

Date	Time	Programs	Notes
Tue., March 22	08:45	Meet at the hotel lobby, move to the venue (bus) Visit to the Cabinet Office, Japanese Government	Cabinet Office
	09:30 - 12:20	Meeting with the Cabinet Office representatives - Country report (4 min. per country x 28 countries)	
	12:30 - 12:45	Courtesy call on the official of the Cabinet Office, Government of Japan - Mr. Hirohisa Takagi, Parliamentary Vice-Minister, Cabinet Office	
	13:00 - 14:00	Lunch	
	14:00 - 14:20	Meeting with the Cabinet Office representatives (continued) - Country report (4 min. per country x 3 countries)	
	14:20 - 14:45	- Annual plan for 2016 - Q&A session	Center for International Youth Exchange (CENTERYE), 5F Accommodation: Hotel in Tokyo
	15:00	Leave the Cabinet Office	
	15:30 - 16:30	Visit to the Liberal Democratic Party of Japan - Mr. Hideki Makihara, Director of the Youth Division	
	17:00 17:30 - 19:30	Leave the venue and head to the CENTERYE office Workshop (open space) - Suggestions for future SWY activities - Suggestions for SWYAA Common Activities Return to the Hotel (on foot)	
Wed., March 23	09:30	Meet at the hotel lobby, move to the venue (on foot)	Center for International Youth Exchange (CENTERYE), 5F
	10:00 - 12:30	Conference 3 - SWYAA International Common Activities - SWYAA International Joint Statement (authorization)	
	12:30 - 14:00	Lunch	
	14:00 - 15:45	Conference 4 - Other pending issues	
	16:30 - 18:30	Conference 5 - Summary of the conference - Authorization of the minutes	
	18:30 - 21:00	Farewell dinner *Fund-raising auction for Fiji cyclone	
	21:00	Return to the hotel (on foot)	Accommodation: Hotel in Tokyo
Thu., March 24		Departure of the country representatives	



Sharing the experience at the Cabinet Office (Australia)



Sharing the experience at the Cabinet Office (Mexico)

List of the Conference Participants

Country Representatives

	Country	Name	Alumni Association	Position	Batch
Full Membership Countries					
1	Australia	Ms. Rebecca Marshallsay	SWY Australia	President	SWY22
2	Bahrain	Ms. Budoor Kamal	Ship for World Youth Association - Bahrain	Secretary General	SWY23
3	Brazil	Mr. Adriano Lira	SWYAA Brasil	Vice President	SWY23
4	Canada	Mr. Louis Beaugregard	SWY Canada	President	SWY13/17NL
5	Chile	Ms. Karla Cortés	Chile-SWYAA	President	SWY23
6	Costa Rica	Mr. Alonso Villalobos	Ship for World Youth Alumni Association Costa Rica	President	SWY3
7	Ecuador	Dr. Blanca Chatten-Kacouris	Ship for World Youth Alumni Association Ecuador	President	SWY1
8	Egypt	Ms. Samia Moussa	The Egyptian Alumni Association for the Ship for World Youth - EASWY	President	SWY6
9	Fiji	Mr. Patrick Morgam	Ship for World Youth Alumni Association of Fiji	President	SWY15
10	Greece	Ms. Danai Karnava	SWY GREECE Alumni Association	Member	SWY18
11	India	Mr. Ravi Chopra	SWYAA-INDIA	Vice President	SWY6
12	Japan	Ms. Reiko Ohashi, Ms. Atsuko Honda	International Youth Exchange Organization of Japan (IYEO)	Vice President	JYGC14, SWY11
13	Kenya	Mr. Peter Ongera	Ship for World Youth Alumni Association of Kenya	President	SWY6
14	Mexico	Ms. Patricia López Cárdenas	SWYAA Mexico	Vice President	GLDP
15	New Zealand	Mr. Arish Naresh	The Ship for World Youth New Zealand Incorporated (SWYNZ)	Co-President	SWY27
16	Oman	Mr. Mahmood Alfarsi	SWYAA Oman	Vice President	SWY20/22NL
17	Peru	Mr. Donato Villarán	SWYAA PERU	President	INDEX
18	Russia	Ms. Alina Lotfullina	SWYAA Russia	President	SWY24/28NL
19	Spain	Ms. Almudena Ramos	SWYAA Spain	President	SWY20
20	Sri Lanka	Mr. Chamal Amaraweera	Ship For World Youth Alumni Association Of Sri Lanka	Member	SWY27
21	Sweden	Ms. Carolina Hawranek	SWYAA-Sweden	President	SWY23
22	Tonga	Mr. Sokoi Liavaa	Tonga Ship for World Youth Alumni Association	Treasurer	SWY19
23	Turkey	Ms. Seda Yildiz	SWYAA TURKEY	Vice President	SWY22
24	U.A.E.	Mr. Jasem Alblooshi	SWYAA UAE	Vice President	SWY25
25	U.K.	Mr. Conor Houston	SWY UK Alumni Association	Member	SWY27
26	Venezuela	Ms. Andreina Martinez	SWYAA Venezuela	Vice President	SWY21
Associate Membership Countries					
27	Norway	Ms. Lillian Solheim	Ship for World Youth Alumni Association Norway	President	SWY21/23NL

