

Chapter 5 Evaluation of SWY Online

1. PYs' Evaluation of SWY Online

The followings are the results of Online Evaluation Sheets answered by the participants at the end of the Program. The following is an excerpt of the program evaluation.

Note: Answered by 73 Participating Youths out of 76. Response rate was 96%.

Numbers are rounded off to the whole number.

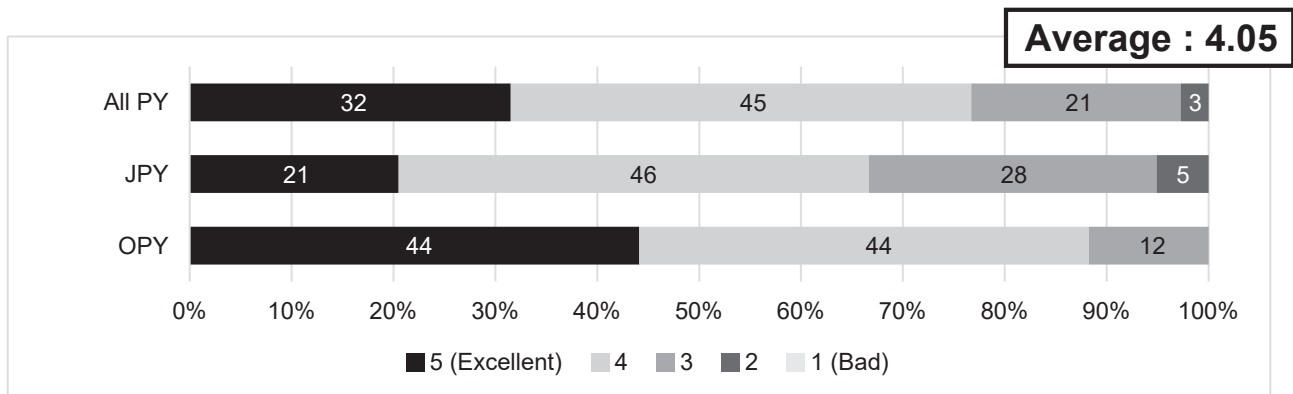
Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding.

The mean average of overall evaluation is 4.05 having 77% of participants rated 4 or above (excellent).

Rating 4 or above (agree), 92% of participants evaluated that the online program contributes to "promoting mutual understanding" and 85% to "establishing friendship" between people from other countries. In regard to the positive impact of this online program to one's willingness to participate in social contribution activities, 96% of participants rated 4 or above (agree).

As the program was conducted online this year, 70% of participants answered 5 or above (think so) for "holding online is easy to attend" whereas 82% answered 5 or above (think so) for "I would like to participate in a face-to-face exchange program, not an online exchange."

Q. What is your overall evaluation about the program?



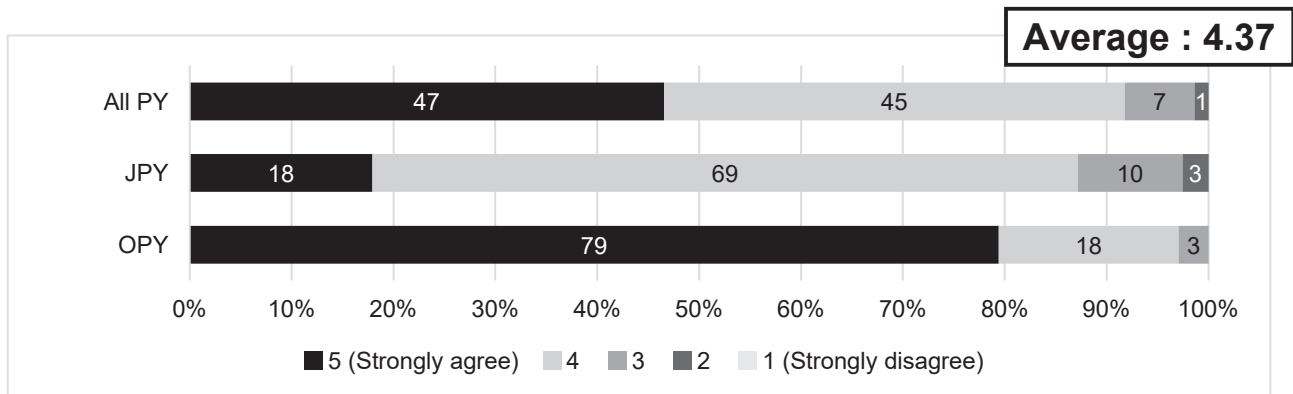
JPY

- I could spend wonderful time than I had expected.
- I would like to have more time to understand OPYs and their countries more.

OPY

- As an online program it was excellent, but it can not replace a face-to-face program.
- It was very useful, the outcomes was very important. Knowing that each country has its own suffering.

Q. Do you agree that the program contributes to promoting mutual understanding between you and participants from other countries?



