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Activity Reports of the Respective SWYAA in 2014



Activity Reports of the Respective SWYAA in 2014

SWYAA International countries have implemented many different types of activities in respective countries. On this report, we have focused on social contribution activities and introduced one of the prominent activities in their SWYAA official annual country report. For more information, please see: <http://www.swyaa.org/cr.html>

Full Members

Australia

■ SWY Australia Re-engagement Project

SWY Australia has worked hard in 2014 on the SWY Re-engagement Project to reconnect with ex-PYs and key organizations who have been involved with the SWY program. 45 ex-PYs were involved in the project (23 respondents to survey; 17 respondents to SWY profiles plus 5 separate contacts from ex-PYs showing their interest and support). This has been motivated both by participation in the Meeting of the Representatives in Japan in June and informal networks of communication between alumni members. This has included the following activities:

- Virtual meeting of SWY alumni (including overseas residents) as part of selection process for member to attend the Meeting of the Representatives in Japan etc.
- Surveying alumni for the Meeting of the Representatives in Japan in June, 2014.
- Interviewing and profiling ex-PYs
- Meeting with the key stakeholders for future SWY programs including the Japanese Embassy in Canberra, Australian members of Parliament, the staff from the Australian Government's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade including the Japan Foundation.



■ SWYAAB Gathering

SWYAAB organized the annual gathering and the 50 ex-PYs gathered in Manama on October 15. An invitation was sent to all SWYAAB members to attend the annual gathering of SWYAAB where announcements were made on updates regarding the structure of the board, calendar of activities for 2015, current projects in hand, and activities that occurred during 2014. As SWYAAB members always do, networking and meeting with members was evident where they shared their new experiences during the year and their progression in terms of their career and personal aspects. Dinner was also served and prizes were distributed to the members as a token of appreciation for their contribution and commitment to SWYAAB.



Brazil

■ Homestay + 1 Project in Brazil

Naiara Martins (GLDP) organized a visit to an educational facility in which students from the low-income community of Paranoa receive additional education program (Homestay+1) from her and some colleagues. The college students, led by her, started preparing the children a month before the scheduled date for the school visit. They conducted an immersion work, teaching the kids about Japanese culture and geography. The children decided they wanted to prepare a presentation so that the visitors could also learn a little bit of Brazilian culture. They danced capoeira and dances from a famous typical festival called Festa Junina. In addition, they wanted to pay tribute to Ms. Tamae Saito (SWY10, Japan) and Ms. Haruko Ishi (SWY22/24/25 Advisor) so they would be remembered. These visitors taught the kids a few Japanese words and games, as well as how to fold origami. Mr. Jose Sano Takahashi (SWY11/16, Peru) and Ms. Gina

Pancorbo (SWY24, Peru), on the other hand, taught the children about Peruvian culture and traditions, giving them handmade toys from Peru. The activity was a lot of fun for everyone, and took place on a very special date, May 5, in which Japan celebrates Children's Day. The kids from the Project received several gifts (a map of Japan, origami-related books and special origami paper), as well as a Koinobori, a Japanese carp streamer, which is symbolic of wishing children's healthy wellbeing and protection. For the first time, the children could meet people from other countries and cultures. This filled them with joy, and it was visible, from the way their eyes sparkled throughout the whole activity, that they did not want the day to come to an end. It was very gratifying to see how much the children learnt from the visitors, and how excited they were to meet new people and find out a little more about their traditions and different cultures. Their impact and efforts had on the lives of each child was clear, and it was very rewarding to have an effect on the spirits of those children.



Chile

■ Origami Project: A Method to Develop My Intelligence and Motor Skills

This project seeks to canalize the creativity of children and develop their imagination and motor skills through origami. Also they get to know about Japanese culture and SWY program. Ms. Constanza Crespo (SWY25) organized the Origami event in Punta through April to December 2014. In the beginning of the activity the kids watched a video of other Japanese children doing origami, then they had the opportunity to ask Constanza about Japan and her participation on the SWY program. Teachers are very happy with the activity because they say this kind of work help the kids in the writing learning process, because folding papers develop their hands and fingers' mobility.

