

Chapter
7

Evaluations and Suggestions



Evaluation by the Director

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Introduction

I participated in the Next Generation Global Leaders Program 2015 “Ship for World Youth Leaders” (hereinafter, SWY28) as the Director. I attended the welcome reception for the OPYs on 15th of January 2016, and as a group of over 240 PYs from Japan and 10 other overseas countries, we visited the United Nations University on 27th of January, had 33 days Onboard Training Session from the 28th, and participated in the ports of call activities in Chennai, India and Colombo, Sri Lanka. Together with the NLs of all participating countries including Japan, I had the audience with H.I.H. The Crown Prince, and paid a courtesy call to the Prime Minister Abe on 20th of January just before the start of the Onboard Training Session.

Prime Minister Abe gave us warm words of encouragement, and very casually posted an update about our visits on his Facebook page. At the audience, H.I.H. The Crown Prince gave a message to Mr. Mussa Haji Halifa, the NL of Tanzanian delegation and when it was translated into English in the bus on the way back it impressed all the NLs. The message was given in Swahili and it said “MILIMA HAIKUTANI BUNADAMU HUKUTANA” which means, as Mussa translated, “Though mountains are not able to come close to each other, people are able to get to know each other.”

As this message suggested, many PYs from different countries met and got to know in the program. This was very clearly reflected in the bright faces of the PYs in numerous opportunities during the program.

Overview

I witnessed, in general, enthusiastic and active attitudes of the PYs from all the participating countries to get to know and understand each other, and to grow together as future leaders.

I clearly felt that the program was very effective as an opportunity where JPYs interact with many OPYs, deepen mutual understanding and widen perspectives. The administration duly fulfilled its duty and its relation with the PYs was generally favorable.

During the first half of the program, the PYs kept trying to show their own culture to others, recognized the diversity of the world, worked hard to understand new cultures and customs, and participated with enthusiasm in different

activities and in the Onboard Training Session. They seemed to be feeling awkward at the beginning. However, they exchanged opinions in the seminars led by advisors and in thematic Course Discussions, they became aware of the differences and similarities among themselves, and they shared very intense life onboard. Through all these experiences, they built deep friendship and developed themselves steadily.

I believe that the ports of call activities in India and Sri Lanka helped the PYs to feel the reality of diverse social situations even more vividly, and helped them find the social reality and its issues that were not easily recognized just by comparing with their own country.

As they finished the ports of call activities and started the latter half of the program on the way back to Japan, I saw some PYs feeling bewildered with the cultural differences, and confused with the sense of distance between their own identity and the youths from different cultures who had become their friends. However, as they continued sharing their life onboard, having discussions and doing activities together, most of them overcame these confusions, practiced the cross-cultural and communication skills they had acquired through the program while showing respects to the foreign cultures, and started to grow to interact more naturally.

Enhancing leadership and management skills are the main pillars of the program as it upgraded the contents from its predecessor programs. These skills are cultivated gradually through the package of experiences during the program such as for the PYs to manage different activities onboard, seminars by the advisors, and Course Discussions. I have to recognize that there are a big gap in the level of achievements in these areas due to PYs’ awareness on social issues that are affected by previous experiences in social activities, due to the level of presentation skills and English communication skills. I believe it is important to take this issue in consideration for the case of JPYs in the advertisement for participation, for the selection, and for English practices at the Preparatory Training Session.

Overall, this program has a strong impact on PYs, encouraging their personal development, and has borne a lot of fruits such as the network of ex-participants. I believe, however, that the program can be even more suitable for developing next generation global leaders by incorporating

suggestions from different stakeholders and by brushing up and maturing.

I would like to give comments on some specific parts of the program below.

NP, Club Activities and others

We had NPs of different countries almost every night after our departure. PYs shared the feeling of being touched by the NPs as each of them had unique ideas, and they were all exciting and wonderful. I witnessed that cultural and historic differences didn't prevent the PYs from sharing the same emotions of being touched by the presentations, that these shared experiences gradually connected them and deepened mutual understanding among youths. Some IT savvy PYs utilized their skills and incorporated visual materials that had been captured from the beginning of the program into the presentations. That made the presentations very vivid and real. There were many voluntary activities where PYs introduced their cultures to each other. I believe that these activities were very effective in deepening mutual understanding and greatly helped create the feeling of unity among the PYs.

Seminars / Course Discussion

Seminars were conducted by the Advisors on important topics such as leadership and cross-cultural understanding, and these contributed a lot to raise the awareness of the PYs and to help their personal development. The Advisors were aware of the different perceptions and ways of thinking that would emerge in each PYs during the process of one's development, and taught the PYs in the seminars how they could accept these facts and how they could take advantage of these for the future. I understand that the Advisors kept close communication to each other to organically collaborate among them. For my part, I gave a Director's talk "Statistical Science for a Better World" which highlighted the importance of statistical science in the modern society and the social advancement through statistical way of thinking.

As for the Course Discussions, the facilitators worked very hard to achieve meaningful results, and their program included institutional visits before the departure for their respective themes including education, information and media, and environment. The result of those hard works could be seen in course outcomes and the stronger unity of the PYs in each course. Managing Course Discussion faces many difficulties because of the diverse level of social experiences and awareness for social issues among the PYs. The facilitators are also assigned to do some administrative

works, and it will remain an important task for the program to have skillful human resources for this position. I would suggest that there can be some more coordination to reduce administrative tasks of the facilitators. And for the better outcomes of the training, there can be some coordination for time and contents to encourage more comprehensive collaboration between the Advisors and the facilitators.

Ports of Call Activities

Time at ports of call is a valuable part of the program where PYs can have, with their learnings from the Onboard Training as bases, direct contact with the diversity and social issues that the places have. The current program at the ports are quite full, and I would like to suggest that it would be better if PYs can have a bit more time to individually feel the realities of the places and to assimilate them by themselves.

Conclusions

This program, SWY28, had overseas route after four years, and that allowed the PYs to share more time and activities on the ship. As the result, it helped them learn the importance of studying what they as youths should do about the issues people face, and the importance of taking actions about them. More than anything, through mutual exchanges, the PYs learned to respect foreign cultures and shared the joy of living in the world with diversity. A lot of new friendships were born.

I was very much impressed to see in various occasions the PYs trying to introduce their cultures while others trying to learn them, and all the PYs shared the joy of being part of that sincere and friendly atmosphere.

I am very sure that this precious experience became an invaluable asset for each PY.

PYs who shared the voyage in SWY28 are now continuing their interaction through Facebook and other media. I have no doubt that they can plan their own voyages, as next generation leaders, to achieve their own goals in the communities or in the international arena, and that they can manage the process of these voyages.

Each PY will have different approaches in choosing the guide for their life to clarify their positions and to decide their directions and the speed. I am looking forward to seeing the PYs overcome the distance among them, reassure the importance of mutual understanding, keep exchanging, and duly contribute for the society.

To conclude, I would like to show my deepest respect to the Cabinet Office for providing this precious opportunity to the youths, who will build the future. I would show

my gratitude and appreciation to all the countries who recognized the importance of the development of their youths and of the goodwill exchanges with Japan and other countries, to all the parties involved in our ports of call activities in India and Sri Lanka, to the ship operators who

set the main venue for the SWY program, and to all the people involved in managing the program including the administrative staff.

Thank you very much.

Evaluation by the Administrator

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Prologue

The Next Generation Global Leaders Program 2015 “Ship for World Youth Leaders” (hereinafter, SWY28) began on January 14, 2016 with the arrival of Overseas Participating Youths (OPY) in Japan.

While OPYs participated in the Local Program consisting of courtesy calls, institutional visits, homestay and other activities in 5 different destinations within Japan, Japanese Participating Youths (JPYs) took part in the Preparatory Training Session in Tokyo before starting about one-week long Onshore Training Session on January 19 where OPYs joined JPYs.

On January 27, all PYs moved to the Yokohama Port to embark the Nippon Maru and began the Onboard Training Session. On the following day, the Nippon Maru left for a voyage of little more than a month, being seen off by many people.

During the voyage, PYs were involved in a variety of activities onboard, and conducted Ports of Call activities in India from February 9 to 12, and in Sri Lanka from February 14 to 17.

On February 29, the Nippon Maru safely entered the Harumi Passenger Ship Terminal in Tokyo. After disembarkation, OPYs directly headed to the airport to return to their respective home countries on the same day, while JPYs took part in the Post-program Training Session until March 1 in Tokyo. The closure of the Post-program Training Session marked the successful completion of all Programs.

In the implementation of the Program, we have received support from a great number of people. SWY28 was the first Program with overseas voyage in 4 years, since SWY25 and the following 2 programs (GLDP and SWY 27) had only traveled domestically for the past 3 years, and thus there were some concerns. Yet, thanks to the assistance and cooperation of countless people, we were able to complete

the Program without any serious difficulties.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all people in the governments and Ship for World Youth Alumni Associations (SWYAA) of all participating countries including Japan, all in the visited countries: India, Sri Lanka and Japan, the volunteers who supported our activities, members of the host families for providing opportunities of home visits in Sri Lanka and homestay in Japan, the entire crew of the Nippon Maru led by Captain Keiji Kan as well as staff members of Mitsui O.S.K. Lines who were involved in the operation of the ship, and all others concerned for their tremendous efforts.

In addition, I'd like to express my appreciation for Director Masahiko Sue for leading the entire Mission, the 4 advisors for providing seminars and counseling, the 12 NLs for demonstrating their leadership to unite PYs, and all administrative staff for their support.

Main Programs

Next, I'd like to describe the overview and my evaluations of the main programs during the implementation of SWY28.

1. Course Discussion

Course Discussion was the main program on SWY28. PYs belonged to one of the 6 Courses: Community Development, Disaster Risk Reduction, Education, Environment, Information and Media, Youth Entrepreneurship, to take part in a series of discussions.

5 Sessions were held for Course Discussion in total, in addition to the institutional visits conducted in Japan, India, and Sri Lanka. The Introductory Forum was held with the presence of all members of the 6 courses to share information on the current situation of social activities initiated by youth in different countries, and

the Summary Forum was conducted to present and share the summaries of achievements from each course with PYs of other courses.

The format of Course Discussion was diverse from course to course; discussions were not always conducted with all 40 members of the course, but a combination of methods were employed such as having small-group discussions with a subtheme followed by a whole-group discussion, and holding workshops where discussions were held in small groups before their activity plans were written in big sheets of paper to be presented in front of everyone, etc.

The PYs were between 18 and 30 years of age. Many OPYs were in their late twenties and already had much working experience, of which some even had their own business, while JPYs consisted mainly of students in their teens and early twenties and had a tendency to have less working experience than OPYs. With such differences, there must have been difficulties to have a series of discussions and finally create an action plan to be implemented after disembarkation as Post-program Activities. However, at the Summary Forum, presentations with distinctive characteristics were given to demonstrate that fruitful discussions were held in every course. I was particularly impressed by PYs of the Information and Media Course for presenting multiple unique videos.

A facilitator was allocated to each course to organize the Course Discussion while also dividing daily tasks with other members of the Administrative Staff. All 6 facilitators including the 4 ex-PYs of the SWY program and the Ship for Southeast Asian and Japanese Youth Program (SSEAYP), which is also one of the international youth exchange programs of the Cabinet Office of Japan, kindly put their efforts to effectively organize the courses using their creativity, while having solid understanding on the objectives of the Course Discussion as well as of the entire Program.

2. National Presentations

The National Presentations can be called as the flower of SWY28.

The structure of the international youth exchange programs of the Cabinet Office has been changing from the one whose focus was put on cultural exchanges in the past to more discussion-oriented one where youth mutually understand each other in a deeper level; yet there cannot be an international exchange program without any cultural exchange activities. The National

Presentations are at the top of such cultural exchange programs and were undoubtedly one of the highlights in SWY28.

Each country had 45 minutes for the Presentation, in which skits and other performances were presented based on their history, culture, and current social issues of the countries. The Presentations were sometimes accompanied by video and other creative twists. It was evident that each delegation dedicated a substantial amount of time and effort for the preparation and practice.

While JPYs were in a big group of about 120 people including the NLs, OPYs only had 12 members in a delegation at a maximum. The Presentation of JPYs was diverse in contents and was powerful thanks to its large number of members; those of other delegations were also as diverse in terms of contents. There is no doubt that enjoying distinctive presentations from different countries was helpful for the mutual understanding among PYs and nations.

What was most impressive was that after each National Presentation, PYs of other countries welcomed the PYs who had just presented descending from the stage at the audience, praising and honoring their performance, and then all began to sing and dance together, where more than 200 PYs became united. Literally, PYs of all delegations were brought together as one in such occasions.

3. Seminars by Advisors

If the Course Discussion was the vertical threads, the 3 Seminars by Advisors would be the horizontal threads of the Program. The themes of Cross-cultural Understanding, Leadership, Project Management are necessary when considering about Post-program activities, and so seminars on the 3 themes were implemented.

The Seminars by Advisors were conducted where all PYs were assembled. None of them took the style of just providing lectures; all 3 Advisors put varieties to the Seminars by combining small-group discussions and whole-group sharing, and others.

There were 3 Sessions for Cross-Cultural Understanding Seminar, and 4 Sessions for Leadership Seminar and Project Management Seminar, respectively. All Advisors put their best efforts to deepen understanding of PYs, such as offering additional sessions upon requests from PYs.

4. Post-program Activities Session

The Post-program Activities Session, where PYs consider their own post-program activities, was held 2 times toward the end of the Onboard Training Session, chiefly organized by the 3 ex-PYs of the SWY program who embarked the ship in the middle of the voyage.

One of the characteristics of the international youth exchange programs of the Cabinet Office is that PYs conduct various social contribution activities after the programs in their home countries and/or beyond borders, utilizing the insight, experience, and human network gained through the programs.

There are chapters of the Ship for World Youth Alumni Association (SWYAA) in the respective participating countries of SWY28, and PYs will implement their Post-program Activities as SWYAA or as an individual after disembarkation.

However, it would be not so easy for PYs to have a concrete image of Post-program Activities that they would be conducting themselves.

Considering this, I believe it was a meaningful opportunity for PYs to interact with ex-PYs who are actually involved in Post-program Activities, and to consider their own Post-program Activities through workshops and other means.

Furthermore, 9 of the 12 NLs of SWY28 were ex-PYs of the SWY program, and there were also 4 ex-PYs among the Administrative Staff other than facilitators. It can be said that SWY28 was a resourceful environment for PYs, in which there were people who could be their role models in such vicinity.

5. PY Seminars, Club Activities, Voluntary Activities

As activities voluntarily organized by PYs, there were PY Seminars, Club Activities, and voluntary activities. The first 2 had their time slots officially allocated in the schedule, whilst voluntary activities were held using PYs' own spare time.

PY Seminars were held where PYs demonstrated their own experience and expertise; Seminars with various themes were conducted in 3 separate sessions. All PYs attended in one of the PY Seminars, except those who were organizing their own Seminars.

In Club Activities, PYs took initiative to share their native cultures. Activities featured a variety of cultures and entertainments from different countries as the theme; there were 3 sessions of Club Activities during the Onboard Training Session,

and an exhibition was held toward the end of the Program for members of each Club to present their achievements.

Voluntary activities were more varied than PY Seminars and Club Activities, so one can hardly explain the entire picture in a few words. I believe that PYs developed their planning and presentation skills as well as their leadership through PY Seminars, Club Activities, and Voluntary activities, and deepened friendships as well as mutual understanding.

6. Ports of Call Activities

This year, Ports of Call Activities were conducted in Chennai, India and Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Chennai has the 4th largest population in India. We have conducted course-related institutional visits as well as the visits to Kalakshetra, a teaching facility for traditional cultures of India, and to Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (RGNIYD). A series of receptions were also held in Chennai. At RGNIYD, a discussion with local youth was held, which I believe became a valuable experience for PYs.

Colombo is the largest city in Sri Lanka, where we conducted course-related institutional visits, a visit to National Youth Service Council (NYSC), and implemented home visits and an Onboard Reception. At NYSC, interaction with local youth through martial arts and sports took place among other activities. For Home visits, PYs visited different families in villages located short distances away from the urban area. We also had the great honor to have the attendance of His Excellency President Maithripala Sirisena at the Onboard Reception.

Upon the port calls to both countries, local media such as newspapers and televisions widely covered to feature our Ports of Call Activities.

Overview

I'd like to now describe a few of my personal impressions of the entire SWY28, especially in comparison with the SSEAYP42, which I was onboard as an Administrator in the previous autumn right before SWY28.

There are not so many administrators who are fortunate to have the opportunity to be on board on SSEAYP and SWY consecutively. I have often been asked about their differences, so I hope my descriptions here would be of reference.

SSEAYP42 was an international exchange program

with about 320 PYs from 11 different countries, structured around the 41 days on the ship where PYs visited the Philippines, Vietnam, Myanmar, and Malaysia (a delegation visited Laos by airplane during our stay in Vietnam) after the program in Japan, while conducting a variety of programs including Course Discussion and National Presentations.

Similarly to SSEAYP42, SWY28 is also an international exchange program for youth from different countries with a main focus on programs on the ship. However, the impression I received from the 2 programs were completely different.

To express the impressions of the programs in short, the one of SSEAYP42 would be “discipline, beauty of the style, and the power emerging from the sense of unity in Asia” whilst those of SWY 28 would be “freedom, beauty of mosaic, and the power emerging from the diversity in a global scale.” It is not to say that which ones are better; I felt that both were excellent.

In SWY28, there was so much freedom. It seemed that the Mission as a whole respected the spontaneity of PYs to the utmost extent and treated PYs as adults, and was filled with the spirit of trusting the self-responsibility and self-management of PYs.

The example of curfew demonstrates the difference between SWY28 and SSEAYP42 quite simply.

In both programs, the curfew onboard was 11 p.m. In SSEAYP42, PYs were back in their cabins by 11 p.m. every night, and a night patrol was conducted by NLs of different countries to see whether there were PYs who were outside their cabins after the curfew.

At SWY28, on the other hand, it was up to PYs as to what time they go back to their cabins. PYs managed themselves so that the program on the following day wouldn't be affected. Every night, PYs were talking in various places on the ship to deepen friendship and mutual understanding; there were, though, some who looked sleepy at the morning roll calls after talking until late on the previous night.

On SSEAYP42, each contingent had a different history and culture to offer rich diversity, but there was also the commonality felt by the entire Mission that we were all a member of Asia.

On the other hand, PYs from different participating countries in SWY28 were truly diverse. Each person brought in a different color to create a beautiful mosaic-like picture as a whole where a variety of colors gathered together.

I was appointed as the Director for international youth exchange at the Cabinet Office at the end of July 2015, and am to be transferred to another department in the beginning of April 2016. It was fortunate to be involved in 2 international youth exchange programs using the ship as an Administrator in the short duration of being in the post for only 8 months.

I had known the effects of international youth exchange programs on a ship to be effective in all aspects of human resource development, fostering mutual understanding and friendship, and creating human network. SWYAAAs have been established in different participating countries where ex-PYs are actively conducting social contribution activities such as supporting new PYs, and are collaborating with Japanese diplomatic missions abroad across generations.

By taking part in international youth exchange programs on a ship, I was able to experience their advantages directly.

One of the reasons of their high affectivity would be due to the extraordinary quality of the space. It is seldom to have an opportunity where a few hundred youth of a broad range of ages from more than 10 countries spend days and nights together for dozens of days.

On top of that, one cannot have any escape while being on a ship even if one wanted, both physically and mentally. There is no connection to the Internet, and a cabin is shared with 2 others from different countries; this environment in which one is always having an international exchange, only except for when one is asleep, increases the effect.

Further, the fact that everyone visits multiple countries together with the ship creates the awareness of having a shared destiny, and increases the sense of unity amongst PYs. I felt that this contributed greatly to the creation of long lasting human network.

In addition, I realized that the ship became the symbol of good memories during the participation in the Program, and having the common icon connected PYs from different countries beyond generations.

I had an irreplaceable experience as an Administrator on SSEAYP42. As ex-PYs of SSEAYP often say “SSEAYP changed my life,” I think my own life was changed by participating in SSEAYP42. Just as PYs, I became a member of the SSEAYP family.

By participating in SWY28, I was able to gain additional valuable experience. I believe that many of the PYs of SWY28 also had a life-changing experience. Just as the PYs of SWY28, I am also a member of the SWY family and have friends with a variety of ages all over the world.

My Post-program Activity starts as I leave the post of the Director for international youth exchange at the

Cabinet Office. Among the past Administrators, there are ones who have been long supporting international youth exchange programs of the Cabinet Office from many aspects. Learning from them, I would like to stay involved

continuously in my own way, so that the international youth exchange programs of the Cabinet Office would be able to develop further in the future.

Evaluation by the Advisors

Hidetake Enomoto

As a person who had a privilege to serve an advisor on the theme of leadership two years in a row, I would like to report on what I noticed about this year's program as compared to last year's program.

The biggest difference between last year's program and this year's program was that the length of the program, especially the Onboard Training Session part was much longer this time. Based on the insight we gained from last year's program, we implemented a couple of new things this year including some proposals I made. So I would like to reflect on those points in this report as well.

Written below are my reflections about what worked and what could be better in three areas; about the Leadership Seminars, about the role as an advisor, and about the overall program.

1. About the Leadership Seminars

What worked:

I was only able to offer one session (2.5 hours) during the beginning of the Onshore Training Session for the last year's program, as the length of the program was shorter. This was way too small for a program whose goal is to develop a "global leader," so I asked for three sessions this year. As a result, I feel I was able to share what I wanted to share with the PYs compared to last year.

I designed this year's program based on the following themes; 1) how we can empower ourselves, 2) how we can empower each other, 3) how we can empower the world and 4) program designed by the Leadership Committee members. It is my belief that leadership begins with ourselves; this means that leadership comes from knowing who we are, what we stand for and what we regard as our life purpose. Only then the skills to work with others and empower them will be needed to achieve something we can't achieve by ourselves. Moreover, we will need not only the ability to communicate in different languages but also to be aware of what's going on in our world right now and take action with the belief that there is something each of us can do about it. It seems that this way of expanding PY's awareness step by step from self to others and then to

the world worked in general as a design principle.

Also, the fact that I had opportunities to offer more than one session made it possible to initiate a "learning cycle"; that is to have the PYs consciously practice what they have learned in the previous seminar and reflect on what they have learned as a result at the beginning of the next seminar.

