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7th SWYAA Global Assembly in Peru

August 30 - September 2, 2013 (Official Program)
September 3 - 5, 2013, (Optional Tour)



7th SWYAA Global Assembly

Purpose of the SWYAA Global Assembly

- a) To provide an opportunity for the former participating youth of the SWY program (hereafter 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 7th SWYAA Global Assembly – 18th International Reunion
- Dates: Official Program: August 30 to September 2, 2013
Optional Tour: September 3 to September 5, 2013
- Venue: Republic of Peru
- Hosting organizations: International Youth Exchange Organization of Japan (IYEO)
SWYAA Peru
- Main event: Conference for Post-Program Activities
- Participation fee: Official Program: US\$600 (Early registration: US\$450)
Optional Tour: US\$878 (Early registration: US\$750)
- Participants: 108 participants from 18 countries

The 7th Global Assembly (GA) of the Ship for World Youth Alumni Association (SWYAA) was held from August 30 to September 2, 2013. From September 3 to September 5, an optional tour to experience Peruvian culture was held.

In organizing for the GA, the GA Organizing Committee was formed by SWYAA Peru. According to the task set by SWYAA Peru GA Organizing Committee, they were divided into some working groups and prepared the detailed schedule including the selection and coordination of the places to be visited in various activities. The list of work groups are as follows:

- Conference for Post-Program Activities
- Transportation
- Food
- Optional tour
- Registration

Activity Schedule

Date	Time	Activity
Official Program		
Thur., August 29	All day	Arrival of the participants
Fri., August 30	8:00 - 9:00	<Breakfast>
	9:45 - 11:00	Ice breaking session
	11:30 - 12:30	Orientation
	12:30 - 14:00	<Lunch>
	14:00 - 17:00	Conference for Post-Program Activities
	19:30 - 23:00	Welcome reception dinner
Sat., August 31	7:00 - 8:00	<Breakfast>
	8:30 - 12:00	Social contribution activity (3 courses)
	13:00 - 14:30	<Lunch>
	14:30 - 17:30	Lima city tour of historical area of downtown
	20:00	Lima city tour of modern Miraflores and free night
Sun., September 1	7:00 - 8:00	<Breakfast>
	10:00 - 12:00	Pachacamac Ruins tour
	12:30 - 14:30	<Lunch>
	14:30 - 19:00	Visit Quebrada Verde community and interaction activities with local youth
		Free night
Mon., September 2	7:00 - 8:00	<Breakfast>
	8:30 - 12:30	Institutional visit (4 courses)
	13:30 - 15:00	Farewell lunch and closing ceremony
Optional Tour		
Tue., September 3	6:50 - 8:15	Flight to Cuzco for optional tour
	12:30 - 14:00	<Lunch>
	14:00 - 19:30	Cuzco city tour and Coricancha Temple Visit to ruins: Sacsayhuaman, Kenko, Puca Pucara, and Tambomachay
	20:00	Folklore dinner show and free night
Wed., September 4	5:00 - 6:00	<Breakfast>
	6:30 - 11:00	Transfer to Machu Picchu
	11:00 - 14:30	Machu Picchu tour
	14:30 - 16:30	<Lunch>
	20:30	Transfer to the hotel
	21:00	<Dinner>
Thur., September 5	5:00 - 6:00	<Breakfast>
	8:45 - 10:00	Flight to Lima
		Leave for home

Friday, August 30 Official Program

On the first day of the 7th SWYAA Global Assembly (GA), a total of 108 participants gathered in Lima, the capital of Peru. The group moved to a large park in the city called the Park of the Exposition for the first official program activity: ice breaking. The participants were divided into five groups and took part in an activity named SWY-Quest, in which teams competed to complete all instructions written on a piece of paper as quickly as possible. Ex-PYs worked together to search for answers in the park based on the hints and took pictures in poses as instructed in the paper. The well-thought activities helped ex-PYs who met for the first time to communicate smoothly and pleasantly. Participants kept their smiles all through the activities.



After ice breaking, the GA Committee members were introduced to ex-PYs in the Orientation Session at the Peruvian Japanese Cultural Center; the details of the schedule and basic guidelines were also informed. Japanese lunch boxes were provided for lunch, after which some participants visited the Museum of Japanese Immigration to Peru and the Japanese garden. It was an opportunity for many participants to feel the essence of Japan for the first time in a while. In addition, participants learned how the Japanese culture was introduced overseas.