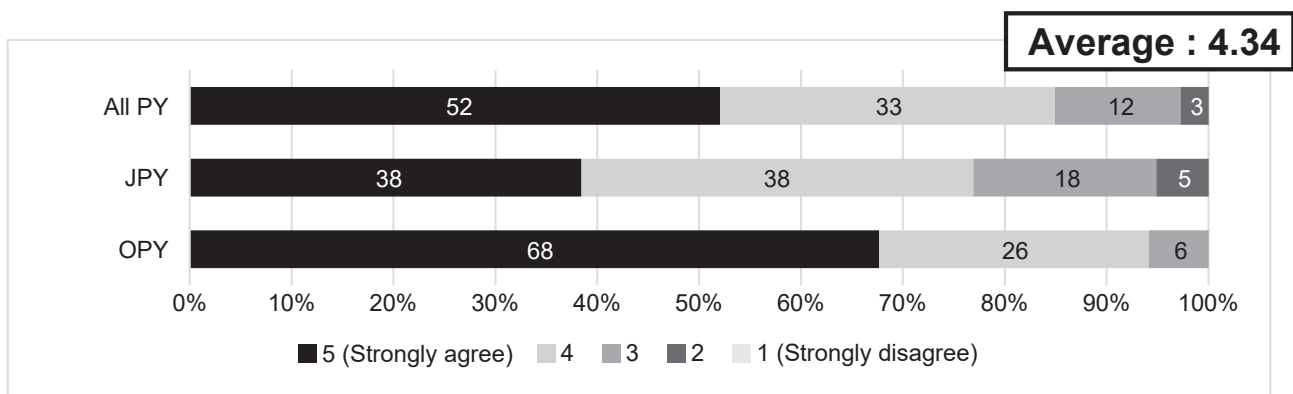
JPY

- Workshop was great opportunity to deepen my knowledge about mutual understanding.
- It was fun to know other countries and Japan through OPY's perspectives.

OPY

- SWY Online was a great opportunity to learn about other countries and gain a respect and understanding of many aspects of the participating countries including language, history and culture.
- It was a huge wealth to discuss different issues with people that have different experiences and approach.
- Cultural exchange with other countries is a very important means of deepening understanding of Japan and the part of other countries and promoting international friendship and goodwill. As interdependence among nations is increasing today, it has become more and more important to cultivate personal contacts among nations by promoting, through cultural exchanges, mutual understanding of the social foundation of each nation, such as its language, customs and cultural traditions."

Q. Do you agree that the program contributes to establishing friendship between you and participants from other countries?



JPY

- This kind of program motivates participants a lot to know more about the world.
- We have group chats, SNSs to connect. Very useful to communicate.

OPY

- Great way to meet new people in a pandemic.
- I am already planning my post-COVID trip to meet all the wonderful participants in person.
- It was a great way to meet others and begin to make connections however it was difficult as it was online.

Q. What were the benefits from the program? (Multiple choices)

- a. I was able to deepen my understanding of my own country and culture.
- b. I felt a sense of pride in my country.
- c. I was able to deepen my understanding of Japan.
- d. I was able to deepen my understanding of other participating countries.
- e. I am more interested in global issues.
- f. I was able to make many friends.
- g. It affected the way I think.
- h. I started thinking of changing careers.
- i. Others
- j. I did not get any benefit.

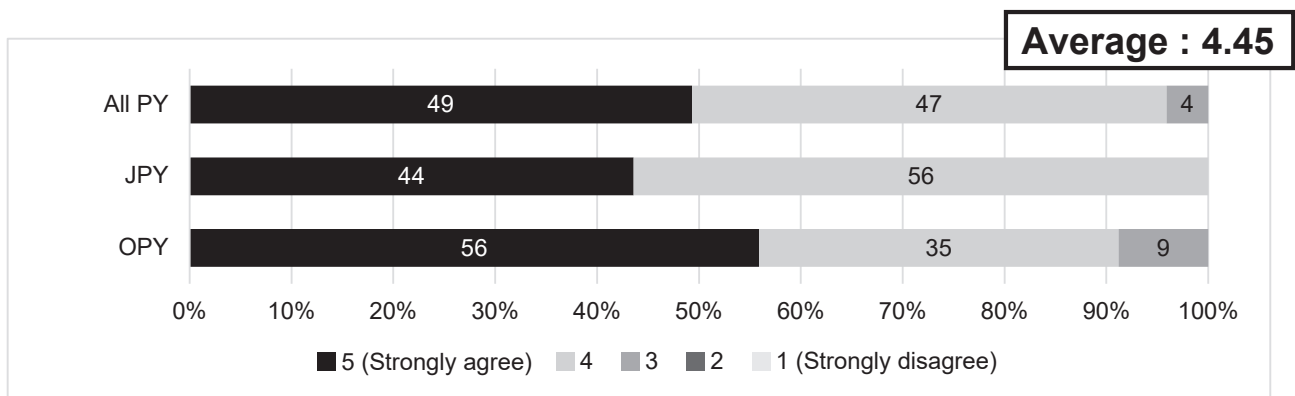
*Actual number

	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j
All PY	47	34	42	53	56	51	38	24	3	0
JPY	22	11	14	28	31	24	20	15	2	0
OPY	25	23	28	25	25	27	18	9	1	0

i. Others

- Leadership experience
- We need to change gender inequality, I understand it's world common issue from course discussion.
- I felt empowered to become more entrepreneurial and learn Japanese and Arabic.

Q. Do you agree that the program encourages your willingness to participate in social contribution activities?



JPY

- I was able to reconfirm the significance of the local volunteer activities that I am currently involved in. And I wanted to be more actively involved in this activity in the future.
- I got motivated from other participants.
- I re-recognize my interests through this program.

OPY

- The personal stories of the PYs who are already working and of students who are leading the initiatives to improve their communities are very motivating.
- Program gave good future vision.

Q. How would you like to make use of the results you gained from SWY Online after the program? Please describe your current goals.

