

Chapter
3

Evaluations



Evaluation by the Administrator

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This year, Ship for World Youth Program (SWY) started on January 11th, 2020, when all Participating Youths (PYs) gathered in Tokyo. After boarding on Nippon Maru and departing from Port of Yokohama on January 16th, the PYs completed 35 days of round voyage on Pacific Ocean as well as Port of Call Activities in United Mexican States. The completion ceremony and farewell party were held on February 20th, and the program finished on February 24th, when Overseas PYs ended their Regional Program and returned to their home countries. I would like to express my deepest gratitude to all the people who supported the program and led the program to be completed successfully and safely.

For PYs, it was totally their first experience that they stayed with others from all over the world who have different backgrounds and had voyage over one month. But almost by the last day of National Presentation, which was held soon after the departure, feelings of unity among all PYs were created, and they never disappeared until the end of the program.

The solidarity and character of each country which were shown in National Presentation were also brought out in delegation night held as voluntary activity. PYs similarly learned culture and tradition of other countries in Club Activities and made excellent performance in Exhibition.

On the other hand, in Course Discussion which had seven themes, it became full of intellectual stimulation with the support of Facilitators, and the discussions between PYs gradually became to be fulfilled. In Peer Learning Seminar, where each PY voluntarily decided topics, PYs made presentations along with their interest and specialized fields. Similar voluntary presentations were made proactively during the time of voluntary activity and it was very impressive that enthusiastic arguments were

held everywhere in the ship on every night.

The Port of Call Activity in Ensenada, from January 30th to February 1st, became very fruitful due to the devoted preparation done by the alumni association. When we visited the wall on the border between Mexico and US during the activity, some PYs gave way to tears. Also for other PYs, it became meaningful opportunity to think about international affairs.

In this year's voyage, we had to change the schedule unexpectedly, as prolongation of arrival to port of Tokyo for one day by the influence of climate condition. But even in such occasion, PYs received them in very positive attitude and used their time very effectively.

By the way, through the whole voyage, what I was very impressed by are the PYs' kind hearts for others. Although they met for the first time, they helped each other beyond different backgrounds as lifelong friends. I would like to appreciate their generousities very highly.

After the program finished, PYs returned to their countries or hometowns, and restarted their daily life. The experiences which they gained in the program and the "harmony", which they felt at the end of the voyage and showed in the lyrics of the song they composed for SWY of this year, will become treasure of their life. I hope that PYs will use what they gained in this program to the contribution for others. And I am definitely convinced of the eternity of our friendship.

Also for me, it was a great pleasure to commit to this program and spend time with excellent young people from all over the world. I would like to make my best effort to improvement and everlasting of SWY.

I would like to finish my acknowledgment up with the wish for health and happiness of all the people who have relation to SWY.

Evaluation by the National Leaders

Kingdom of Bahrain

National Leader

The Bahrain delegation is honored and pleased to take part in the 32nd Ship for World Youth Program (SWY) that coincides with the year of the 2020 Summer Olympic & Paralympic Games hosted in Tokyo.

Through SWY32, youth with amazing potential and ambition came together to be disconnected from the outside world and put all their efforts and hard work towards developing themselves to be leaders of the future, with a growth mindset and visions of sustainability, fairness, and prosperity for a better tomorrow.

With this said, it demonstrated how significant SWY is in building a better future for not only local communities, but also bridging together global communities that would like to support one another in addressing common issues through this multi-national platform. We are very grateful to the Cabinet Office of Japan to have been selected among the 11 delegations and to work hand-in-hand to implement the vision and aim of SWY.

The potential of sports

With Tokyo hosting the Summer Olympic & Paralympic Games in 2020, the participants of SWY32 embarked Nippon Maru excited to see the true potential of how sports can demonstrate not only physical strength and accomplishments, but also how it could unite nations regardless of their diversity. Throughout the special seminars on the Olympics & Paralympics, the participants were able to learn about sport accomplishments of the delegations onboard, but also discussed amongst themselves on how such sports can play a vital role on a country's economic and social position where the participants had different viewpoints to learn from each other.

The learning experiences

The true power and potential of SWY brings together participants from various backgrounds and culture onto one disconnected platform to learn, gain knowledge, and share among themselves. The connections developed were a one-way ticket for each participant to experience an international platform, to learn of the various cultures this world has and be aware that no matter how geographically

large the world is, communities have so much in common whether it was in habits and culture, or global issues that could be tackled through combined efforts.

Having facilitators, administrators, and National Leaders (NL) with diversified backgrounds and experiences in addition to several of them being ex-participants of SWY, added great value to the development of the participants' leadership capabilities and where their guidance and advice supported in shaping the thoughts and actions of the participants for post-program activities.

Having a vibrant mix of NL also goes towards the success of SWY32 by gaining from the perspective of ex-participants of the program but also fruitful input from NL that were experiencing the voyage for the first time. These efforts were put together to overcome daily challenges, and suggestions put forward supported participants in every way possible. Thanks to the NL team for great teamwork, mutual understanding, and allowing SWY32 to be memorable forever.

Living the SWY spirit

Throughout the activities of SWY, the participants were able to build what we call as the 'SWY spirit'- a spirit that only ex-SWYers can relate to, a spirit of mutual understanding, being positive, connecting to different cultures, and seeking potential opportunities to build and take action on.