Another thing that seemed to have worked was Open Space Technology which the Leadership Committee members decided to offer at the fourth seminar. The feedbacks we received from the PYs were incredibly positive. In fact, I proposed to the committee members that they do this because I had a few opportunities to try it out in some of the Course Discussions and had already received positive responses. I think this method is very effective in encouraging the PYs to exercise their leadership spontaneously.

What could be better:

Even though the score of the evaluation that we collected informally from the PYs after the third seminar was generally positive, there were comments like, "the content was too basic," "I want something more practical," and "PYs resource is not used enough." I actually agree with these comments and would like to offer something like what we did at the fourth seminar so that PYs can take more initiative much earlier in the program if I have a chance in the future.

Also, the motivation level of the Leadership Committee members were quite varied, which made it difficult for our meetings to effectively function at times. In a way, this is understandable given the fact that PYs did not necessarily choose to be part of it due to how they are currently organized. However, I regret the fact that I could not empower them enough.

2. About the Role as an Advisor

What worked:

After last year's program, I felt that I would have liked to support the PYs even better outside of the seminars.

So, I made my intention clear in the beginning of this program and told the PYs to feel free to come and talk to the advisors especially during the meal time. As a result, I was able to talk with almost all the PYs this time. Some of the PYs wanted to clarify something about what I said in the Leadership Seminars, others wanted to find out more about what I do and how I got there, and still others asked for support with regard to their personal concerns. I feel I was able to contribute to their learning and their growth to some degree through those conversations.

Also, what I shared about a civil movement called Transition Town that I am involved in at the Advisor Seminar that was offered somewhere in the middle of the program seemed to have had a positive impact beyond my expectation. It was a good surprise when I saw some PYs initiating a project on the ship as a result of being inspired by what I shared. Since Transition Town is a practical example of the “emergent leadership” that I talked about in my seminars, I thought I should have shared this much earlier in the program.

Moreover, I felt I couldn’t collaborate with the facilitators as much as I wanted in the last year’s program. However, I was able to participate in all of the Course Discussions this year and have even had a few opportunities where I gave a session in response to the request I received from the facilitators. Thus, I feel I had been well used compared to last year.

What could be better:

Although I had seen significant improvement compared to the last year’s program, I think that there is more room to further enhance the collaboration between the advisors and the facilitators. To be more specific, to have the advisors participate in the Facilitators’ Meeting in summer and to have the facilitators participate in the advisors’ seminars given during the Preparatory Training Session in autumn so that they can deepen their understanding of each other and strengthen their collaboration even before the actual program begins. Also, to have a daily meeting amongst the facilitators and the advisors after the program has begun so that they can facilitate the information sharing and the mutual support even further.

Although I enjoyed having conversations with the PYs over the meals, I kept receiving similar questions with regard to my current activities or my career. So maybe another thing to consider is to offer a non-mandatory Q&A session where the PYs can get to freely ask questions about these things to the advisors and the facilitators earlier in the program.

Furthermore, I realized that there are some things that I could apply from the Transition Town movement if I see this ship as a community. I’d like to continue exploring this possibility.

3. About the Overall Program

What worked:

Above all else, I think it was great that we were able to complete this program without any significant trouble given that this was the first program in a long while which involved going abroad on the ship. I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the crew of Nippon Maru, to the administration staff and all PYs for their sincere effort.

Based on the reflection on the previous program, we have made cross-cultural understanding, which was part of the Course Discussion last year, as one of the three pillars of this year’s program along with leadership and project management. The basic design of this year’s program was to have these three pillars serve as the “vertical axis” and the six Course Discussions as the “horizontal axis” so that the synergy between these two axes will be enhanced. I think this design worked to a sufficient degree if not perfect.

We also scheduled a Letter Group meeting almost every day in the late afternoon so that PYs can reflect on what they have learned that day. What I heard from many PYs is that this meeting served not only as the time to reflect but also as a place where they can always come back and feel safe.

As a result of all of these combined, I think that the extent of growth seen among the PYs during this year’s program was significantly higher than that of the last year. In my opinion, what has contributed to this sharp increase in PY’s growth in particular is the fact that the shift from initial superficial conversation to a more deep and essential discussion took place around 10 days into the on-board training which gave enough opportunity for PYs to actually practice what they learned about cross-cultural communication and leadership. In contrast, this shift never took place in the last year’s program due to the fact that it was only 2 weeks’ long.

What could be better:

What I became painfully aware during this year’s program was how big the gap is between the JPYs and the OPYs in terms of the level of their English as well as their awareness. This might not have been apparent when the program was much shorter, but it became clear that this gap cannot be ignored as the length of the program got extended. Of course, how big this gap is depends on

each individual. However, I cannot help being concerned that the quality of this program might degrade and will undermine the reputation of Japan and Japanese people amongst the participating countries. If we are serious about developing the next generation global leaders as the name of the program suggests, then we need to make sure that the quality of the program and its participants will live up to its name.

I would like to specifically propose that we raise the bar especially in terms of the English ability for JPYs and would not choose those who do not meet those criteria even if it means that the number of JPYs would not reach its given capacity. Also, I would like to propose that we consider offering introductory sessions for the corporations or upgrading the marketing tools in order to increase the number of JPYs who has a working experience.

Moreover, I think we need to design and run the program in such a way that it will solicit more spontaneity and the sense of ownership from the PYs. Specifically, I think it will be better if we can be more selective of the programs we offer and increase the opportunities for PYs to offer programs or voluntary activities which they can design themselves. Other thoughts include that we offer more opportunities where PYs can choose from a few programs which are run concurrently and to find a way to make the committee activities more voluntary rather than mandatory. Also, in terms of how we run the program, I think it is more preferable if we can empower the NLs and the Assistant Group Leaders and let them take charge even further. Even when a problem arises, it is better to have them think how they want to address that and have the administration staff take a supportive role.



Intercultural Communication Advisor Session Summary

Mike Matsuno

I did three intercultural communication advisor sessions for the entire group of approximately 240 PYs for SWY 28. The first session was at NYC, the second and third sessions were on the Ship. I also did an advisor session (233 PYs), an American movie/image presentation for the Information and Media Course Discussion (40), and a session on “small talk” (50).

First Session

The first session at NYC went somewhat okay, however, I spoke much too fast for many of the JPYs and even after being told to slow down many times, my speed was still too fast for many of the JPYs to understand. For the OPYs it was fine, and some OPYs actually told me after that they liked the speed that I spoke at, as it kept them engaged. So as we have discussed before in our advisor/facilitator meetings, the English level gap between the JPYs and OPYs was really much too wide to bridge on SWY28. I know that for all advisors and facilitators, the English gap made it much too difficult to really go deep into any subject and have a really meaningful discussion that benefited all. This is in direct relation to the recruitment of the JPYs being approximately 80% university students, and many of the OPYs being much older, highly professional and already working. The gap was not only English, but also life and career experiences. At many of the pair work, PY to PY discussion and activities of both advisor sessions and Course Discussion sessions, the majority of the JPYs were

unable to follow or be part of a higher-level discussion and for many of the OPYs, they were either bored or just going through the motion of getting through the discussion or activity. In my first session at NYC, I talked about perception and expectations, and I think overall, the message was fine for the OPYs but I am not sure how many JPYs could grasp the concepts even though I did a similar session in Japanese for them in September.

Second Session

The second session was about one week after boarding the Ship. Due to the discussion I had with JPYs and OPYs during meal times, I came to realize that there was still a big gap on how to communicate and interact with each other, and that what I had originally planned to talk about in regards to intercultural communication theory and usage, would not be really that useful for most of the participants. So I redid my entire PowerPoint and tried to focus on Japanese values and expectations, which I hoped would help the OPYs understand the JPYs better, and help to explain to OPYs why Japanese communicated, behaved or acted in certain ways. I also wanted for the JPYs to reflect and to notice how they react to different situations because of the DNA of Japanese values which affects their intercultural interactions. I also took a very simple but important focus on some of the things that Japanese culture values that may explain why in their cabins, Japanese may communicate in a certain way. Why for example, “silence”

for Japanese is okay, it is not considered bad if no one is talking.

In short, I was trying to make the communication and interaction on the Ship easier and more effective for both OPYs and JPYs. In the second half of the second session, I talked about high and low context cultures and the differences of communication styles which leads to expectations being very different. But I also tried to emphasize, that not everyone fits in the box of high/low context, and that this is a kind of generalization. However, it still can be used as a starting point, and then modified as OPYs and JPYs interact, communicate and live together on the Ship.

I think overall the second session went okay. There were some comments in the evaluations which we conducted for the Course Discussion and the advisors sessions, and for my second session. One JPY said that he already knew everything that I had talked about regarding the Japanese values and that he wanted to know more about the other cultures. I think he was one of the few who already really knew and understood all of what I talked about. Regarding the second session, Dr. Yasuhito Hirai and I had many discussions about what the JPYs needed to be more successful on the Ship. He then asked me if I could do a special “small talk” session for the JPYs who needed it.

“Small Talk” Presentation

At first, I was thinking that there could not be that much need for such a topic and session. After all, we were already halfway through with the program at that time, starting the second half of being on the Ship. But Dr. Hirai said that many JPYs have asked him about this topic and they would like a session on “small talk.” And so I agreed and created a “small talk” presentation, as well as I invited five OPYs who volunteered and wanted to help the JPYs, to come during the second half of the presentation and say a few words about what they felt and thought about the JPYs interaction and English. I was also planning to end with a speaking and interaction activity, like “speed dating,” where the JPYs would speak to the OPYs and be the question asker.

I was expecting about 8-12 JPYs, and I thought for the speaking activity with five OPYs I could match them 1 OPY to 2 JPYs, and I could participate if necessary. But what actually happened that was a big surprise was that close to 50 JPYs came to listen to the “small talk” presentation. I was both happy and unhappy at the same time. I was happy that so many JPYs came to listen to the presentation, but on the other hand, unhappy that so many came to this very

basic “small talk” presentation because most of us had assumed that everyone on the Ship should be capable of this basic level of communication and socialization. But I was mistaken, the “small talk” presentation was actually very important for many JPYs. Two of the JPYs cried at the end of the presentation because they finally realized what they needed to know, to do and to understand about the mechanics of “small talk,” as well as what many of the OPYs were actually thinking and feeling about interaction with the JPYs.

Also in addition to the five OPYs that I invited to help, another four OPYs came to listen also. After my PowerPoint presentation, I had seven of the OPYs talk and we had it translated by Ayako Hashimoto into Japanese so we could be sure that the JPYs understood what the OPYs were saying. Due to the huge number of JPYs, I was unable to do my “speed dating” activity, however, with more OPYs speaking to the group, we really didn’t have enough time to do the activity anyway.

All of the OPYs strongly encouraged the JPYs and praised them for their diligent effort, and for them being courageous enough to come to this “small talk” presentation to find out more about how they could improve themselves. After the presentation ended, there was a lot of hugging, tears and a new sense of motivation for the JPYs and OPYs attending. And in the following days after the presentation as the Mexican NL said in the NL meeting, the JPYs who attended the small talk session, were really trying again to interact with the OPYs. I also want to add that their inability to interact and be successful on the Ship was not their fault. From the point of selection, the organizer should avoid letting JPYs into the SWY program who have an inadequate level of English.

My recommendation would be that a “small talk” presentation needs to be done during the Preparatory Training Session in September for the JPYs and another booster at NYC just for JPYs before they get on the Ship. And a follow-up after one week on the Ship if necessary with those who need more support. This is something that everyone overlooked, something so basic but still very necessary for the JPYs to be successful in communicating and interacting with the OPYs. I am sure that in the past, the problem was the same or even worse than this year.

Third Session on “Re-entry”

In the third session, I presented about re-entry and reverse culture shock. According to some staff, they said that my English speed had slowed down to the slowest of the three sessions. But I am quite sure that still most of the

JPYs got only maybe 50-70% at best due to their English level. I think this session went quite well and it was easy enough for the JPYs to follow with the slides written out so they could read. And after, I was told numerous times by many PYs and especially by two NLs that they were happy that we were presenting about “life after SWY” because when they were PYs, they said there was hardly anything on re-entry and reverse culture shock and they had a difficult time when they first returned home. Had they known more, it would have made their expectations returning home much more realistic.

Recommendations

I would also like to add that for advisors to hold three full sessions of 240 participants is too difficult and not the best way to use the time and the advisor. Holding 240 PYs attentive and captive for two hours and 45 minutes is not really feasible, especially with the different levels of English, educational and work backgrounds, and life experiences. My suggestion would be that the advisor could maybe do one main introduction session at NYC for all 240 participants, but after that there would be smaller workshops held, the advisors could increase the number of smaller workshop sessions which participants could choose from if they wanted to attend or they could attend another advisor or other workshop. In short, after the

advisor’s first main session, it would not be mandatory, the PYs could select from different workshops which ones they want to attend. And there should be a cap on these smaller workshop sessions, 30-40 participants maximum. It really is not an effective learning environment to try and present to 240 participants who all come from different cultures and backgrounds, education and ages, and very importantly, have differently levels of English. With this type of program arrangement, everyone gets a little but nothing substantial or no real take home value. Having the participants be able to select what they want to learn about would make it a “win-win” for both the advisor and the participants.

Conclusion

So in conclusion, I believe that my three sessions, plus the small talk and the advisor session, went as well as it could under the English level circumstances, but I feel that I did not reach as many JPYs as I would have liked to.

In the end, I think the focus should be on the reforms of how the program is designed, staffed, and managed. If I can ever be of help, I would be more than happy to talk and/or work on improving the present SWY program which does have the potential and hardware to be a one-of-a-kind, world class global leadership program.

Project Management Seminar Advisor Review

Naomi Okada

1. Purpose of the Project Management (PM) Seminar

In the major framework of SWY28 program goal, I set the following objectives for PM seminar.

- a. To support PYs who launch a project as post-program activities, the basic knowledge on PM should be provided. The basic knowledge means understanding of the fundamental PM theory and learning of the method for project planning through exercises.
- b. To develop PY’s leadership skills as the main goal of SWY28, the PM seminar should cooperate with other two seminars, Leadership and Cross-Cultural Understanding, and 6 Course Discussions in the

SWY program. These training programs should complement each other in collaboration between advisors and facilitators.

For these objectives, the concepts for the implementation are as follows;

- a. To have lectures on basic management theory and exercises of the method for project planning.
- b. To learn methods for project planning more effectively, exercises with case materials should be included.
- c. To encourage creative thinking, the instruction on how to do project planning should be minimized before the group discussion.

2. Contents

The table below is the schedule for the PM seminar.

Time/Venue	Seminar Title	Contents
Sept. 16, 2015 NYC	Project Management: Preparatory Session (Overview)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summary for 4 sessions starting from January and basic Project Management with seminar objectives (Japanese)
Jan. 25, 2016 NYC	Project Management: Session1 (Introductory)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction for the seminar program with schedule and contents of 4 sessions
Feb. 3, 2016 Nippon Maru	Project Management: Session 2 (Summary/Problem Analysis)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pair group exercises • Problem Analysis with case materials
Feb. 7, 2016 Nippon Maru	Advisors Seminar “Is it possible to manage our own life?”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Similarity between project management and life • Personal history • Liberia Health Project
Feb. 18, 2016 Nippon Maru	Project Management: Session 3 (Problem Analysis/Objective Analysis)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Problem Analysis • Objective Analysis based on Problem Analysis
Feb. 25, 2016 Nippon Maru	Project Management: Session 4 (Project Planning/Presentation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Planning based on analysis of the previous sessions • Presentation of plans by group • Review

In addition, I had several times of small discussion with JPYs individually or in group for clarification of the PM theory when requested. I replied to some individual questions in free time. As an advisor, I did not set any special supplementary lecture for PYs.

3. Reaction from the PYs

There are the following comments from PYs on the PM seminar, which are shown in the internal questionnaires conducted to all PYs after Session 3.

Overall Reaction: Most of PYs realize the importance of project management, but they felt that the seminar contents were difficult, not interesting and incomprehensible. These comments are mainly given by OPYs. JPYs also commented that they were lost not knowing where they were in the seminar program. One typical issue that confused them is the difference between ‘outputs’ and ‘activities’ in the plan (log-frame).

Relationships with other Seminars and 6 Course Discussions: Some PYs and Course facilitators said that they developed their course topics by using what they learned in PM seminar such as Project Planning. Some thought the planning method was very useful for post-program activities together with the lectures of Leadership and Cross-Cultural Understanding.

The Structure of the Seminar: As I respected much of independence of PYs in discussion and showed only main and basic frames of the management, some PYs, who had no concept of project, were confused and could not find the way to tackle the exercise. On the other hand, some felt bored as there were the repetition and confirmation of the previous sessions. In the seminar structure, the process of formulating the project plan was explained session by session in order to reach the project plan as final product. Then, in the last fourth session, the project plan formulation was planned to be completed. However, it was hard for PYs to remember the results of the previous session at almost one week-interval. The beginning of each session had to start with the confirmation and reminders, which some PYs felt bored and the repetition.

Group Discussion: In PY comments, the group discussion for analysis was not easy in a Letter group of more than 20 people. And some group facilitators hardly handled them due to the number and with lack of facilitation skills.

Case Materials: The topic of the case taken in the seminar was about depopulation and aging in Japanese local communities. This is one of the most serious current issues in Japan but not only OPYs but JPYs

thought these were too local to be taken in SWY. Some said more relevant and mutual issue like “Food Waste in Nippon Maru” would be better.

4. Changes Seen among PYs

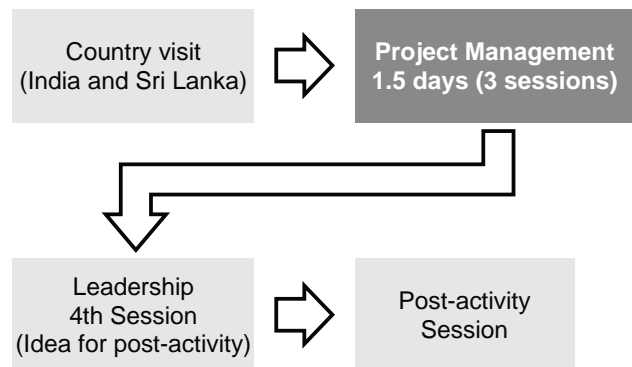
As it was really for the first time for almost all the 240 PYs to participate in trainings on board, probably there would be confusion and anxiety among the participants at the beginning. At the time of training start, I felt that not only JPYs but also other PYs were quiet as well as shy and probing for his/her standing position in the SWY with great expectations. Then, after one week past on board, because of the superiority of English ability, some OPYs, especially who are a native speaker of English, began to take leading roles in new activities which they proposed. They had confidence supported by the working experience in his/her own ground and wanted to be involved more in the ship activities. Toward the end of the second week, more people, mostly OPYs, expressed their own ideas (about their countries etc.) by themselves and tried to make other PYs involved to the various original activities to improve knowledge (about protection of resources etc.). I was anxious about these new activities, feeling that they would be affecting the already-set training program. However, seeing these activities with PY’s own leadership, I became quite sure that these were used as one of very useful indicators to assess the achievement of SWY program. In the middle of the third week, many JPYs were also coming to the stage to make announcements for their own activities and to ask other PYs to join. These JPYs were thought shy and rather quiet when the program started. And in addition to the active OPYs, other OPYs also stood on the stage more to talk about their own cultures and own themes. All of them were definitely encouraged by other active PYs and by the seminars of “leadership” and “cross-cultural understanding.” I believe this is really the wonderful output of the SWY.

5. Recommendation

a. Position of PM seminar in the whole SWY Program

I recommend rearranging the position of PM seminar in the SWY program. PM seminar will contribute more if it is put in the second half of the entire SWY program. The right timing is probably after the country visits which are somehow main event of the SWY program. It is also suitable as PYs starts thinking about their next step after the ship. The sessions for PM seminar will be conducted in one concentrated period, which means one and half

days for three sessions. In the second half of the program, PYs get more clear ideas about Leadership and Cross Cultural Understanding, which make PM-method learning better. There were also two post-program activities sessions at the end of the program in this SWY 28, which needed the basic knowledge of PM. Therefore the PM seminar would be effectively conducted between the final session of Leadership seminar, where PYs were encouraged to discuss the ideas of post-program activities, and two post-program activities sessions. The first session of PM seminar will be done in the Olympic Center for introduction as it was. The following is the recommended flow for the other three sessions, although the countries to be visited will be changed in the next SWY program.



b. Case Materials

Case referred to here, means one for simulation exercise in order to have PYs properly understand the theory and procedures in the 1.5 day seminar. The method of learning the theory and applying it to the case together is known as very effective for understanding PM. The case for depopulation in Japan was made by JPYs this time. It was hard task for them before they learned the PM theory. It should have been prepared by the advisor. I know that the case topic will be easily come up from the life onboard. Even though, some preparation is required to set the standard information for problem analysis and objective analysis.

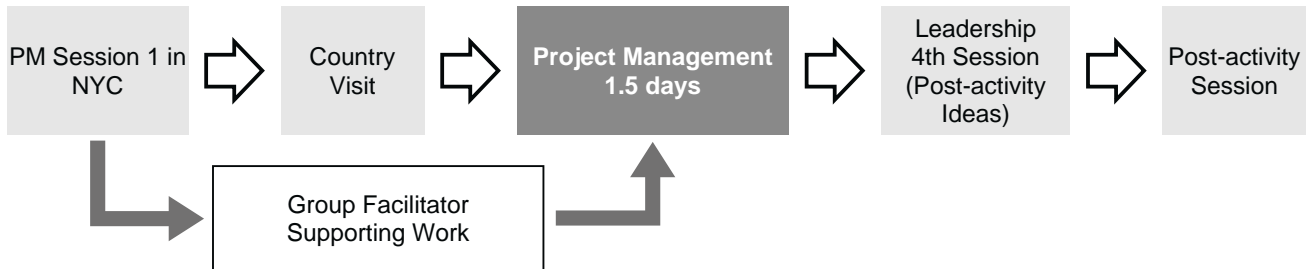
c. Grouping

240 PYs need to be put into Project Management groups, basically each consisting of 10 PYs. The letter group may be split into two. Each group should include OPYs and JPYs together according to the intent of this program.

d. Facilitator

The role of the group facilitators, who activate and coordinate group discussions, is very important for smooth group work. This time, I was not able to support group facilitators enough to activate the group discussion. At the beginning of PM seminar, I did not realize there were many PYs capable of facilitation with PM knowledge. It is recommended

to organize a would-be facilitator group (it could be a PM committee) prior to the session in Olympic Center and encourage the group members to understand facilitation methods and PM theory ahead of other PYs before the mentioned intensive sessions start. The group members will pick up case materials and play a supporting role during the intensive sessions.