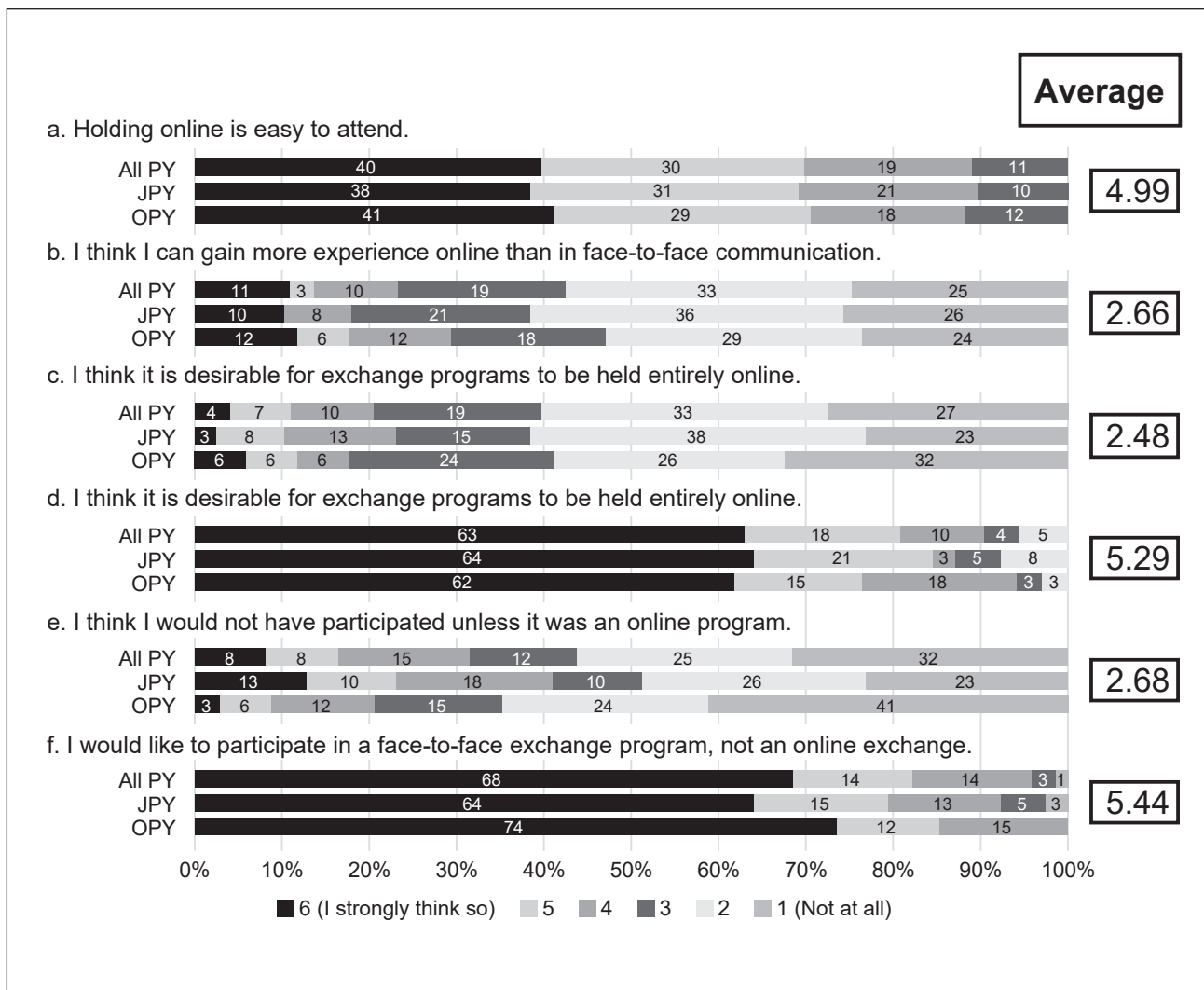
JPY

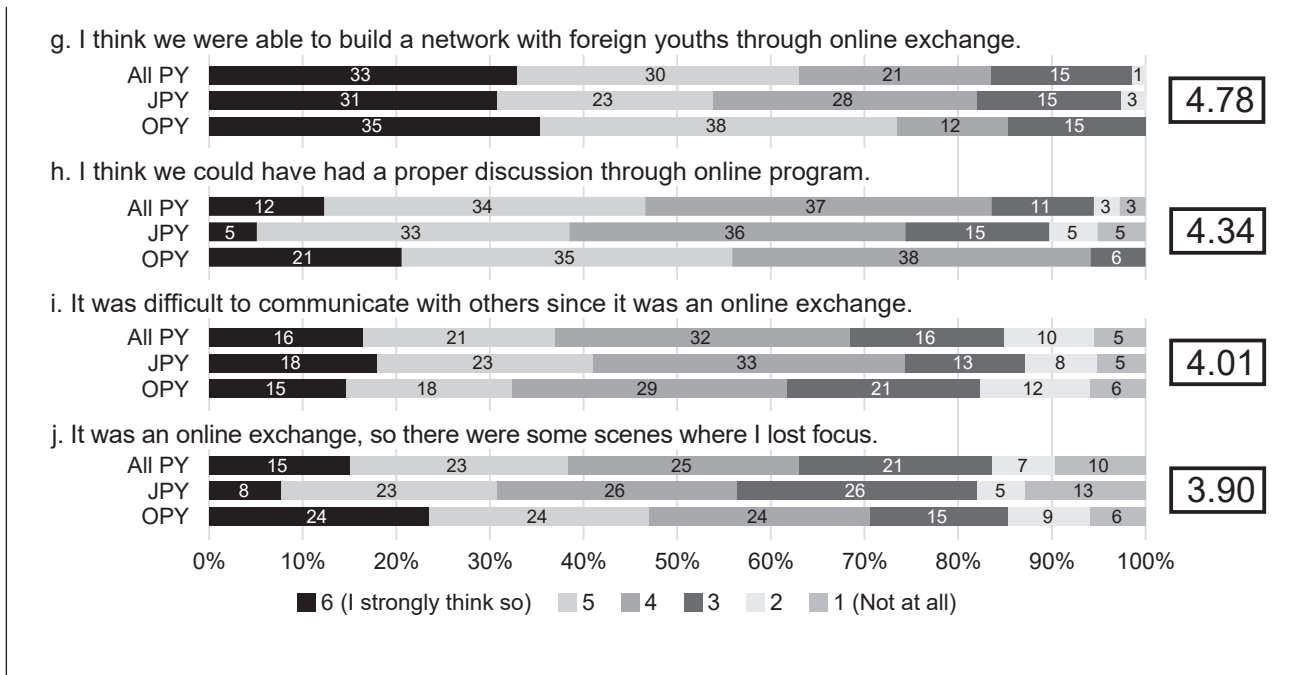
- Discuss many issues with my new friends and get more new perspectives. Spread the information and attitude toward the issue to friends and family. "
- I would like to keep taking actions to the world and my community, but I hope to include more members from SWY based on our experiences because I found some people in common with interests in issues or activities.
- I want to make my organization which co-create LGBTQ society.