At the Opening Ceremony in the afternoon, ex-PYs listened to speeches by Mr. Jaime Sotomayor, President of SWYAA Peru, and Ms. Tomoko Okawara, President of IYEO, as well as the explanations on the continuation of the SWY program provided by Ms. Saeko Obu, Principal Deputy Director at the Cabinet Office. The Conference for Post-Program Activities then followed. At the beginning of the conference, six ex-PYs made presentations on the post-program activities they were conducting. The content of the presentations were as follows:

1. SWY KIVA Project

Presenter: Emma Wooldridge (SWY15, Australia)

SWY Australia has implemented activities for

microfinance through crowdfunding (financial investment to offer microcredit for the poor via the Internet). So far, 737 loans have been offered with a total amount of over A\$22,000. SWY Australia mainly supports ex-participating countries of the SWY program, but the project covers the whole world.

(Refer to SWY Australia activity report on p.62)



2. Cheremeie Project

Presenter: Sayaka Watanabe (SWY24, Japan)

The Cheremeie project offers foster parents matching, educational support for the children, and fair trade products of indigenous Bangladesh people who were deprived of their land by settlers. When matching foster parents, current situation of children in Bangladesh is informed and the connection between the community and the world is emphasized to foster communication. Hand-woven fabrics are sold in fair trade, not only to promote and make profit by selling them on the website, but also to create an opportunity for people in Bangladesh to connect with the world.



3. Youth Exchange Program – Island Leaders at Heart

Presenter: Ramon Narayan (SWY16 • 24, New Zealand)

Polynesian youth, who are ethnic minority in New Zealand, often feel isolated and/or lonely to lead many of them to lose confidence. SWYAA New Zealand in cooperation with SWYAA Tonga implements the project aiming to increase confidence of Polynesian youth by providing oppor-



tunities for interaction and joint activities with local New Zealand youth. The bond between different identities is deepened through various activities such as BBQ, watching movies and dancing.

4. Learn Live Love Project

Presenters: Alexandra Gutiérrez and Paul Hoyle (SWY24, Peru)

Learn Live Love is a volunteer project implemented jointly by ex-PYs from several countries of Latin America and Europe. Its aim is to eliminate poverty and social isolation by providing support for education, employment and volunteering. SWYAA Peru has organized a tour to promote the significance of volunteerism in Lima. Ex-PYs advocates the meaning and importance of getting involved through volunteer activities not only in local communities but also in the world, and has implemented multiple projects such as interaction events with local students through dancing, as well as cleaning activities.



5. Project Lomas

Presenter: Diego Padilla (SWY21, Peru)

The Project Lomas aims to protect the ecosystem specific to a local area called Lomas, located in the outskirts of Lima. The project promotes respect for nature and environment and fosters understanding on the significance of their relationship with society. Participants implement activities to raise the awareness of the entire community, not only through scientific and technical research but



also with various school and community projects with youth living in Lomas area. The presenter had started the activities after being inspired by participating in the SWY program.

6. GOEN Maracaibo

Presenters: Stephanie Chacin and Carlos Diaz (SWY24, Venezuela)

This project focuses on activities to create a cultural bridge between Maracaibo city, Venezuela and Japan. Exchanges are deepened mainly through having language study tours, playing traditional Japanese games of Shogi and Hanafuda to share the amusement, and dancing the Soran Dance together with local people. In addition to the cultural interactions, over 700 people were exposed to Japanese culture through lunch parties, charitable initiatives, and activities including supporting local children.



Besides these six projects, participants presented several other projects by using posters. Various kinds of post-program activities were presented, in which remarks were often made on the difficulty of continuing them even with strong passion, and the importance of getting many people involved. All projects, though they were all community-based, emphasized the bond and connection between local communities and the world. This can be described as the characteristics of SWY's post-program activities; the spirit of SWY seemed to be reflected as such commonality. After the presentations, participants further deepened their understanding of post-program activities in a Q&A session which took the form of a panel discussion. Many participants actively offered their cooperation for the activities subsequently to the panel discussion.