The main findings of the development of the SWY spirit and its continuation are:

- We are all one – no matter what race, ethnicity, background, and color, we are – we are all united as the youth of the world, making our societies a better place to be, with a growth mindset & positive attitude towards change.
- We have learnt from each other and developed ourselves – whether it is culture, leadership and other soft skills, confidence, talent, punctuality, and common global issues.
- We can work together regardless of distance & culture differences – youth can work together locally or globally through activities post the SWY program and motivate each other to act for a better & brighter future.

Acknowledgments

The Bahrain delegation contributed towards the success of SWY32 through their pro-active engagement in all activities during the onshore training sessions, onboard training sessions, port of call activities, and regional program. The delegates led in course discussions, presented on stage in seminars, and promoted Bahrain's rich culture and values, thus demonstrating true leadership skills. With the feedback received from colleagues, I am grateful to their hard work and efforts, and would also like to thank

SWYAA Bahrain, and Bahrain's Ministry of Youth & Sport Affairs for their usual support in the delegation selection process and their belief in the potential of SWY. I would also like to thank the Embassy of Japan in Bahrain and the Embassy of Bahrain in Japan for their continuous support with Bahrain's involvement in the program.

I look forward to overlooking the delegation's post-program activities not only locally, but also in collaboration with other SWYAA & ex-PYs across the globe. Keep SWYing!

Federative Republic of Brazil

I speak on behalf of all members of the Brazilian delegation of SWY 32 when I say we are honored to be part on this program which is indeed a life changing experience. For a second time I could experience how incredible SWY is, how much work, planning and dedication it takes and how many lives it changes. I take this opportunity to thank the Japanese Cabinet Office for its vision, resolving and engagement in making the world a better place.

When I mention organization, I mean:

- the Cabinet Office representatives and other members of the Japanese Government, that carefully plan in detail every aspect of the daily lives of each person involved in the program;
- the ones involved in the transportation and safety of each of those lives, from organizers to crew members, with never ending dedication;
- the ADM team, Facilitators, PY supporters, Translators and every other agent that were keys for the success, health and well-being of the participants;
- the volunteers and the families in each prefecture, which received us with open hearts and minds and provided us with a deep look into their lives and Japanese culture;
- the SWYAAs worldwide for all the support and selection of the amazing people that would take part in the program, most specially SWYAA Mexico for organizing and carrying the Port of Call, a wonderful experience into the complexity and beauty of Mexican culture, building bridges not only with Japan but also to every other participating country.

Thank you, thank you all for the enormous dedication, hard work and care, prior, during and after the program.

Hundreds of young individuals from everywhere go back to their homes with a spark in their eyes, their hearts

National Leader

full of will for change, their minds clearer and their spirit stronger. This is the power of SWY, bringing brilliant individuals from around the Earth to empower them to take action, to become more connected to our communities, to build a brighter, more just, healthier and happier future.

As a participant in SWY 23 and now as National Leader of the Brazilian delegation in SWY 32, I could notice huge development in the organization of the program, which I believe came as a very positive answer to the feedback given by past generations. The main difference I see and cherish is about the time participants had for voluntary activities.

I believe this is the time and space that participants needed to grow: a safe environment for discussion, rich with ideas and people from various backgrounds, coming together to tackle serious, urgent and important issues happening all around. Cooperative work and individual talents could flourish and thrive. The passion and dedication of each organizer and the engagement of the attendants was touching. Rare times in a life a person can feel so much support and appreciation for their work.

Personally, I had this unique opportunity to be a representative of my delegation and my country, I could be the voice not only for the members of my delegation but also for every other participant, bringing responsibility and respect to every discussion, always aiming for the best outcome possible to all the lives onboard.

In the middle of the ocean, many people could find themselves, I was one of them. As an educator, I could see again and again how I can help others to learn and be protagonists of their own lives. I had conversations that led me through paths of self-analysis and I could see achievements that happened in SWY, throughout SWY, for SWY and because of SWY.

I feel honored, proud and blessed for having lived all that SWY is and helped lots of people do the same.

Arab Republic of Egypt

National Leader

I would like to express my deepest thanks and gratitude to the Cabinet Office, Government of Japan for their kind invitation to the Arab Republic of Egypt to participate for the 14th time in the Ship for World Youth Program (SWY 32).

I would also like to thank the Egyptian Ministry of Youth and Sports for their sponsorship and support they provided to the Egyptian delegation during the preparation period. Also, I would like to thank the Embassy of Japan in Egypt and the Egyptian SWYAA for the orientation sessions they made to explain about the program to the Egyptian delegates.

Pre-departure activities

For me as a NL, one of my most important goals during the preparation period was to create an appropriate atmosphere where the team can feel comfortable to be themselves, build strong bonds with each other, and show their real potentials.

And as a Japanese language teacher, I explained about the Japanese language, culture, and lifestyle to my team, in order to shrink the culture shock they might have after arrival to Japan.

Onshore activities (1)

After arrival in Japan, we were accommodated in the NYC. During this onshore training, we had a lot of activities that helped the Egyptian team being more connected to the PYs from the other countries, and getting more excited about the program activities onboard.

Life onboard

Finally, we got on board of Nippon Maru, the ship that we still call it home, even after the program has ended.