6. Conclusion

Finally, this was my first experience on SWY as advisor and on the training on board where 240 PYs from 11 countries interact with each other. This cannot be a reason that I have not achieved well what I had intended at the beginning. However I am quite sure that most of

PYs realized the project management is necessary for their work and fulfillment of their passion for the society.

I express my sincere thanks to the Cabinet Office and IYEO for providing me this wonderful occasion. I learned a lot on board perhaps much more than PYs did.

Evaluation by the National Leaders

Australia

Emma Wooldridge

“Every cultural experience begins with the feeling of being lost”

– Edward Hall

What does it mean to be truly lost? Maybe it’s the feeling of being in the middle of a vast changing ocean with approximately 240 young people from 11 different countries, with only the sound of different languages, songs and the sound of the waves. During our journey along this great adventure, perhaps we came to learn that the biggest discovery has been to find our own sense of identity and shared humanity in the face of true cultural diversity.

The SWY28 Adventure Begins:

Australia was honoured to receive an invitation for this year’s Ship for World Youth Leaders Program (SWY28), being our 16th occasion to participate. The Embassy of Japan in Canberra completed the selection process with contribution from the Australian SWY alumni.

Once selected, the SWY28 Australian team had a short time to prepare. Preparation began with acknowledgement of the recent history of the program, noting the NL was an ex-PY from SWY15 and had also attended the most recent Tokyo Conference and SWYAA Global Assembly in Fiji. This meant the NL could share knowledge and understanding of recent changes to the program and key requirements.

Due to the significant geographical distance between Australian delegates a number of videoconferences were organized to begin discussions. This was challenging due to time differences and technology in rural areas, making it difficult to have free flowing conversation and develop bonds. During this time we also received generous support from the Australian Government, in recognition of that 2016 is the 40th anniversary of the Japan Australia Foundation. Thanks to this support, our formal and informal national uniforms reflect local artists, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and support Australian business.

The delegation elected to self-fund their travel to Sydney two days prior to departure in order to complete 'pre-departure training.' This time was spent getting to know each other, team building activities (including dinner with ex-PYs from Peru, Australia and Japan) and SWY orientation. We linked with the local Japan Foundation who kindly hosted us for the day. Australia is a diverse nation with many complex and sensitive social and environmental issues. To communicate these in a balanced and safe way, PYs need quality physical time together to develop trust in each other to share their opinions and experiences with the others. This leads to the discovery of common ground and an ability to create a clear and developed message around issues and national identity. In future programs, we recommend more than two days is required to achieve this.

The 12 NLs also provided informal and valuable support to one another during this time, sharing ideas and tools for preparing our respective teams.

Think Global, Act Local: Our Time in Japan

To begin to understand the local Japanese way of life, an integral part of SWY is the homestay program. The Australian delegation headed to Fukui Prefecture for this invaluable opportunity and reported feeling "totally immersed in the intricacies of Japanese culture and daily life." The weather was freezing cold and the people of Fukui community were warm and welcoming; it was a powerful experience and the Australian delegation felt deep gratitude and connection to the people who shared their lives and their homes for two nights. Australian delegates were excited to wake up to snowfall on their final morning in Fukui Prefecture; for many delegates this was the first time they had experienced snow.

The Australian delegation enjoyed the opportunities for guided tours and institutional visits in Tokyo, as it provided a chance to see real and tangible examples of what they were learning within a Japanese context, while further exploring the city and culture. In a true show of diplomatic relations, the audience with the Crown Prince of Japan, and the courtesy call on the Prime Minister were memorable highlights and strongly demonstrate how valued this program is.

The Ultimate in Cultural Immersion: Life Onboard

Life on board the Nippon Maru is guided by the formal program; with many hours dedicated to intensive seminars providing the foundation for global leadership. Key topics are Leadership, Cross-Cultural Understanding and Project Management. The six Course Discussion streams give

delegates the chance to share and apply specialised skills in a practical way. Voluntary activities were very popular; with a further platform for cultural understanding. Some of these activities consisted of language classes, traditional crafts, discussion on religion and culture, stargazing and impromptu dances. The informal time allowed for some of the most valuable and organic connections and discussions. Australian team members led PY Seminars, voluntary activities and discussion related to music; cultural diversity and identity; environment; global citizenship; sports and meditation.

Each Australian delegate felt the waves of cultural knowledge as they developed friendships with 11 different countries. The key indication of this was through the National Presentation. Australia's presentation incorporated three major themes; campfire, storytelling and song. The team's intent was to convey the messages of ancient Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledge systems; diversity; multiculturalism; place and connection to land. This was also a powerful experience for each of the team members to share and understand their own sense of identity.

Ports of Call:

Finding our sea legs was an interesting experience during time spent in both ports of call.

First, we arrived to the sounds and colour of Chennai, India. After spending time with young people from the Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (hereinafter, RGNIYD), we felt the true voice of youth and were impressed by their passion and care. As we travelled through the streets, it was a humbling experience to be reminded of the power of water in our natural world and the resilience a community has to rebuild after recent natural disaster.

In Sri Lanka we received a memorable welcome. Through home visit for a day, we received a warm welcome into family life. During this time and conversations, we learnt that despite the country's very recent horrors of a three-decade civil war, Sri Lanka understands the value of peace and its investment into the power of youth.

Coming Home:

During a lecture in India, the Director of RGNIYD shared this quote;

"To meet, to know, to part is the saddest condition of the human heart."

Life after the SWY experience can be challenging as participants try to integrate their learning and new

experiences of the global world. The Australian team is committed to sharing our learning through local Japanese communities, the Australian alumni, key stakeholders and the international SWY family. Australia is a favourite destination and we would be thrilled to offer “Homestay + 1” program for future PY visitors.

During the pre-departure training in Sydney, the

Australian team considered this question, “What will your SWY legacy be?” Perhaps the greatest way to show our sincere thanks and appreciation to the Japanese Government is through our actions, and we hope to further contribute our learning and knowledge to the global SWY legacy.

Kingdom of Bahrain

Layla Albalushi

On behalf of myself and the entire delegation of the Kingdom of Bahrain, the Ministry of Youth and Sports Affairs, and SWYAA Bahrain (SWYAAB), I would like to begin with expressing our deepest thanks and gratitude to the Cabinet Office, Government of Japan for their generous and kind invitation to the Kingdom of Bahrain to participate for the thirteenth time in the Ship for World Youth Leaders.

We are honoured to embrace this global youth program, which we have full respect and appreciation and gratitude for the Cabinet Office’s confidence in Kingdom of Bahrain to continue inviting us, which confirms the depth of relations between Bahrain and Japan in various fields, especially in the field of youth participation.

I would also like to thank the Government of Japan for their courageous decision to once again have the program both in Japan and abroad, through the ports of call, and to continue to invest in the valuable resource of youth worldwide. I greatly appreciate the privilege to have been chosen to represent Bahrain for the past three years as Bahraini coordinator for the Overseas Training Session for the JPY, and I am glad to be the NL for this program and to continue the “SWY spirit.”

I would like also to extend our thanks and appreciation to the Director, Administrator and the entire administration team, IYEO, and the ship crew for their tremendous effort that made this program a great success. I also thank the advisors for all of their effort and sharing knowledge, my fellow NLs of all the participating countries for all their support, and all PYs for making the program a life changing journey and experience for all involved.

Pre-Program

After finishing the selection process, we started our journey by meeting the team for the very first time with an ice breaking session in order to get to know each other. This was followed by coaching and leadership sessions, team building, NP rehearsals and other activities for a

period of three months. Meetings were held three times a week, which was not difficult due to the small geographic space of the Bahrain.

The pre-program activities organized by the SWYAAB and the Ministry of Youth and Sports Affairs helped the team to obtain a well-built understanding of the SWY program and to be fully prepared for the voyage. Prior to departure, the delegates met with both the Ambassador of Japan as well as the Minister of Youth and Sports, reflecting the importance of the program in Bahrain.

A recommendation for improving the involvement of PYs would be to increase the minimum age restriction to 21 (from its current 18) as it allows for PYs to have gathered relevant experience.

Activities in Japan

The orientation was very informative and the Tokyo City Tour was great chance for the Letter Group members to bond and get to know each other. The tour, which was organized by the JPYs, was well organized and fascinating and their efforts were greatly appreciated. This resulted in the Letter Groups getting to know each other better. Overall, activities in Japan were well organised. For the free time, a suggestion would be to have a list of recommended spots and possible itineraries, with details about transport. PYs would also heavily benefit from seeing more of Japan and visiting various locations.

Local Program (Homestay)

The Bahraini delegation had the pleasure and opportunity to visit the Yamanashi Prefecture. The majority of delegation members were amazed by the warm, generous, and welcoming Japanese hospitality and culture. In order to improve the situations, we could recommend that an approved schedule for activities could be made beforehand.

Sports Day

The sport day was refreshing and much needed change of pace which all the PYs enjoyed. It was also positive energy for the administration to participate in the sport activities as well. A possible suggestion for improvement would be having the sports day a little later in the program, in order to have a stronger team spirit. We could also have the sport day onboard (e.g. spread across both the Dolphin Hall and the sports deck).

Onboard Activities

• **National Presentations**

The National Presentations (NP) provided a valuable opportunity for each delegation to present an overall summary of their respective cultures and histories. However, there was a wide range of different NP styles, from more information intensive to performance/dance intensive. In order to gain the most from the NP, it could be recommended to include both performances, as well as providing in-depth information about the history and culture of the presenting country.

• **PY Seminars**

Seminars organized by the PYs covering many topics were a great insight into the details and specifics of the many and varied culture, many varied topics covered by the PY provided to make better understanding of other cultures. These should be encouraged and gave opportunities for everyone to interact.

• **Club Activities**

There were many clubs held over three sessions, which helped encourage the PYs to participate actively. However, the number and the length of each session could have been increased, as well as the time to prepare for the final presentations. Some suggestions would be to have two different slots, with flexible hours so that even the organisers for one session would have the chance to attend the second session.

• **Committees**

Committees provided PYs the opportunity to manage their respective activities and enhance their leadership and teamwork skills. In the case of the Bahraini delegation, five delegates were in one committee, which were all selected independently. An improvement would be to have a cap on the number of delegates from a single country in any one committee.

• **Course Discussion**

Course Discussions were beneficial to varying degrees, with all of the facilitators putting in their best efforts. These courses are an integral part of the program and help PYs both learn theoretical knowledge, as well as connect with their peers. A suggestion for future rounds would be to ensure that facilitators both have a good grasp of English, as well as have some teaching experience.

• **Advisor Seminars**

PYs benefitted from the Leadership Seminar, given the various levels of experience by the PYs. Cross-Cultural Understanding is a crucial part of SWY, and these seminars allowed delegates from the different countries to share their own values and experiences. Project Management is an important topic, but requires more interaction and realistic projects undertaken by the PYs.

• **Voluntary Activities**

In terms of activities, the voluntary activities provided the core emotional and learning connection between PYs as they provide a venue to exchange ideas and speak about important topics. They also provide an insight into the activities held within each country. Given their importance, it would be recommended that the number of voluntary activities is increased in the future.

• **Letter Group**

Letter Group meetings were a chance for PYs to get to know one another. The strength of the connections would depend on the NL, as they direct the activities the Letter Group undertakes and the major topics of conversation discussed.

Ports of Call Activities

The two ports of call that SWY28 visited were Chennai, India and Colombo, Sri Lanka. The programs and the institutional visits were overall beneficial, informative and enjoyable, and SWYAA of each country supported the activities. In Sri Lanka, PYs had the chance to play a game of soccer with the local youth, which allowed them to bond through this unique experience. The home visit in Colombo was also very highly regarded and recommended for all future programs.

Conclusion

I would like to express my sincere gratitude for being granted the opportunity to be part of the SWY program once again, this time as a NL. I have learnt a lot from these two experiences and would like to advise all PYs to be active within the SWY community and continue their

participation through the post-program activities.

To each and every PY, the end of the SWY program is the start of your journey to contribute to your society, both locally and globally. It is a unique opportunity and all of you are global ambassadors for your countries.

Republic of Chile

Yuki Uchimura Moraga

Introduction

On behalf of the Chilean delegation, I would like to express my gratitude to the Government of Japan for the opportunity of participate in such an amazing and holistic program. I was honored to represent Chile as NL, together with our team of 11 delegates, each of them exceptional leaders in their respective areas. We also want to thank the Government of Chile and the sponsors, for their support in all the activities leading to the preparation of our journey.

It has been an adventure where we were exposed to a number of foreign cultures in an environment structured to be able to build an outstanding network of people, whom we will always keep in our hearts.

Pre-departure Activities

The Chilean delegation met for the first time on a sunny day in October 2015. Since that day, the Chilean team met every weekend in average 4-hour sessions to prepare all the activities such as the NP, PY Seminar, voluntary activities and so on. Having had the opportunity to gather beforehand led to a team that are united with an excellent dynamic of work, in which every personality built a genuinely positive atmosphere in order to portray Chile as the wonderful country that it is in order to share with the 11 other participating countries.

We are also very grateful to have met with many institutions, sponsors and people that are supporting us, such as the Foreign Ministry of Chile, Imágen de Chile Foundation (Chile Brand), the Embassy of Japan in Chile, the Ambassador of Chile in Japan, SWYAA Chile, among others.

This has translated in the vast participation of the Chilean team in a wide array of activities in this program.

Onshore Activities

The first week of the program was a rollercoaster of emotions for all the team. From the arrival to Tokyo, meeting all the other delegates, and with the week spent in the National Youth Center, the participants were able

to begin the connections in many levels through activities such as group work in lectures, discussions and seminars. These events enabled us to begin to find out about each other's interests, professions and goals, as well as initiate friendships.

For the NLs, the additional memorable activity was the audience with H.I.H. the Crown Prince and the courtesy call to Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

Homestay at Iwate Prefecture

The homestay program of the Chilean delegation, together with the Tanzanian delegation, took place at the Iwate Prefecture. For many of the participants it was the first time to be in contact with the Japanese culture, let alone take the bullet train which was also an experience by itself, and allowed the participants to bond with the Tanzanian delegation.

The reception of the local youth and IYEO members of Iwate was really warm. For many of the local youth and families, it was the first time to meet a foreigner, which enriched our experience to be able to share our culture from the other side of the world. The homestay provided a cultural exchange like no other, where in a very short period of time (three days and two nights), the emotional connection that we reached with the families was exceptional. It allowed us to be immersed and learn firsthand about the Japanese culture, and about the special traditions that are only from the area.

Onboard Activities

The onboard activities included Course Discussions, NP, PY Seminars and voluntary activities. Our team really enjoyed their participation in the diverse activities, where the facilitators of each group and advisors were very informative and contributed immensely to having a more active participation by the delegates.

- **Course Discussions**

The themes of the discussions were diverse, from Disaster Risk Reduction to Information and Media. Our

delegates have had the opportunity to develop specific skills through discussions and visits to institutions related to their fields in Tokyo, Chennai and Colombo. At the end of the program, with the Course Discussion Summary Forum, all participants were able to appreciate the learning of each course.

- **PY Seminars, Club Activities and Voluntary Activities**

These activities were carried out by the delegates, and gave a chance to demonstrate as well as develop their leadership and organizational skills. Our delegation, collaborating with other delegations, led activities such as dancing classes, Latin-American literature seminars, entrepreneurship seminars, treasure hunt, and storytelling seminar among others. The Club Activities gave us a chance to learn dances, crafts and other cultural activities from the participating countries. I was in the Okinawa Dance Club (Eisa), where in addition to learning the dance, this was a great opportunity to learn about Okinawa and get to know the Japanese participants.

- **Letter Groups**

Each NL was in charge of a Letter Group, composed of participants of all the delegations in order to affiliate in a larger way the relationships of the participants. Many of the activities and competitions were carried out by Letter Groups. These instances strengthened the relationships between the participants and allowed us to enhance the teamwork. In my Letter Group, we succeeded in achieving first place in both competitions (sports day and project management assignment), but the important thing is that these activities led us to have a strong relationship between the participating countries.

Chennai Port of Call

The visits to Chennai included Kalakshetra, where we enjoyed the tremendous variety of arts and crafts that India has to offer.

Through the institutional visits, the PYs obtained a

better understanding of the local issues. The visit to the RGNIYD allowed us to share time with the local youth, as well as learn from the experienced professionals in each area. To share experiences with the local youth was indeed an enriching experience.

Colombo Port of Call

Upon arrival, the local youth and SWYAA had prepared a welcome performance that showed us a peek of the grand experience that we were about to have in Colombo.

We were able to fully admire the support that SWYAA has from the government, from the courtesy call to the presence of the President and many other authorities at the onboard reception. We were amazed by the experience and felt the level of preparation that was carried out.

The institutional visits were combined with a rich experience of a home visit to local families for a day. Once again, we experienced the customs of Sri Lankan people through the home visit program in a local village. We are very thankful for this wonderful experience, where we were able to feel the warmth of the families that crossed the language barriers.

Conclusions

It was an honor to participate as a NL, and I am very grateful that as a delegation we had a tremendous exposure to culture, customs, emotions, and best of all, amazing people. The Chilean delegation was involved in many activities, where we are grateful that we were able to share our culture with the rest of the delegations, and more than ever the team is motivated to contribute in the activities with SWYAA Chile once we return.

In spite of having different backgrounds and cultures, we came to realize how much more in common we have between the participating countries, as well as the fact that SWY has brought people together in a profound emotional level, generating a sense of family without borders.

Overall, it is the perfect mix of teamwork activities and social activities in order to achieve a deeper understanding of the cultures, and generate the friendships that will for sure lead to future good relations between our countries, with tomorrow's leaders, today.

India

Manpreet Uppal

The SWY program is a unique initiative by the Cabinet Office of Japan that brings together the youth from all over the world to interact and exchange ideas. This program not

only helped all of us grow as individuals and leaders, but it also helped us to build deep friendships and connections that will last forever. The one thing that impressed all of my

delegation was the amount of planning and commitment that was shown by the administration in organizing this program. The Japanese efficiency and professionalism was an experience we all plan to learn from. At the same time, we were also moved by the friendliness of the administration where it was always easy to approach anyone at anytime, including the Director. Their successful attempt at making this program enjoyable and fun is highly appreciated.

Onshore Activities

Right from the first day, during the welcome reception at ANA InterContinental Hotel, there was a level of warmth and kinship that made us all feel at home. The very next day, we left for the homestay program, which was in the Fukui Prefecture for us. All the Indian PYs really enjoyed their time with the families and were sorry to be leaving them so soon. The visit to the paper village was especially cherished as we learnt the process of making traditional Japanese paper. We learnt much more about the Japanese culture and way of life in those two days than at any other time in this program. More importantly, all of us came back with a family to call our own in Japan.

The major part of our onshore training was spent at the NYC. This was the time when the participants were introduced to the various aspects of the program including the Course Discussion, Club Activities and the seminars. Many of us were also introduced to a new way of living, which involved sharing living space and utilities with other members of our community. I believe that it was important for us to spend time in such a venue, because as global leaders it is very essential for us to learn to adjust and make the most of any and every situation that we are faced with, particularly in a multicultural environment.

The highlight of our stay in NYC was the institutional visit and the Tokyo City Tour by Letter Group. The efficiency with which the JPYs planned the tour and made sure that we could get to see both the traditional and the modern side of this city was impressive. The institutional visits were also appreciated as being relevant and enjoyable.

Onboard Activities

After two weeks on shore, we finally got to board the Nippon Maru. This was an emotional moment for all participants as we witnessed the love and affection of all the alumni, friends and family who came to see us off. The ship is really well equipped and beautifully designed, so that all PYs got to experience a level of comfort that is essential for such a long journey. The other commendable aspect of the ship is the crew members. All the crew members were

extremely friendly and it was a great pleasure to be able to interact with them.

Seminars and Course Discussion

The seminars conducted by advisors and the Course Discussion were the two most important sources of academic training on board the ship. Like any other type of training, these seminars took on the personality of the advisors and facilitators. So it was important that we had the right people to teach us. There were mixed reviews about the content of the seminars but the PYs understood that it is difficult to design a seminar for audience that belong to such diverse educational backgrounds and maturity levels. Most of us would appreciate it if the content was streamlined a little, as sometimes more time was spent on discussing a trivial point than is required and some important points were omitted altogether. One part of the seminar that all the PYs appreciated was when we were asked to do the project in the end of Project Management Seminar. Personally as a group leader, I could see the entire group come together for the project, take out time to work on it and go through all the emotions that come with team work.

PY Seminars

PY Seminars gave the PYs a chance to share their knowledge and experience with people from all over the world and meet people who had common interests. This was a daunting task for most PYs as they had to get out of their comfort zone to be able to explain themselves to people with diverse backgrounds without putting them to sleep. Some of the PYs had a problem with the English language, and that reflected in the presentation despite the fact that it was based on sound knowledge and concepts.

Voluntary Activities and Club Activities

The voluntary activities as well as the Club Activities were one of the most enjoyable parts of our stay on the ship. We had a close encounter with the cultures of the other countries including dance, music, food and language. The parties thrown by individual delegations were particularly impressive as they tried to show us a lighter aspect of their country which could not be showcased during the NP. It was also heartwarming to see some of the PYs who decided to take action and be leaders by organizing charity events, auctions and fundraisers. Another voluntary activity that impressed the Indian PYs was sharing economy and transition town, which some of them plan to take back and emulate in their own communities. The cherry on the cake, however, was the “SWY Got Talent,” which brought out

some rising stars and amazing performers among the PYs.

Ports of Call Activities

For the ports of call activities, we visited Chennai in India and Colombo in Sri Lanka. These were heartwarming experiences as we were moved by the warmth and hospitality of the people in both the countries. In India, the visit to Kalakshetra left us in awe at the work that was being done for promotion of the culture in our country. RGNIYD was also a great experience, particularly the interaction with their students. Many PYs felt that the Course Discussion institutional visits did not justify the course they were associated with. As host country, we would like to look into that and we hope to be able to give our suggestions in this regard in the future.