This year, SWYAA Chile and student families made an effort to provide Yukata for the kids, as part of the activity goals which is learning more about Japanese culture.



Ecuador

■ “The Best of Global Photo Contest” at Expo Japón (Expo Japan)

The Coastal Region Coordination Office of the Ministry of Culture and Heritage of Ecuador invited the SWYAA Ecuador to participate in “Expo Japón” (a cultural event sponsored by the Japanese Embassy and Consulate that reunited Japanese volunteers, Japanese culture associations and enthusiasts to perform exhibitions about Japan's traditional and pop culture and martial arts) held in Guayaquil. On November 30, SWYAA Ecuador participated with “The best of Global Photo Contest,” 50 of the best photos of “International food for thought,” “Smile and Laughter” and “Our treasure for future generations.” The Ambassador of Japan in Ecuador had protocol meeting with representatives of the SWYAA Ecuador to discuss future collaboration among institutions.

The expectations of the approx. 500 visitors to learn more about Japan were satisfied and for the collaborators this event was successful. For SWYAA Ecuador, “Expo Japón” opened new possibilities of activities and collaborations for 2015 with local associations and some based in Quito.



Egypt

■ Banding Together...Keeping the Spirit of the Ship for World Youth of Japan Connecting To and Through the Arts

“Banding Together...Keeping the Spirit of the Ship for World Youth of Japan: Connecting To and Through

the Arts” are the joint event between EASWY and the Japanese Embassy in Cairo. The guests are international SWY members, Ms. Seon Mi Jang (Sun) from Canada (SWY24), Mr. Ramon Narayan and Ms. Tiren Ratema from New Zealand (SWY16/24 and 23 respectively). The event took place on Thursday on September 11, 6:00 p.m. at Multipurpose Hall in the Japanese Embassy.

EASWY President, Samia Moussa, prepared the required proposal on the event and submitted it to the Japanese Embassy in Cairo. The event’s name was developed by her, to reflect the event program and promote SWY program and its post-program activities. The event showed joint forces of three Alumni Associations (Egypt, Canada, and New Zealand) to present SWY post-program activities in a joint event between the Japanese Embassy in Cairo and EASWY. Press was invited by the Japanese Embassy in Cairo and attended the event. Ms. Samia Moussa was interviewed by El Ahram on-line (Al Ahram is an official newspaper in Egypt and this was Ahram on-line). In preparation for this event, EASWY Board brought the needed musicians, sound engineer, and musical instruments, and the required sound system to the Embassy. This was the gift of EASWY and the musicians to our guests, international SWY ex-PYs. Special poster for the event was developed in coordination between EASWY and the Japanese Embassy in Cairo. In coordination with the Embassy, announcement was made. EASWY also coordinated with JEN Youth (Japan – Egypt Network Youth) through Ms. Norhan Diab (SWY24) and member of JEN Youth to announce of the event as well. The rehearsal took place a night before the event when the international SWY ex-PYs arrived after SWYAA GA in Turkey. Based on one rehearsal, the professional musicians were able to cope and studied the music accompanying Sun in her songs. There was a band composed of guitarist, sound engineer, percussionist and flute players who have come willingly to enjoy SWY spirit and they’ve become SWY friends. Lyrics of SWY song were distributed by EASWY to the audience and in response to EASWY request from Sun, composer of the song, the event ended up with the SWY song where all EASWY members attending the event, the audience, and the musicians enjoyed SWY spirit by singing the song.

<SWY Song Composed by SWY24>

We are living the dream, united for change

A global SWY Family

We will challenge the world

To break through the chains

Freedom with Truth, Love and Peace



Fiji

■ Mangrove Planting

The mangrove planting in August was the post-program activity of the Fijian Global Leaders Development Program (GLDP) delegation. A total of 3,000 mangroves seedlings were planted in Levuka through the initiative of the GLDP Fiji Delegation in their attempts to help with the climate change issues.



