

International Youth Exchange FY2023 – Official Report –
Ship for World Youth Program 2024



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List of Abbreviations

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

Ship for World Youth	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
Assistant Youth Leader	AYL
Group Leader	GL
Assistant Group Leader	AGL
Course Discussion	CD
Peer-Learning Seminar	PLS
Port of Call Activity	POC
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. In 1988, SWY developed its form to the present style that focuses on the interaction between Japanese Participating Youth and Overseas Participating Youth, including discussions and other activities.

SWY aims to develop the ability to deal with different cultures and to improve leadership skills through discussion and cultural exchange among youth from around the world while living together onboard the ship. Moreover, it should cultivate youth who are capable of contributing to society by exercising their leadership skills in various fields in the globalizing and diversifying societies. Furthermore, it aims to establish strong human networks beyond national borders.

This year, the onboard program returned for the first time in four years. After the preliminary online exchange program, Participants interacted with one another by traveling around Japan while living together onboard. The 28-day program centering on Local Visit Program in Kyoto Prefecture and Hyogo Prefecture, and Local Practical Program in Kochi Prefecture was implemented.

In the Local Visit Program, Participants were divided into several groups to pay courtesy calls, interact with local youths, and visit to institutions to learn about local cultures and social issues in Kyoto Prefecture and Hyogo Prefecture. For the Local Practical Program, Participants deepened the discussion on each of them under the guidance of facilitators beforehand. Through the port of call activities, they learned how to address the issues that Kochi Prefecture is facing, discussed how to solve them, and finally made concrete proposals to the local people. In addition, the representatives of each delegation had an audience with Her Imperial Highness Princess Kako of Akishino and paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Mr. KISHIDA Fumio in Tokyo program while team building activities were also implemented. I am certain that through these activities, they promoted mutual understanding among them as well as gained lots of valuable experiences to grow as leaders with a broad perspective.

This report records the various activities conducted by Participating Youths via online and in Japan along with the evaluations of the program by National Leaders. I hope that this report will be used for your understanding of the contents and fruits of the program.

Finally, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the various government representatives from the participating countries, local governments, the Ship for World Youth Alumni Association, youth organizations, local committees and all those who gave their gracious cooperation in the local programs and this whole program.

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