OPY

- I am motivated to provide children especially those in rural areas the opportunities to discuss with various people.
- I would love to create mutual projects with delegations from the program. I am eager to propose some joint volunteer events that we may conduct online or gather offline after the pandemic situation improves.
- The program has provided me with both knowledge, self-confidence and practical tools to make a difference. I also learned a lot about how to work efficiently in a group, and how to make the most out of the opportunities I'm given. I feel inspired to increase my engagement in organizations around me, and to continue to learn about other cultures through travelling and attending other international events.

Q. How did you feel about the online program in the following 10 items?





Q. What are the Pros of the online program?

JPY

- Pandemic period, participating in such an international event via online made me feel safe to interact with a lot of people from different background.
- Working people, students, people of all ages, people of various professions, and even busy people were able to participate.
- To interact with many people everywhere. Even if I just stay home, I can meet new idea, new people and expand my insight.

OPY

- It was also nice to have a break between the weekly sessions, so that one could reflect over what one had learned and prepare oneself for the next program.
- People who might not be able to take a long time off work/studies were able to join the program.
- It was easy to see each other in one moment and speak about our topics.

Q. What are the Cons of the online program?

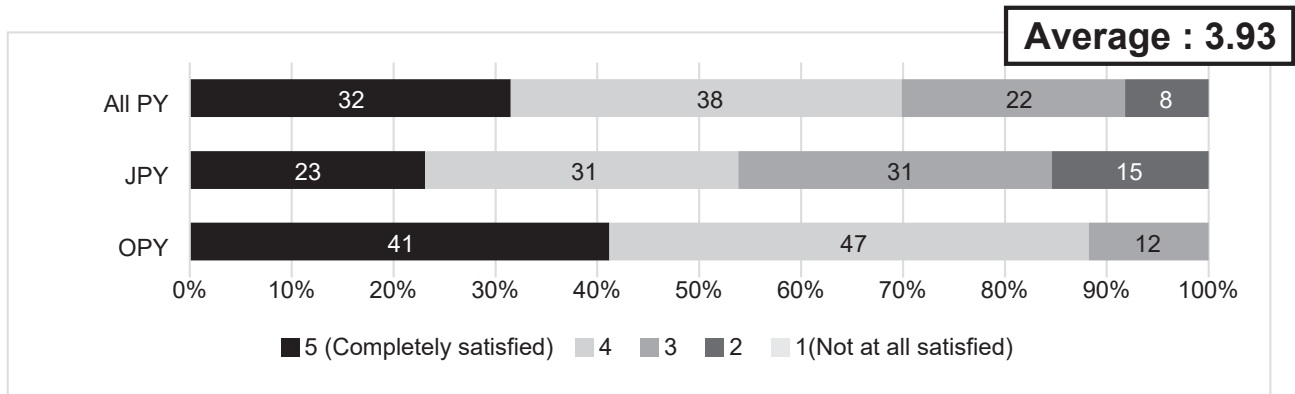
JPY

- Hard to make a strong bond among PYs. Too short to know each other.
- It is difficult to have casual conversation.
- The dense of communication is lower than face-to-face program.

OPY

- Missing out on the experience of seeing each other in person, being able to do things together as having lunch or a cup of coffee while talking to each other.
- Some people might not have good internet so it's difficult for them to join.
- Nothing can really replace face-to-face interaction, which allows for more personal and natural conversations.
- Time zone difference and lack of informal interaction opportunities in the main program.

Q. Are you satisfied with the content of the course discussion?



JPY

- I think it would be more interesting if we can make one project and collaborate it with public organizations or companies. "
- It was good topic to discuss, but it's actually too short to discuss deeply.
- The discussion time was short and there was little opportunity to interact with OPY.

OPY

- It was very detailed and provided such an insightful and intentional view of issues.
- The topics were a little bit basic if you already had any prior knowledge of the topic. It might have been nice to have some extra readings before the program so that everyone could go deeper in the discussions.