During the latter half of the Conference for Post-Program Activities, the new charter for the SWYAA International was explained, followed by the report of SWY25 as to its port of call activities in Japan as well as the activities of the Japanese Mission Abroad. The Conference was concluded with the shooting of a group picture.



After the Conference, participants went back to the hotel and later headed to La Rosa Nautica Restaurante on the sea: the venue for the welcome reception. Speeches were made by Mr. Jaime Sotomayor, President of SWYAA Peru, and Ms. Tomoko Okawara, President of IYEO. The message from H.E. Ms. Eda Rivas, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Government of Peru, was read by H.E. Ambassador Maria Cecilia Rozas on behalf of the Ministry. To represent Japan, the message from H.E. Ms. Masako Mori, Minister of State for Youth Affairs, was read by Principal Deputy Director Saeko Obu of the Cabinet Office. H.E. Mr. Masahiro Fukukawa, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary from Japan to the Republic of Peru, then delivered his speech to conclude the series of addresses. After a gift exchange and toast, all participants enjoyed excellent Peruvian meal along with performances. Traditional Okinawa performing arts Eisa, and traditional Peruvian dances were presented by local youth, of which many were Japanese-Peruvians. Eventually, other GA participants also joined the dances as they proceeded. All participants immersed themselves in Latin music by going out to the dance floor, whether they were good at dancing or not, and embodied their pleasure and thrill of participating in the GA. A participant received a comment from a local restaurant staff: “It is a new and strange feeling for me to see many young people of different races and nationalities having fun and dancing together, but it’s absolutely wonderful.” The first day of the GA ended with a memorable evening.



Saturday, August 31 Official Program

After breakfast, participants assembled at the hotel lobby and seemed quite comfortable with each other after the welcome reception the previous night. According to the destination of their choice, participants embarked buses to the venues for social contribution activities.

Social Contribution Activity 1: Aprendo Contigo

This group visited the National Institute of Children’s Health, where an organization called Aprendo Contigo (English translation: Learning with you) was implementing their activities. The organization offers a program of playing and learning for children who are hospitalized and unable to go to school. When children are out of school for a long time, it becomes hard for them to catch up with school work, which can lead to truancy. The program which started in 2000 with 10 volunteers now supports more than 500 children in 3 activity bases with more than 240 volunteers. What is unique is that the organization does not receive any subsidy from the government and rely on volunteers and donation from general public to deploy their activities. More than 50,000 children have benefited from the program thus far. There is a positive result on another side as well; students who had been involved as volunteers began to take interest in social activities and welfare.

Participants spent a meaningful time interacting with children according to children’s conditions and ages, by using pictures they had prepared to introduce their native countries, playing with toys and origami, dancing and singing, and teaching greetings in each other’s languages. (Sayaka Watanabe, SWY 24)

Social Contribution Activity 2: Lulay

At the facility where 800 children aged 0 to 19 live together, participants interacted with a part of the children in the spacious yard by playing games such as ball-carrying, and danced the Awa Dance as well as the Soran Dance. It was impressive to meet children welcoming participants by kissing and hugging from the moment they got off the bus. Although there was no common language, it was evident that the children had been looking forward to the visit and accepted the group wholeheartedly. Lulay (means “to construct” in Quechua), the organization active at the facility, is a non-profit organization consisting just shy of 20 university students. Lulay started as a volunteer circle,

which its Director General Jose founded when he was in high school. As a measure to support people in poverty, Lulay members visit the facility once or twice a month to change the mindset of youth by conducting activities and workshops to develop children's self-respect. We would like to thank Lulay for accepting our visit, and for their initiative to foster youth to construct the future in which poverty will be overcome and people will be able to have hope. Participants became willing to support the organization's further development in the future. (Risa Harazono, SWY 24)

