff who trusted us with the organization of the GA; for all the support and

patience we received during months of hard work.

- The Mexican Government at its different levels for their support in so many different ways.
- A very warm and special “Muchísimas Gracias” to all SWYAA Mexico members and other amazing individuals who dedicated their free time, energy and minds into the organization of the GA. Success would have not been possible without everyone’s contribution.
- Finally, this GA would have not been possible without all the ex-PYs who decided to join us in Mexico. Thank you for trusting us and visiting us, we hope to host you again in the near future. Remember that *Mi casa es su casa*.

Having the opportunity to host the GA has been an incredible journey. It has reaffirmed my conviction that SWY creates and everlasting bond, one that cannot be broken and that lives beyond batch numbers, cultures and nationalities. I encourage all ex-PYs to participate in a Global Assembly at least once in their lifetimes. Please enjoy this report and see you in Bahrain 2012!

Once again, Muchas gracias!