	Country	Name	Alumni Association	Position	Batch
28	Paraguay	Ms. Anahi Duarte	SWYAA Paraguay	President	SWY13
29	Solomon Islands	Mr. Jeffrey Tafolehe	SWYAA Solomon Islands	Vice President	SWY23
30	South Africa	Ms. Lynn Adams	SWYAA SOUTH AFRICA	Vice President	SWY8
31	Tanzania	Mr. Benedict Faustine Kikove	SWYAA TANZANIA	Member	GLDP
32	U.S.A.	Mr. Augustine Bartning	US-SWY Alumni Association	President	SWY17
SWYAA International Secretariat					
	-	Ms. Tamae Saito	SWYAA International	Secretary General	SWY10

Cabinet Office, Government of Japan

Name	Position
Mr. Hiromu Onoda	Deputy Director General
Mr. Hideki Uemura	Director, Office for International Youth Exchange
Mr. Akihiko Kimpara	Deputy Director, Office for International Youth Exchange
Mr. Tetsuo Oshikiri	Deputy Director, Office for International Youth Exchange
Ms. Hitomi Murata	Chief Official, Office for International Youth Exchange
Mr. Yuichi Otake	Chief Official, Office for International Youth Exchange
Mr. Naoto Takayama	Office for International Youth Exchange
1-6-1 Nagata-cho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8914, Japan Tel: 03-6257-1434 URL http://www.cao.go.jp/koryu/index.html	

International Youth Exchange Organization of Japan (IYEO) Board Members

Name	Position	Batch
Mr. Keiichi Sato	President	JYGC20
Ms. Reiko Ohashi	Vice President	JYGC14
Ms. Atsuko Honda	Vice President	SWY11
Ms. Tamae Saito	International Division Chief	SWY10
Ms. Yoriko Ii	International Division Chief	SWY10
Ms. Junko Tanaka	Organizational Management Division Chief	SWY8
Mr. Tatsuya Nagasue	PR Division Chief	SWY13, 24NL
Mr. Atsushi Tokuno	PR Division Chief	SWY18, 23NL
Tokyo Nori Building 6th Floor, 2-35-14 Nihombashi Ningyocho, Chuo-ku, Tokyo 103-0013, JAPAN Tel: 03-3249-0767 Fax: 03-3639-2436 URL http://www.iyeo.or.jp		

JYGC: Japanese Youth Goodwill Cruise Program
SWY: Ship for World Youth Program

Committee Members and Center for International Youth Exchange (CENTERYE) Staffs

Name	Position	Batch
Ms. Eri Nakano	Committee member	SWY21
Ms. Makiko Kojima	Committee member	SWY21
Mr. Koki Mizutani	Committee member	SWY22
Ms. Kanako Takahashi	Committee member	SWY27
Ms. Megumi Wada	Committee member	SWY27
Ms. Sayoko Tanaka	CENTERYE staff	SWY11
Mr. Satoshi Nakazawa	CENTERYE staff	SWY27 Facilitator
Ms. Sae Matsuo	CENTERYE staff	SWY22

(Note) All the Positions are as of March 2016



Discussing about the future activity



Representatives from
Central/South America



Representatives from
Oceania



Farewell dinner

Prominent Activities in Respective SWYAA

Members of SWYAA International have implemented many different types of activities in respective countries. In this report we have focus on social contribution activities and will introduce some prominent ones from the annual country report. Further more information please refer to the website. <http://www.swy.international/>

Fiji

■ 9th Global Assembly



SWYAA Fiji hosted a Global Assembly from 12th to 19th August 2015 in Nadi. They started preparing in May with 8 committee members. Number of participants were 43, from 13 countries.