Social Contribution Activity 3: Proyecto Lomas

The group visited the ruins of Huaca Fortaleza de Campoy where the Ichma culture had prospered from 1000 to 1470 before being taken over by the Incas, who ruled the place from 1470 to 1532. The ruins are of archeological significance and have been registered as a national cultural heritage in 1998, but are not well preserved. With the assistance of Proyecto Lomas, an organization which promotes conservation of Peru's nature and history and of which ex-PY Diego is an active member, participants picked up trash around the site and painted stones on the paths. Trash was scattered around the ruins as there were private houses around them, and there were neither guards overlooking the place nor public bins. Trash was dominated by housewares such as plastic goods. By hearing that the situation had been even worse in the past, participants learned that the conservation effort was progressing though in slow pace. Participants painted stones on the either side of the paths white so that they would stand out. This was meant to keep people away from entering the ruins; unfortunately there were many graffiti on them. Participants learned that in order to preserve a historic site, both systematic conservation and awareness-raising efforts were necessary, as it is the case in Japan. The fact that young people such as university students were playing an active role in conserving the culture and history of Peru inspired participants. (Kenji Tsukada, SWY 21)



After the institutional visits, participants went to a restaurant in the historic center of Lima. Peruvian cuisine was savored in a historic atmosphere with Huaca: ruins from the time of the Incas. Participants eagerly exchanged their feedbacks and comments on their institutional visits, while also commenting on Peruvian food. Afterwards, the group walked to the Plaza de Armas de Lima in the historic center to take a commemorative picture with all members. The area is very busy with tourists and locals alike, as there are important buildings such as churches, museums, and the Presidential Palace. Guided by ex-PYs from Peru, participants toured around the historic center in three groups: "Church group" "History group" and "Pisco group."

Participants went back to the hotel to take some rest after the tour in the historic center, and then proceeded to enjoy a walking tour and free time in the evening in the Miraflores area on the coast, which had a completely different atmosphere than in the historic center.

The capital city of Lima is a metropolis which is home to ancient buildings of the colonial time to modern streetscapes. A little further away from the city, there was a community where poorer people reside. Each area had a distinctive character to give an impression that areas where local people lived were divided by the income level. Participants were able to learn about social issues of the country while sensing the rapid growth of the Peruvian economy. Since all had gathered for the purpose of social contribution, it was a day which made participants to think of what they could do.

Sunday, September 1 Official Program

Participants visited the ruins of Pachacamac, located south of the capital city Lima, to witness historic buildings such as temples and pyramids. Only 3 buildings remain today, but it is being said that around 20 pyramids existed in its most prosperous time. In the ruin, there were remains of streets heading towards north, south, east and west; the place was said to be the strategic point to connect surrounding countries such as Colombia and Chile. Participants could feel the civilizations of Lima and Inca first-handedly, which flourished before the arrival of Spaniards.

For lunch, Peruvian meal was served while traditional dances of the country were performed. The dances were truly diverse and fun to watch; one had ladies clad in colorful costumes and another had its uniqueness in the interaction between women and men. Peru can be divided into three main regions: the Coastal region, the Highlands,

and the Jungle, which is the reason for Peru's diverse cultures as they developed individually in each region. The cultural diversity was well demonstrated during the lunch time.

In the afternoon, participants visited the village of "Quebrada Verde" in the highlands of the Pachacamac area to plant trees, and then interacted with young people in the community in an outdoor obstacle race and other activities. It was a very meaningful occasion, as exchanges were made not only among ex-PYs of the SWY program but also with local people. At the end of the event, young trees were given to the participants of the GA as commemorative gifts by Jonathan, on behalf of the local youth. Jonathan said: "I hope the young trees will grow just like our friendship." The comment struck hearts of many. In exchange, a stereo set was donated to the community from the GA participants. The day was full of valuable experiences to be exposed to the history and culture of Peru, and at the same time was the opportunity for participants to deepen interaction with local residents.



Monday, September 2 Official Program

Participants picked the theme according to their interest from the following courses: Pisco, Peruvian Cuisine, Peruvian Music, and Traditional Crafts, to have cultural experience.

Institutional Visit 1:

Gastronomy – Kampai with Pisco!