India

■ Volunteers Program with Japanese University

It was a rare opportunity for the children of the Open Schools of SWYAA India to interact with 11 Japanese students from Keio University in Tokyo in September 2014 at Mayapuri, New Delhi. They had come along with the professor of Keio University for volunteering in the educational activities being implemented by SWYAA India. This gave them a unique opportunity to introduce various aspects of the Japanese culture to these underprivileged children. Japanese students also visited government primary schools and taught the students accompanied by the teacher from SWYAA India. In the classes children were encouraged to learn counting, names of days and months as well as Japanese craft, painting, calligraphy, dance, song and origami. This was a unique experience which the Indian children and Japanese youth enjoyed very much. They praised the children's learning levels and mentioned that children of both the countries have the same spirit of inquisitiveness and innocence. They were amazed as the Indian children had a very open minded and sharp high IQ whereas and informed that the Japanese children are intricacy very shy and do not open up easily.

The visit was also very important in the view of Honorable Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit for strengthening the strategic global partnership between India and Japan and his interaction with Japanese school children and youth during his trip. This also was a unique opportunity to showcase CSR activities of the SWYAA India in the area of education. Japanese students and the Professor were very impressed by the commitment to enhancing the quality of education in schools. For the children and class teachers, this was a very first opportunity of communicating with the Japanese students in spite of the language barriers on one to one basis. This study tour provided a firsthand opportunity to the Japanese youth to have personal contact with Indian youth and children, experience the Indian culture and understand their social responsibility programs to contribute to the world for making it a better place.



Japan

■ Activity Reports by International Youth Exchange Organization of Japan (IYEO)

IYEO started FY2014 with new president Mr. Keiichi Sato together with new board members. In line with the IYEO aim for FY2014, "To develop people who can exercise leadership in the society," the IYEO has been tackling with diverse social activities, aiming at strengthening organization to outreach and contribute society as well as reactivating internal activities. In 2015, we are planning commemorative events to celebrate 30 years anniversary since its establishment in 1985.

1. Interaction with the members of Youth Division, Liberal Democratic Party

The session was hosted by Mr. Youhei Matsumoto, the then Youth Division Director of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and 22 IYEO members including president, board members and steering committee members attended. There were 15 parliamentary members including Mr. Akimasa Ishikawa, Youth Division Deputy-Director of the LDP who is a SWY13 ex-JPY joined in the event. It was a valuable experience for attended members as they could directly talk to the parliamentary members about the SWY/GLDP experiences and how it is utilized to the society.



2. Donation for Disaster Relief

When the Super Typhoon hit Solomon Islands at the beginning of April in 2014, IYEO called on its members and related parties to make donations for the victims. The total amount of donation was 130,150 Japanese Yen. The donation was handed over to the SWYAA Solomon Islands to purchase bed clothing linen and kitchen kits for affected members of SWYAA Solomon Islands.

3. IYEO Sri Lanka Educational Support Project "One More Child Goes To School"

The project was officially started in Japan in 2008 having the objective of providing more opportunities

for financially underprivileged children to continue their primary education through basic education necessities and strengthen the network of IYEO members and those who are interested in educational support for children in Sri Lanka. From 2010, we have focused on the scholarship project, and, in 2014, 62 Japanese foster parents were supporting 69 Sri Lankan students (ages 5-10) in the Buddha Jayanthi Vidyalaya School in southern province in Matara district. Total number of children that having been supported by the project, counts up to 103. In 2014, IYEO decided to take the entire responsibility of the project to further enhance the efficiency of the project. In July 2014, the first study tour to visit the supporting school was implemented. 7 participants including the project member and the foster parents joined the tour, and they donated 400 school desks, 250 chairs, and a copy machine etc. to the school on behalf of Japanese supports. They also introduced Japanese culture to the students during the school visit.



Kenya

■ “Tupendane” Project

The Tupendane project supports Eves Day Junior School in the Dandora slums run by Mr. Jonathan Okwiri (SWY 22), currently hosting 150 children. On May 17, 8 members of the SWYAA Kenya visited the school to donate learning material and screen a Japanese movie. On June 25, Ms. Saya Shiota and Mr. Shota Inagaki (both SWY22) visited the school with Mr. Okwiri, then they conducted a basic Japanese lesson and shared some games with the children.