The Hon. Minister of Youth and Sports had officially opened the program and welcomed the participants to Fiji. After the welcome program, a conference on post program activities was organized whereby country presentations were made on activities being undertaken by respective SWYAA's. Planting of mangroves and visits to the Sand Dunes, Youth Training Centre Nasau, Sigatoka and Matawalu Village were also some highlights of the official program. The official program culminated with a day cruise to South Seas Island. The optional tour was organized from 17th to 19th August whereby the participants got to enjoy the hidden beauty of Fiji in a very peaceful environment.

■ Cleanup Campaign, "Oratory Contest"

On February 2015, SWYAA Fiji run a Cleanup Campaign at Naboutini Village. The Village lies along the shore line. Climate change issues have been a daily challenge for the residents of this village. Initially the cleanup campaign was organized to address the Dengue Fever alert, however since climate change issues were prevalent, some follow up programs were essential to create awareness on how serious this issue is. On May 2015, SWYAA Fiji implemented "Oratory Contest," a follow up program of the campaign in order to create awareness amongst the young people and women of the village. The young people and women needed to understand what climate change was and how it was going to affect them. The contest gave them the opportunity to try and know what climate change was, how it affects each individual and what an individual could do to help address climate change issues.

India

■ School Cleanliness Program

Government of India has initiated the 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan' (Clean India Mission) program with people's

participation. Ship for World Youth Alumni Association-India participated by launching the school cleanness and sanitation program called "Gakkō no seijō-do" in February 2015 in government primary schools in New Delhi. This program was accomplished with the association and participation from the Embassy of Japan in India, Education Department of the local Government, Discover Japan Club (DJC) India and Discover India Club (DIC), Japan and Few volunteers from SWYAA-India. One hundred students took part. The visitors informed the student about the Japanese school children who clean their class rooms as part of their daily routine. Also the student did a role play of cleaning their class room in Japanese way of meticulously cleaning. The students from an underprivileged background studying in government schools, who rarely have such occasion of meeting Japanese, won everyone's hearts. Children's expressive faces, eagerness to perform and learn turned these two hours into a unique experience of serenity, joy and pleasure for all of us.

Kenya

■ Support Kenya/ Tupendane Project

Approximately 30 ex-PY from Kenya and Japan are involved. The project supports Eves Day Junior School, a school in the Dandora slums of Nairobi currently hosting



150 children. Various activities were held within the project. Alumni from Japan donated both learning and playing materials. The alumni also funded the project through kind and cash donations to the school. The school has an income generating activity to support itself.

Oman

■ SWYAA Oman Water Supply Projects

SWYAA Oman main voluntary activity for this year was digging two water wells for the public in N'Djamena, the capital city of the Republic of Chad. The donations from 65 people were collected during the Iftar gathering in Muscat and given to "Anas Al-Dheeb" (SWY27) who is a member of a charity and aid organization where he represented SWYAA Oman there. The location of the wells were chosen due to the high need of water resources on these areas. One of the locations is near a school with more

than 100 kids and they had to travel about five kilometers for water. The second location is in the middle area of five small villages. On 15th July, 2015, Anas Al-Dheeb visit the country and the 2 water wells were ready on September.

■ SWYAA Oman Day

SWY Day in Oman as usual was mixed of team gathering and voluntary activities. This event was organized in Ramadan (18th June – 17th July) and this year we organized three different Iftar (Breaking the fast) in three different cities in Oman (Nizwa, Salalah and Muscat) on 8th July 2015.



Iftar in three different cities in Oman

Peru

■ Conferences on March 11

SWYAA Peru organized two lectures by Amya Miller, entitled "Situation of Northern Japan after 4 years of earthquake and tsunami March 11 - Lessons learned at the municipal level." The activities took place on January 14, 2015 at 10:00 am in the auditorium of the National Civil Defense Institute (INDECI) and at 7:30 pm in the auditorium of the Japanese Peruvian Cultural Center. Both events had great attendance. In the morning, about 60 people linked to disaster risk management attended the conference, and at night, about 70 people mainly from the Nikkei community in Peru.