The group visited "Fundo San Lorenzo", a company which produces typical liquor of Peru, Pisco. Participants received explanations from its CEO as to the history of the beverage and how to create Pisco Sour, a typical cocktail using Pisco. Pisco is an almost transparent beverage which contains about 42% of alcohol, made by distilling grapes. It tastes mild when one first swallows the liquor, however a burning sensation follows which is similar to when drinking vodka. There are several theories as to the origin of its name, with the most supported one pointing out the similarity

between the shape of the bottle which contained the beverage and the bird called Pisco, which was believed to be the messenger of gods. The company was not big, seeming to be one of the small to medium enterprises in town, yet had a great atmosphere owing to its history of more than 80 years. A professional bartender who works at a local bar was invited and made Pisco Sour by mixing Pisco, egg white, lemon juice, syrup, and crushed ice in a cocktail shaker for about 30 seconds. Similarly to Japan, small local companies with history are supporting the production of traditional liquor; this fact demonstrated an international tendency.

(Ryosuke Tanji, SWY22)



Institutional Visit 2:

Gastronomy – Wanna Cook Peruvian food?

Participants of "Peruvian Cuisine" course visited first a historical market in Lima called Jesus Maria District's Market. Thanks to the guiding provided by the GA Committee members from Peru, participants could observe the non-touristy market which sells food items of daily necessity. It was surprising to witness numbers of unfamiliar fruits, and the rich collection of items where more than 200 sorts were available in potatoes alone. Participants had an opportunity to ask questions to venders via the Committee members, as well as to buy and eat food products. The fruits sold there were very cheap; local residents were seen shopping and eating in the market. The Committee members, who are natives of the country, all had a wide and thorough knowledge on their own culture. This could be observed all through the GA. It was an interesting fact, which possibly could be the result of having a well-established notion to cherish and pass on local culture in family environment, school education, and development in the community.

Leaving the market on a bus, participants proceeded to experience the cooking of traditional dishes. The careful explanation provided by the chef was translated

into English by the Committee members. Many questions were raised from the participants here as well, of which most were on the food materials used. The following three typical Peruvian dishes were taught:

Causa: an appetizer made with chicken and yellow potatoes called Papa Amarilla

Classical Ceviche: marinated seafood

Lomo Saltado: Peruvian-style stir-fried vegetables and meat with plenty of herbs

As it was found out as they tried the food, the dishes were fresh in taste thanks to the abundant use of lemons (which looked similar to limes) whilst the tastes of the ingredients were enhanced by herbs and spices. The dishes were received well by participants from all countries. Through the visit, participants learned the richness of food materials in Peru and the wide variety of food arrangement. It was also informative, as the visit showed that many fruits and vegetables had their origins in Peru. (Michiko Lawrence, SWY12)



Institutional Visit 3:

Music – Let’s go dance and play Cajon!

The traditional music instruments called Cajon were lined up when participants entered the room, with ethnic costumes laid on tables in the adjacent room. After the explanation on the traditional dances of Peru was provided, participants were divided into two groups for a lecture and lesson of traditional dance, and traditional music instrument, respectively.

<Traditional Dance>

Peru is vast; each place has its own dance, music, and costume. There are diverse dance steps, of which some were taught to participants. In the trial fitting of costumes, participants picked the costume of their choice and took pictures. Appreciations were made for the fact that traditional dances and costumes were inherited in an intact manner, allowing participants to witness and experience them.

<Traditional Musical Instrument>

Cajon with its square, carton-like shape looks like a box, but is a percussion instrument. It makes a resonating sound when a person sits on it and hit the front surface. Similarly to Japanese drums, different tones can be made depending on the place where it is hit, and it is similar to a violin in the way that there is a hole in the back. By actually playing, participants could feel the unique rhythm even in simple tones. Bahraini participants told everyone of the similarities and dissimilarities between the Peruvian and Bahraini rhythms. A happy atmosphere formed as people enjoyed talking about traditional music of their own countries and practicing the instrument. There were so many different ways to create rhythms; the music played by Peruvian ex-PY instructor allured participants to the world of music with just one Cajon. Many participants who took fancy of Cajon purchased the ones they had practiced with and brought back to their native countries. The size of their luggage increased very much, but the precious memory created was more than compensating. We would like to thank ex-PYs of Peru for organizing such a wonderful program. Arigato! (Namie Ikejiri, SWY12)



Institutional Visit 4: Craftsmanship – Make and take your own piece of art!