Mexico

■ Cross Atlantic Twin Project

December 5 is the “International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development” according to the United Nations. SWYAA Mexico and SWYAA Sweden challenged all SWYAA members to make a social contribution around or on this date. We called the initiative The Cross Atlantic Twin Project and this year it was a blood donation rally.

This is how it worked:

- 1) Look up the Facebook event called “Cross Atlantic Twin Project 2014” and mark “attend.”
- 2) Invite all friends that you think has a good heart and want to help others.
- 3) Donate yourself - or if you cannot, bring a friend who is willing to donate blood, or just show up and register as a future donor - that also counts!
- 4) Take a selfie in front of the hospital, health center or mobile donation unit and post it to the Facebook event called “Cross Atlantic Twin Project 2014.”
- 5) Enjoy feeling like a superhero – your donation can save a life!

For more information , please see Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/events/350355821804353>



New Zealand

■ “Stoking the Fire” Reunion

This event was held in Tangatarua Marae, Rotorua from March 28 to 30, and it aimed to reconnect SWY ex-PYs over the last 25 years, bringing together those young leaders selected to represent New Zealand to rekindle relationships and be reminded of their SWY experience. The reunion was intended for SWYAA New Zealand, however was open to any SWY ex-PY regardless of batch or country represented, and 6 participants joined the reunion. The reunion’s main purposes were:

- To provide an opportunity for former participating youth from the SWY from any country and various years to meet and share ideas, strengthening relationships
- To share information about post-program activities that

have/are taking place around the world

- To spark new ideas/projects that make a positive difference in the world
- To revitalize the SWYNZAA

Key activities included :

On March 28, Friday

- Powhiri (traditional Māori welcome)
- Following the customary welcome, ex-national leader John Merito (SWY1) led the mihimihi (introductions).
- Dinner at a local Japanese restaurant – Yamato. It was a great environment for everyone to relax, have fun and be reminded of all our Japanese friends. Stories were enjoyed over Japanese delicacies, reliving fond SWY memories of friends from around the world.

On March 29, Saturday

- Mr. Ramon Narayan (SWY 16/24) led a workshop focused on post-program activities and sparking new ideas/projects. Recommendations from the workshop included: Revitalizing the alumni association as an absolute priority, updating our data base, establishing regional links/bodies; creating local community events, national reunion events and international events such as hosting a Global Assembly in the future - as a great way to reciprocate the relationship New Zealand has with Japan.
- Making a Pizza Oven for the community
- Dinner on a boat – we wanted to try and recreate the SWY experience and so we had dinner on a boat – the Rotoiti Explorer – on Lake Rotoiti, which was followed by a lovely soak in a local hot spring named Manupirua.

On March 30, Sunday

- Sunday morning breakfast was filled with reflection and motivation to inspire other fellow NZ alumni around the world to get energized and work toward the same mission.
- After poroporoaki (formal closing) a short film of the late Ms. Ying Kong was played to acknowledge her passing and honor her loving, cheerful and warm spirit.



This encouraged those in attendance to be reminded of our own uniqueness and unlimited potential to be the greatest we can be.

Oman

■ SWYAA Oman Day + Announcing the SWYAA Oman logo (Team Gathering)

SWYAA Oman’s annual event called SWYAA Oman Day combined of a members gathering and some local voluntary activities in Muscat on July 16, 2014. This time it was organized mainly for team gathering event and breaking the fast together where 14 members from different batches joined the event. On the same day, Mr. Abdul-Malik (SWY22) has announced the SWYAA Oman new logo which he was working on.

This time there was only collection of donations from the members without organizing a voluntary activities. Those donations were collected to support another well-known local voluntary group - Al Rahma Charity Team - working to help families in need and people with special needs.