As for Sri Lanka, we were left speechless by the welcome we received everywhere including the port. The institutional visits were relevant and well planned. Everyone enjoyed the home visit, which was short but delightful. However, the language barrier was stronger in Sri Lanka than in Japan for some people. During the home visit in Sri Lanka, the schedule could have been a little stream lined as it involved multiple visits from home family to the temple and back. This cut into the limited time we had with the family and prevented us from planning a long activity together. However, all in all, the time spent in the two countries was very memorable for all of us.

Suggestions

Some of the suggestions the Indian PYs would like to give are:

- There is a tendency to treat the OPY as a uniform cultural group. This is often not true as our cultures

are much more variable and at times even more similar to Japan than to other OPYs. We would also suggest having a short presentation similar to the Introductory Forum where all the PYs can explain about their culture and heritage in addition to reading the handbook.

- The seminars could be made more crisp and concise with a few more basic concepts added to them. In the Leadership Seminar and Youth Entrepreneurship course, some of the Indian PYs came up with the suggestion that including examples of leaders on the global stage such as Mark Zuckerberg, President Obama etc. may be useful. This is similar to what was done in one of the Cross-Cultural Understanding Seminars.
- There was one day dedicated to sports. Physical health is essential for mental development and we would like to suggest including more sports and physical activities in the program.
- Some of the times, if the presenters have a problem with language during seminars, we feel it might be a good idea to take the help of an interpreter.
- The sessions seemed a bit long at times. We would like to suggest keeping them shorter with different sessions before and after the current 10 minute break.
- Giving tasks and projects, as was done in the Project Management Seminar might be a good way to inculcate team spirit and develop leadership qualities among the PYs and would like to encourage more such activities.

In the end, I would like to thank the Cabinet Office of Japan and IYEO for this wonderful opportunity to be a part of the program that has become an integral part of our lives.

Japan

NL, Miho Suzuki

I am sincerely grateful that I participated in The Next Generation Global Leaders Program, “The Ship for World Youth Leaders,” as the National Leader of Japan. Since participating in SWY11 as a PY, I have also been a member of the organizing staff and a facilitator. However, being the NL of Japan was different than any previous SWY experience. The role of NL allowed me to be directly involved with all PY, one-to-one and as a group, encouraging their self-directed development.

National Leaders

As the NL of Japan on SWY28, I had a shared goal

with the Sub-National Leader: “to create an environment that encouraged JPY to take steps on the Ship to actualize their true desires.” Sharing our vision with the JPY, we supported them, in many different aspects before and during their Ship experience, in order to allow them to access their dreams and to take action to make them happen.

All NLs were responsible for their delegations. When issues arose, we discussed amongst ourselves and came up with solutions respectful of each other. The best thing about our NLs’ team was that we worked to never impose rules to control participants and tried to motivate PY to take action. This contributed to the development of leadership

opportunities for all PY.

Outstanding Participants

OPYs had a wide range of specialized knowledge and life experiences, such as; lecturer, interpreter, doctor, psychologist, lawyer, accountant, government official, UN official, corporate and NGO executives, and cancer survivor. Not only did the OPYs bring life and work experience and knowledge to the Ship, their emotional intelligence was very high. This characteristic allowed many OPYs to adapt well to life and situations on the Ship. Many OPYs worked hard to adapt and implement the best solutions that considered the character and emotional sensibility of their fellow PY.

Nearly 80% of JPYs were students and many OPYs worked hard to bring the course discussions to the level of JPY comprehension. Many OPYs adapted to the reality of the situation and treated JPYs fairly, supporting them while they tried their best in a foreign language.

Although there was a huge gap between JPYs and OPYs in life experience, knowledge, and English level, many JPYs were skilled in artistic, academic, and sporting disciplines. These musical, intellectual, and athletic pursuits, such as: piano and photography, soccer and Soran Bushi, tea ceremony and calligraphy; became wordless languages that enhanced conversation, connection, and friendship between both halves of the PYs cohort.

The OPYs' ability to recognize the emotions and wherewithal of themselves and others facilitated extraordinary levels of acceptance. JPYs' efforts to share their passions were wonderful tools of interconnectedness. This created interdependency on the Ship. It was one of the most beautiful things I saw on this program.

Appreciative Eyes to PYs

PY are specialists from a variety of fields with real life experience. I wish we created more chances to learn from all PYs in seminars and other ways during the program. It would be great if PYs had more chances to come back to SWY as lecturers or facilitators.

PY Seminars were good opportunities to use peer to peer learning and it was a chance for PYs to present a topic of their choice. As a suggestion, there ought to be pre-Ship workshops on how to make presentations in English, with focus on effective speaking and usage of multi-media tools. I suggest experienced committee members or advisors give advice on what makes a good presentation and how to create and tell a story in English.

Learning from the Moment to Become Flexible

JPYs spend more time on preparation than anything else. Preparation is important; however, it is equally important for us to be in the moment and to learn from unplanned and unexpected events. This could be a great teaching tool in this program.

Considering this JPY tendency, I suggest that the program should encourage JPYs to not spend much time on planning. Rather, JPYs should be encouraged to appreciate the chance to spend time with all PYs because time on the ship is limited. I also suggest that JPY pre-departure Committee preparation be reduced and planning officially starts when they meet the OPYs.

It is important for global leaders to be adaptable and respond appropriately during any situation. For example, the New Zealand delegation created the Kapa Haka Club to teach this Maori tradition. The New Zealand delegation knew what to do and they created the content of the activity after the program started. This flexibility is required of global leaders.

Phenomenon among Participants for the Program

As I mentioned, there was a gap between JPYs and OPYs in terms of life experience and knowledge. This was apparent during all aspects of life aboard the Ship. What caused the gap? From what I heard from OPY and my observations, there are two major reasons for this gap.

One; expectations about SWY were different between JPYs and OPYs at the application stage. JPYs understood SWY as an opportunity to nurture global leadership mainly through cross-cultural understanding. On the other hand, OPY recognized SWY as a chance to have high-level discussions about global issues with people from around the world because it was advertised as the Next Generation Global Leaders Program.

Two; OPY quality has greatly improved. Due to the impressive efforts of the Center for International Youth Exchange, the IYEO, and the Cabinet Office, SWYAA have improved and good publicity about SWY has increased around the world. The number of quality applicants has grown and there are very competitive overseas' selection processes. Sri Lanka had 1,000 applicants for 12 participants.

It is obvious that there is a huge gap in the personal characteristics and experiences of applicants in Japan and overseas. Also, the competition to become a PY varies greatly due to the number of applicants and places allotted per country.

For Future of SWY

The improvement of the SWY program, so as to become a world-class global initiative, would be a unique Japanese contribution to the people of Japan and the world. In order to make this a reality, SWY must strive to meet the expectations of all PY. If the SWY program continues to have this gap between JPY and OPY in life experience, knowledge, and language, the quality of overseas' applicants will drop as their expectations will never be met. If this happens, the quality of the program will eventually decrease.

As SWY is run by the Japanese government, it should benefit Japan and the Japanese participants. At the same time, it is also important to make this program meet the expectations of the OPYs, who comprise half of the participants. Therefore, I recommend that the program increases the number of JPYs who have work and life experiences. This means increasing the competitive level of applicants from Japan. This will maintain the quality the program and the significance of running the program as an initiative to contribute to our global society.

Appreciation to Everyone

“What you really want to do or be signals your unique presence in our world. Working to actualize your desires will make you feel happy. Doing this is a gift that will benefit the world. Taking action to turn your dreams into reality is more significant than doing what you simply fell into.” By saying this, I encouraged JPYs to be aware of who they are and want they want and to be courageous to take action to make it a reality. I am who I am. I am so happy that I could do it on the ship.

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to the JPYs and OPYs who were always open to me, the Administrative staff, the governments and Alumni Associations of India and Sri Lanka, the IYEO, the Center for International Youth Exchange Organization, the government and people of Japan who made this great experience happen, advisors, Paul, our Education course facilitator who celebrated our lives and helped our team have a strong bond of support and trust, and Mr. Hiroomi Ide, the Sub-National Leader of Japan, who always supported me and walked with me in our shared vision for SWY28. I sincerely hope that our SWY adventure will live forever in the hearts and minds of the people of our world.

Japan

SNL, Hiroomi Ide

Introduction

For the first time in three years, this year saw the return of the overseas program. In both name and reality, the borderless open sea became our stage. I stand firm that this was an incredibly enriching experience for all of the youths who took part.

Our endeavors in this program were supported by everyone from Cabinet Office of Japan, International Youth Exchange Organization of Japan, administration staffs, advisors, captain and crews of Nippon Maru, Government of India, Government of Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, host families in Sri Lanka and everyone else who supports our program. We would like to offer our thanks, with PYs as the representative.

Analysis (High Lights & Points)

There are three points I would like to detail in the hopes of contributing to the further development of this program. Moreover, I will have additional remarks about each matter.

- **The Alumni Association as the International Asset**
This year, visits were made to India and Sri Lanka for ports of call. With the Alumni Association at the center, ex-PYs acted as Youth Leaders and hosted us. We received invaluable support, like a warm welcome, smooth support for visiting activities, the sharing of post-activity details and more. Moreover, as I came to find out about ex-PY's activities in each field, I was able to reconfirm that this Alumni Association, continuing since 57 years ago, is an amazing asset on the verge of becoming a basis for philanthropy both in Japan and in the world. To increase the value of this Alumni Association and continually improve its ability to give back to society is our key mission as ex-PYs.
- **Deepening Continual Discussions**
Of note is a well-integrated training structure that deepened related discussions from one type of study, in addition to increasing the quality of each lecture. For example, when the ideas discussed in seminars related to the problem solving “urge,” source of leadership were shared, facilitators in other courses

held developmental Course Discussions centered on “Urge and Entrepreneurship.” That evening, I saw discussions going deeper, late into the night, with participants having private conversations pertaining to “Urge to motivate myself.” PYs discussed these varied topics in active discussions focusing on things like refugee problems / societal entrepreneurship / work-life balance and so on, while sacrificing sleep.

- **Organic Leadership Encouragement**
Opportunity based leadership pays respect to differing personalities while making the most of the strengths each person has with exquisite timing. World-wide standard of project management methodology that realizes goals. A cross-cultural understanding that aims for the success that lies beyond differing world views. Through a cultivation program that organically echoed the advice of psychologists who help foster the strong mental strength needed for leadership, we had multifaceted opportunities for growth for the PYs.

Analysis (General Points)

- **Preparatory Training Session**
To JPYs, this was an important opportunity to experience stagnation through opposing opinions beforehand. Moreover, it was a good chance to strengthen the union.
- **National Presentation**
It was an incredibly beneficial time where the allure and the societal problems of each country were summarized clearly and study was conducted on a cultural / religious / economic / societal background.
- **Ports of call activities**
We were able to study both India and Sri Lanka deeply. If we increase the discussion time with local youths, it will become a more advantageous visit.

- **PY Seminar**
PYs were able to make use of their own specialized areas and lead many beneficial discussions, like “Crime Prevention through Sports” and “Discussions related to the Receipt of Refugees”.
- **Cooperation between NLs**
NLs took on improvement of PY’s morale and discovery and resolution of operational problems. I want to show my respects to each countries NL, as they expended their time and energy without complaint to support the PYs.
- **Post-Program Activities Sessin**
Discussions on how the experience gained in the program should be put back into society took place. Active discussions were held ranging from daily activities to large scale events.

Conclusion

The future is unstable and fast moving. It is rife with uncertainty. It’s difficult and indistinct. And, it’s incredibly complex – which is why the number of problems that can be solved by a single leader are small. What kind of leadership should we aim to raise in this world? With regard to this point, discussions were held many times with Ms. Miho Suzuki, NL of Japan, regard to the what world view was held important in our SWY28 before the program began in earnest. From those discussions, we set our mission as one that gave a push to each participant’s leadership, crafting an environment that supported a feeling of “wanting to,” rather than one where the NLs were forcing them. Thankfully, the original intent was achieved through support from an understanding leader and everyone in management, as well as advisors who shared a very close world view, and through OPYs, who has a deep affection for JPYs. Finally, I’d like to end by offering my thanks to all those associated with our program.

United Mexican States

There is no easy way to summarize something as intense and diverse as the experience lived in the SWY program, as words are not enough to transmit the emotions and learning gained during the 47 days it lasts; still, I’ll try to share within the following lines the most relevant happenings that made this experience a unique opportunity to learn, to share and to define a new vision of leadership

Jose Ruiz Fernandez

which, without a doubt, is an asset to change the world.

Selection Process

For the Mexican delegation the Program began with the selection process for the delegates, conducted by the SWYAA, including a selection for the NL, who coordinated the national selection process. The 2015 selection process

was the most demanding in the history of our participation in the SWY program, and included 4 stages where 1,313 candidates from all over Mexico competed for one of the available 11 spots. SWYAA Mexico made an extraordinary effort to conduct selection in 4 different venues (North, Center, Occident and South) in order to promote diversity and make it easier for candidates to participate in the different activities. The selection process included document evaluation, written tests of English proficiency and general knowledge about Japan and Mexico, volunteer activities for each venue coordinated with different public and private institutions, psychological examinations and a final interview with the Japanese Embassy, the Mexican Youth Institute and SWYAA members. The result was a diverse delegation with outstanding youth leaders focused on youth work, social contribution activities and a unique love for Mexico. I hereby recognize the enormous effort of the Mexican alumni to make this selection process possible which delivered a delegation composed of outstanding and committed young Mexicans.

Preparation for the Program

The Mexican delegates participated in a 3-month preparation process that included both onsite and online meetings, which aim was to instruct the delegates about the SWY environment and background, the Program guidelines and the expected outcomes. During this time, the delegation also prepared the NP, focusing on giving a true perspective of Mexico's history and reality as well as a taste of the diverse cultural expressions we have. The pre-departure assignments were an important instrument to encourage the PYs to deepen their interest and knowledge about the subjects that would be discussed further on during the Program. I'd like to acknowledge the big help of the Mexican Embassy in Japan and the support of the different sponsors that helped us to make this experience possible.

Arrival at Japan

During these two days we had the chance to meet the OPYs in a relaxed way, which created the opportunity to begin with the merging of participants that would consolidate during the activities at the NYC. It was a big honor for me to address the PYs, as well as authorities and invitees, with a speech at the Welcome Reception.

Local Program

The visit to Shiga Prefecture was a meaningful opportunity to experience for three days the life of a Japanese family, having the chance to share about

traditions, language and diverse expressions of identity that gave the delegates a new perspective of Japan. The activities with the local children at the Center for Regional Development in Kusatsu City were particularly a fulfilling experience that deeply touched our hearts. It is important to mention that the fact that the Governor of Shiga is an ex-PY of the SWY program was inspiring for our delegates, particularly what he mentioned about how the Program impacted his life and work.

Onshore Training Session

During this 8 day long stage, the Mexican delegates were able to begin with the onsite work at the Course Discussions and the Seminar sessions. The topics addressed at the first session of the three Seminars were a great way to better live the program immersion process and to identify the best way to communicate with the other PYs, particularly the Cross-Cultural Understanding and the Leadership Seminars as the information provided helped PYs to identify and use means of communication and interaction. The institutional visits were incredible opportunities to better understand the way the Course Discussion topics are addressed in a daily basis by the Japanese society and to learn from the best practices and successful experiences from diverse public and private institutions and the people involved in them. It was also interesting to experience the interests PYs shared through the first block of PY Seminars. The Courtesy Calls paid to the H.I.H. the Crown Prince and H.E. the Prime Minister of Japan meant a unique privilege for us and clearly stated the importance of the SWY program from the Japanese government and the people of Japan.

Onboard Training Session

This stage, which is the most important one, happens once the anxiety experienced during the first days of the Program is away and PYs are able to interact and collaborate more openly. The full schedule provided for every day fosters the PY engagement in the topics addressed and promotes the possibility to exchange experiences and ideas as well as to learn from the projects and activities each PY is performing in their community.

- **Course Discussions**

The subjects selected for the Course Discussions were of big interest within the PYs; they merged in an amazing way with the topics of the Seminars, which helped to keep a core line during the whole extension of the Program. The people selected to facilitate the Course Discussions have a great proven experience, which gives a better experience to the PYs.

- **Seminars**

The three Seminars were not only interesting but useful for the participants as they now are able to use these new tools in the activities and projects they are developing back home. The tools provided can be used in any kind of project as the three topics of the Seminars are indispensable elements for any kind of initiative as you will always need to understand about leadership, about communication (particularly from the cross-cultural perspective) and about project management.

- **Club Activities**

The activities planned by each delegation for the Club Activities were interesting and contributed enormously to learn of the different countries' culture and traditions, as well as to feel identified with the way different cultures understand the same values, realizing that, at the end, we are not so different.

- **PY Seminars**

The preparation for these seminars and the effort on reflecting the culture and social expressions through each PY Seminar made this one of the best activities of the Program. The activities promoted helped to deepen the understanding of the participating countries and to have a new perspective of the problems that the society faces.

- **Voluntary Activities**

It was surprising how a big number of PYs decided to give up their free time to share with the other participants their skills, their culture, their traditions and their projects. Each voluntary activity gave the PYs the opportunity to know about interesting concepts in a more relaxed way and to share freely what is important for them.

- **National Presentations**

The commitment of each delegation with its country and the people they come to represent is perfectly well displayed through the NP. It was great to see how PYs were deeply touched by what was shared and how they have now a more complete idea of the participating countries.

Ports of Call

The activities performed at each country we had the chance to visit helped us to have a more accurate idea of its culture and traditions as well as to deepen the understanding of the issues the country faces and the way

people and government deal with them.

The port of call at Chennai, India, was filled with enriching activities such as the visit to Kalakshetra where we could experience the beautiful and colorful cultural expressions of India. The visit to RGNIYD was also an interesting experience where we had the chance to learn how this Institute works with the Indian youth.

The port of call at Colombo, Sri Lanka, was an experience impossible to describe, as it was filled with the incredible Sri Lankan hospitality and the unique warmth of the people of Sri Lanka. The collaboration of the government with the SWYAA is amazing and the result was an outstanding experience for every PY. The home visit to local families was a very emotive experience that deeply moved our hearts. The collaboration of first level authorities was an excellent contribution as it raised the awareness of the Sri Lankan society through the information spread by the local media.

Communication and Interaction

It is important to acknowledge the great effort that the JPYs made to merge with the OPYs, as well as to understand the different ways to communicate and to express from the different backgrounds. This effort, that comes along with the effort of the organizers to include in the training process tools for communication and cultural understanding, made this experience an amazing one that will last a lifetime for each one of the PYs.

Recommendations

I would only like to personally suggest that for the future batches of the program it is requested to the SWYAA of each country to get more involved in the selection of both, NL and delegates, as the most important ingredient of this program is people; if the OPYs have a deeper previous understanding of the Program, its aims and its objectives, the experience would be much better and the flow of the Program would bring a better outcome for each participant.

Acknowledgements

On behalf of the Mexican delegation and SWYAA Mexico I'd like to express to the Cabinet Office of the Government of Japan, the administration staff, organizers, volunteers, and everyone involved in the SWY28 organization our deepest gratitude for making this amazing opportunity possible and for bringing the opportunity for all the PYs to learn that a better world is possible, that an amazing tomorrow is affordable, that the change we want is in our hands to make it happen. Gambari mashow!

On behalf of the Aotearoa/New Zealand delegation and our NZ SWY alumni, I would like express our appreciation and sincere gratitude to the Japanese Cabinet Office for inviting our delegation to participate in the SWY program.

We also give thanks to all those who have worked tirelessly to ensure this unique program not only survives, but thrives. To all the administrative staff, IYEO representatives and the many staff who took on teaching, mentoring and support roles, we acknowledge your commitment to ensuring this program's success.

Through the various activities, seminars, Clubs, Course Discussions and also informal social gatherings, we have all undertaken immense learning and growth. This has provided the motivation and inspiration we will need in order to define and implement our next steps toward social contribution within our various fields.

I asked the NZ delegation to give me honest feedback on their experience of the SWY28 and so I have taking this into account when writing this report.

Japan Local Program and Homestay

This has been described by our delegation as one of the most valuable aspects of the overall SWY28 program. Having the homestay experience at the beginning of our time in Japan gave us an essential insight into the everyday lives of Japanese families.

Our initial apprehension or nerves in relation to leaving the comfort and support of our fellow delegates was soon put to rest. From the very warm welcome to Mie Prefecture, to the great food and entertainment, we soon realised that we were in for a special experience. The entire NZ delegation was very grateful and humbled by the generous hospitality we each received from our host families.

Very strong bonds were formed in such a short time. This was clear to see when we said our farewells as there were a few emotional tears shed at the time.

Onshore Training Session at NYC

This is definitely a vital part of the program in order to get all PYs prepared for the journey ahead. As this was the first assembly of all PYs, the excitement levels were high. The NZ team enjoyed leading the ice-breaking session and it was easy to see the willingness of all 11 nations to make connections as soon as possible.

The Introductory Forum lead by PYs was an excellent opportunity for all to get an idea of who is doing what in

their respective fields. The initial seminars on Leadership and Cross-Cultural Understanding were also very beneficial and relevant at that point in time and throughout our time on board Nippon Maru.

Many felt the amount of time spent at the NYC was a bit too long and somewhat restrictive in terms of the intense program schedule. Limited free time to get to know other PYs (particularly JPYs) as well as confinement to NYC and curfew times were a difficult adjustment to make. It is understandable logistically however most of our delegation would have liked to experience more of Tokyo.

Meeting the Prime Minister and Crown Prince of Japan during this week was a personal highlight for me.

Ports of Call

The port of call visits to both India and Sri Lanka offered some of the biggest experiential learning opportunities for all of us.

The levels of satisfaction amongst the NZ delegation varied widely depending on aspects such as institutional visits and authenticity felt within each country's activities.

General feedback from my team has indicated a level of dissatisfaction with some parts of the port of call activities in Chennai, India. Specifically, some felt the time spent in lectures at the institutional visits could have been better spent out of the classroom environment and instead visiting more of the actual people and places that make up this remarkable city.