Life onboard was full of activities such as NP, course discussions, All-PY seminars, Peer Learning seminars, club activities, I share talks, meetings for delegations, committees, letter groups, and a massive number of voluntary activities.

Sometimes it felt very intense and overwhelming, but definitely, it was a valuable learning experience that allowed us to know more about each other's countries,

cultures, backgrounds, and also personal interests.

A lot of memories have been created just by some words... No Party, Yes Party... 1 hour forward, 1 hour back! The strictness about being on time that PYs have experienced through the roll-up call, disembarkation and boarding time, made them realize that even a minute does matter, and that was reflected clearly on their punctuality.

Port of Call

The 3 days we spent in Mexico made us think about a lot of things, especially after our visit to the border wall between Mexico and the USA in Tijuana. That visit was so emotional to the Mexican delegation who later held a talk session in which they expressed their feelings about that wall, and the talk extended to everyone else was attending, and all the PYs started sharing their thoughts about the borders in their countries or even around the world.

All the institutional visits that we had gave us a great opportunity to interact with the local volunteer youth and all the EX-PYs who came all the way with love to see us and encourage us during our journey.

Onshore activities (2)

After coming back to Japan, NLs and ANLs had the honor to meet the Prime Minister of Japan. Also, we had the chance to explore Tokyo city more through the institutional visit to the Olympic & Paralympic facilities, and Tokyo city tour with our letter groups. These visits were very refreshing and mood changing after a 34-day tight schedule. And at the same time, they were very emotional as they made us notice that we were approaching to part from each other.

Regional Program in Hiroshima

Egyptian delegation went to Hiroshima Prefecture with the U.K. delegation, where we had the privilege to meet the Vice Governor, experience making Okonomiyaki, enjoy the great hospitality provided to us from our host families and all the various activities organized by the IYEO and local youth.

We had the chance to visit Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park & Museum and listen to a lecture on the experience

of an atomic bomb survivor. The speaker talked about her aunt's experience and asked us to share the story with our families and friends after returning to our countries. That was really emotional and made us re-realize how awful the war is.

The Egyptian delegation worked hard to contribute to SWY 32 success through active engagement into the program activities, as I have witnessed great growth in

their personalities. Also, all the positive comments that I received from the ADMs, NLs, and PYs about their participation made me very grateful to their hard work, and look forward to our post-program activities.

What SWY spirit planted into us is to "think globally, act locally", so we are coming back home with a strong desire to challenge our limits, and take initiatives even if they are small ones, to contribute more in the social work for the good of our society, and a better world.

French Republic

Being the first French delegation to participate in the Ship for World Youth Program was a challenging experience for our team of 12 as we had little time to prepare and lacked the support and experience of an alumni association. But thanks to our creativity, adaptability and willingness to take initiatives not only did we overcome difficulties but we managed to strive and make the best of this amazing program.

In particular we would like to come back on six ways the program helped us to grow as individuals and leaders:

1) We developed our intercultural skills

Because we did not have the opportunity to meet prior to the program, our group was initially less united than other delegations. However, this allowed us to mix more easily with other PYs and get an incredible exposure to other cultures. We discovered the similar aspirations, hopes and fears we share with people from other nations while learning to embrace our differences. As future leaders, this will enable us to think collaboratively and globally instead of focusing only on our local or national interests.

If the program got us exposed to all continents, it was also a good opportunity to deep dive in Japanese culture. In particular, the regional program in Shizuoka Prefecture helped us develop our interest for Japan by participating in activities such as tea ceremony or visiting traditional onsens. As such, we plan to work on the development of relationships between France and Japan as part of the actions of our future SWYAA association.

2) We got to know ourselves better

The Nippon Maru is like a capsule out of time and space. By being disconnected from the internet, escaping the contingencies of our everyday lives and the pressure of our peers we got a chance to reflect on what is really

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important for us. For some of my delegates, the SWY experience helped them confirm their current paths while other decided to make radical changes in their lives and careers.

3) We became ambassadors of our country and culture

Working as a group was a good opportunity to understand our shared strengths as French people. We realized that our education helped us develop common qualities such as inventiveness, a sense of humour, flexibility and an inquiring mindset.

By sharing important aspects of our culture such as food, fashion and art we also became prouder and more grateful to our country. On the other hand, exchanging with other PYs on their own social issues helped us reevaluate the problems we experience in France.

4) We increased our self confidence

By organizing multiple events - such as a DIY cosmetic club activity or a fashion show that gathered almost all SWY32 participants - we did things we had never done before and learnt how to go out of our comfort zone. This helped us to boost our self-confidence and prepared us to take more risks and initiatives in the future.

5) We became more aware of global issues

Even if we regret that the content of the course discussions was sometimes too superficial, they were a good occasion to start conversations with other PYs on global issues. This made us want to go deeper into topics such as education, immigration, gender equality or environment and we are now planning to act individually and collectively on those issues.

6) We developed our international network

In only two months, we created strong bonds with people from Japan and all over the world. Beyond the development of new friendships, this international network represents a fantastic opportunity for our future carriers.

As such, we feel that the structuring and development of the global SWY alumni network is a high- priority topic to which we would like to contribute as a delegation. Thanks to the work of JPYs, a common address book for SWY 32 was created which will facilitate future communications within our batch. In a similar manner, SWYAAs and

the Cabinet Office could coordinate to develop a global address book for all ex-PYs.