The presentation of Amya Miller began showing the devastation caused by the tsunami, through photographs taken by residents and satellite images. She then reported the current situation of the city of Rikuzentakata, showing how the reconstruction was made. Finally she spoke about the main lessons they have learned, especially regarding local disaster risk management. For example, she explained how the estimates of the magnitude of a possible tsunami were incorrect. As well, she recommended the constant coordination with the Central Government and appointed the imperative need to make flexible some rules in crisis situations. In her own words, Amya Miller expressed that the aim of the municipality of Rikuzentakata is not only to bring the message of gratitude to all countries that showed

their solidarity after the disaster, but above all to share experiences so others do not have to live what they lived.



With Ms. Amya Miller

Venezuela

■ TEDxUCV

In June 2015, SWYAA Venezuela got involved in the Coordination of the first TEDxUCV event in Caracas. Nathalie Wierdak (SWYAA Venezuela – Project Coordinator) was the Executive Producer for the event. The TEDxUCV focused in the reconstruction of the social matrix for Venezuela, and was carried out in alliance with Generacion en Red. International Chef Sumito Esteves, Statistics and Economist Luis Vicente Leon, Local Entrepreneur Carlos Cesar Avila and Youth Leader Javier Medina were among the 13 different presenters. Each one of them delivering ideas, sharing experiences and sparking innovative solutions to approach our current social, economic and political crisis. Here are the links for two of the presentations that are currently available for viewing in YouTube:

During a crisis if you freeze you lose. Luis Vicente Leon: <http://bit.ly/1O8v0UX>

The power of the non-political actors to change the system. Javier Medina: <http://bit.ly/1O30qyc>

■ UNDOUKAI 2015

On August, 2015 at Caracas, Venezuela GOEN Maracaibo, a Japanese school in Venezuela coordinated by 10 volunteers including 3 ex-PYs, Stephanie Chacin, Carlos Diaz and Lucia Faccini (SWY24), organized a sports and recreation event for their Japanese language students. Schools in Japan have the "Undoukai" or Sports day, a very important event that takes place every year. We decided to include it as one of our yearly activities, to encourage understanding and learning through experience, by taking this known tradition in schools, a small piece of Japanese culture can be closer to Venezuelan students. A day full of challenges that brought together people from different backgrounds. Popular games that took place were tug-of-war, human pyramids, team jump rope, and so

much more. Even though it was a competitive event, the “Undoukai” was a great opportunity for students to share and get to know each other out of the classroom. We were able to promote teamwork, leadership, strategic thinking and decision making, everything while having fun. One of the happiest days of the year. Filled with good energy and joy. And also a very rewarding day, knowing that each smile can mean “thank you.”



Participants of the “UNDOUKAI”

Chapter 2

9th SWYAA Global Assembly in Fiji

August 12 – August 16, 2015 (Official Program)
August 17 – August 19, 2015 (Optional Tour)



9th SWYAA Global Assembly in Fiji

Outline

The 9th Global Assembly (GA) of the Ship for World Youth Alumni Association (SWYAA) was held from August 12 to 16, 2015. From August 17 to 19, an optional tour to experience Fijian culture in Beachcomber Island Resort was held.

In organizing the assembly, SWYAA Fiji formed the GA Organizing Committee. The committee was divided into some working groups and prepared the detailed schedule including the selection and coordination of the places to be visited during various activities.

Purpose

- 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 the 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 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.

Details of the Assembly

- Title of the event: The 9th SWYAA Global Assembly – 20th International Reunion
- Dates: Official Program: August 12 to 16, 2015
Optional Tour: August 17 to 19, 2015
- Hosting organizations: International Youth Exchange Organization of Japan (IYEO)
SWYAA Fiji
- Main event: Conference for Post Program Activities
- Participation fee: Official Program: 54,900 Japanese Yen,
Optional Tour: 30,500 Japanese Yen
- Participants: 43 participants from 13 countries + 8 committee members