The Cultural Centre visit at Kalakshetra was well received by all. It offered a deeper understanding of the ancient culture, the performing arts and the spirituality of the people.

Administration did well to adapt to the unforeseen or last minute changes to the local program in Chennai.

The visit to Colombo, Sri Lanka is regarded as the most impressive port of call experience of SWY28. Just judging by the amazing welcome ceremony, with so many local people involved, we all knew that this program was a big deal here and that we were in for something special. We were not disappointed. The entire schedule was well planned and executed. It was plain to see the level of support and involvement of the Sri Lankan people by the way in which we were hosted and made to feel welcome. The visits by Ministers of Parliament and the President of Sri Lanka himself also confirmed this.

The institutional visits were generally enjoyed,

particularly the visit to the NYSC. The mini-NP was likened to being at a large scale concert.

It was unanimously agreed that the stand out experience of our time in Sri Lanka was the home visit. To be welcomed so easily and with such generosity was humbling. All of our host families went above and beyond to accommodate us. The food was seriously amazing too.

The NZ Team would like to acknowledge the organisers for offering a true and authentic experience during our time in Sri Lanka.

Course Discussion

Our Course Discussion seminars consisted of Community Development, Education, Environment, Disaster Risk Reduction, Information and Media, and Youth Entrepreneurship. All NZ delegation members reported back as having learnt something new to one degree or another, depending on the course content and facilitators. The majority of us were exposed to new ideas and concepts while some found the Course Discussion quite basic due to prior knowledge and backgrounds of study etc. At times this motivated some of our team to take on leadership and mentoring roles within groups.

Every delegation member made positive comment regarding their course facilitators. Some of our team have come away with solid action plans and ideas for future projects. All discussion courses presented extremely well at the Summary Forum.

PY Seminars

This program offered an excellent range of topics for PY Seminars. Those that I attended were well organised and presented in ways that were engaging, informative and inspiring. The PY Seminars on ‘The Power of Storytelling’ and the ‘Plastic Bottle Kayak’ presentations were of a higher quality than I had expected.

The main comment made by the NZ Team was these seminars offered some of the most valuable learning experiences on the program. More PY lead initiatives would be a positive step considering the calibre of talent and knowledge amongst the PY involved in the SWY program.

National Presentations

The day of NP is highly anticipated and met with relief as the many hours of planning and practice are finally

taken to the Dolphin Hall stage. It is time of excitement and pride when the spotlight shines on a delegation’s efforts to accurately portray not only the good points of their homeland but also social issues and challenges faced as well.

We felt this was one of the most informative parts of the programme in offering a deeper insight into each country’s culture, traditions and way of life.

It was great to see the results of so much thought and hard work.

Proposals

- a. If possible it would be nice to help with a community project that would contribute to the local areas we visited on our homestays.
- b. Feedback was consistent in regards to the program schedule at NYC being too intense and not allowing enough time for inter delegation bonds to be formed. Perhaps more free time or organized social events at this stage could be beneficial.
- c. Some of the most amazing learning opportunities came when PYs were given the chance to show their leadership potential by presenting or facilitating seminars, workshops or Clubs. More of this would be great.
- d. The length and intensity of days between holiday breaks started to affect the quality of participation by many PYs. Perhaps one or two more holiday breaks could be considered in order to keep all PYs as well as administrative staff, energised enough for the demands of the program.
- e. Consider the academic level of the PYs and deliver a range of content to stimulate PYs at a level that ensures challenge and motivation. There are some of the brightest minds in the world coming through this amazing program and to give them every opportunity to shine can only be a success.

In closing, on behalf of the New Zealand delegation and alumni, I would once again like to express our heartfelt gratitude and deep appreciation in being given the privilege to participate in SWY28. We look forward to keeping in contact, building our friendship and communication networks and possibly hosting you all during a port of call visit to our country in the not too distant future.

Kia ora & Arigato gozaimasu.

Introduction

On behalf of the Russian delegation and SWYAA Russia I would like to express our gratitude and appreciation to the Cabinet Office, Government of Japan for providing us with such a unique opportunity to participate in this one-of-a-kind program. We are also thankful to all who made the SWY program happen – administrative staff, IYEO, volunteers, SWYAA of India and Sri Lanka and special guests.

Onshore Training Session

All the participants were met in the NYC where we had orientation and ice-breaking sessions. Also all program activities started at NYC and it was precious time for the PYs to plunge into the program. It was quite challenging for the participants to stay only inside of NYC being surrounded by megapolis of Tokyo.

I was honoured to deliver a speech to the Prime Minister Shinzo Abe during courtesy call and I'm very thankful for this opportunity. Another memorable event for NLs and ANLs was audience with the H. I. H. the Crown Prince.

Homestay in Japan

Our delegation together with the Bahraini team had three unforgettable days in Yamanashi Prefecture, that still remain for most of us as one of the best parts of the entire program. This experience let us feel deeply the Japanese culture and traditions.

We experienced the famous Japanese hospitality, "Omotenashi," that made us feel as if we were at home. It is incredible that in few days such strong connection between our delegates and their families were built. Each of us is planning to come again and visit his or her Japanese family in Yamanashi, as well as to welcome them in Russia.

Onboard Activities (PY Seminar, Club, Parties and Voluntary Activity)

During our stay onboard many activities were organized by the PYs, such as PY Seminars, voluntary and Club Activities, talent shows, games, etc. Many of us practiced management and leadership skills while organizing these events. Thanks to the activities held, we could share our culture and knowledge in the various fields of interest. Onboard activities certainly allow to showcase the best abilities of the PYs, however, the quality of preparation for some of the activities was quite low, thus causing

disinterest in overall attendance. Moreover, the schedule of voluntary activities and PY Seminars should be composed from the beginning and be included in the information booklet to ensure the awareness among the participants about the upcoming events.

National Presentation

An important part of the program for each delegation is the NP. Russia is a huge country, with many cultures and traditions, so it was quite challenging for us to find a way of showing this diversity. Through a mini-play which included songs, dances and multimedia elements we described the nine regions from which each of us came. All delegation members worked hard to honorably present their home region, so the performance was a big success. PYs could learn a lot from NP of all participating countries.

Course Discussion

All the PYs were divided into six Course Discussions. These courses were facilitated mostly by ex-PYs who has the great experience in facilitation of the courses for many years.

All the PYs had three institutional visits in accordance to their course choice in three countries – Japan, India and Sri Lanka. After the visits PYs did the reflection of the basic learning they got after the visits.

At the Summary Forum, PYs could share their significant learning and outputs, commitments to the post-program activities.

Letter Group

Letter Groups were the place where we spent a lot of time. Groups were really different depending on the group leader, but in each group a very friendly and comfortable atmosphere was established, a lot of team building games took place and people could feel relaxed and take a break from the very intensive schedule. Within our Letter Groups we could establish a closer connection with group mates and it meant that we got connected to all the delegations as in each Letter Group there was at least one representative of each delegation.

Port of Call activities

The ports of call activities gave a possibility to all PYs to explore India and Sri Lanka. Having people from the visited countries participating in the program allowed us

to know more about countries, language, culture and their way of life. Port of call activities were very different and important for the program.

In India we got a possibility to visit Chennai, which is called the most crowded city in the world. We could visit Kalakshetra, where we saw Indian dancing and live art performances, RGNIYD, where we got a chance to talk to Indian progressive youth.

All PYs experienced one day in the host family, which gave the best opportunity to experience the local lifestyle in Sri Lanka. Thanks to the solid work done by NYSC and local government we could enjoy all the program activities feeling ourselves honorable guests. We were honoured to meet the President of Sri Lanka at the welcome ceremony, to have dinner in the Residence of Prime Minister and to enjoy professional performances in the beautiful concert hall of NYSC.

The most enjoyable part was that during the ports of call activities local ex-PYs were living on board of the ship with us and we were able to ask them for advice and just to talk to them.

Conclusion

Education and cultural exchange programs for youth leaders are a key to the development of mutual understanding and cooperation among youth from all around the world. Peer-to-peer learning, building up tolerance and respect strengthen international cooperation in all spheres. On behalf of the Russian delegation I strongly hope for the further development and success of the program in the future.

Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

Hasanthe Praharsa Withanage

Opening Remarks

On behalf of SWYAA Sri Lanka, it is a great privilege for me to extend my warm gratitude to the Government of Japan and IYEO for giving us the opportunity to be a host country and further, for inviting Sri Lanka to participate in the Next Generation Global Leaders Program, Ship for World Youth Leaders 2015 (SWY program).

Selection Procedure

SWY program is identified as 'ichigo ichie,' which means that it is 'a once in a life time opportunity.' But, being an ex-PY of SWY14, I was fortunate enough to be selected for the second time as the NL of the Sri Lankan delegation for SWY28. An interview was conducted to select the NL on August 13, 2015 at the Embassy of Japan in Sri Lanka with collaboration of NYSC. After this, there was a public announcement in leading newspapers which invites suitable candidates to apply for participation in SWY28 and there were nearly 1,000 applicants from various parts of Sri Lanka. All of them were called for an aptitude test. Those who have scored higher marks at the test were then called for an interview with some nominees from the universities of Sri Lanka, including, the University of Colombo, Kelaniya, Moratuwa and Sabaragamuwa. The interview panel was consisted of the representatives from Embassy of Japan in Sri Lanka, NYSC and SWYAA Sri Lanka. I was there observing the selection of my delegation.

Training Process

Having said about the selection procedure, it is worth to mention about the training process organized by NYSC for the Sri Lankan delegation. The training session was officially started with the representatives from the Embassy of Japan in Sri Lanka. On that day the PYs were asked to carry out a volunteer project under the theme of 'Youth contribution to Society.' After a week we gathered to discuss the topics of the projects, some of which were a blood donation camp, a seminar to create awareness on effects of smoking and alcohol consumption among the school children, making a volleyball court at Induruwa, conducting an English camp in a rural school, organizing an event to celebrate Thaipongal festival in Sri Lanka, conducting a beach conservation project and arranging a pilgrimage for elders in an elderly home.

Third session was a four-day residential training at Batangala, one of the training centers of NYSC. It is 40 kilometers away from Colombo and there is a very limited access for communication. The training was from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Although it was quite similar to a military training, we learnt a lot, such as punctuality, mutual understanding, current issues of Sri Lanka and so on. Lectures, ice-breaking sessions, discussions, team building activities and entertainment were the main components of our training process. According to my experience as an ex-PY, the expectation of NYSC to create an atmosphere which is similar to Nippon Maru, was very productive

and successful. Hence, my delegates were equipped with everything and they were ready to accept the challenge of representing our motherland, mentally, physically and spiritually when they completed the training.

Local Program

As we were the first to arrive at Tokyo, we were lucky to have a free time on January 14. We visited Kita-urawa and Akihabara. It was a very nice experience for my delegates as they could learn how to travel on a train in Japan. SWY officially started on January 15 at the Cabinet Office. During the orientation, the Administrator, the Director, the advisers, the administrative staff and the NLs were introduced to the PYs. Moreover, the PYs got a clear idea regarding the program. The orientation was followed by a welcome reception hosted by the Cabinet Office, where PYs had a chance to mingle with other PYs or their colleagues to be.

On the following day, we, the Sri Lankan delegation along with the New Zealand delegation travelled to Mie Prefecture for our homestay experience. For my delegates, it was the very first experience in travelling in a bullet train. At Tsu station, the IYEO staff received us very warmly and further there was a welcome reception hosted by the prefectural government of Mie Prefecture. Meeting our host families was one of the most inspired moments of our lives. They did their best to make us feel comfortable at their respective homes and accompanied us to various places in Tsu city. The kindness and the generosity of our host families moved us very much. I witnessed that my delegates burst into tears when they bid farewell to their host families.

Onshore Training Session

Onshore Training Session was started on January 20 at NYC. Though the training was little bit hard at the beginning, we managed to overcome those difficulties within two days with the support of other PYs. We engaged in several activities during our stay in NYC. Ice-breaking activities, seminars, Introductory Forum, Course Discussions and Letter Group meetings were some of them. I noticed that almost all the PYs were mutually connected to each other from the very beginning. According to my belief, it was a good omen of a fruitful SWY journey ahead.

During the Onshore Training Session, NLs were extremely honored to have a courtesy call with His Imperial Highness the Crown Prince of Japan and His Excellency Hon. Shinzo Abe, the Prime Minister of Japan. Moreover, it was an unforgettable memory for us to pose

for a Facebook photograph with the Prime Minister.

Further, Tokyo City Tour was the very first event that we set out with our Letter Group. We highly appreciate the effort of the JPYs in organizing this event. According to my point of view, the group spirit was strengthened after this. Moreover, an institutional visit was arranged as a part of the Course Discussion. All PYs visited six different places according to their Course Discussion themes. They were able to deepen their understanding towards the current situation in Japan in relation to their discussion themes.

Onboard Training Session

Onboard Training Session started on January 27 onwards. It was an exciting moment for all the PYs to get on board the Nippon Maru. Particularly, for myself as an ex-PY, I burst into tears of happiness thinking that I was going to get onboard after 15 long years.

Eventually, the ship turned out to be our home, where we get love, kindness and happiness. We felt safe enough to discuss and share our feelings and thoughts. Always there was a friend whom we can rest on his or her shoulders when we are emotionally imbalanced. In addition, one of the advisors mentioned that it was not necessary to be afraid to make mistakes on the stage as we were performing in front of our family. Furthermore, we developed the ability to deal with different cultures of the world through our Letter Group activities. We improved our communication skills by engaging in Course Discussions, seminars and debates. Besides, we strengthened our leadership skills by organizing voluntary activities, PY Seminars and workshops by ourselves. We were able to deepen our mutual understanding and broaden our global issues by attending NP and Club Activities of other countries. As a whole, we were able to strengthen our spirit of international cooperation to establish a strong, lovely human network irrespective of cultural, religious and language barriers.

Ports of Call Activities

After four long years Nippon Maru called at Chennai (India) and Colombo (Sri Lanka). In Chennai, India, we visited Kalakshetra, where we could experience the serenity blend with nature and arts. After the Lunch, we were transferred to six different institutions according to our Course Discussions. On the following day, we visited RGNIYD and participated in a mini-cultural program. In the evening, a dinner was hosted by Ministry of Youth and Sports for us.

On February 14, the ship called at her usual resting place in Colombo, Sri Lanka. There was a grand

welcoming ceremony organized by NYSC together with SWYAA Sri Lanka at the pier to receive the ship. Soon after the orientation and the press conference, the PYs were allowed to go out with the alumni members. During this free time, NLs left for a courtesy call on Hon. Nirosan Perera, a Member of Parliament. It was a great honor that His Excellency the President of Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka paid a visit to the ship during the onboard reception. Next day, the PYs visited six different institutions with their course members. After the lunch hosted by His Excellency the Prime Minister of Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, PYs left for NYSC for the friendly Soccer match and mini-cultural show. The third day was completely reserved for home visits and more than 95% of PYs had enjoyed their home visits.

As a whole, port of call activities help us to understand culture, history and social backgrounds of India and Sri Lanka as well. Additionally, PYs witnessed the enthusiasm of the ex-PYs of both the countries. Consequently, it would be a great influence for them to actively participate in post-program activities after their return.

Conclusion

To conclude, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Japanese government, Cabinet Office, Administrator, Director, Advisors, administrative staff, the stakeholders of India and Sri Lanka, our host families, Captain and the ship crew and each and every personality who contributed in various ways to make this program a success.

Republic of Tanzania

Mussa Haji Halifa

Acknowledgement

On behalf of the Tanzanian delegation, I extend a thankful hand to the Cabinet Office, Government of Japan for providing us the grand opportunity to participate in SWY28, the program provided the room for Tanzanian delegation to develop the ability to deal with different cultures and improve leadership skills through different methodologies such as seminars, workshops, planning activities.

Preparation of the program owes much to the hard work, dedication, advice, contributions and support of the Government of Tanzania through Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Embassy of Japan, our families and friends. Special thanks to them.

Special mention goes to the advisors and administration including facilitators, for their imminent contribution, their consultant service provided invaluable inputs that led to a success of the program. I extend further appreciation to all OPYs, JPYs and ex-PYs for their willingness to share the experiences and cultures that cultivated 11 Tanzanian youth with capability to contribute in diversifying society.

Pre-departure Activity

After the competitive selection to form a delegation team, Tanzanian delegation spent four months preparing for the SWY program. The team came up with a lot of ideas during orientation meetings, team building activities and informal meetings so as to get to know one another better, learn about other participating countries, learn about

the program, about Japan and other related issues. The Embassy of Japan provided a lot of support in providing formal space and guidance for our learning. We finally departed Tanzania as one family of brothers and sisters.

Homestay in Iwate

After landing in Japan, Tanzanian and Chilean delegations were assigned to Iwate Prefecture for the homestay program. Each PY was matched to one family for three days. It was very cold and snowing in Iwate. This was a unique experience for Tanzanian delegation because it is always warm and never snows in Tanzania. A lot was learned from relating with the Japanese families. Although it was difficult to communicate using English, a lot was shared, such as foods and eating style, cultural practices (dressing kimono, hot spring bath, festivals etc.) and the gift exchange. The program was concluded by a visit to the governor's office, Morioka sightseeing, high school visit and a farewell ceremony on which both delegations performed traditional dances and enjoyed dinner with host families before saying goodbye.

Onshore Activities

We officially began the Onshore Training Session after arriving at NYC after homestay visit. The interactions between OPYs and JPYs during the Letter Group activities, seminars, discussions, and events paved a way for Tanzanian delegation to share and learn from other PYs before getting onboard. The changing sitting arrangement, which was contrary to same delegation sitting together,

was a good methodology to allow interactions.

Visits Out of NYC

The visit to institutions (as per Course Discussion and to UN University), Tokyo City Tour and free time out of NYC were a chance understand about Japan, opportunities available and its various issues as well as to enjoy Tokyo.

Onboard Activities

Nippon Maru boarding was a memorable encounter for my delegation. Everything was beautiful and this excited the PYs to enjoy the program. The program proceeded on ship and each member of delegations pioneered more connections and involvement in their own unique ways.

We had delegation meetings formally and informally to share and discuss progress of individuals and entire program.

National Presentation

Tanzanian delegation was granted the opportunity to allow other PYs to learn and enjoy about Tanzania; its location, culture, history, politics, people, economy etc. Tanzania being the only country from the African continent was still unfamiliar to a lot of PYs. The Tanzanian NP brought a significant awareness and its beauty created desire for the PYs to want to come visit the country someday. There was a lot of energy and teamwork that was put into the preparation and the actual presentation by the Tanzanian delegation that made the event successful.

Ports of Call

Chennai, India was the first port of call activities where by the organised programs provided an opportunity for Tanzanian delegation to relate with the young people in India. Despite the limited time, we could still discuss various issues, display our cultural aspects and enjoy the Indian cuisine and the warmth of Indian people and especially the ex-PYs.

Sri Lanka was the next stop for port of call and it was a lot different from Chennai. Its calmness reminded us of Tanzania. The hospitality and warm welcome of the people and ex-PYs was extraordinary.

Home visit in Colombo

In addition to the remarkable institutional visits according to Course Discussion, we also got the opportunity to relate with Sri Lankan families through home visit. The home visit was arranged differently this time compared to Japan. PYs were randomly assigned to three different areas in Colombo. It was not according to delegation neither Letter Group. Ladies were separated from the male PYs. Each family was matched with two PYs; that is two PYs per family. Every member of the delegation was touched by the kindness and hospitality of the people from the local families. They also learned and experienced various things such as the basic Sinhala words, tried traditional clothes, tasted variety of traditional foods, learned the dances and also participated in the religious rituals at the temple. Despite the language barrier, the delegation strived to connect and share experiences together.

Conclusion and Recommendations

Tanzanian delegation is highly honoured and humbled to be given this grand opportunity among many countries to participate in the SWY28. This experience has transformed and unveiled our unlimited leadership potential in serving ourselves, our nation and our world at large as global citizens. However, we encourage more time to be allocated to the key seminars so as to allow wider understanding and more discussions on the issues covered. Tanzania would really be honoured to participate in the coming SWY programs if given the chance to do so. Finally, of all that we have experienced and learned, we are committed to pay it forward by continuing the SWY spirit in our community work and that of the SWYAA in one way or another.

United Arab Emirates

Jasim Alobeidli

Introduction

The SWY is a unique program that takes young people in a once in life time experience to new ideas, dimensions and perspectives about the life and the world. As an ex-PY, I was really happy to come back to ship life and experience this life again, with greater purposes, which was to develop my PY of my delegation and other delegations from my

experience.

I believe such programs are needed, with current challenging situations around the world, for more understanding and collaborative efforts toward better future for current and next generations of youth. SWYAA UAE will play a vital role, for future generation's development and peace.

For UAE, the selection process included a written examination with personal questions about participants' perspectives about different subjects and also a detailed interview to check participant capability, skills, personality, and contribution for community.

For the preparation, weekly interviews were held for about 3 months in order to prepare the participants for the program. The preparation included:

- a. Briefing about the program activities and agenda
- b. Meeting ex-PYs from UAE and GCC countries
- c. Preparations for National Presentation and other activities during the ship
- d. Preparations for items and national costumes
- e. Logistics of applications
- f. Filming for the program purpose
- g. Mental preparations for ship and the trip to Japan
- h. Meeting UAE government youth representatives

It was such intensive period for all participants, they were collaborative and supportive, and their effort can be noticed during SWY28.

Arriving to Japan

Before arrival, we got all the necessary bookings from ADM side, and our flight was smooth and we met Tanzanian delegation and Bahraini delegation. We arrived at Narita Airport, then moved to the hotel smoothly, and then we got some information regarding our stay and food preference.

Our stay at the hotel, first orientation and welcome reception were good moments for us to know the program.

Homestay Visit

Along with Mexican delegation, Shiga Prefecture was chosen for UAE Delegation, to go for homestay. First, it was good chance to know Mexican delegations members. Then we visited a school and got a chance to meet Shiga school students. Then each delegation member went with his homestay family. Overall, I got positive feedback from my delegation members about their homestay visit, and good bond were formed between families and UAE delegation members.

Thanks to IYEO members and local youth volunteers, our trip to Shiga was full of experiences and exposure to Japanese culture and Shiga history. Our farewell party was full of emotions and a nice ending for our trip to Shiga.

Onshore Activities at NYC

I will include my comments about NLs, Letter Group

below at onboard activities.