Conclusion

The French delegation, would like to express its deepest gratitude to the government of Japan for having invited us to the 32nd edition of the Ship for World Youth. It was a true honour for us. We hope we met the expectations of the Cabinet Office, and that, thanks to the actions of our alumni association, France will regularly participate in future editions of the SWY program.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

National Leader

It has been an honour to serve as the National Leader of the U.K. delegation and embark upon this unique adventure. I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to the Cabinet Office of Japan for inviting us to take part this year. I cannot express in words the profound impact the programme has had upon my delegation, the fruits of which we will continue to see flourish in many years to come.

We have had the pleasure of getting to know delegates from 10 countries around the world. Each future leader bought with them their rich history, language and culture. Through our daily interactions we were able to be with each other in a space conducive to learning. To breaking down our preconceived ideas and perceptions and embracing the interactions as they developed on board. It is through experientially interacting with a culture that one is able to grasp even a little of the tangible culture of a country. The ship created a safe space within which we could be ourselves and express our unique strengths and talents to together look at the issues facing the world today. These are deeply entrenched issues which we cannot attend to on our own but must collaboratively work together to address, the space on board allowed us to begin to do just this.

On board we experienced the whole spectrum of emotions, from joy to sadness. Through sharing our experiences with each other we were all bought closer together blurring the obvious factors that differentiate us. The strength of our togetherness shone bright. Together the bonds created on board is only the start. It is from here that we will continue to carry the spirit of exchange and mutual understanding and cooperation back to our homes and to the world. The port of call demonstrated the deep richness of a country and its culture, where our senses were

illuminated with the delights of Mexico. The homestay, weaved in a thread of local knowledge to remind us not to lose sight of that which is in front of us while we chase bigger goals, the local and the global together are key to affecting change in the world. The ship is a microcosm of the world and I feel we have started to take important small steps towards creating a world where we can all live in harmony and peace.

The experience not only gave birth to lifelong friendships but allowed each of us to know ourselves better, in doing so we can better understand how we can serve our society and the world. To be global leaders we need to dig deep and connect to our true potential that lies within, it is not just in some of us but in all of us. We learned the value of truly keeping an open mind, one that is inquisitive and willing to broaden horizons through learning about peoples cultures. This way we learn about how much unites us rather than divides us. We learned that our uniqueness is worth celebrating and is a valuable asset for us. The more we are able to tap into this, the potential of what we can achieve is immense, the possibilities endless.

I had the pleasure of taking part in SWY27 and I am moved beyond words to have had this opportunity on SWY32 to come back and lead a dynamic, creative, ambitious and joyful group of young people. All of whom have taught me much throughout the journey. At first it was challenging to find my feet and gauge how best to lead both my delegation and a diverse letter group. Yet diving right into the deep end I was quickly able to learn from each experience as to how best to navigate the needs of the group. I feel it is exactly through being dynamically immersed in a setting that we are able to feel what the best approach may or may not be. I am grateful for our dynamic

group of national leaders and our collective strength as well as each and every PY on board for their creativity, curiosity and deep initiative in striving for the collective benefit of all on board.

Finally, I would like to extend our appreciation to all the administrative staff, to include the cabinet office, IYEO, the PY supporters, the counsellor, the nurses, the

facilitators, the travel agents, the postman and of course the captain and crew. It is thanks to their smooth running of this mammoth operation that we could enjoy our time on board with ease and focus on connecting with our fellow participating youth. I wish the programme continued success in the years to come and we shall continue to keep the SWY spirit alive through our alumni connections.

Japan

First of all, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Cabinet Office, which provided me a wonderful opportunity to lead the Japanese delegation during the program as Japan's National Leader.

Frankly, today I still feel relieved after the program was successfully completed in late February despite the coronavirus outbreak in the world.

Throughout the SWY program, I had a very exciting daily life on Nippon Maru and at the National Olympics Memorial Youth Center, always surrounded by excellent young people from across the globe. I could fully comprehend the greatness of the program, which is very rich in the diversity of participants from different ethnic and cultural backgrounds. I appreciate and cherish the platform the program gives us to connect, to share, and to come together for opportunities in the future.

As my first accomplishment at the program, I have always strongly encouraged Japanese participants to make many precious friends from across the world since the beginning of the program that started at the National Olympics Memorial Youth Center in September 2019. I also have emphasized the fact that friendship is an irreplaceable treasure in life. This is because I know friends you make in the youth will surely become your lifetime treasures. All the good memories of SWY will also continue to foster a close bond of friendship among participants even after the program. This is evident from my experience that I still keep in touch with many participants of the Ship for Southeast Asian and Japanese Youth Program (SSEAYP) in which I participated during my university days in 1992. They became my precious friends.

Thus, I was so glad to see many participants actively addressing a variety of activities such as Course Discussions and Club Activities and steadily increase their opportunities for bonding and friendship during the program. I believe many participants could have many precious lifetime friends, just as I had at the SSEAYP in 1992.

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As my second accomplishment at the program, I have always encouraged Japanese participants to express their own opinion in front of overseas participants without hesitation. I also have encouraged them to make any presentation in front of a large audience at the Dolphin Hall of Nippon Maru.

Thus, I was very happy to see many Japanese participants, as the program goes on, come to the stage of the Dolphin Hall many times and become either a master of ceremony or an announcer for some event.