A pottery workshop called “Arte Wari Peru” was visited, where participants first heard its history from its President Mr. Castro. Since his childhood, Mr. Castro liked to create things with clay, and being raised in the central area where the Wari culture had prospered more than 300 years ago, he used to recreate pieces with motives and patterns that were typical of Wari. As an adult, Mr. Castro started to provide a place for young people to learn skills of traditional craftwork, and later founded a workshop/office in Lima so that apprentices could make their living after becoming independent. Mr. Castro said that he took pride in having local youth grow up in this workshop to gain their independence;

the comment touched participants' emotions. The pieces created in the workshops are distributed to markets inside the city as well as to souvenir shops all over the country; with the cooperation of the tourist bureau of Peru, the workshop also puts efforts in maintaining and inheriting the traditional Peruvian culture and exports the creations to promote the culture outside the country. After the explanation, participants had a tour inside the workshop which was divided by the work process: forming, painting, kiln, drying room, and shop, to witness young people devotedly engaged in meticulous handwork. In the trial session, participants painted unglazed pieces as one wished; the painted pieces could be brought home as souvenirs. Participants bought products in the shop, and then moved to the Inca Market in the city to continue their shopping of traditional Peruvian craftwork.

(Kahori Shoji, SWY14)



After participants had cultural experiences in institutional visits, the closing ceremony was held at a restaurant run by Mr. Guillermo Aliaga, an ex-PY from Peru.

The ceremony started with a performance by ex-PYs, followed by speeches delivered by Mr. Jaime Sotomayor, President of SWYAA Peru, and Ms. Tomoko Okawara, President of IYEO. After gifts were presented by IYEO to the GA Committee, the certificate of participation was given to all participants by SWYAA Peru. The official program came to close as the closing ceremony was concluded with the announcement that the GA of the upcoming year would be held in Turkey.

Tuesday, September 3 Optional Tour

Participants of the optional tour departed the hotel around 4 a.m. to take a flight of approximately one hour from the Lima airport, and arrived at the Cusco airport. From the airplane, the mountains of Andes had started to

appear to raise expectations.

Cusco was started to be built between the 11th and the 12th centuries as the capital of the Inca Empire; its name means “navel” in Quechua. The city is located 3,660 meters above sea level, which is similar to having a city on top of Mt. Fuji. As it is not seldom that people fall ill to altitude sickness in the city, many participants had started to take medication to prevent the illness in the previous night. People in Cusco drink Coca tea and it is a simple tea where hot water is poured into a cup with 5-6 leaves of Coca, but is said to be effective to prevent altitude sickness. At the lobby, there was a big oxygen tank in case people suffered from lack of oxygen. Since the assembly in the morning had been early, it was told that lying down to rest was crucial, so participants had a break of about two hours before meeting again at 12 o'clock.

The afternoon was spent sightseeing Cuzco, which was the center of politics, economy, and culture of the Inca Civilization. The Incans had a technology to form robust stonework. Spanish colonial architecture was built on top of the Incan work in the Spanish rule, the unique atmosphere created by the two cultures made the city an attractive one.

After having lunch at a restaurant called “El Truco” in the center of the city, the Church of Santo Domingo, or Coricancha, was visited. Its stone foundation is from the Incan period; the building is said to have been shining as the temple for the sun, as people referred it to as “palace.” Participants continued to explore the footsteps of Incas to visit the beautiful, sacred valley of Urubamba. The tour continued to Sacsayhuaman, the ruins of a fortress where 20,000 Incans fought against Spaniards, and then to the Incan ceremony center of Kenko, and to the ruins of “Puca Pucara”, built on the red soil on the heights with a great view, and finally to the Incan bath of Tambomachay, which had been called as the sacred fountain.

Traditional Peruvian cuisine was enjoyed for dinner at “Don Antonio” restaurant while watching an entertaining folklore show with music and dances.

Wednesday, September 4 Optional Tour

Assembling at 6:30 a.m., participants took a bus for about 30 minutes to Poroy station, from which they traveled by train for around 3 hours to Aguas Calientes Station in the village of Machu Picchu. The train by the name of “Vistadome,” running through a magnificent view along the Huarcocondo River surrounded by mountains, had a sunroof through which beautiful views of the Andes Mountains with snow on top could be appreciated. Shortly

after passing Ollantaytambo, the train began to run along the Urubamba River. The views were very picturesque all around.