Q. What do you think of setting the SDGs as a common theme for the course discussion?

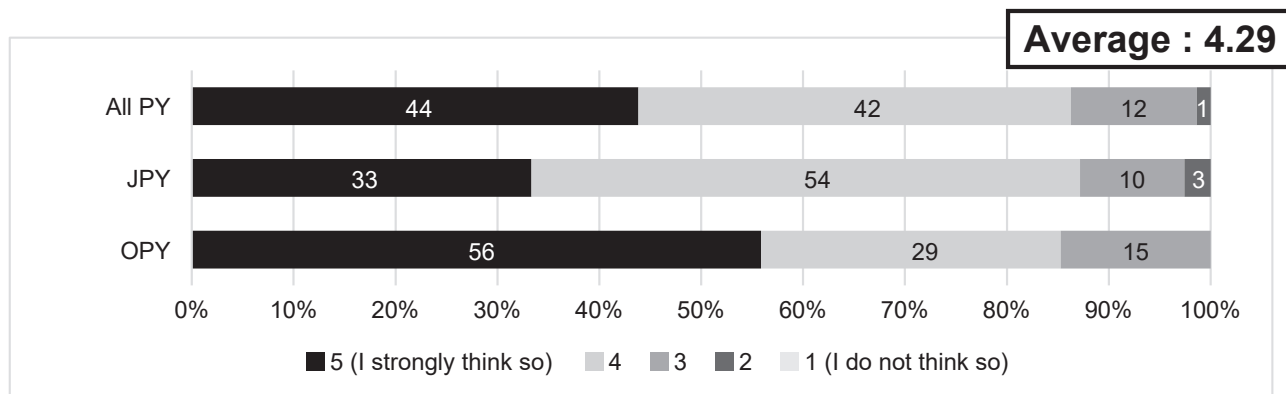
JPY

- I think it's good topic and through SDGs and discussion, everyone can understand about PYs' backgrounds or problems of each country. And SDGs is what we should consider or take actions all over the world. So we could understand or build based knowledge with international perspective.
- It reminds us that each SDGs goals are interconnected. Also, it is important for us to find the solution as a team, so that we might be able to make a bigger change.
- It was a good opportunity to think the issues we have nowadays. This program encourage me to study issues in society more.

OPY

- I think the SDGs made us a clear understanding on how we should change the system. The goals and how we could accomplish the goals would differ from country to country. But overall we discussed the core of the SDGs and we gained a meaningful idea about it.
- It felt like a very appropriate theme, considering how important those goals are for the development of our world. They are broad enough for everyone to have something to say about them, and we all have examples of how they're either being implemented or ignored in our local surroundings. At the same time, they're still varied enough to be interesting, and for people to be able to pick a theme that feels personal and important to them.
- I am very positive about it. Since the program is aimed at bringing future leaders together, it is a great idea that the participants learn about issues which concern the whole humanity and are to be solved by them.

Q. Do you think the workshop session is a suitable platform for exchanging cultures of participating countries?



JPY

• I got to be interested in different cultures and came to think issues in other countries. I started to watch news regarding them.

OPY

• Nothing is impossible with or without COVID, you can still enjoy learning. I learned that I must respect everyone's opinion and respect their culture as well.

Q. Please write down any improvements and suggestions for the overall program.

JPY

- Period was very short. It was better for us to learn issues and communicate with PYs. But this program was held on weekend, which was very good for me.
- It was great opportunities to connect, but at the same time it's sad to separate just after it finished. So it's better to make some opportunities reuniting a bit after this session.
- I think it would be much better that we have time not only for preparing but also communicating and knowing others.

OPY

- To make the experience richer, I think the time length was too short.
- I think that for European countries time of the beginning of the meetings was too early but unfortunately I know that in worldwide programs it has to look like that
- The program to be more interactive by, for example, including interactive part even after the online discussion, or preparing a physical meeting for all participants to complete the program.

2. Comments of Advisor for JPYs

Advisor for JPYs: Mr. NAKAZAWA Satoshi, Assistant Professor, Department of International Center, Tokyo Metropolitan University

One of the attractive features of the “Ship for World Youth” program implemented by the Cabinet Office is the environment where the youth from more than 10 countries including Japan come together on a ship, a space physically separated from any other country. For example, by living in

the same cabin with youth from other countries, you may feel a sense of frustration at the cultural differences between you and the rest of the world, which you should have been knowledgeable about. Or, through the discussion onboard, you can be debunked by someone from other countries whose

English was not as fluent as you. The great value of the program is that you are exposed to such shocks all the time, and you can experience them through living together on the ship with more than 200 young people from all over the world. Because of this, when I heard that the program was going to be implemented online, without living together on the ship, I had to wonder if it would be possible.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, I had occasionally heard criticisms on invisible outcomes of sending a limited number of young people on a cruise ship for international exchange. I had the experience of living on a ship with more than 1,200 participants over a period of about six years, from 2014 to 2019. Looking back on those days, I will try to answer the question once again, "Can they become a global leader by going abroad, on a ship?"

Getting on a ship and going overseas does not in itself have any element of human resource development, of course. The key element in training on a ship is the accumulation of good culture shock. For example, it is a great challenge for Japanese participants who have been taught to "act five minutes in advance" to adjust their sense of time with young people from 10 different countries on a ship. Likewise, for Japanese participants who are accustomed to value the high context communication, it would be a difficult task to lead a meeting with people from cultures where each person asserts himself / herself clearly without regard for the opinions of others to reach a consensus. In such an environment where many cultures and personalities intersect, you can cultivate your flexibility to change your communication style according to the situation, develop empathy for differences, and deepen your understanding of your own country and other countries through actual experience. There is no doubt that the impact of these experiences will become an asset to play an active role in global society.

What I would like to emphasize here is that the above-mentioned "good culture shock" was also experienced by many of the youth in this SWY Online. Whether it was on the ship or online, I

witnessed the participants in this program having a lot of struggles, confusion, and hardships in communicating with the other participants with different cultural background, and repeatedly making mistakes and succeeding. Due to the time difference, they were busy discussing and interacting with each other day and night using various online tools, which made me feel that online international exchange can be expected to yield certain results.

On the other hand, what is very different from the onboard program is a lack of ordinary moments in everyday life. Living together onboard for 24 hours a day, there are countless small roles and discoveries. By playing small roles such as nursing a seasick roommate, using the laundry machine together, or sharing snacks when you get hungry at night, you will enjoy instant and unexpected interaction with others. It is also a daily occurrence on the ship to discover about religions and cultural customs, such as eating with someone who does not eat certain foods, or living with someone who always prays at a certain time in your room. I was reminded once again that these kinds of roles and discoveries that happen by chance in everyday life onboard are lost in an online program that connects participants by "on" and "off."