It was very encouraging to see more and more Japanese participants are becoming willing to speak up in front of everybody on a daily basis.

As the third accomplishment, I have encouraged Japanese participants to keep always trying during the program. SWY is, after all, a youth program. In my view, for the youth, experience only matters. Even if you fail, failure becomes success if you learn from it. Young people also can learn from each other's successes and mistakes if you are willing to try a new thing. When I see many Japanese participants being engaged in so many voluntary activities, I always felt their eagerness to enjoy a new challenge.

Lastly, I strongly believe the SWY program has fostered friendship and greater understanding of culture, history, heritage, customs and religion, etc. among youths from Japan and other nations around the world. The program has contributed greatly to broaden young people's multicultural and international perspective necessary to live in the globalized society. I believe the program surely will be an important milestone of SWY32 participants' lives as well.

Taking advantage of my experience as Japan's National Leader, I would like to keep contributing to the youth program from now on by working behind the scenes for the next generation.

Japan

Sub-National Leader

It was about 6 years since the last time I was onboard Nippon Maru as a PY for Ship for Southeast Asian and Japanese Youth Program (SSEAYP), which is a sister program of Ship for World Youth Program (SWY). As a Sub-National Leader, I had many challenges and discoveries which I did not see when I was a PY throughout the program. There are two biggest findings I would like to mention in this report among them.

The first point is that I found engaging myself into helping people to challenge and develop themselves also makes me challenge and develop myself. One of my goals for this program was to dedicate myself as much as possible to help PYs learn new things as much as they can. From my experience as a PY, I knew that this program is quite intense and so unique that it can be a little overwhelming for youths. During the preparatory training for JPYs in September, I noticed that some of them were struggling to discuss in English or feeling inferior because they sometimes felt other PYs gathering from around the country were more talented. There were also some PYs who started feeling anxious rather than excited because they realized the program would be a tough challenge for them than they expected. I tried to keep my attention to those who seemed especially having difficulties, by sharing their mental conditions to the facilitators and other NLs and coming to talk to them directly if needed. All those processes taught me so much to develop myself in terms of communication skills.

The second point is that I learned the importance of building one's own identity. Compared to SSEAYP, where we somehow share the similarities of Asian cultural background, I felt SWY has more diversity which can not be categorized just by the nationality and each PY had own way to shine as an individual rather than as a delegation. In many of the voluntary activities and even daily life onboard, I found different identities, which motivated them to speak up, organize sessions or seminars expressing what

they believe or what makes them themselves, which are the part of their identities. There were countless beautiful moments where people spontaneously started constructive conversations in a small group exchanging their thoughts and passions. I believe those moments definitely became chances to explore oneself by being exposed to the others. That was possible in SWY environment because it is a safe and comfortable circumstance where people share the value that to understand and respect differences is the most important thing. In Japan, we have less ethnical or cultural diversities. I think that is one of the reasons why most of Japanese do not have a chance to think about what identity they have as an individual. I also believe that understanding one's identity helps to have own opinions and express thoughts. SWY is a good opportunity especially for JPYs to realize the importance of thinking who you are and making it into a shape.

It is always not easy to see the clear result of an investment for human resources and education. I believe SWY has such a big influence to make each PY implement something for the better world in the future. At the very last session with JPYs in Tokyo, I told them that SWY experience is like a planting a seed to grow. You may not see what you gain clearly now, it may take 1 year or even 10 years to harvest. One thing to keep in your mind is that you need to take care of the seed by watering, giving it enough sunshine and fertilizer.

Lastly, I would like to show my appreciation for this opportunity to join SWY and the great National Leaders team. I also gained a lot from how they take initiative, cope with difficulties also enjoy the program. Setting the rules and agreements depending on the situation was sometimes tough, but I believe we could not have managed it without anyone of us. I would like to make the most of this invaluable experience for the better society and social empowerment.

National Leader

As the National Leader of the Kenya delegation to the 32nd Ship for World Youth Program, I wish to express the gratitude of the entire delegation to the Government of Japan for according us the opportunity to participate in the programme and making lasting friendships that are definitive of the SWY family.

During the programme, we created bonds with other participants from 10 countries from across the globe and were able to share and appreciate the cultural and historical background of each participating delegate nurturing connections that shall carry on in the years to come. Together, we have learned from each other by sharing, discussing and even creating viable solutions to the common and unique problems that face us as the youth in today's globally interconnected world.

The concept of life aboard a ship shared with strangers who eventually become closer than family goes on to show beauty of the human spirit. As we got seasick and adjusted, we found commonality in sharing a meal or just a story. In moments of sadness and sorrow, each SWY member can now find solace in knowing that there is a greater purpose to each other's life story. While each participant comes aboard with a unique perspective on global issues, the solutions negotiated amongst the participating youth expresses the collective concern on the state of global affairs.

To cross the Pacific Ocean twice and visit the state of Baja California, Mexico gave us the opportunity to have a personal experience and counter the negative stereotype narrative that is available on mass media. To be able to

learn the history of Mexico and interact with future leaders of tomorrow gave us an in-depth understating of the issues that face us globally. Discussions on the conservation of indigenous heritage, global citizenship and inclusivity, have crafted critical thinking and have sharpened the analytical skills in each of the participating youth.