Participants of the Global Assembly

Schedule

Date	Time	Activity
Official Program		
Wed., Aug 12	All day	Arrival of participants
Thu., Aug 13	09:00 - 09:40	Opening ceremony - Traditional welcome ceremony - Welcome address by the Minister for Youth and Sports - Speech by the representative of the Cabinet Office, Japanese Government - Speech by the representative of the International Youth Exchange Organization of Japan - Vote of Thanks by the president of SWYAA Fiji
	09:40 - 10:15	Break – Morning tea
	10:15 - 12:00	Orientation and Ice breaking
	12:00 - 16:30	Conference for Post-Program Activities (including lunch break)
	16:30 - 17:45	Discussion - 1. Social entrepreneur - 2. Culture of Indigenous people - 3. SWY Networking
	18:30 - 21:00	Welcome Reception
Fri., Aug 14	09:00	Leave the hotel for Sigatoka
	10:00 - 12:20	Institutional Visit : Sigatoka Sand Dunes
	12:30 - 13:00	Voluntary activities : Mangrove planting
	13:25 - 14:50	Youth Training Center in Nasau (lunch)
	16:20	Arrive at the hotel, free time, dinner
Sat., Aug 15	09:00 - 09:45	Leave the hotel
	10:00 - 12:45	Visit to Matawalu Village
	13:00 - 14:15	Lunch and entertainment
	14:15	Depart the village
	14:30 - 15:15	Free time in Lautoka city
	16:00	Arrive at the hotel, free time, dinner
Sun., Aug 16	07:30	Leave the hotel for Denarau Mariner
	09:00 - 17:00	Taking a cruise trip to South Sea Island, Closing Ceremony - snorkeling, kayaking, coral viewing, beach volleyball, diving, body-board
	18:00	Closing
Optional Tour		
Mon., Aug 17	07:30	Leave for Beachcomber Island Resort
Tue., Aug 18		Cloud 9 and Funky Fish Resort
Wed., Aug 19	18:00	Leave Beachcomber Island Resort Closing

Contents of the Activity

Official Program

August 13

In the morning of the first day of the SWYAA Global Assembly (hereinafter GA), the participants were welcomed by Kava, a traditional Fijian ceremony. Hon. Mr. Laisenia Tuitubou, Minister for Youth and Sports gave a welcome speech showing appreciation for holding GA in collaboration with Japanese government. Then Mr. Akihiko Kimpara, Deputy Director for International Youth Exchange, Cabinet Office, Government of Japan gave his speech and read a message for Ms. Haruko Arimura, Minister of State for Youth Affairs, Cabinet Office, Government of Japan, talking about history of SWY, the significance of networks among youth leaders around the world and the expectation from the program. Then the participants listened to a speech by Mr. Masaharu Koge, IYEO Vice President followed by the remarks of Mr. Patrick Morgam, President of SWYAA Fiji. An ice breaking followed where the participants who were strangers to each other introduced themselves in pairs for 15 minutes and then introduced one's partner in front of all participants.



Opening ceremony

The Conference for Post-Program Activities started after an orientation and icebreaking. It included presentations and a Q&A session about recent activities of SWYAA and its challenges for its continuation. Mr. Akihiko Kimpara, Deputy Director for International Youth Exchange, Cabinet Office, Government of Japan gave an explanation on the current situation of SWY, followed by an explanation by Ms. Tamae Saito, the Secretary General of the SWYAA International about how SWY program contents have changed; 1) SWY program has developed leaders of each country; 2) OPY and JPY live together on board in a closed environment where they are forced to build an independent community. At the outset of SWY program, main focus was placed on building friendly

relationship among youth, but today on developing leaders. In addition, the course discussion topic changed from “youth participation in society” to “youth contribution in society” with the emphasis on social contribution as post-program activities. PY seminars and workshops have been incorporated into SWY program since SWY18 in order to improve leadership and peer learning among the participants. There are also cases in some countries that SWYAAs take part in preparatory training sessions and engage in various social contributions before starting the program. Leadership Seminars have been introduced since SWY24, Project Management Seminar since GLDP/SWY26 and Cross-Cultural Understanding Seminars since SWY28.

As can be seen from the articles on SWY and GA in Fijian newspapers (Fiji Sun and Fiji Times dated August 15), holding GA could contribute not only building networks among ex-PYs but also improving public awareness of SWY and strengthening relationship between GA host countries and Japan.



Welcome reception

Reports of Post-Program Activities from each country

SWYAAs of 10 countries made a report on their activities.