Peru

■ Christmas Activity

As SWYAA Peru did in 2013, we organized for Christmas a social contribution activity to share our interest and concern for local kids with few resources. Because of our commitment with our society, on December 13, 2014 we prepared a special activity in the “Hermano Thomas Helm” Center, a Christian NGO that has a house in “El Callao” that works as a day shelter for kids. We had the participation of 82 kids between 6 and 12 years. We chose this place because last year we did a similar activity there, so we continued the job we had already begun there previously. “El Callao” is a constitutional provinces and has been the main Peruvian port for centuries. It was built on and around a peninsula, the district of “La Punta.” A historical fortress, the “Fortaleza del Real Felipe,” stands on the promontory overlooking the harbor. There is also

located our main international airport. Even though it is a famous and historical province, it has high rates of poverty and there is a lack of safe places in the public place, especially for the youth. The Hermano Thomas Helm Center is a safe place for the children to play, learn and enjoy their age. We wanted to contribute to the hard work they have been doing for 19 years. We, 19 ex-PYs, prepared several recreative activities for the children that enjoyed fully the experience. They played, sang, ate, ran, drew, and shared with us lot of smiles and a great time. Our last activity was preparing welcome posters and messages for the Japanese youth of the SWY27 that will come to Peru in February and will participate in a social activity in this place. It is important to mention that we had the participation of ex-PY's of Turkey, Greece and Japan.



Spain

■ 10th Ikebana Exhibition (Treasure Box Project)

Within the framework of the “Treasure Box” project*, we also had a stand in the 10th Ikebana Exhibition, which took place in the Royal Botanical Garden of Madrid from April 24 to 27. This time, we, four ex-PYs, tried to widen our collaboration, so we added to the sale of some origami handcrafted earrings as well as some pottery artwork kindly donated by the School of Ceramics in Madrid. The Japanese Ambassador in Spain visited our stand and got to know about the project. As a result of both sales (at Mochi

Festival and Ikebana Exhibition) we fundraised a total amount of 606€.

* In collaboration with Mr. Yuichiro Takahashi (SWY13), SWYAA Spain carried out the project called “Treasure Box” to sell hand-made products from Minamisanriku (a small village deeply affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake), and the all the money fundraised was sent in order to help Minamisanriku people.



Sweden

■ Cross Atlantic Twin Project 2014 (Blood donor initiative with SWYAA Mexico)

In the entire SWYAA community 105 ex-PY's stated in the project event page on Facebook that they would attend, or attended the project. Out of these we had a dozen posts with selfies from ex-PYs around the world at hospitals of local health centers giving blood, signing up as donors or donating blood.

SWYAA Mexico and SWYAA Sweden joined together in 2014 to make a joint social contribution project and this year we decided on blood donation – as this is a highly valuable act in every society with a never ending need – and at the same time accessible to most alumni members regardless of their geographical location. This enabled us to recruit and spread the initiative worldwide. Almost 2,000

people worldwide got invited to participate in the event through the SWY network. 105 people actively stated that they would join our initiative, but only a handful reported with photo on the event webpage. However, we did get widespread positive feed-back from around the world, some who dared to donate blood for the first time – others who tried but were not allowed and yet others who took the chance to get back as a donor. Although we cannot judge the actual outcome, we still think that this initiative and global donation rally gave many people and ex-PYs around the world a simple way to engage in their community and strengthened the global SWY spirit when visualizing the power of this fantastic network.



Turkey

■ 8th SWYAA Global Assembly in Turkey (19th International Reunion)

Please refer to p.53-p.67

UAE

■ UAE/Bahrain/Oman Reunions

SWYAA UAE organized an event with the neighboring countries (UAE, Bahrain and Oman) that participated in SWY program. We received more than 19 ex-PYs and organized a homestay for one ex-JPY. We organized a full schedule for him and introduced him to the UAE culture.

Other accomplishments:

- Mr. Mohamed Alsharhan (SWY25) – He received his master degree in sustainable transportation systems.
- Mr. Ahmed Khamis Alhammadi (SWY25) – He won the 1st place in the rafting championship on the National Level.
- Mr. Naser Alzaabi (SWY22) – He got promoted to be the need of youth activities in the youth and sports

authority.

- Mr. Jasim Alobaidli (SWY25) – He participated in different national day events on different TV channels to talk about poetry in the UAE on the occasion of the 43rd UAE National day.