The regional programme in Wakayama Prefecture gave us the opportunity to meet and spend time with our host families. Much was learnt about the history and culture of Japan as was the natural beauty of the land. This unique part of the programme saw some of us experiencing a country few have had the opportunity to visit or learn of. The hospitality and warm reception accorded by each of the participating Prefectural Government is evidence of the holistic and inclusive nature of the SWY programme.

Though each aspect of the programme presented new challenges that required a collective response, it is important to note that each delegation benefited from each other and this has led to the creation of a wealth of knowledge that shall serve each and every one of us in the years to come.

As a tribute to my fellow SWY family members, I wish to thank each and every one of them for their unbounded creativity, consideration and acceptance. To the administrators, facilitators and the Captain and crew of the Nippon Maru, who conducted the programme safely and effectively, you have been an invaluable asset that has contributed to the successful outcome of the Ship for World Youth. To you all we say Hongera SWY.

United Mexican States

“Let the world see how we can truly be, living in harmony...”

This phrase portrayed a sung trademark during the 32nd edition of the Ship for World Youth Program of the Cabinet Office of the Government of Japan, and during our voyage, the Mexican delegation had the privilege to work towards this objective with the other 10 countries throughout our time together.

We travelled from the land of the rising sun to the land of the belly button of the moon having the opportunity to learn from the contrasts and similarities among countries, and to put into perspective the representation that each Mexican delegate portrayed of the different Mexico's.

A great occasion to do so was through the National Presentation where we showcased a small cultural glimpse of Mexico's history and its present through humor and creativity in order to approach harsh social realities of our country such as the student's movement in 1968 in the context of the Olympics. This was a challenge because since Mexico would also hold the only port of call, we had to be critical of the information we shared with the rest of the participating youth and be as open as possible, even to share how the war against drugs is a problem that evolved in a deep violence that impacts the youth of our country.

Once we arrived “home”, SWYAA Mexico welcomed us and PYs were inspired by the joyful spirit of the former ex-PYs and understood that part of the Post Program Activities can derive into organized gatherings each time SWY calls upon the need to contribute to the multicultural experience and give back a little of all of the generosity received by Japan. Also, the full on participation of local and federal authorities reinforced the idea of the diplomatic relations among countries to hold such events.

When we visited the border wall that divides Mexico from the United States - the starting point of the Latin American territory - many thoughts and emotions were triggered among ALL of us. We raised awareness of the terrible reality of the different types of borders around the world and shared the experience that in Mexico it is something we live with every day. It was necessary to take some time to put into context the phenomenon and deepen the explanation of what it meant for some of the Mexican

National Leader

delegates to be immigrants and how in the Mexican culture sometimes pain is dealt with laughter and division walls are painted with colors and messages of peace and hope.

We realized that migration is a fundamental international issue and each individual had a different perspective which lead to many questions and thanks to this “crisis” (understood as a “testing time”) we were able to initiate deeper conversations regarding migration that eventually lead up to other topics equally important for our community of young leaders that face the task of changing the world from the present towards the future.

This voyage was full of unexpected changes in the program and many due to external reasons and other elements that made this 32nd edition unique and challenged the capacity of adaptation and problem solving of both Administrative Staff and Participating Youth with a positive output that opened up more communication and feedback channels, which is also an evolution of the program itself.

With a love shaped human goodbye we sailed back to a life on board that got every time busier due to the determination of sharing as much as possible among us.

By the time we arrived at Tokyo, and left our home Nippon Maru we had already started to say our many goodbyes but still had an important way to go due to the variations in the order of the program. The change that at the beginning seemed rare and worrying for the hearts of PYs being split apart and compromised to fulfill the rest of the program, turned out to be a positive opportunity to bond much better during the Tokyo City tour with letter groups.

The regional program in Oita was also benefited because the Mexican delegation could understand the Japanese culture much better, deepen their knowledge and have greater appreciation to each family that received them in homestay. This variation had a positive effect on the emotional health of the team when returning back home to the wrap up session.

Finally, I will be forever grateful for the honor given to represent Mexico along with other 11 young leaders with resilience and the capacity to act among their communities and always turn back to share love to Japan and the world in order to create harmony.

Ma Te huruhuru, Ka rere Te manu - Adorn the bird with feathers so it can fly

The journey of the Aotearoa/ New Zealand delegation on the Ship for World Youth Program began with the selection process run by the SWYNZ Alumni Association. This best practice process includes a written application and videoconference interviews facilitated by a diverse selection panel. The unique aspect of our process is that the National Leader is selected first and then is a key part of the selection of the delegation.

This gave me the unique privilege of being able to journey alongside the delegation right from their first interviews to returning home at the end of the programme. Seeing each of them grow and develop over this time has been a great source of joy and pride. I believe we selected a unique and diverse delegation which accurately represented the breadth of New Zealand young people.

The Ship for World Youth Program is a unique and incredibly valuable opportunity for young people to experience leadership development and cultural exchange. It has an 'x-factor' as it creates a bubble, an ideal global community, where young people feel safe to try new things and be challenged by new ideas.

This year the on-board programme was especially thorough as we had a significant time at sea. This allowed ample opportunities for young people to run workshops, facilitate discussions, teach new skills and lead clubs. Our delegation was pleasantly surprised by how popular our kapahaka club was and the deep engagement of the participants. The New Zealand leaders of that club were able to flex their leadership muscles as well as see the impact of sharing Māori culture on an international stage.