Although the SWY Online was conducted under various constraints, as the advisor, I had the opportunity to feel the new possibilities of online international exchange while attending to the sorrows and joys of the participants. At the same time, this experience was also an opportunity to reaffirm the value of living together on a ship, which cannot be replicated online. I have been urging the participants to reflect on the outcomes of their learning experience. Likewise, the administrative team also needs to reflect on the achievements and challenges of the project, and carefully examine what could only be achieved online and what can only be achieved on the ship. Through this review, I hope that the Cabinet Office will continue to develop international exchanges conducted online and that international exchanges using ships will resume soon.

2. Composition of the PYs

(1) Number of the PYs by Country and Age Group

Country	Age and Gender		SWY Online						Total	
			17~19		20~24		25~30			
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Australia	0	0	1	2	0	2	1	4		
Japan	0	4	1	24	2	8	3	36		
New Zealand	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	1		
Oman	0	0	0	0	2	3	2	3		
Poland	3	0	0	2	0	0	3	2		
Russia	0	1	1	2	0	1	1	4		
South Africa	0	0	1	1	1	2	2	3		
Sri Lanka	0	0	2	0	1	2	3	2		
Sweden	1	1	0	1	1	1	2	3		
Total	4	7	7	32	7	19	18	58		
As of February 28, 2022					Total		76			

(2) Number of the PYs by Country and Occupation

Country	Occupation and Gender		Government Official		Employed		Self-employed		Teacher		Student		Others		Total	
			M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
			M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
SWY Online	Australia	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	4	
	Japan	1	1	1	13	0	0	0	2	1	19	0	1	3	36	
	New Zealand	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	
	Oman	1	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	
	Poland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	2	0	0	3	2	
	Russia	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	0	1	1	4	
	South Africa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	3	2	3	
	Sri Lanka	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	3	2	
	Sweden	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	2	3	
Total	3	4	3	19	0	1	0	2	11	25	1	7	18	58		
As of February 28, 2022											Total		76			

3. Post-Program Activities

After completing the program, PYs are expected to take active participation in post-program activities by making the most out of their precious experiences gained through joining the international youth exchange programs by the Cabinet Office. Continuous contributions to the post-program activities rather than temporary participations in some activities are necessary.

1. Activities of the International Youth Exchange Organization of Japan (IYEO)

IYEO consists of the former participants of the Japanese Youth Goodwill Mission program, the Ship for World Youth program, Global Leaders Development program, Ship for World Youth Leaders, the Ship for Southeast Asian Youth program, the Japan-China Youth Friendship Exchange program, and the Japan-Korea Youth Friendship Exchange program. The Cabinet Office (formerly the Management and Coordination Agency) implements these international exchange programs.

Their purpose is to deepen international understanding, to promote international friendship, to contribute to society, and to enhance friendship and enlightenment among the members based on achievements of international youth exchange programs.

This organization currently has approximately 18,000 members and carries out various kinds of activities such as prefectural-based activities, contributions to the local communities, and volunteer activities at the headquarter office, etc.

After returning to Japan, the participants of these programs are expected to become the members of IYEO and actively participate in post-program

activities.

In addition, IYEO cooperates with other youth related organizations involving ex-participants of the various international exchange programs implemented by local prefectures.

2. Group Activities

Many PYs already belong to youth organizations or groups. In such circumstances, it is important for them to contribute to the activities within those organizations by using their experiences that they have gained through their participation in different exchange programs. The same is expected in regional or vocational activities also.

3. Other Activities

The following activities are an important part of the post-program activities, and these activities are encouraged by youth-related organizations and IYEO.

- a) Information exchange among participating youth at the batch members meetings.
- b) Participation in the national meeting and each regional conference hosted by the Cabinet Office and any related organizations.
- c) Cooperation in welcoming foreign youth who are invited to Japan to participate in the foreign youth invitation programs hosted by the Cabinet Office, local public organizations, and other youth-related organizations. In some cases when someone from the visited country finally travels to Japan as a participating youth, it is a good opportunity for everyone to have a reunion.
- d) Regular meetings with foreign youth who live in the local community

4. The Movement to Establish a SWYAA and Its History

1. Building an International Network of Ship for World Youth Ex-Participating Youth

The Ship for World Youth (SWY) program began in 1988, marked its 32nd voyage in 2020 (fiscal year

2019), and including the participants of the “Ship for World Youth Leaders” (SWY32), over the years, a total of 3,677 Japanese youth and 4,474 youth from 67 overseas countries have participated in the program. It is hoped that all these ex-participating youths (ex-PYs) will make use of the valuable experience they gain through the program, to engage in international exchange activities and youth development in their community, work place and school. It is hoped that by participating in youth activities, they will build bridges of friendship and goodwill between Japan and their respective countries.

At first, the structure, capital and know-how to provide the foundation for alumni post-program activity in each country were scarce. However, with each subsequent SWY program, the depth and breadth of the alumni have increased, and as more information has been gathered and the effects of the Internet spread, slow but sure progress could be seen towards inspiring social contribution activities in each country, and building a global network.

Since the ports of call and the participating countries are not fixed, the capacity to build the foundation necessary for real activism on a global scale is difficult. It is nevertheless thought that it is important to proceed towards a structure of international networks.