At our arrival to NYC, we were received by JPY, which was great start for our relation with Japanese participants. They were very positive and happy to meet us and same from our side as well.

NYC is a unique experience to get used to work in unique environment for youth, where we shared our stay unit with Tanzanian delegation. Also, it was nice to start our program there by ice breaking activity.

Introductory Forum was a good chance to present about delegation youth activities and a good start to know about different delegation country members. Other good starts were made at NYC for SWY28, such as seminars by advisors, Course Discussion, Letter Group activities and PY Seminars. Sports and Recreation was a good experience to enhance Letter Group relations and have some change.

Onboard Activities

- **Ship life**

Ship life was similar to what I had experienced in SWY25, with different useful facilities and venues for different activity. The general speaker announcement was useful to inform participants for different changes and updates. The ADM counter provided a helpful platform for participants along with announcements board. Overall, combining ship life and SWY activities was a unique experience for my delegations members. Morning assembly, with different delegations anthem, was also nice to experience delegations anthem. In addition, Letter Groups activities were great ways to start the day.

- **Seminars by Advisors**

Leadership Seminar

It was a useful guideline to discuss different life purpose; he also gave insights to different subjects with regards to leadership.

Cross-cultural Understanding Seminar

It was great opportunity to know about how we perceive each other and how our expectations play a role in how we feel about everything. I suggest that advisor should meet members of delegation to know more about their culture for his better understanding.

Project Management Seminar

It helped us gain some information about project management. For improvement, I suggest to showcase actual projects related to common problems in the

world and to make the presentation or concepts simpler due to age and experience of some participants.

- **Course Discussions**

It was organized, and every facilitator tried to involve participants from different countries, to discuss the 6 topics which I felt important and useful to Japan and other countries. By the end, every participant has an insight about these subjects. I suggest for next time to have a reference guidelines booklet created by the facilitators for their courses in order for the participants to have a clear and strong foundation for the course due to their different professions.

- **National Presentations**

NP was a great opportunity to showcase different countries, and the timing was appropriate.

- **Countries Nights**

It was great opportunities to show case each country's culture.

- **PY Seminars, Club Activities, Voluntary Activities**

Great opportunity for PY empowering, reaching others and taking initiatives.

- **Letter Groups**

A Letter Group is where participants feel like family together, and a way to create more close relations.

Committees

A way to empower youth and create a community.

Ports of Call

- **India**

It was a good opportunity to visit India and having visits to different location in Chennai. However, more interactions were needed with community for effective benefit.

- **Sri Lanka**

It was great visiting Sri Lanka and having different visits there. It was such organized trip and Sri Lankans were very hospitable. The home visit was a great opportunity to understand the Sri Lankan culture more and interact with local people.

NLs

Good relation among NLs and ADM were really supportive.

Comments and Suggestions

- a. Some activities could be reduced in duration for the purpose of increasing participant's discussions and interaction.
- b. I suggest giving more guidelines to NLs for creating better atmosphere among the PYs in Letter Groups.
- c. Reduce alcohol usage and to prohibit drinking in cabins, due to different cultural background of people and negative effect it has. Specify alcohols usage which could enhance morning activities gathering on time and quality of program.

Conclusion

In conclusion, I would like to thank Japanese government through Cabinet Office, and the administrative staff, who made the program well organized, enjoyable and highly effective. It was such great experiencing the program for second time.

Message from the Captain

Captain Keiji Kan
M.S. Nippon Maru

I would like to address this message to Administrator Mr. Uemura, Deputy Administrator Mr. Oshikiri, Chief of Staff Ms. Murata, all the administrative staff, persons in charge at the Cabinet Office, persons in charge at the International Youth Exchange Organization of Japan, all the people who contributed to this program from all the countries involved including the ones at the ports of call.

My heartfelt congratulation goes to you at the successful completion of the Next Generation Global Leaders Program 2015 "Ship for World Youth Leaders" and I would like to give my deepest gratitude to all of you for supporting us for smooth operation of the ship.

I would also like to acknowledge all the hard work done by Mr. Sue, the Director, all the Advisors, all the NLs, and

PYs from Japan and 10 countries, who played the major role in this program.

We were honored to welcome you onboard the Nippon Maru at the Osanbashi Yokohama International Passenger Terminal on 27th of January and set sail the next day 28th after departure ceremony in a good weather with a lot of people seeing us off. Unfortunately, because of the low pressure the ship's motion started to get bigger on the second day. However, very few people felt seasick and we could start the voyage relatively smooth. We sailed through Bashi Channel into calm South China Sea without much trouble while the weather at Bashi Channel could have been worse at this season of the year. As the Captain, I remember having felt relieved about the smooth passage through the channel.

After loading supplies in Singapore, we sailed through calm Strait of Malacca into the Indian Ocean. We had easterly tail wind and didn't have much ship motions all the way to the port of Chennai and port of Colombo.

After finishing all the activities as planned, we departed port of Colombo on 17th of February for our way back. We faced easterly wind up to the Strait of Malacca and had some ship motions, but the PYs were young and very active. They must have gotten used to the ship motions and I felt proud of them.

After loading supplies in Singapore again on 21st of February, we started our final part of the voyage, heading back to Tokyo. The Bashi Channel on our way back was the major point of concern. The weather report predicted very big maximum wave height and it was going to be difficult to keep our schedule in that weather. Instead of going straight to Bashi Channel we took the course toward the west coast of Luzon Island to avoid the bad weather around 2 a.m. on the 24th. We reached the west coast of Luzon Island early morning on the 25th and sailed along the island to the North. We experienced quite big pitching motions and many PYs as well as Administrative staff seemed to have bad seasick. There were only about 60 people who came for breakfast on that morning the report said.

Fortunately, the data about the bad weather in Bashi Channel became less worrying as the time past. I judged from my experience that we could go ahead, and we entered the channel in the afternoon of the 25th. The power of nature is brutal and we should never act against

it. Because of the high wave coming from the Northeast, we could not sail to that direction. We therefore went north heading toward the southern tip of Taiwan, and at 1 a.m. on the 26th, we steered at the Southern tip of Taiwan toward Iriomote Island, and crossed the Bashi Channel without incidents.

The ocean became calmer after that and we entered Tokyo bay as scheduled at 7:45 a.m. on 29th of February. As we have finished our voyage, we can now consider the terrible weather on the 25th as one of precious experiences for the PYs I believe. One thing that I feel sorry about is that we had only few sunny days during this voyage and PYs didn't have much opportunity to appreciate beautiful sunrise or sunset and enjoy watching dolphins and other marine animals.

As for the PYs, I witnessed that they steadily developed themselves through daily activities such as Course Discussions, Club Activities, National Presentation, interactions with PYs from other countries, and activities at ports of call. I found the PYs very promising. The fact that their kinship became stronger day by day made me even feel envious and I thought that was a privilege young people possessed. I was impressed to see that, despite the differences in culture, religion and value system they had because of their countries of birth, the PYs committed themselves cheerfully in daily activities together with politeness and sincerity to each other.

The receptions at the ports of call were attended by parties involved and many ex-PYs, which demonstrated the long history and tradition of this program.

The ex-PYs of the program are active in different fields in the world, and the program will keep turning out many more of those people in the future who will play active roles in globalizing world. I would like to show my true respect to those who organize this program. It is a great honor for us all in Nippon Maru to be able to have served you for the program.

To conclude this message from the Captain, I hope all the PYs to strengthen the friendship you created in this program, further develop on experiences and learnings you acquired through the program, and play active roles in different fields. I wish the program to continue prospering in the future. Thank you.

Result of the Questionnaire by the PYs

1. Method of Survey

All the PYs were asked to respond to a questionnaire asking about individual activity.

- a) Questionnaire about the overall program was distributed and collected on February 27 during evaluation session.
- b) Questionnaires about the ports of call were distributed and collected on February 12 and 17 respectively during the debriefing time for ports of call activities.

2. Response Ratio

- a) 100% (Among 233 PYs, all of the 233 responded)
- b) 100% (Among 233 PYs, all of the 233 responded)

3. Method of Evaluation

- 5 point scale evaluation (Actual numbers are indicated for multiple-choice questions: 1, 3, 12-A, 12-B, 18-A, 18-B, 24 and question 14 is a single-choice question)
- Comments for the ports of call activities are inserted in Chapters 6.

1 Overall Evaluation

1. Why did you join the program? (multiple choices)

- 1) To visit Japan
- 2) Interested in the port of call activities
- 3) To make friends with Japanese people
- 4) To make friends with people from other countries
- 5) Interested in the international exchange program
- 6) Advised by the ex-PY of the SWY/GLDP program
- 7) Advised by the government, work, youth organization, or school
- 8) For self-development
- 9) To establish my own career or status

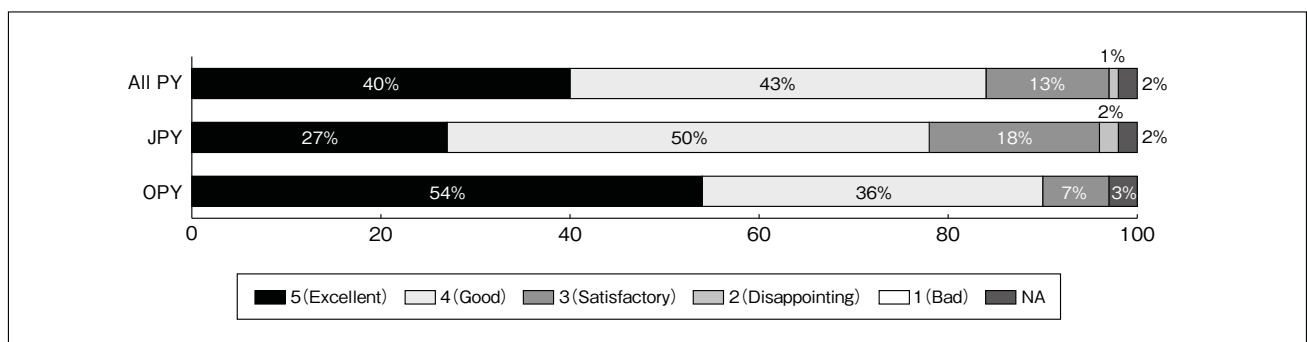
*Actual number

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	NA
All PY	55	65	86	166	159	93	43	163	70	0
JPY	2	33	22	94	79	57	14	82	44	0
OPY	53	32	64	72	80	36	29	81	26	0

PY: Participating youth
 JPY: Japanese participating youth
 OPY: Overseas participating youth

2. What is your overall evaluation of this program?

	5 Excellent	4 Good	3 Satisfactory	2 Disappointing	1 Bad	NA	Average
All PY	40%	43%	13%	1%	0%	2%	4.3
JPY	27%	50%	18%	2%	0%	2%	4.0
OPY	54%	36%	7%	0%	0%	3%	4.5



3. How did you benefit from the program? (multiple choices)

- 1) I was able to deepen the understanding of my own country and culture.
- 2) I was able to become proud of my own country.
- 3) I was able to deepen my understanding towards Japan.
- 4) I was able to deepen my understanding towards other SWY participating countries.
- 5) I was able to take interest on global issues.
- 6) I made many friends.
- 7) I have changed my way of thinking in some way.
- 8) It influenced me so much that I am thinking of changing my career.
- 9) None of the above, but it was beneficial.
- 10) I did not benefit anything from the program.

*Actual number

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	NA
All PY	125	137	121	196	125	161	144	63	4	2	1
JPY	60	69	36	100	60	85	77	36	3	1	0
OPY	65	68	85	96	65	76	67	27	1	1	1

4. What was the biggest learning from this program?

<JPY>

- Defining my life purpose and direction.
- Knowing and understanding more about other countries and cultures.
- I learned that I'm able to engage and handle any kind of conversation and share knowledge with people who belong to different backgrounds and cultures.
- Life purpose and respect.
- My own personal leadership style, self and group management, coping strategies and new knowledge from seminars, etc.
- Find out that inside our soul we are the same and so similar, have the same interests and problems.
- Everyone can be a leader and leadership style can differ from person to person. Working is not a tool to make money; rather it's a tool to achieve one's life purpose. Money will come eventually.
- Through respecting each individual, my interest towards that person naturally grew and I was able to acquire the "power to listen."
- I was able to get rid of stereotypes of the participating countries, and got to know their true characters.
- The importance of challenging without fear of failure.
- I learned how leadership should be and that I should be just the way I am.
- I was able to think about what it is I want to do, once again. I met people with whom I developed a friendship where we can help and support each other over a lifetime.
- I re-acknowledged that even challenges which I feel cannot be overcome alone could be accomplished if we cooperate and work together.
- I learned that it is important to always have an open mind when interacting with people from different countries, cultures and customs.
- Even if the country we live in and our principles are different, the feeling towards peace, friendship and the world is the same.
- I learned that some of the PYs who are more than 10 years younger than me have infinite talent.

<OPY>

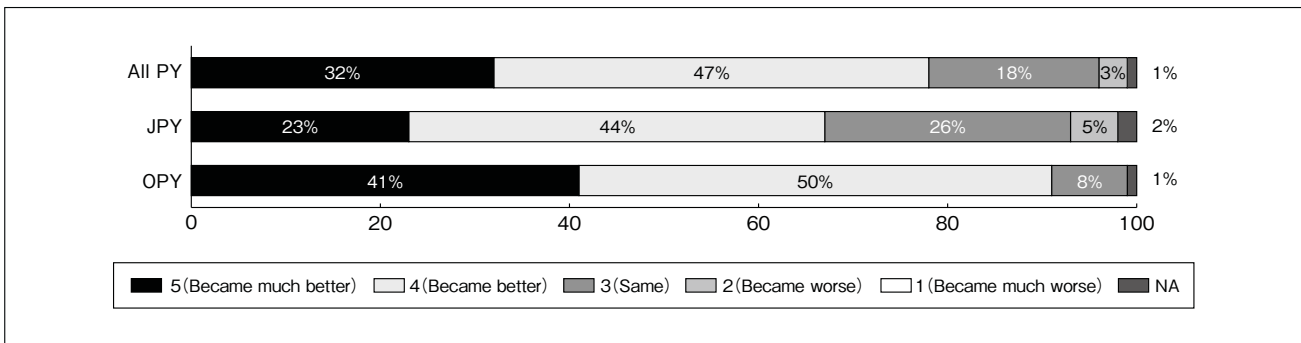
- No matter our differences in ethics and political values, many of us found great similarity in our ambition and social vision for the future: a future of peace, community and meaningful social identity.
- My stand, that is to encourage and make people laugh a common thing in the world.
- Respect of other cultures and traditions and becoming proud of my own country.
- The program schedule is very systematic. I learned about time management.
- I would say to never judge a group of people for the culture that they come from but from the way they behave.
- How to empower others.
- Human relationships far outweigh everything else.
- That every single person has power to contribute to society, influence, change it into a better way. Japanese cultural

traditions and lifestyle as well as in Indian and Sri Lanka's.

- Mutual understanding between cultures, that we are more similar than different, and that this environment is the ideal world.
- I changed the way I look at all the issues of my country into a more global perspective, and I met people with who I can work with in the future.
- This program helped me to know people from different parts of the world.
- Respect and understanding among different people and countries.
- Skill to manage projects with people who have different backgrounds, and more open-minded way of communication, and new idea of leadership.
- A shared understanding is possible and sometimes the biggest learning is about your own identity and how you can contribute to the global world.
- I learnt a lot of things from this program. This program is a turning point in my life. I learnt how to interact with people of different cultures and traditions.
- There are always ways for anyone to become a better version of himself/herself.

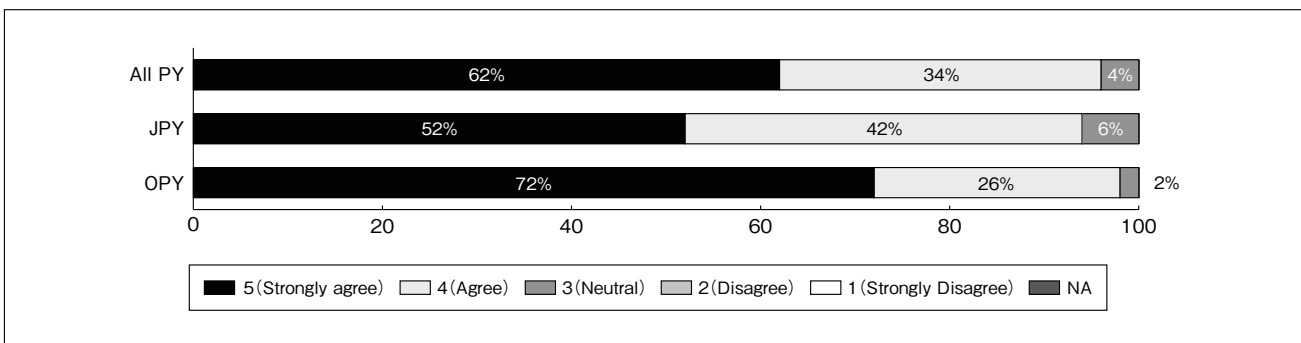
5. How did your impressions towards Japan change after participating in this program?

	5 Became much better	4 Became better	3 Same	2 Became worse	1 Became much worse	NA	Average
All PY	32%	47%	18%	3%	0%	1%	4.1
JPY	23%	44%	26%	5%	0%	2%	3.9
OPY	41%	50%	8%	0%	0%	1%	4.3



6. Do you agree that this program contributes to promoting mutual understanding between you and people from other countries?

	5 Strongly agree	4 Agree	3 Neutral	2 Disagree	1 Strongly Disagree	NA	Average
All PY	62%	34%	4%	0%	0%	0%	4.6
JPY	52%	42%	6%	0%	0%	0%	4.5
OPY	72%	26%	2%	0%	0%	0%	4.7



7. Do you think that the SWY contributes to your self-development? Please answer for each item from a) to h) and write the corresponding number.

	5 Remarkably effective	4 Very effective	3 Effective	2 Not very effective	1 Not effective at all	NA	Average
a) Communication skills	29%	38%	26%	5%	0%	2%	3.9
b) Leadership skills	26%	41%	24%	6%	0%	3%	3.9
c) Problem solving skills	12%	30%	40%	12%	3%	3%	3.4
d) Ability to respond to different cultures	49%	35%	12%	1%	0%	3%	4.3
e) Confidence	30%	35%	27%	4%	1%	3%	3.9
f) Planning ability	14%	35%	32%	13%	3%	3%	3.4
g) Discussion skills	16%	36%	32%	11%	2%	3%	3.6
h) Management skills	12%	32%	35%	17%	1%	3%	3.4

8. Do you agree that this program will enhance your career prospects?

	5 Strongly agree	4 Agree	3 Neutral	2 Disagree	1 Strongly Disagree	NA	Average
All PY	42%	41%	15%	1%	0%	0%	4.3
JPY	34%	50%	16%	1%	0%	0%	4.2
OPY	51%	32%	15%	1%	0%	1%	4.3

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

	5 Strongly agree	4 Agree	3 Neutral	2 Disagree	1 Strongly Disagree	NA	Average
All PY	52%	39%	8%	1%	0%	0%	4.4
JPY	40%	47%	13%	0%	0%	0%	4.3
OPY	65%	30%	2%	2%	0%	1%	4.6

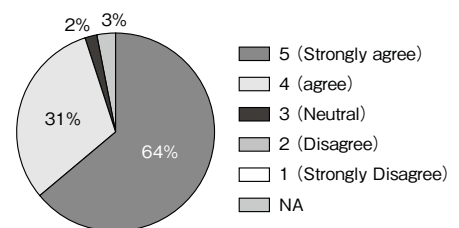
10. Do you agree that your participation in this program has changed your perspectives towards the life and society?

	5 Strongly agree	4 Agree	3 Neutral	2 Disagree	1 Strongly Disagree	NA	Average
All PY	49%	39%	11%	0%	0%	1%	4.4
JPY	50%	39%	9%	0%	1%	1%	4.4
OPY	47%	38%	13%	0%	0%	1%	4.3

2 Activities in Japan (OPYs only)

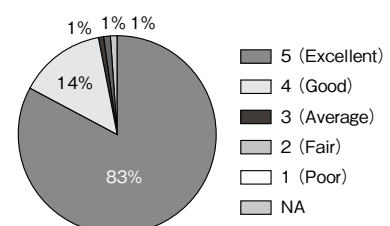
11. Do you agree that the local program contributes to understanding the history or culture of the visited prefecture?

	5 Strongly agree	4 agree	3 Neutral	2 Disagree	1 Strongly Disagree	NA	Average
OPY	64%	31%	2%	0%	0%	3%	4.6



12. What did you think about the homestay experience?

	5 Excellent	4 Good	3 Average	2 Fair	1 Poor	NA	Average
OPY	83%	14%	1%	1%	0%	1%	4.8



12-A. Reason(s) why you are satisfied: (multiple choices)

*Actual number

- 1) I had very good time with my host family.
 - 2) Host family was very kind and helpful.
 - 3) It was a good opportunity for me to learn the family's way of life.
 - 4) I learnt a lot about Japanese culture and customs.
- Other reasons (please specify).

Reason	1	2	3	4	Others
OPY	103	99	95	85	7

12-B. Reason(s) that you are dissatisfied: (multiple choices)

*Actual number

- 1) The family did not take me out for sightseeing.
 - 2) Host family did not take good care of me.
 - 3) I could not learn about family way of life.
 - 4) I did not learn about Japanese culture and custom.
- Other reasons or problems you had.