Another highlight for our delegation was presenting our culture during the National Presentations. It was a very special moment for us and created deep and long-lasting bonds between our members. We were overwhelmed with the response to our presentation, with many people coming up to us after and telling us how deeply they were impacted by our culture. We wish we had a little bit more time for

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this presentation, even an extra 15 minutes would go a long way.

We also enjoyed sharing other aspects of our culture during delegation night. Playing music, singing waiata (songs) and sharing food and beverages with the PYs was very enjoyable. We found that NZ wine was especially popular and wish we had capacity to bring more onboard!

The Port of Call in Mexico has a significant impact on our delegates. They especially enjoyed trying Mexican food, meeting Mexican people, learning more about Baja California and meeting ex-PYs from around the world.

We did also encounter some challenges with the Port of Call. This included not being well informed about the visit to the border wall, the lack of flexibility or free time in the schedule to meet locals and experience local culture, and generally found the schedule to be too rushed. We do feel like this feedback has been heard and will be taken into account in future programmes.

Our delegates made the most of every minute of the programme. Sometimes their highlights were part of the official programme and sometimes it was informal conversations over a meal, drink, or in a hallway on the ship late at night. It was during these times that some of the richest conversations were held and the deepest bonds of friendships were forged. We hope that future programmes acknowledge and encourage these kinds of interactions.

The whakatauki (Māori words of wisdom) which I began this report with, acknowledge the incredible impact the Ship for World Youth Program can have on the participants. And so it is with a grateful heart I would like to thank the Cabinet Office of the Government of Japan and all the Administrative staff who put this programme together. Your work and generosity will literally help adorn our young people with the feathers of leadership, trust, confidence and much more, which will help them take flight in their chosen fields.

Thank you for everything you do to create the magic that is SWY.

Arohanui (with great love and appreciation)

Republic of Peru

The Ship for World Youth Program was a unique and unforgettable life-changing experience that has allowed each one of us become a better version of ourselves. It has certainly help us know much more about us and become more empathic and open to different cultures of the world. These 45 days were full of deep self-understanding, personal growth and interpersonal discovery.

SWY was a plural space in which we learnt and shared the importance of our identities, values, legacy and culture with all the world.

We specially appreciate the following facts that promoted a proper space for open discussion:

- Everyone was eager to create friendship bonds that goes beyond the normal understanding fostering a deeper comprehension.
- Everyone was aware of our differences and eager to understand and learn from each other so everyone could be itself without any concern of being judged.

This program, which promoted an atmosphere free from prejudices, free from discrimination, full of kindness and understanding, led us to realize that, despite our differences, love and friendship is built strong enough to last a lifetime, regardless of the distance barrier in an environment. After all, even though we have physical and ideological differences, we may have the same fears, same hopes, same values we are all humans; we share a same heart and feelings.

Also, it was a great opportunity to show the Peruvian culture to participants from different parts of the world, making us proud of how people from different parts of the world enjoyed our dances, drinks and food. But, furthermore, it was a great occasion to share our traditions, worldview and ancestral knowledge, compare our culture

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with others from different nations and being amazed about how similar we are, despite how geographically far away we are from each other.

We discussed international issues in a more personal way so we could be more empathic with the problem and get inspired to start taking action in our own communities. The diversity of the participating countries and the diversity of the young leaders among each delegation was the perfect input for an open space of discussion about our different realities. Further, talking about global issues with people that you respect and appreciate created a great atmosphere of open ears, open heart and open mind.

Despite being isolated for some days, far from our relatives and with very little chance to communicate with them, we have forge strong bonds of friendship among us, which created the SWY32 family.

Moreover, the focus on peer learning activities of this program has been a constant leadership training. It improved our skills and boosted our confidence. Thus, it has empowered us to return to our countries and have a more impactful contribution to society. Further, the sense of “keep SWYing” is alive among all of us as we have understood our role as future leaders of the world.

Japan and the Nippon Maru were an amazing scenario for this experience. We have learnt so much about the Japanese culture, experience the hospitality of its people and enjoy its beauty.

We are very thankful to the Cabinet Office of the Government of Japan for sponsoring this amazing program. It has certainly inspired us and unite countries and cultures. We are convinced now that there is more hope for having a better world with this new batch of new global leaders.

Let’s keep SWYing!!!

Sri Lankan delegation was honored to be a part of 32nd Ship for World Youth and as a country we are excited to host the port of call activities for the 33rd Ship for World Youth next year.

We would first of all like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to all who supported us throughout the SWY journey from day one where 12 strangers came together following selection process and carefully crafted accordingly with necessary skills and knowledge by the national youth council along with the SWY alumni association and Japanese embassy who handpicked the career diverse delegation best suited for the long SWY journey way far from our little pearl of the Indian Ocean. In spite of the challenges we had to face even before our departure having had to say good bye to four of our beloved members we flew to Japan with heavy doubtful hearts wondering how to face the upcoming challenges as a team with 8 members out of which 7 were females. Sri Lanka as a delegation showed the importance of female empowerment in every single step of the way, importance of equal access for education for females, most importantly having faith in their abilities and giving equal opportunities and required space for them to exhibit their talents paved the way for us to win the most active delegation award. This victory would surely be an eye opener and a good example for the need of female empowerment and the need to voice against gender discrimination.