From the station, the travel continued for about 30 minutes on a shuttle bus on the winding uphill road called Hiram Bingham Highway to the much looked-forward ruins of Machu Picchu. First, lunch was taken at the Sanctuary Lodge right before the ruins. Some participants were wearing many layers of clothes, as it was told that the temperature could drop near 0°C in cold weather, but fortunately it was quite warm as the sun was shining.

At 1:30 p.m., the group headed to Machu Picchu, which had been so longed by everyone. The participants, who gathered from all over the world, shared the sensation of having the view of the City in the Sky right before the eyes, which they had seen so frequently in pictures.



Machu Picchu is tucked in between Machu Picchu Mountain and Huaina Picchu Mountain, which mean “old peak” and “young peak” in the Quechuan language. Although the techniques of stonework were much

advanced in the Inca civilization, their economic base was agriculture. Since there are three different climate zones in Andes: Costa, Sierra and Selva, the three unique zones used to mutually depend on each other. In the Andean world, wealth was measured by how equally resources were distributed, and how energy was used efficiently. It is being said that there was a structure to protect the socially weak ones as the entire society, as well as a calculated production system and established social security measures, which constituted an ideal utopia without any hunger or poverty. The civilization had succeeded in creating an ideal system during the 13-14 centuries; something that is impossible to create even in much advanced today’s world. What had been their reasons for building the city in the sky, high above in fierce mountains? For the civilization did not possess any written language, imaginations about the mysterious history of Andes keep expanding. It was hard to believe that the world heritage of Machu Picchu was right in front. As if to prove that it was not a dream, participants took countless pictures. Still in excitement, the group traveled back to the hotel in Cuzco by bus and train. The last dinner was served in buffet-style at Samay Hotel. Participants immensely enjoyed the night with Latin music and dance.

Thursday, September 5 Optional Tour

The participants assembled at 6:30 a.m. to return from Cusco to the Lima airport, at which the optional tour was adjourned.

Comment by the President of IYEO

I feel much honored that the 7th Global Assembly (GA) of SWYAA took place in Peru in the year which marks the 140th anniversary of the establishment of the diplomatic relationship between Peru and Japan.

In the Conference for Post-Program Activities held on the first day, it was presented that many former participating youths (ex-PYs) were implementing unique activities all over the world to be involved in various social contribution activities in diverse fields and targets, utilizing their learnings from the Ship for World Youth program. The Ship for World Youth is an outstanding program which develops individuals dramatically in a short period of time. I firmly believe that the well-matured ex-PYs, demonstrating their leadership to conduct activities to make more people happy, are the best achievements of the program. The presentations covered only a part

Tomoko Okawara

of their activities, but I am sure that they have inspired many participants and provided opportunities for them to conceive new ideas and projects.

At the welcome reception, we were honored by the presence of H.E. Mr. Masahiro Fukukawa, the Ambassador of Japan to Peru, Mr. Akira Yamashiro, President of the Peru-Japan Association, as well as H.E. Ambassador Maria Cecilia Rozas from the Government of Peru. The daughter of Ms. Rozas is an ex-PY of the SWY program, and acted as the M.C. for the night. Through her daughter, Ms. Rosaz had a thorough knowledge of the SWY program and highly praised the program for connecting youth of the world, and for representing peace. At the venue, there was a performance of Okinawan Drums as a part of the entertainment. I found myself close to tears to witness Japanese traditional culture being inherited by Japanese-

Peruvian people as well as others from Peru on the other side of the globe. A variety of efforts were put to enrich our understanding of Peru through volunteer activities, institutional visits, cooking, dance, art, and interaction with local people throughout the GA; the participants were able to have a valuable time that no sight-seeing tour could ever offer. There were ample opportunities to share information on the post-program activities among participants through encountering old and new friends, as well as to exchange opinions as to what they could do in the future. I felt the

bonds becoming tighter as enjoyable time was shared, which included serious discussions at times. The Global Assembly was completed in great success by fulfilling its purpose of deepening mutual understanding, expanding the network of the SWY program, and reconfirming the importance of social contribution. The success owes to the cooperation of the Government of Peru, and the devoted hospitality and competence of the GA Committee members led by its president, Mr. Jaime Sotomayor. I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude.