2. The Beginning: Greece

The fundamental first step towards this vision took place at a gathering in February 1994, during the 6th SWY program in Piraeus, Greece, a port of call. Through correspondence with Japanese alumni from the 4th program, ex-PYs from Hungary and Sweden converged at the docked Nippon Maru. Because of lack of preparation, funds, limited correspondence etc., ultimately, only a few people were able to assemble, making it impossible to even plan a meeting. Nonetheless, the experience proved invaluable for planning in the future.

3. The Ship for World Youth International Reunion

Building on our past experience, the first official

Ship for World Youth International Reunion (eastern route) was held over two days in Acapulco, Mexico from March 2nd to 3rd, 1995, on board the 7th SWY program. At this gathering, a total of 56 people, including the Mexican ex-PYs, participated and deepened their friendships with one another. During the meetings, each country discussed the development of their Alumni Association and the various activities that could be organized through this association. This was followed by a dialogue about how to develop multiple and holistic ties between each country and Japan, and to build an international network. Lastly, as an outcome of this gathering, it was agreed to submit a proposal for future activities, symbolizing the first step in the development of the Alumni Associations. After this first reunion in Mexico, the International Reunions have taken place at one of the ports of call of during subsequent SWY programs until 2006.

Although in the beginning, it was a 2-day program that was held on board the ship, as of 2000 in New Zealand, it has become an event that spans 5 days and 4 nights, and includes discussions on board and activities in the port of call. Altogether, the International Reunions have been held three times in Acapulco, Mexico (1995, 1997, 1999), once in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (1996), once in Muscat, Oman (1998), once in Cape Town, South Africa (1999), once in Auckland, New Zealand (2000), once in Vancouver, Canada (2002), once in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania (2004), once in Sydney, Australia (2005), and once in Port Louis, Mauritius (2006). For 2001, a reunion was planned in Kenya, and for 2007 in Fiji, but due to a change in the sailing routes for the SWY programs, the events were cancelled.

Starting from 2007, International Reunion changed its name to the SWYAA Global Assembly (GA), and became an event that includes the Conference for Post-Program Activities. Thereafter, location for GA is not associated with the port of call countries.

4. The Founding of the Ship for World Youth Alumni Association (SWYAA)

The original document outlining the SWYAA was compiled by ex-PYs from the 3rd and 5th programs who attended the 1st Ship for World Youth International Reunion (eastern route), and the members of the 7th SWY program. Following this, heated discussions took place on board the 7th SWY program resulting in the selection of 3 Key Persons per participating country, and decisions regarding the establishment of SWYAA in their respective countries, and their positions on networking and maintaining ties. Consequently, Ecuador demonstrated their decision to launch SWYAA Ecuador, and several other countries followed suit.

5. The Commencement of the SWYAA Tokyo Conference (Eastern Route)

Following the guidelines set during the 1st Ship for World Youth International Reunion, the 1st Tokyo Conference for the Ex-Participating Youth of SWY Program (hereafter, Tokyo Conference - later changed its naming to Ex-PY Conference) was held from January 16th to 21st, 1996, with the purpose of not just promoting activities within each country, but also to build a concrete international network among the ex-PYs.

6. Organizing the Ex-PYs (Western Route)

Up to this point, the activities of the ex-PYs from the eastern route had been progressing. However,

on March 1st and 2nd, 1996, on board the 8th SWY program in Dubai, a conference was held for the ex-PYs of the western route, during which time, the activities of the eastern route participants were explained. Furthermore, from January 16th to 21st, 1997, the 2nd Tokyo Conference (western route) was held.

7. The Institutionalization of the SWYAA Network

With a continuing flow of the institutionalization of the SWYAA network, the predecessor of the SWYAA Charter was compiled as a SWYAA Agreement (East) signed by 13 countries of the eastern route of the SWY program in January 1996. SWYAA Agreement (West) was signed by 14 countries of the western route of the SWY program in January 1997. In 2005, seeking to have a common mission for all the SWYAA member countries, a SWYAA Charter was formed, revising and merging the two existing SWYAA Agreements from the East and the West.

The SWYAA Charter was then amended into the SWYAA International Charter in 2013 signed by 28 countries attending the Tokyo Conference for the ExParticipating Youth of the Ship for World Youth Program and this new charter came into effect on January 1, 2014. (Refer to the website for the SWYAA International Charter)

5. Ship for World Youth Alumni Association International

1. Ship for World Youth Alumni Association International (SWYAA International)

Each country has an association for alumni members, founded for the purpose of continuing the spirit that was fostered through the SWY program, Global Leaders Development Program (GLDP), and Ship for World Youth Leaders (SWY) - hereinafter, SWY program and its succeeding programs. SWYAA International promotes and supports the spirit of leadership towards achieving cross-cultural understanding, international cooperation and world peace developed during the

SWY and its succeeding programs.

2. Participating Countries

As of March 2021, 28 countries are registered as full members, 7 countries as associate members, and including those who have not yet officially registered, there is a network of a total of 67 countries around the world that are involved in various social contribution activities.

3. Our Common Missions and Goals

a. Maintain the network of the former participants

of the SWY program and its succeeding programs;

- b. Sustain international friendship and strengthen cooperation among the member countries;
- c. Engage in activities that contribute to the home country and the international society;
- d. Support and develop leaders in the home country and member countries who will contribute to society;
- e. Strengthen ties with the local government in charge of youth affairs;
- f. Strengthen ties with the embassies of the member countries and especially the Japanese Embassy; and
- g. Strengthen ties with the Japanese community.

4. Our Common Tasks

- a. Organize activities, locally and internationally, which would lead to social contribution, volunteer initiatives, and development initiatives;
- b. Strengthen the network of members in the home country;
- c. Enhance information exchange among members in the home country and the SWYAA International member countries;
- d. Communicate with, and make periodic reports to, the Japanese Embassy;
- e. Provide a means of communication for the former participating youth (ex-PYs) and present participating youth (PYs) of the SWY program;
- f. Support future participants of the SWY program; and
- g. Keep and maintain up-to-date information of alumni members.