Australia

SWY Australia operates microfinance program called Kiva (http://www.kiva.org/team/ship_for_world_youth/loans). Team Kiva of 38 members successfully provided 1,179 loans worth a total of nearly \$35,000.

After Tokyo Conference 2014, SWY Australia restarted its activities to strengthen relationship between SWY Australia and the Japanese Embassy / department in charge of Japanese affairs of Foreign Affairs of Australia.

There are 80 Facebook users in SWY Australia. SWY Australia focuses on revitalization of its members by

brainstorming and planning strategies in two groups aiming at PR activity of SWY program and selections of participants.

After the participants of FY2016 are selected, Executives of SWY Australia will be elected.

Canada

SWY Canada implements “Homestay+1 project.” Since the country is too large, it is a challenge for SWY Canada members to meet and engage in activities together on a regular basis. So the key issue is how to unite as an organization for post-program activities.

Ecuador

SWYAA Ecuador implemented “Global Photo Contest” and “Japanese Culture Promotion Events” from 2006 to 2008. It established a relationship with the Japanese Embassy in Ecuador and has organized reunions in Ecuador and overseas. In 2009, it organized “Ronny Yantalema” project which is to support the boy suffering burns and the first “Japan Festival” in Guayaquil. In 2011, it fundraised for Great East Japan Earthquake relief support and made folded-paper cranes. In that year, it held “Japanese workshop” to collect books and school supplies as a donation. In 2014, it celebrated 25th SWY anniversary. SWYAA Ecuador has maintained a good relation with the Japanese Embassy in Quito, introducing Japanese culture as well as collaborating with other SWYAAs.

Fiji

New members of 12 Fijian participants join in SWY program every two years; the total number of Fijian ex-PYs became 140, of which some 30 are active members. For “International SWY Day (January 18),” some events including homestay at ex-PYs home and voluntary social contribution activities are organized by SWYAA Fiji. Their post-program activities include planting of sandalwood trees; SWYAA Fiji members planted 20 sandalwood trees in Nukusere Village in 2012. They donated books and toys to three kindergartens for “Kindergarten project” in July 2012. In addition, they supported school children by donating foods and stationery for “Cyclone Even Relief Program” in January 2013. They planted 3,000 seeds of mangrove for reforestation in August 2014.

Japan

IYEO Japan is making IYEO map of human resources for “30th Anniversary Project” It chose to celebrates its Foundation. its mascot character and issued a new leaflet “HUMANO” as well as organizes Visit Tohoku Campaign and a subsidy system for activities called “Challenge Fund.” It has implemented Sri Lanka Educational Support Project “One More Child Goes To School” as international contributions. IYEO celebrates the 30th anniversary, which is the year for the next step.

Kenya

SWYAA Kenya is a legally registered organization with 125 members. Their activities include exchanging information in Africa, hosting medical camps, developing youth leaders, visiting activities by ex-PYs and “Homestay+1 project.”

New Zealand

SWYAA New Zealand consists of 167 members. It participated in SWY27 and was chosen as a host country of Japanese delegation. It also organized a preliminary visit for GA. It made an assessment of SWY program as an alumni organization by analyzing items such as intercultural understanding, friendship, human development, contribution to society, impact/outcomes and travel.

Spain

SWYAA Spain has mainly three challenges. The First is lacking of volunteers and sponsorship; second is non-payment of membership fee; third is that the members are separated all around the world. SWYAA Spain has worked on these challenges without considering them as “problems.” Solutions for the first is to provide free events; for second to collect contributions; for third to collaborate with other SWYAAs for establishing a basic function and method for decisions. It has organized public relations campaigns at university as well as expanded Japanese culture through festivals including bon dance and rice-cake making. It has participated in GAs and held 20th anniversary of SWY4 and go to meet ex-PYs in other countries and collaborates with other SWYAAs in order to maintain SWY spirit.

Turkey

GA Turkey with 158 participants from 27 countries faced challenges such as visiting social institutions, finding sponsors, transportation and building networks. SWYAA Turkey currently faces challenges such as continuation and participation of activities, and coordination between SWYAA Turkey and Ministry of Youth and Sports.



Conference for Post-Program Activities (Turkey)

Uruguay

Youth from Uruguay have participated in SWY program twice for far. Since then, they have organized photo exhibitions and received visits from ex-PYs. They also share their experiences of GA with their friends.