Reason	1	2	3	4	Others
OPY	5	1	4	6	3

3 Onshore and Onboard Training Sessions

13. How did you think about the overall schedule?

	5 Too Tight	4 Tight	3 Appropriate	2 Loose	1 Too loose	NA
All PY	23%	39%	24%	4%	0%	9%
JPY	17%	37%	25%	6%	0%	16%
OPY	30%	41%	24%	2%	0%	3%

14. What was the most impressive/memorable activity during the program? (Choose only one)

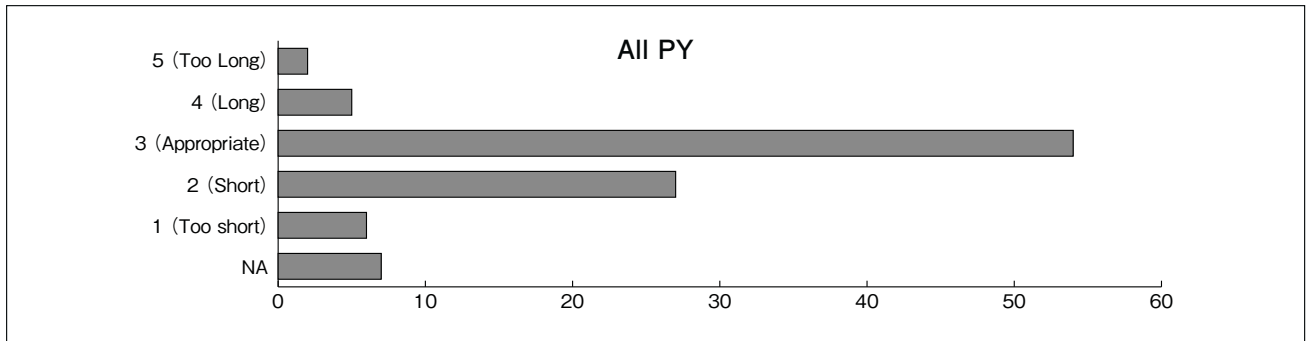
- | | |
|---|---|
| a) Course Discussion | i) Voluntary activities |
| b) Leadership Seminar | j) Club Activities |
| c) Cross-Cultural Understanding Seminar | k) Committee activities |
| d) Project Management Seminar | l) Post-program Activities |
| e) Psychology Seminar | m) Sports and Recreation |
| f) Advisors Seminar | n) Farewell event |
| g) PY Seminar | o) Ports of call activities (India) |
| h) National Presentation | p) Ports of call activities (Sri Lanka) |

*Actual number

	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	l	m	n	o	p	NA
All PY	35	13	12	1	0	0	7	83	7	9	3	0	1	0	2	41	19
JPY	17	9	2	1	0	0	4	36	4	6	2	0	1	0	2	21	16
OPY	18	4	10	0	0	0	3	47	3	3	1	0	0	0	0	20	3

15. How did you think about the length/term of overall program in order to understand and adapt yourself to different cultures?

	5 Too Long	4 Long	3 Appropriate	2 Short	1 Too short	NA
All PY	2%	5%	54%	27%	6%	7%
JPY	1%	3%	45%	33%	5%	13%
OPY	3%	7%	63%	21%	6%	0%



16. Do you think the activities were well-related to each other so that they had overall synergy effect?

	5 Excellent	4 Good	3 Average	2 Fair	1 Poor	NA	Average
All PY	13%	48%	24%	7%	0%	7%	3.7
JPY	13%	36%	28%	8%	1%	13%	3.6
OPY	13%	60%	21%	6%	0%	0%	3.8

A. Course Discussion

17. What did you think of the Introductory Forum?

	5 Excellent	4 Good	3 Average	2 Fair	1 Poor	NA	Average
All PY	12%	47%	21%	12%	3%	4%	3.5
JPY	12%	36%	26%	17%	6%	3%	3.3
OPY	13%	58%	15%	8%	1%	5%	3.8

18. How did you think about the institutional visit by Course Discussions in Japan?

	5 Excellent	4 Good	3 Average	2 Fair	1 Poor	NA	Average
All PY	29%	46%	16%	6%	2%	1%	4.0
CD	22%	41%	22%	12%	2%	0%	3.7
DRR	56%	42%	0%	3%	0%	0%	4.5
EDU	19%	52%	21%	7%	0%	0%	3.8
ENV	26%	49%	13%	3%	8%	3%	3.8
IM	34%	42%	18%	3%	0%	3%	4.1
YE	19%	49%	22%	8%	0%	3%	3.8

18-A. Reasons why you are satisfied (multiple choices):

- 1) The contents were relevant to the Course Discussion theme.
- 2) I gained a lot of new knowledge.
- 3) Discussions and Q&A session were meaningful.
- 4) I learnt some tangible examples that will be useful in the future.
- 5) I participated in the institutional visit proactively.
- Other reasons

*Actual number

	1	2	3	4	5	Others
All PY	136	98	61	97	56	0
CD	22	22	8	16	9	0
DRR	26	21	12	21	14	0
EDU	24	16	13	19	10	0
ENV	23	19	7	17	8	0
IM	19	13	9	12	10	0
YE	22	7	12	12	5	0

18-B. Reasons why you are unsatisfied (multiple choices):

- 1) The contents were not relevant to the Course Discussion theme.
- 2) What I learned was not new to me.
- 3) Not enough time for discussions and Q&A.
- 4) Contents were too abstract and needed more detailed explanation.
- 5) Contents should be more interactive.
- Other reasons

*Actual number

	1	2	3	4	5	Others
All PY	17	30	29	21	38	0
CD	5	3	8	3	11	0
DRR	1	1	3	3	2	0
EDU	2	6	6	2	6	0
ENV	3	3	6	3	9	0
IM	0	7	4	5	4	0
YE	6	10	2	5	6	0

19. Do you think there was a good balance between inputs (i.e. lecture, etc.) and outputs (i.e. discussions/workshop etc.) in the Course Discussion?

	5 Excellent	4 Good	3 Average	2 Fair	1 Poor	NA	Average
All PY	23%	36%	25%	12%	4%	0%	3.6
CD	17%	34%	44%	5%	0%	0%	3.6
DRR	25%	44%	19%	8%	3%	0%	3.8
EDU	29%	55%	12%	2%	2%	0%	4.0
ENV	23%	31%	18%	18%	8%	3%	3.4
IM	37%	32%	18%	11%	3%	0%	3.9
YE	5%	16%	41%	27%	11%	0%	2.8

20. How did you think about the contents of the course?

	5 Excellent	4 Good	3 Average	2 Fair	1 Poor	NA	Average
All PY	23%	36%	25%	12%	4%	0%	3.6
CD	17%	51%	22%	7%	0%	2%	3.8
DRR	22%	50%	22%	3%	3%	0%	3.9
EDU	36%	55%	10%	0%	0%	0%	4.3
ENV	26%	21%	31%	15%	8%	0%	3.4
IM	34%	37%	21%	8%	0%	0%	4.0
YE	0%	24%	43%	27%	5%	0%	2.9

21. How was your level of participation in the Course Discussion?

	5 Very high	4 High	3 Moderate	2 Low	1 Very low	NA	Average
All PY	19%	37%	33%	9%	1%	1%	3.7
JPY	11%	31%	39%	17%	2%	2%	3.3
OPY	29%	44%	27%	1%	0%	0%	4.0

22. How was your English level to actively participate in the Course Discussion?

	5 Very high	4 High	3 Moderate	2 Low	1 Very low	NA	Average
All PY	16%	32%	27%	18%	7%	1%	3.3
JPY	1%	15%	36%	34%	13%	2%	2.6
OPY	32%	51%	17%	0%	0%	0%	4.2

23. How was your impression of the Summary Forum?

	5 Excellent	4 Good	3 Average	2 Fair	1 Poor	NA	Average
All PY	39%	45%	10%	3%	0%	2%	4.2
JPY	36%	44%	13%	5%	0%	2%	4.1
OPY	44%	47%	7%	1%	0%	1%	4.4

24. What kind of activities helped you to understand the Course theme? (multiple choices)

- 1. Pre-departure Assignments
- 2. Introductory Forum
- 3. Lecture by the Facilitator
- 4. Lecture by PYs
- 5. Discussions in small groups
- 6. Discussions in whole group
- 7. Summary Forum

*Actual number

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	NA
All PY	71	23	141	89	159	84	70	1
JPY	22	5	73	47	78	33	36	1
OPY	49	18	68	42	81	51	34	0

25. How do you evaluate your course facilitator?

	5 Excellent	4 Good	3 Average	2 Fair	1 Poor	NA	Average
All PY	51%	30%	11%	5%	2%	1%	4.3
CD	63%	32%	2%	0%	0%	2%	4.6
DRR	56%	31%	6%	8%	0%	0%	4.3
EDU	88%	12%	0%	0%	0%	0%	4.9
ENV	33%	36%	21%	5%	5%	0%	3.9
IM	58%	29%	8%	3%	0%	3%	4.5
YE	3%	46%	32%	14%	5%	0%	3.3

B. Leadership Seminar

26. How did you think about the content of the Leadership Seminar?

	5 Excellent	4 Good	3 Average	2 Fair	1 Poor	NA	Average
All PY	40%	46%	12%	1%	0%	0%	4.3
JPY	45%	43%	10%	1%	0%	1%	4.3
OPY	34%	49%	15%	2%	0%	0%	4.2

27. Do you think the skills and concepts that you learned through this seminar will contribute to your becoming a global leader?

	5 Excellent	4 Good	3 Average	2 Fair	1 Poor	NA	Average
All PY	38%	42%	15%	4%	1%	0%	4.1
JPY	39%	45%	14%	2%	0%	1%	4.2
OPY	37%	40%	15%	6%	2%	0%	4.0

28. What specific points of the Leadership Seminar were you satisfied or dissatisfied?

- I was able to learn things that I wasn't aware of such as "leading from behind" and "leading from the sides."
- I was satisfied with the seminar about finding your passion. It helped me re-evaluate my life and think about my role as an aspiring leader.
- I think that this seminar was very useful to learn about our leadership position and how to lead others. This was very important in the ship because we were able to practice the knowledge acquired.
- Very satisfied – the element of critical self-reflection and thinking about what kind of leader I am.
- We talked about how we can manage our time and how we can lead groups composed of participants from different countries.
- It was a good seminar for boosting our self-confidence.
- Because I have a huge background in leadership I already knew what we were talking about. For people who are new it would be helpful to them.
- Mr. Enomoto was an amazing advisor and his seminars were fantastic. However, I'm not sure if any of the seminars contained anything new for me.
- For me, the program of Leadership Seminar was pretty weak. I hoped to have learned tools on how to be a leader.
- I learned the ways I can be a leader and how to encourage people around me.
- I was never the type that could speak in front of others and thought I was the furthest thing from a leader. However, I was able to learn that various types of leaders existed and I grew to think that even I was a leader.
- It is a good thing to have a role model to look up to, but one can not be a leader that can have positive influence on others if that person tries to become somebody else and loses sight of who he or she really is.
- I realized that until now, I was caught up in the image of a leader as merely a position (in a company or organization).
- Since attending the seminar on how "each and everyone is a leader," activities from there on became easier. It was great to be able to apply the content of the seminar directly to the life at SWY.

C. Cross-Cultural Understanding Seminar

29. How did you think about the contents of the Cross-Cultural Understanding Seminar?

	5 Excellent	4 Good	3 Average	2 Fair	1 Poor	NA	Average
All PY	49%	40%	9%	1%	0%	0%	4.4
JPY	40%	43%	14%	2%	0%	1%	4.2
OPY	59%	37%	4%	0%	0%	0%	4.5

30. Do you think the skills and concepts that you learned through this seminar will contribute to your becoming a global leader?

	5 Excellent	4 Good	3 Average	2 Fair	1 Poor	NA	Average
All PY	36%	47%	16%	1%	0%	0%	4.2
JPY	30%	48%	20%	2%	0%	0%	4.0
OPY	43%	46%	12%	0%	0%	0%	4.3

31. What specific points of the Cross-Cultural Understanding Seminars were you satisfied or dissatisfied?

- I found the seminar comparing back and forth between Japan and other countries very interesting as I had been studying about international culture. It made me think that next time, I would like to further experience cross-cultural understanding (study abroad) first-hand.
- The largest learning was the marriage of different cultures. Whether it is a country or an individual, the important thing is to understand and respect others' ideas and cultures on top of understanding one's own ideas as well.
- I learned that better relationships are formed through not only the other person understanding about your country's culture, but also through yourself accepting culture of others. On that basis, I was able to deepen my understanding about the obstacles and miscommunication that naturally occur, reflecting on the life onboard.
- I was able to understand about different cultures, but drawing the line of what is considered "different" was challenging for me. Just as people are different depending on the person, perhaps "different" traits scatter here and there; yet, I did not know how to judge where to draw the line as "different" within the category of "culture."
- I was able to become aware and able to learn new culture. I came to understand that the most important part in life is to respect and understand other people's culture and it is possible to make the world a better place if everybody will respect and understand other cultures.
- I think that this was the best seminar because the advisor gave us tools to use in real life and the contents were correct to amplify our global citizen thinking to relate better with other cultures.
- Advisor was a very engaging speaker and brought some new perspectives on understanding and communicating with different cultures.
- I was disappointed that we had just three sessions. It turned out to be very interesting and useful to get information and knowledge through communication with people of other cultures and nationalities than from simple lecture.
- The best point that I was satisfied with is the importance of communication in creating a more cross-cultural understanding between people with different cultures.
- For me, personally, the content was very elementary – but that is only because I have been heavily involved in diverse affairs in my home country and acted as a cultural ambassador. I know many other PYs benefitted from the seminar so I definitely think the sessions are a valuable part of the program.
- I was expecting to learn about deeper subject on how to make business with other cultures, or more practical matters.
- There is some stereotype in the content, especially about Japan.
- I feel that in 12 hours we should be achieving a very high level of understanding but it was mostly common sense.
- Much of the discussion was focused on the basics of cross-cultural understanding. I felt that there could have been deeper discussions regarding issues such as religion and history.

D. Project Management Seminar

32. How did you think about the content of the Project Management Seminar?

	5 Excellent	4 Good	3 Average	2 Fair	1 Poor	NA	Average
All PY	6%	26%	30%	23%	15%	0%	2.8
JPY	6%	27%	32%	23%	11%	1%	2.9
OPY	5%	24%	29%	22%	20%	0%	2.7

33. Do you think the skills and concepts that you learned through this seminar will contribute to your becoming a global leader?

	5 Excellent	4 Good	3 Average	2 Fair	1 Poor	NA	Average
All PY	8%	28%	33%	20%	10%	1%	3.0
JPY	9%	36%	32%	16%	6%	2%	3.3
OPY	7%	20%	33%	25%	15%	0%	2.8

34. What specific points of the Project Management Seminars were you satisfied or dissatisfied?

- It was my first time to be exposed to this subject, and I thought it could be applied to various activities hereafter. Although I was not able to understand fully in English, it was good that I was able to understand through the supplementary sessions.
- There is no framework of thought that is effective in an absolute way; the seminar pushed me to think about “how to use the structure.”
- I was able to make use of what I learned in the seminar when I was creating a project on disaster-prevention activities.
- Although it was slightly challenging, through the advisor’s seminar, I was able to understand the way of thinking on management. Holding discussions all together for the success of a common project was a very positive experience.
- As I had never thought about how to create a project until now, it was highly beneficial for me in that I was able to acquire skills.
- I was so keen to learn how to plan a project. Despite the challenge, I gained a lot from participating in this seminar.
- I was very much impressed by the enthusiasm and teaching methodology of the advisor – the practical approach to learning by case studies and creating project was really helpful.
- I got confidence myself because we took time to discuss and make project in my group. I noticed that I was enjoying making project to activate community.
- I learned how to plan a project and carry it out. Having discussions with all the members from the same Letter Group on the tasks was difficult. Some tasks were unrealistic on some points so it confused us.
- I’m very satisfied about the project design matrix.
- I think that the content of the seminars were very interesting and useful, however, the way those contents were presented in a very basic way and too much time was spent on creating the project.
- I think the process that the advisor told us is useful, but I couldn’t understand completely, therefore, it was difficult for me.
- This seminar was an average one, comparing with the others because the subjects were things that I already know and we spent too much time on activities that were not very useful.
- I was satisfied with the content, but sometimes the sentences used in the explanation were too long to understand.
- I believe that Project Management is an essential skill to have and the Log Frame is an extremely effective method. However, I felt that the seminar could have been structured in a way that the participants could learn at his or her pace individually through lectures regarding content that should be learned step-by-step, rather than group work.

E. Psychology Seminar

35. How did you think about the contents of the Psychology Seminar?

	5 Excellent	4 Good	3 Average	2 Fair	1 Poor	NA	Average
All PY	14%	39%	33%	11%	2%	2%	3.5
JPY	15%	29%	41%	10%	2%	2%	3.4
OPY	13%	49%	23%	12%	2%	2%	3.6

36. What specific points of the Psychology Seminars were you satisfied or not ?

- I like the openness of the advisor to help during hard times. We could use the techniques to deal with work stress and it’s also useful for many of us. It helped us to prevent stressful situations onboard.
- I like this seminar because I may be using the tools I learned in future situations.
- I always felt a sense of impatience worrying I am not enough, finding the people who come up and stand out in front of the group as admirable. However, this seminar taught me that it is not necessary to try to change my personality and abilities to become something I am not, and I felt relieved.
- I was able to listen with interest. I felt it would have also been interesting if there was a connection made between the Cross-Cultural Understanding Seminar; for instance, regarding the stress related to cross-cultural understanding.
- I was able to learn about basic matters from how to spend our time to what we should and should not do onboard.
- I regret attending the seminar with the stance that “there is no chance that I will become ill mentally.” In reality, I had fun day by day, but I feel I should have been a little more proactive.

F. Advisors Seminar

37. How did you think about the content of the Advisors Seminar on February 7?

	5 Excellent	4 Good	3 Average	2 Fair	1 Poor	NA	Average
All PY	25%	46%	20%	5%	2%	2%	3.9
JPY	21%	36%	29%	8%	3%	3%	3.6
OPY	29%	58%	10%	2%	1%	0%	4.1

38. What specific points of the Advisors Seminar were you satisfied or dissatisfied?

- It was interesting to hear about the personal journeys of the advisors and see what they are passionate about.
- I really, really enjoyed this seminar because I got to know the advisors in terms of their personal lives and what they do.
- I enjoyed the diversity of the contents and it was nice to get to know the advisors on a more personal level.
- It was a great opportunity to get to know the advisors better because we learned about topics that were not part of the seminars.
- I learned about new topic which helps society to develop like the “Transition Town.”
- It was a great opportunity to hear personal stories of the advisors, as they are people I would rarely have the chance to meet if I was only living an ordinary school life.
- I felt there was a similarity in that all of them had reached where they are today having overcome various phases. I realized that although it may be difficult to reach an answer through one straight path, trying little by little will lead to the next step.
- All of their backgrounds were interesting. It is amazing and cool how acting upon the heart has led them to reach where they are now. I grew to think that there is no need to follow a standard path, and my view of career slightly changed.
- What kind of experiences and thoughts led them to reach their current frame of mind. I understood that to become like the advisors, it takes an immense amount of effort and an accumulation of experiences.

G. PY Seminars

39. How did you think about the content of the PY Seminars?

	5 Excellent	4 Good	3 Average	2 Fair	1 Poor	NA	Average
All PY	24%	55%	17%	3%	1%	0%	4.0
JPY	29%	50%	17%	2%	1%	1%	4.0
OPY	19%	60%	16%	4%	1%	0%	3.9

40. How well did you enhance your leadership and management skills through the preparation and presentation?

	5 Very well	4 Well	3 Moderately	2 Slightly	1 Not at all	NA (non-organizers)	Organizers average
All PY	15%	21%	10%	2%	0%	52%	4.0
JPY	18%	23%	15%	2%	0%	42%	4.0
OPY	13%	18%	5%	3%	0%	62%	4.0

41. What did you learn from the PY Seminars? What theme was most interesting to you?

Work-Life Balance	I understood the real responsibility of my life. Well prepared and clear ideas were there.
How Can We Deal with Refugee Crisis?	The content was interesting and the PYs knew many things about this topic.
Three Things I Considered from the Film: The Last Samurai	It enhanced my understanding of the Japanese culture and way of life.
Plastic Bottle Kayak	I thought that the mechanism of raising awareness to protect the environment and contributing to society while having fun through exciting activities was amazing. Above all, I was strongly drawn to the presentation slides and way of speech that expressed the organizer's earnestness and excitement.
What is an Ideal Way of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)?	It may have been tough for the organizer as the OPYs questioned the definition and requirements of "social contribution," pointing out the misconceived narrow definition of CSR in Japan. However, I felt that the seminar overall was meaningful and offered many lessons.
International Cooperation Activity	While the common way to volunteer would be to join already existing teams, I found it extremely amazing to be able to initiate activities and move them forward. It made me realize all over again that there are needs that can be understood and actions that can be taken only by students.
Educational Leadership and Youth Engagement	On top of thinking about and learning about my own personality and characteristics, I was able to deepen my understanding about those of others. I was able to broaden my perspective through learning about different mindsets other than my own.
How Do 'We' Join Politics? and Piece of PEACE	I was able to exercise leadership because it was a free environment where the only thing provided was the framework. I was able to connect with friends of similar interest and was also able to practice my facilitation skills.
Piece of PEACE	I learned that the definition of peace differs depending on the person, and when different desires clash, it is possible to solve this through transcendence without compromise.
Minorities Change the Society	This is one of the topics I am most interested in. Through the seminar, I learned that there was a remarkable gap between those with and without the knowledge about the topic, and I also realized the difficulty the organizer faced upon providing information. I will have opportunities to speak to organizations in the future as well, so I hope to acquire concrete knowledge, focus the target and make sure that the information will reach to them.