UK

2014 was a good year for the SWYAA UK. We learned early in February that the UK was going to be invited to the Global Youth Leaders Development Program 2014 “The Ship for World Youth Leaders.” The SWYAA UK resolved to recruit the next batch the UK, the first in 7 years. We used social media to work out the criteria we would like to apply to the selection and then went out to our respective networks to ensure that we could recruit the right candidates for the program from across the UK. We reached into our networks some from government employees that we know, others from youth groups and voluntary organizations. It was clear that we wanted to represent as much of vibrant diversity of the UK as we could squeeze into such a small group. We came to shortlist after advertising via the Japanese Embassy website and via social media. It was then the task of narrowing the focus so that we can really find the best candidates. After a process of telephone interviews, Skype chats etc., we came to the conclusion that the ten people would do the job.



Venezuela

■ YouthfulCities Caracas

In May 2014, SWYAA Venezuela Project Coordinator Nathalie Wierdak and Youth Representative Andreína Soto lead the YouthfulCities initiative in Caracas Venezuela. 9 Venezuelan participants as volunteers and 15 International participants such as Canada are involved in the project.

YouthfulCities is a global social venture that illuminates and decodes the power of urban youth globally. With the help of volunteers Ms. Andreína Martínez, Mr. Carlos

Reséndiz, Mr. Ricardo Reséndiz, Ms. Lunín Pereda, Mr. Luis Omar Rodriguez, Mr. Ricardo González and Mr. Erick Wierdak, they conducted more than 600 surveys among youth from different backgrounds, providing input for the YouthfulCities INDEX that ranks the world's top cities from a youth perspective, amplifying the voice of urban youth globally while inspiring change locally. Extensive research was also involved for completing the Caracas INDEX, with more than 16 different categories like civic participation, transportation, health, security, diversity, media, cost of living, among other, and hundreds of indicators. The results of this research were presented during the 30 Network Caracas meeting, a pop-up think-tank involving 30 influential urbanites under the age of 30. The 30 are all proven leaders with multidisciplinary interests and backgrounds, connected to what matters to young people in the city.



Associate Member

Russia

■ **RUSWY Train 2014**

SWYAA Russia held RUSWY train program from June 22 to July 6. The aim of the program was to familiarize the SWY alumni with Russian culture and contribute to sustainable society. 12 ex-PYs were involved in the

program and they travelled the Trans-Siberian railroad meaning from Moscow to Vladivostok. The term “Trans-Siberian” doesn’t imply a particular train, but rather a railway which you may travel along on different trains. Participants of RUSWY Train have visited 5 cities (Moscow, Kazan, Yekaterinburg, Novosibirsk and Irkutsk) and have travelled 3,500km by train, plus optional 1,900km to Irkutsk, Lake Baikal. During the program RUSWY Train participants learned about the Russian way of life, historic and cultural traditions and values; promoted cross-cultural understanding and cooperation of the youth and were engaged in socially contributing activities.

We spent 3 days exploring Moscow: walking through the center of the city, watched the “Swan Lake” classical ballet, visited Moscow State University campus, Ostankino TV Tower, Bunker-42 on Taganka and enjoyed SWY reunion dinner. Another 2 days we explored Kazan city where a culinary workshop was held in order to teach the participants how to cook traditional tatar food, and the festival of the Music of Faith. In Ekaterinburg RUSWY participants volunteered for “We can Do Everything” festival where they organized cultural master-classes for disabled youth and the participants of the festival. Moreover, RUSWY participants had a great chance to participate in a special seminar “How to be a foreigner in Russia” run by Language Link school. In Novosibirsk we participated in a round table discussion about volunteerism at the local volunteers’ bureau “Dom Molodezhi.” The final destination was Novosibirsk city, where participants made presentations about their experiences through the program and analyzed misconceptions about Russia. A few of participants continued the way to Irkutsk and Lake Baikal, the biggest and deepest freshwater lake in the world, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Additionally, we got the chance to become special guests in the summer international youth camp “Baikal 2020” there. For more information , please see the website, www.ruswyaa.org