USA

Youth from America have participated in SWY program 12 times so far, and SWYAA America consists of 148 ex-PYs, and the board members have actively worked under a new system. In addition, they have a connection with the Consulate General of Japan.

They are currently building a network to have the latest list of SWYAA USA members. SWYAA USA has strengthened a network among members through social media, etc. It also organizes newsletters, gatherings, homestays, applications for JET program and seasonal events, etc. It is gradually trying to start to promote activities that an individual can engage in.

After reporting of post-program activities, the participants voluntarily discussed in groups. The three



Having a discussion

topics were the following: “social entrepreneur,” “culture of indigenous peoples” and “SWY network.” The participants divided into groups of 4-10 and exchanged opinions. Then they shared what they had discussed by each group with the whole participants.

August 14



Visiting Sigatoka Sand Dunes

The participants visited the Sigatoka Sand Dunes National Park. It is Fiji’s first national park established in 1987, which is located around 150km from Suva, capital city of Fiji. The park covers an area of about 650 hectares, larger than Tottori Sand Dunes of 545 hectares in Japan. Although the park is in the dunes, it is a greenery habitat of a diverse mixture of plants and about 30 species of birds which of 8 are endemic to Fiji.

The participants joined a walking tour of about an hour and a half with a guide of a park ranger, exploring in the woods, overlooking the sea from the hills and strolling on the beach. Near the park entrance, efforts for protecting dunes were being seen; workers were making a trench with a pile of bricks to prevent animals such as horses and cattle from entering into the park.

The dunes were greatly different from what many participants had imagined but they were able to experience the rich natural environment of Fiji.



Planting mangroves

Then the participants visited Korotogo coast and planted mangroves. Planting activities at the coast were organized under the technical instruction of Japanese NGO, OISCA (Organization Industrial Spiritual and Cultural Advancement). After receiving an explanation how to plant by volunteers of OISCA, the participants planted some 100 trees of mangrove.

The participants were taught that there were mangrove trees growing along the coastal area, and they helped to protect the beach from a storm and the diversities of the coastal ecosystem. It is said that it will take about 10 years for young mangrove trees planted by the participants to grow into a forest.

The participants got the impression that the changes in the natural environment caused by recent global warming and other factors, had considerable effect on Fiji, and therefore every effort was being made to protect its environment.



Getting a briefing about OISCA at youth training center in Nasau

After planting mangrove trees, the participants visited the Youth Training Center in Nasau, where the office of OISCA was located. An official from Ministry of Youth and Sports, the OISCA's counterpart agency, provided a briefing on their projects.

The training center was established in 1990. It has accepted around 600 youth since its establishment. They said that as a vocational training center for school dropouts to gain the power to live, it has provided them with opportunities for trainings for specific vocation in agriculture and other industries. Other than agricultural trainings by Youth Training Center, OISCA Fiji is currently operating three projects: Child Forest Project to visit schools and educate children about the environmental protection, Mangrove Planting Project and Coral Reef Conservation Project.

After listening to a briefing on the institution, the participants enjoyed a delicious Fijian-style lunch at the training center and deepened exchanges through singing songs and talking with Fijian youth. On that day, we gained

a lot of support by many including Mr. William Naisara, Director of Ministry of Youth and Sports, and Ms. Jocelyn L. Matunhay, Chief Representative of OISCA Fiji.

In Fiji, where many young people are said to be able to find no regular work, the participants realized the significant role of the Youth Training Center that provided youth with opportunities to find a purpose for living and future possibilities.

August 15



Big welcome from the village

The participants visited Matawalu Village, one of the villages scattered around Fiji. Upon getting off the bus, they were welcomed with wreaths of flowers and grass by young men and women of the village. The participants were escorted straight to an open space, where Kava was served, a traditional Fijian drink. Divided into groups, they received an explanation of the village life, planted memorial trees and were provided with coconuts and traditional dishes. Lovo is a traditional style of cooking, consisting of digging a hole in the ground, and with burning stones placed at the bottom. Fresh food such as Taro, fish and meat wrapped up in banana or coconut leaves was placed on the hot stones, then covered up in sand and steamed. After the participants looked around the village, the village people dressed in traditional clothes performed singing and dancing. Finally we joined them and danced together hand in hand, spending very enjoyable time from beginning to end.



Traditional style of cooking "Lovo"