

International Youth Exchange FY2022 - Official Report -

Ship for World Youth Program FY2022 (SWY Hybrid)



List of Abbreviations

* Please refer to the list when the text includes abbreviations.

Ship for World Youth Program	SWY
Participating Youth	PY
Japanese Participating Youth	JPY
Overseas Participating Youth	OPY
Ex-Participating Youth	Ex-PY
Administration	ADM
National Leader	NL
Sub-National Leader	SNL
Youth Leader	YL
Group Leader	GL
Course Discussion	CD
Peer-Learning Seminar	PL Seminar
National Presentation	NP
Voluntary Activity	VA
Ship for World Youth Alumni Association	SWYAA
International Youth Exchange Organization of Japan	IYEO

Preface

The Cabinet Office, the Government of Japan has been conducting various International Youth Exchange Programs, aiming to foster healthy growth of youths who will be the core force of the next generation, by promoting friendship and mutual understanding among youths from Japan and other countries, while broadening their international view, as well as nurturing the spirit of international cooperation.

The Ship for World Youth Program (SWY) is a reorganized program of the Japanese Youth Goodwill Cruise program that began as one of the commemorative projects of the Centennial of the Meiji Restoration in 1967. Youths from 11 countries including Japan who have diverse backgrounds participate in various activities such as discussions, cultural exchanges and workshops in the program, the aim of which is to develop youths who can demonstrate leadership in various sectors of society amidst the progression of internationalization as well as to broaden their global perspectives.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it became difficult to hold training sessions such as discussions and seminars in the conventional way where participants live together on the ship. Therefore, we have conducted the program using the online method in FY2020 and FY2021.

This year, as a result of searching for a new form of exchange that suits with the life with coronavirus, we decided to implement the program in a new hybrid format, combining an approximately one-month online exchange with a two-week face-to-face exchange.

Specifically, in addition to Preparatory Training Session for the Japanese Participating Youth, the program included Course Discussion on the common theme of the SDGs in eight different fields, National Presentation of basic information and culture from participating countries, and workshops and seminars where the Participating Youth could learn from each other about initiatives that contribute to society and academic contents that promote cross-cultural understanding.

At the Summary Forum held on the final day of the program which was planned and managed by the Participating Youth themselves, we were able to sense the great learning and growth of the Participating Youth through this program as they presented passionately about what they had learned in each Course Discussion as well as about their experiences gained through the program. The Summary Forum was also streamed live to the families of the Participating Youth, the governments of the participating countries, alumni associations, and other related parties including Japanese diplomatic offices in participating countries. I believe that the growth of the Participating Youth gave viewers a glimpse of the purpose of this program which is to nurture youth who can demonstrate leadership and make contributions to society.

We wish for each and every one of the Participating Youth to hereafter fully demonstrate their leadership skills locally or globally at any level of the stage.

The Cabinet Office would like to enrich the future SWY based on the experience and achievements of this hybrid format exchange program.

This report records the various activities of the Participating Youth during the program. I hope that this report will be of use for your understanding of the fruits of the program, encouraging greater interest in international exchange and also assisting with your continued support in the years to come.

Finally, I would like to express my deepest gratitude for the cooperation of the various government representatives from the participating countries, the Ship for World Youth Alumni Associations and their members (former participants), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Japanese diplomatic offices in participating countries.

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KUROSE Toshifumi

Director General for International Youth Exchange
Cabinet Office, Government of Japan

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