Comment by the President of SWYAA Peru

Jaime Sotomayor

I remember back in January 2012, when I had the amazing opportunity to be part of the Peruvian delegation for SWY24 that the ex-PYs on board talked about this incredible post-program activity called Global Assembly (GA). Getting to know a new country, meeting new ex-PYs and discussing about post-program activities people could do together really sounded like something I wanted to be part of. Back home after the program, we joined efforts with other alumni members to make our dream come true and host the 7th SWYAA GA in Peru.

We knew that organizing a GA wasn't a piece of cake. We heard about the planning and activities from previous GAs and it was clear to us that plenty of hard work was going to be needed to reach the same heights.

SWYAA Peru's first step was to gather a team of volunteer members that wanted to become the GA TEAM. Each member was handed out a unique responsibility in the GA organization. For example, transportation, food, optional tour, registration and more. Frequent meetings were held to assure that all the planning done by each one of us was in accordance with the whole. Each day that passed we knew how big this was becoming.

One very important member of this GA TEAM was the IYEO. We were in constant communication and coordination with them. Just like Ms. Tamae Saito, IYEO secretariat, told me the last day of the GA, "I will miss our daily mail exchange," I'm still having a hard time getting used to not seeing IYEO emails when I wake up.

When we started doing the initial planning, way before the GA was announced, time seemed to be so abundant. Naive we were at not taking the most out of this time, because as days got closer to the GA, the more you realize that you need to get more things done. During the previous two weeks of the GA, the GA TEAM was meeting so frequent that we didn't want to see each other in social

events, enough with the GA planning. Of course, this in a good sense, we had a good time at the GA meetings.

Finally the day had come, ex-PYs were arriving and all the preparations had to be executed. The GA TEAM knew what we had to do and we did as planned. Transportations were being sent to the airport, GA TEAM members were receiving them at the airport, back in the hotel we helped out with the check-in and so on. For the following days, we were implementing what months before were only in ideas. It was a really hard work indeed.

Now, after the GA is over, I realize that spending all this time with Peruvian ex-PYs during the planning and execution gave us the chance to bond, especially with those that we didn't have the opportunity before to do so. It felt like we were batch mates. This sort of events are great opportunities to strength the SWYAA organization. Because all the good and bad things that happened organizing the GA helped out to open up and become closer.

The GA left us plenty of lessons that we wish to pass on. The first being that it's best to get things done the sooner as possible. Decide, book and arrange as much as you can early in the planning so that you can start focusing on newer things that will eventually show up. It happens! Trust us. The size of the task doesn't really matter, you need to finish it as soon as possible to start new ones that need the previous one to be completed.

This brings us to another key aspect of the planning of the GA. When time is running out and the days for the GA start getting closer, the decision-making process switches from "everybody has to agree" to a "we need to make this decision now." Despite the necessity of this change in the process of decision-making, it's also important to take into consideration the opinion of all team members and to communicate the decisions wisely. Let's never forget we

are all in this together and we are doing it with pleasure. This is something that we had to learn the hard way.

In short, planning a GA is a great challenge but it also brought great satisfaction for the whole GA TEAM. We

made many mistakes during the process but we learned how to solve them and move along. The whole point of organizing this sort of events is to bring us all even closer together so that we can make big changes in our society.

Comment by the GA Peru Organizing Committee

Lucero Palomares

It has been a privilege for SWYAA Peru to host the 7th SWYAA GA in our country. When we found out that we were chosen to hold this event, we were so excited about the challenge of organizing something of this magnitude.

This new experience allowed me to meet members of our Alumni Association from different batches and backgrounds, share our personal and professional experiences, and work together in order to contribute in the organization and execution of the program.

Personally, I feel that the organization of this event was a very satisfying challenge since it was a great opportunity for us to show the situation of our country by participating in social contribution activities and interacting with local

people. It was also a good chance to reconnect with old friends and make many new from different batches all over the globe.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to our committee members who put a lot of effort and desire to make this experience successful. It has been a real pleasure working with a very capable team of people who were willing to give the best of them. Also, my deepest appreciation is extended to IYEO for its invaluable support and advice during the preparation period, as well as to all the ex-PYs who decided to participate in the global assembly. Hope to see you all in upcoming GAs.