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Rats in a box - Environment that was created with minimal external distractions helped us to make strong friendships with fellow PYs and to have many deep conversations on diverse topics that helped us broaden our knowledge on different perspectives of global issues and also for better cross-cultural understanding which would otherwise take a life time for us to experience if not for this SWY program. Port of call in Mexico is the one of the main attractive programmes for us. Because it is very rare chance for Sri Lankans to participate SWY without port of call in Sri Lanka. In this programme we visited to the boundary wall between the USA and Mexico that was the best experience for our delegation because as an island living people we do not have that experience. From that we learn about how global inclusive society is important to the world.

Our delegation was excited to visit beautiful Yamagata prefecture which is a kind of the best known and preferred place to visit in Japan to most of us who grew up watching famous "Oshin" drama and it was a quite educational and fun experience. Also it would be unfair if we do not mention about IYEO of Yamagata prefecture who planned a very educational, time effective schedule to make the maximum use of the time we spent including many interactions with local youth. We really appreciate the warm hospitality of the organizers and host families who made us feel like at home.

Message from the Captain

Captain Senda Shouichi
M.S. Nippon Maru

As a captain of Nippon Maru served for the Ship for World Youth 2020, I had a privilege to sail over the Pacific Ocean with youths from Japan, Bahrain, Brazil, Egypt, France, U.K., Kenya, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Sri Lanka. Our sailing route had four different segments as below:

1. Yokohama - Honolulu
2. Honolulu - Ensenada
3. Ensenada - Honolulu
4. Honolulu - Tokyo

The following description are part of my notes that were taken during this voyage.

1. Yokohama - Honolulu

January 16: “Von Voyage” — Nippon Maru set sail from Osanbashi Yokohama International Passenger Terminal, while passengers’ families and friends were waving at terminal rooftop. In the waters off Inubosaki, Nippon Maru diverted its course to the east, which was a start of rolling due to the 1.5-meter-high wave.

January 19: Being hit by 3-meter-high wave, National Presentation was performed by the delegation of Japan, Bahrain, France, and U.K.

January 20: Second day of National Presentation. New Zealand, Egypt, Kenya and Brazil were on the stage.

January 21: Another sunny day with temperatures hovering 20 degrees Celsius. The last day of National Presentation. Brilliant performance by Peru, Mexico and Sri Lanka.

January 21: The vessel sailed across the International Date Line, we experienced another January 21.

January 22-23: Approaching to Honolulu. Great weather allowed participants to enjoy beautiful sunset. I could hear their scream in delight at deck.

January 24: Although free time in Honolulu was only a half day, participants went off the ship

and enjoyed their leisure time with good weather. Their eyes sparkled with joy.

2. Honolulu - Ensenada

January 25-27: Weather has been cloudy. Temperature kept below 20 degrees Celsius and became cold.

January 28-29: Although the temperature was as cold as under 16 degrees Celsius, we could observe a fine sun rise with clear horizontal line. Participants engaged in yoga and Brazilian capoeira as part of club activities. Although there was a quite pitching day, participants seemed to become tolerant to the motion since their faces were bright. I realized younger generation are resilient.

January 30: Arrived to Ensenada port. Welcoming ceremony was held at wharf in the morning. Onboard reception in the evening had the pleasure of presence of Japanese Ambassador in Mexico and governors of Ensenada City. Participants exercised their hospitality by performing Japanese drum and traditional dance.

February 1: Departure from Ensenada. Youth group who were engaged in port of call activity sent us off with singing and dancing. After the departure, Nippon Maru expressed “good bye” by blowing long whistle three times.

3. Ensenada - Honolulu

February 2-3: Right after departure from Ensenada, the vessel was hit by strong wave and wind from starboard side. Being aware that quite a few participants suffer from seasickness, I was not able to change the route or speed because of the set arrival time to Honolulu. I could only pray for the participants.

February 4-5: Direction of wave and wind moved towards the back side of the vessel, which eased impact to the ship. Less pitching than past few days and temperature raised as warm as 20 degrees Celsius. Quite pleasant days.

February 7: Arrived to Honolulu under fine weather. 25 degrees Celsius under the clear sky. When

we departed from Honolulu, we could enjoy a wonderful sunset.

4. Honolulu - Tokyo

One of the most memorable moments was the conversation with one participant who was studying to become a navigator of the ship. I conveyed my best wishes for the future crew! On the other hand, one of the toughest situations was the time I received request from participants, saying “please do not make the ship pitching”.

February 8: Beautiful full moon was in the sky.

February 10: Cozy weather and calm ocean. Ship was stable. Participants enjoyed stargazing with the guidance of third officer.

February 12-13: The vessel sailed across the International Date Line and diminished February 11 in order for the time adjustment. We experienced the strongest pitching in this voyage due to the wave that hits us from the front.

February 16: We were informed that approaching atmospheric depression may hit the ship. After the evening, ship started rolling. Believing that the participants became tolerant to the strong wave, Nippon Maru sailed toward Tokyo Bay.

February 18: Nippon Maru finally arrived to Tokyo at 6:50 AM, which was about 1 day delay. I feel sorry for the delay due to the weather condition.

Lastly, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to Mr. Furuya, the administrator of the Ship for World Youth 2020 and all the staffs, administrative members, and everyone who engaged in this program onboard and onshore. Thank you very much for your support.