5. Details of Activities

a. Ship for World Youth Alumni Association Tokyo Conference (Ex-PY Conference)

This annual conference is sponsored by the Cabinet Office, the Japanese Government, and is attended by SWYAA representatives. The purpose of this conference is to exchange information on the development of post-program activities, as well as

the structure and depth of each country's SWYAA, which provide the foundation for such activities. An additional objective of the conference is to have discussions to develop an international network of holistic ties between each country and the IYEO in Japan. Basically, participants discuss how the SWYAA network can be used in activities for the betterment of society, future directions of post program activities, and how ex-PYs can contribute to the programs.

To date, the results of past conferences include: the development of a homestay network; recommendation to have ex-PYs as advisors on the SWY program; development of a preparatory manual for PYs prior to the program or the handbook for National Leaders; development of a promotional kit to introduce the SWY program; setting up rules for the use of mailing list; and writing down a guideline which SWYAA members can use to conduct pre-departure orientation session for the new participants of the coming SWY program. The "Global Photo Contests" were organized four times starting from 2004 to promote cultural exchange and to strengthen the alumni network locally and globally. In 2005, a logo contest was launched to decide the common logo for SWYAA. In 2006, Handbook for Cultural Understanding was revised into a digital form to be uploaded on the website, and an official video of SWY program (10 minutes version) was created which can be used for promotion of the program. In 2007, in order to commemorate the 20th anniversary of SWY in 2008, it was agreed to work on collecting history of each SWY batch on the website (SWY History on Website), SWY Calendar, implement Charity Lunch, and contribute to the environment by planting "SWY Forest" in various countries. In 2008, as part of the international relief activities, IYEO began its cooperation with the project in Kenya (humanitarian support to the Internally Displaced Persons) and the educational assistance project in Sri Lanka (One More Child Goes to School Project). From 2009 to 2010, it was agreed to compile a material for cross-cultural understanding education, and to jointly work on a project under

the name “Homestay + 1” where homestay recipients are encouraged to organize volunteer activity so that the visitor can experience something extra (“plus one” experience). Also, movement to collect information on former participants with prominent background or to collect testimonials about the meaning of the SWY program started.

In 2016, a Joint Statement was issued by the 32 member countries representatives, concluding with their determination to pursue the following common projects:

- (1) “SWYAA Natural Disaster Relief” - to offer immediate and ongoing relief to areas affected by natural disaster.
- (2) “Educate for Tomorrow” - to facilitate local projects that will deliver quality education and increase opportunities for children in challenging environments.
- (3) “SWY Forest” - an environmental initiative to support the sustainable development of SWY Forests.
- (4) “Blood Donation Week” - to promote awareness and encourage organization of an annual SWYAA blood donation week.
- (5) “Opportunities Without Discrimination” - to take part in an international social media campaign to promote social inclusion and diversity on SWY Day.
- (6) “Homestay + 1” - to accommodate ex-PYs who wish to perform social contribution activities when they visit other SWY countries.

b. SWYAA Global Assembly (GA)

International Reunion, which was held at a port of call on the SWY program route, was reformed into SWYAA Global Assembly from 2007. Any active SWYAA is given an opportunity to hold an annual Global Assembly, which is not merely an international reunion for the ex-PYs, but also a forum to discuss about post-program activities and how to promote social contribution activities locally and internationally. Conference for Post-Program Activities is an opportunity for the participants to understand about the activities taking place in

different countries, and also to share the outcomes.

- The 1st GA - Athens, Greece
(September 5 to 9, 2007)
- The 2nd GA - Tokyo, Japan (August 21 to 24, 2008)
- The 3rd GA - Brisbane, Australia
(September 2 to 6, 2009)
- The 4th GA - Cairo, Egypt (October 9 to 12, 2010)
- The 5th GA - Mexico City, Mexico
(September 28 to October 2, 2011)
- The 6th GA - Bahrain (October 4 to 8, 2012)
- The 7th GA - Lima, Peru
(August 29 to September 2, 2013)
- The 8th GA - Istanbul, Turkey
(August 30 to September 3, 2014)
- The 9th GA - Nadi, Fiji (August 12 to 16, 2015)
- The 10th GA - Delhi, India
(September 20 to 24, 2016)
- The 11th GA - Dubai, UAE
(November 5 to 8, 2017)
- The 12th GA - Tonga (November 19 to 23, 2018)
- The 13th GA - Russia
(August 31 to September 5, 2019)
- The 14th GA - Toronto-Montreal, Canada
(August 16-23, 2020)
- * Cancelled due to the pandemic of COVID-19.

6. Communication Tools

a. SWY News

SWY News is an in-house paper published mainly on the SWYAA website, focusing specifically on the post-program activities of the SWY program and its succeeding programs. It includes articles on the activities of the Alumni Association of each country and update reports from ex-PYs around the world. Thus far, 27 issues have been published.

b. Exchanging Information

Through the Internet Mirroring the move towards electronic information, a mailing list was set up in 1996 to encourage sharing of information and resources among the ex-PYs. Furthermore, based on the ExPY Conference held in 1999, a common SWYAA website was developed in 2000, which provided a forum to introduce various projects and

activities taking place in different countries. In addition to this, there have been many mailing lists set up for ex-PYs to share information on a variety of topics.

URL: www.swy.international

c. SWYAA Directory

In the SWYAA directory, the name, address, phone number, fax number, e-mail address and area of interest of all ex-PYs are listed. This information is useful for alumni to get in touch with one another and promote their activities.

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