H. National Presentation

42. How did you think about the content of the National Presentations?

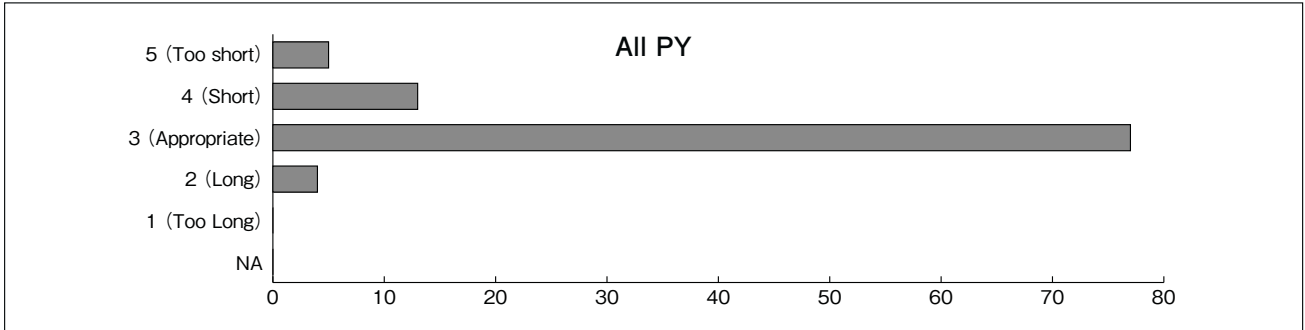
	5 Excellent	4 Good	3 Average	2 Fair	1 Poor	NA	Average
All PY	70%	27%	2%	0%	0%	0%	4.7
JPY	69%	27%	2%	1%	0%	0%	4.7
OPY	71%	27%	2%	0%	0%	0%	4.7

43. How well did the National Presentations help you realize the value of cultural diversity and multi-ethnicity?

	5 Very well	4 Well	3 Moderately	2 Slightly	1 Not at all	NA	Average
All PY	64%	28%	7%	0%	0%	1%	4.6
JPY	61%	30%	8%	0%	0%	1%	4.5
OPY	68%	26%	5%	0%	0%	1%	4.6

44. Did you think the time allocated for each country's National Presentation was appropriate?

	5 Too short	4 Short	3 Appropriate	2 Long	1 Too Long	NA
All PY	5%	13%	77%	4%	0%	0%
JPY	8%	7%	77%	6%	1%	1%
OPY	2%	19%	78%	2%	0%	0%



I. Voluntary Activities

45. How well did you enhance your leadership and management skills through the preparation and presentation?

	5 Very well	4 Well	3 Moderately	2 Slightly	1 Not at all	NA (non-organizers)	Organizers average
All PY	17%	22%	10%	2%	0%	48%	4.1
JPY	20%	21%	15%	2%	0%	41%	4.0
OPY	14%	22%	5%	2%	0%	56%	4.1

46. Which Voluntary Activity was the best for you?

Islam in a Nutshell	It was very relevant to current world issues and SWY was an opportunity to hear different personal perspectives rather than what media portrays.
Star Gazing	The presenter was very knowledgeable and passionate.
Sake University	I got to know everything about the process of sake making from beginning to end, also the prefecture where it's made and their taste.
Taiko Drums	Very energetic, very fun, very Japanese.
Sport and Violence	It gave me a highlight of using sports as a major tool in reducing violence.
Talent Show	It was really interesting and a lot of hidden talents came out because of this activity.
Tea Ceremony	I felt that we were able to present Japanese delicate sensibility to the world while experiencing the Japanese tea ceremony manner and how to drink tea.
Origami	It was a great opportunity to exercise leadership. I was able to share the culture of Origami, and I was glad the participants also enjoyed the experience.
UAE Environment	I understood very clearly that UAE is putting effort into the environment as well as energy. I was able to get to know a completely different image of the country compared to the image that Japan has.

J. Club Activities

47. How did you think about the contents of the Club Activities?

	5 Excellent	4 Good	3 Average	2 Fair	1 Poor	NA	Average
All PY	46%	45%	6%	1%	0%	1%	4.4
JPY	49%	38%	11%	1%	0%	2%	4.4
OPY	43%	54%	2%	1%	0%	1%	4.4

48. Which Club Activity did you join? (Comment)

Mexican Paper Mache Club	I loved how it became a place to express the creativity in a free way as well as deepen cultural similarities regarding death and life.
Kapa Haka Club	There was the strongest energy flow that I have seen. I learned about Maori culture.
Swahili Club	I was assisting to host the club. It helped me improve my organization skills and manage my time through preparing the contents.
Salsa Club	It was very well organized and fun. The organizers were very good so the club worked amazing.
Kimono Club	The organizers knew every detail of the art of kimono. They taught us dancing and also origami.
Sri Lanka Club	I learned about dance, songs and how to make lanterns. I truly appreciated how the members of Sri Lanka came to practice many times before the exhibition. I grew to like Sri Lanka's dances and songs very much.
Band On the Ship	I did not nurture a close friendship with youth specific to one country, but through music, a bond that is even broader and deeper was created. It was my first time holding sessions and creating pieces together through feeling, but it was impactful for me to be able to learn how to express myself.
Taue Dance	My major is Japanese language and culture but I never heard about the Taue dance. I hope to do my thesis also about the Taue Dance.

K. Committee (PYs only)

49. How well did you contribute yourself as a member of the committee?

	5 Very well	4 Well	3 Moderately	2 Slightly	1 Not at all	NA	Average
All PY	20%	46%	18%	8%	1%	6%	3.8
JPY	13%	44%	26%	13%	1%	3%	3.6
OPY	28%	49%	10%	3%	1%	10%	4.1

50. How well did you think the committee played its role?

	5 Very well	4 Well	3 Moderately	2 Slightly	1 Not at all	NA	Average
All PY	24%	42%	20%	6%	1%	6%	3.9
JPY	20%	45%	26%	6%	2%	2%	3.8
OPY	29%	40%	14%	5%	1%	10%	4.0

51. How well did you enhance your leadership and management skills through the Committee activities?

	5 Very well	4 Well	3 Moderately	2 Slightly	1 Not at all	NA	Average
All PY	21%	34%	26%	12%	2%	5%	3.6
JPY	17%	34%	32%	14%	2%	2%	3.5
OPY	27%	34%	19%	9%	3%	9%	3.8

L. Post-Program Activities Session

52. How did you feel about the content of the Post-Program Activities Session?

	5 Excellent	4 Good	3 Average	2 Fair	1 Poor	NA	Average
All PY	25%	49%	17%	6%	1%	1%	3.9
JPY	19%	44%	23%	11%	2%	1%	3.7
OPY	32%	55%	10%	2%	0%	1%	4.2

53. How well were you motivated to engage in social contribution activities after this session?

	5 Very well	4 Well	3 Moderately	2 Slightly	1 Not at all	NA	Average
All PY	40%	36%	18%	4%	1%	1%	4.1
JPY	30%	32%	29%	6%	2%	2%	3.8
OPY	51%	39%	6%	3%	0%	1%	4.4

54. What specific points of the Post-Program Activities Session were you satisfied or not ?

- Duration was quite long but very interesting at the same time. I like the fact that all PYs shared their ideas, hopes and dreams to each other and also looking on how they can approach or achieve these goals.
- It was very inspiring. We learned a lot from the life of ex-PYs. It helped us to know how we can contribute to the society after this program. This session enhanced our knowledge of what we can do for the society.
- It was good to have interactive brainstorming session as it gave the chance to capture the energy and motivation and turn them into real action plans for when we go home.
- I enjoyed the reflective component of the sessions, and most of all the fact that we were able to engage with other PYs already about future project plans.
- My favorite was when the Administration gave us their testimony. It was very inspiring and encouraged us to keep working on our dreams. Also it is a message that the experience is not ending, it is just starting. This showed us that there is “life” after SWY and the adaptation process gets easier to pass through.
- I believe the fact that the ex-PYs held the session gave the session a sense of reality. If we were to simply think about and share with each other what we were interested in doing, I feel it would be difficult to actually put into practice after leaving the ship. However, since we discussed about the details upon planning, I believe it will definitely lead to the next step.
- I was able to rediscover what I was interested in now as well as what it is I would like to do after SWY.
- Hearing the stories from the ex-PYs, I was able to understand that although it is not easy to keep up the current motivation after leaving the ship, maintaining that is actually the true meaning of having participated in the program.
- It was a truly great opportunity to think about the post-program activities deeply. Although I was not sure how I could put the volunteer work I was interested in into practice, I was able to develop various ideas and visualize concretely my future activities through discussing with PYs that have similar ideas.
- It was an opportunity to think about how I can contribute after SWY, once again.

M. Comparative Statistics

55. How did you think about the contents of the activities?

All PYs

	5 Excellent	4 Good	3 Average	2 Fair	1 Poor	NA	Average
Course Discussion	23%	40%	24%	10%	3%	0%	3.7
Leadership Seminar	40%	46%	12%	1%	0%	0%	4.3
CCU Seminar	49%	40%	9%	1%	0%	0%	4.4
Project Management Seminar	6%	26%	30%	23%	15%	0%	2.8
Psychology Seminar	14%	39%	33%	11%	2%	2%	3.5
Advisors Seminar	25%	46%	20%	5%	2%	2%	3.9
PY Seminar	24%	55%	17%	3%	1%	0%	4.0
National Presentation	70%	27%	2%	0%	0%	0%	4.7
Club Activities	46%	45%	6%	1%	0%	1%	4.4
PPA Session	25%	49%	17%	6%	1%	1%	3.9

JPY

	5 Excellent	4 Good	3 Average	2 Fair	1 Poor	NA	Average
Course Discussion	26%	40%	21%	12%	2%	1%	3.8
Leadership Seminar	45%	43%	10%	1%	0%	1%	4.3
CCU Seminar	40%	43%	14%	2%	0%	1%	4.2
Project Management Seminar	6%	27%	32%	23%	11%	1%	2.9
Psychology Seminar	15%	29%	41%	10%	2%	2%	3.4
Advisors Seminar	21%	36%	29%	8%	3%	3%	3.6
PY Seminar	29%	50%	17%	2%	1%	1%	4.0
National Presentation	69%	27%	2%	1%	0%	0%	4.7
Club Activities	49%	38%	11%	1%	0%	2%	4.4
PPA Session	19%	44%	23%	11%	2%	1%	3.7

OPY

	5 Excellent	4 Good	3 Average	2 Fair	1 Poor	NA	Average
Course Discussion	20%	40%	29%	8%	4%	0%	3.6
Leadership Seminar	34%	49%	15%	2%	0%	0%	4.2
CCU Seminar	59%	37%	4%	0%	0%	0%	4.5
Project Management Seminar	5%	24%	29%	22%	20%	0%	2.7
Psychology Seminar	13%	49%	23%	12%	2%	2%	3.6
Advisors Seminar	29%	58%	10%	2%	1%	0%	4.1
PY Seminar	19%	60%	16%	4%	1%	0%	3.9
National Presentation	71%	27%	2%	0%	0%	0%	4.7
Club Activities	43%	54%	2%	1%	0%	1%	4.4
PPA Session	32%	55%	10%	2%	0%	1%	4.2

4.1 Port of Call Activities (Chennai, India)

56. Do you think port of call activities help you deepen understanding the history and current situation, culture and people of India?

	5 Excellent	4 Good	3 Satisfactory	2 Disappointing	1 Bad	NA	Average
All PY	24%	44%	25%	8%	0%	0%	3.8
JPY	28%	36%	27%	8%	1%	0%	3.8
OPY	19%	52%	22%	7%	0%	0%	3.8

57. Are you satisfied with the visit to Kalakshetra Foundation?

	5 Excellent	4 Good	3 Satisfactory	2 Disappointing	1 Bad	NA	Average
All PY	38%	38%	21%	3%	0%	0%	4.1
JPY	30%	38%	26%	4%	1%	1%	3.9
OPY	46%	38%	15%	2%	0%	0%	4.3

58. Are you satisfied with the institutional visit by Course Discussion?

	5 Excellent	4 Good	3 Satisfactory	2 Disappointing	1 Bad	NA	Average
All PY	25%	27%	30%	16%	3%	0%	3.6
CD	37%	32%	24%	5%	2%	0%	4.0
DRR	11%	36%	33%	19%	0%	0%	3.4
EDU	44%	24%	20%	7%	2%	2%	4.0
ENV	10%	23%	31%	28%	8%	0%	3.0
IM	26%	26%	26%	21%	0%	0%	3.6
YE	16%	22%	46%	14%	3%	0%	3.4

59. Are you satisfied with the visit to Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (RGNIYD)?

	5 Excellent	4 Good	3 Satisfactory	2 Disappointing	1 Bad	NA	Average
All PY	34%	38%	22%	6%	0%	0%	4.0
JPY	30%	37%	25%	8%	0%	0%	3.9
OPY	38%	38%	18%	4%	1%	1%	4.1

4.2 Port of Call Activities (Colombo, Sri Lanka)

60. Do you think the port of call activities help you deepen understanding the history and current situation, culture and people of Sri Lanka?

	5 Excellent	4 Good	3 Satisfactory	2 Disappointing	1 Bad	NA	Average
All PY	60%	33%	6%	1%	0%	0%	4.5
JPY	58%	33%	6%	3%	0%	0%	4.5
OPY	62%	33%	5%	0%	0%	0%	4.6

61. Are you satisfied with the institutional visit by Course Discussion?

	5 Excellent	4 Good	3 Satisfactory	2 Disappointing	1 Bad	NA	Average
All PY	48%	33%	12%	4%	0%	2%	4.3
CD	24%	34%	29%	10%	0%	2%	3.8
DRR	50%	44%	3%	0%	0%	3%	4.5
EDU	69%	21%	5%	0%	0%	5%	4.7
ENV	41%	44%	15%	0%	0%	0%	4.3
IM	69%	25%	3%	0%	0%	3%	4.7
YE	35%	30%	16%	16%	3%	0%	3.8

62. Are you satisfied with the activities at National Youth Services Council (NYSC)?

	5 Excellent	4 Good	3 Satisfactory	2 Disappointing	1 Bad	NA	Average
All PY	52%	33%	13%	1%	0%	1%	4.4
JPY	43%	35%	19%	1%	0%	2%	4.2
OPY	61%	31%	6%	2%	0%	0%	4.5

63. Are you satisfied with the home visit?

	5 Excellent	4 Good	3 Satisfactory	2 Disappointing	1 Bad	NA	Average
All PY	67%	21%	10%	1%	0%	2%	4.6
JPY	73%	18%	8%	1%	0%	1%	4.6
OPY	59%	25%	12%	1%	0%	4%	4.5

5 Free Comments

<Positive Feedback>

- I thank the government of Japan for changing my life and this opportunity. I feel that I'm ready to go back home and start working for a real change.
- It is already clear to me that SWY has changed my life, and I am so incredibly grateful to have had this opportunity. The future is bright especially with the 233 PYs who will now go back to the real world and take real action to make it a better place.
- The program is excellent, a wonderful life-changing experience that helped me in my personal growth and that allowed me to deepen my understanding of the world issues, world views and lives of people from the participating countries.
- This program is one of the best I ever had attended and this program provides the unique chance to know people globally.
- This is one of the turning points of my life. I gained a lot of new ideas and hope to go back to my country and do creative youth programs to my youth community.
- This program has allowed me to step outside of my comfort zone in numerous ways and establish meaningful connections to other countries in ways I have never experienced before.
- I felt motivated to do good things for society. Because of the program, I can clearly specify what I want to happen in the future and visualize what I can do now.
- I strongly believe that SWY is the best youth program in the world! I want to say "thank you" to all participants, advisors and the government of Japan.

- The program has given me the chance to connect with other young and future leaders.
- Actually, this program is very good and this is life-changing program and it helps me to change my personal thinking and attitude. Thank you very much for organizing this program.
- Being on the ship in the middle of the ocean with people from all over the world is an amazing unique experience. It really makes you connect to nature, our own human mind and heart, and also others.
- It is so great to feel that now I have friends in all the places of the earth. The SWY network seems very strong and I am sure that it can be used to bring much good and peace to the world.
- I have respect for all JPYs for their hard work in enhancing their skills, in general.
- Through this program I gained a lot of things. This is a turning point in my life. I really realized that I can do more than I wished. So I hope to do a lot of things in my motherland and the entire world.
- I will be so thankful to the Japanese government for the rest of my life for this once-in-a-lifetime experience. I guess this is one of the strongest exchange programs in the world. Thank you for everything!
- The biggest benefit of this program has been meeting amazing young leaders (JPYs & OPYs alike) from around the world and more than the seminars, Course Discussions etc., this will be what I take away from SWY. I feel that the time to be able to have meaningful conversation with other PYS is restricted.
- I want to be more active with my society, study more about international issues and improve my English.
- I hope more programs work like this to create a better world and understanding among nations.
- I really hope that the SWY never stops sailing to make the world a better place because I, as a person, got a lot from the SWY and I'm sure many others did. It brings the world together; it opens our eyes to what really matters.
- Club Activities helped me improve my organization and time management skills and manage my time through preparing the content and organizing the activities.
- Not only was it a valuable opportunity to learn about different cultures, I also got to learn about myself all over again. What was only a dream for me until now began to grow closer to a reality through interacting and exchanging ideas with diverse people.
- Compared to the love and attachment each of the 10 countries had towards their national flags and anthems,

I questioned why the same level of emotion did not seem to exist amongst the Japanese. When the national anthems were sung at the morning assemblies and National Presentations, I felt a sense of respect towards other countries as well as world peace.

- I will make the most of this experience and would like to show gratitude through contributing to society.
- I learned so many things in the aspect of cross-cultural exchange. Even though one may be able to understand through words, it cannot be realized in a true sense if he or she does not experience it first-hand. It was meaningful to be able to experience this.
- From the time of the Preparatory Training Session, I was advised to "ask questions in front of the whole group" and was encouraged that "there is no problem even if you fail because SWY is a safe place." Many people gave me the opportunity to freely express my creativity and I truly appreciate that.
- I was able to learn about Japan and foreign countries, as well as Japan and myself. It sounds cheesy when put into words, but it comes from the heart.
- I was constantly facing my inner self. It was the first time experiencing such a situation. Although I went through rough times when I felt like I wanted to escape, none of the time spent facing my inner self was a waste, and because of this, I was able to discover where my passion lies. I had never in my life had such deep interaction with people of different cultures, and I am honestly still surprised.
- I am so happy to have been able to participate in this program. Although I went through some anxiety and tough times with everything being a new experience; my first time to travel abroad, experience cultural exchange and live for a long period away from home, it was an extremely stimulating two months. My sense of rejection towards the word "global" disappeared, and I grew to become curious about opinions and issues regarding my own country as well as matters relating to its history.
- I hope to continue learning and making effort everyday to prove through action and contribute to society.
- Before the program began, I thought the purpose of it was to learn about leadership and global society. Needless to say, this was true, but what was more and what I found surprising was that it gave me an opportunity to think about myself a lot. Through the interaction with diverse people and the many lessons learned, I was encouraged to think about my own existence and being. Thanks to the support of many people, I feel I have changed.

- Having friends all over the world is not essential to long for peace and make it a reality, but I felt it was important. I respect and hope to follow the footsteps of the OPYs for having a vision of where they want to move towards and think clearly about “what needs to be done now, for that to happen.” Do not listen to or worry about rumors and jealousy of other people. Be positive. I will not try to forget these things even after leaving the ship.
- There were many people with high aspirations and there was nobody who would criticize or show lack of interest, so I felt safe to express my own ideas. Through the time spent with the OPYs along with other amazing people, I realized that I had been holding down my own talent all along. Hereafter, I would like to bring out my life purpose and talent and contribute to society in the way I can.

<Things to be Considered>

- I think it's better for the PYs to take up more challenges.
- I had a good time, got great knowledge and have a second family from 10 different countries. However, I think this year there was a lot of distraction, like having four seminars and Course Discussion, and everything was squeezed in a very short time and sessions. Plus there are a lot of pressure on the JPYs from the ADM and the program that made the OPYs to have limited opportunity to know the JPYs at personal level.
- Sometimes I feel that the standard of different academic event is not so high to satisfy the OPYs.
- There should be more practical content of the Course Discussion, more relevant and real. The facilitator, who's doing some actual business. I feel like we talked a lot, but learned almost nothing.
- It might have been better if the port of call was more diverse. India and Sri Lanka were similar in many ways.
- I felt that the schedule was tight and I didn't have enough time to talk with PYs and review what I have learned so I had no choice but to stay up late.
- Many PYs struggled with the demanding schedule due to expectation and they placed a lot of pressure on themselves.
- I felt that the concentration of the PYs was not controlled well. This is why active discussions with undivided attention were rare, and it felt like we were simply trying to complete the program as a task. I feel this may have resulted in many PYs seeing a lack of what should have been most important, intellectual conversation amongst the PYs, during the free time in the evening.
- I felt that there was a lack of time for interaction due to the tight schedule.

<Suggestions>

- I would suggest that for the next SWY program there should be enough time for PYs to share experiences and do experiential learning by providing opportunities for such activity like a separate seminar.
- To have more time for sports or physical activities, and time for reflection.
- The stay in Japan should be longer to have a better understanding of the development, culture and technologies.
- More structured free time/conversation is essential to form connections and bonds. I heard many PYs prioritizing whether they would eat, sleep or talk, meaning there was limited opportunity to find balance.
- There should be beginner level and advanced level classes so that PYs can be grouped and learn according to their respective levels.
- It would be better if we had more free time to talk with others especially JPYs because they were very busy all the time.
- We need more advanced part of the activities with tangible results such as volunteering in the company and activities.
- The level of English among the JPYs is too low. The choice of words I use when I talk in discussion has to be lowered in order for them to understand, which was irritating. Therefore, I think TOEFL/TOEIC scores should be criteria in the selection process.
- I would like for there to be an opportunity to actually exercise the skills of project management and leadership. When the schedule is too tight, it is challenging to hold voluntary activities and more time is spent only focused on completing the tasks.

Result of the IDI

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Implementing IDI (Intercultural Development Inventory)

A one-hour intercultural training program was given to the JPYs during the Pre-Departure Training Session. The content of the training was designed to explain the DMIS (Development Model of Intercultural Sensitivity) (Bennett, 1993) and IDI (Intercultural Development Inventory) (Hammer & Bennett, 2002). IDI is based on the DMIS theory, and an online IDI was given to all JPYs before and after the program. According to the DMIS theory, through intercultural experience and training to improve intercultural cognitive development, one can develop their perceptions toward “cultural others.” This development can eventually lead a person to be able to accept and adapt

to a multicultural environment. In this report, I will explain why the development of intercultural sensitivity should be recognized in the SWY program, define the DMIS, and examine the IDI results of this year’s participants. It should be noted that the period of interaction I had with this year’s JPYs was limited to one hour each before and after the program, and they occurred only through the workshops. Therefore, I do not have knowledge about the PYs’ experience during the program. My analysis also includes comments from a questionnaire collected after the program and my experience as an advisor during previous years’ programs.

Maximizing the Intercultural Opportunities of SWY

To explain why the development of intercultural sensitivity should be recognized in the SWY program, I employ the same figure I used during the pre-departure workshop. Fig. 1 depicts the conditions of team performance in organizations (such as companies) as defined by the study of Adler (2008, p.140). Area “a” is a group of people comprising culturally diverse backgrounds who have not received “training for working in a multicultural environment.” The group is a mixture of people with different values regarding time, attitudes toward work, priorities of importance of work in their life, etc.; not surprisingly, the team performance is “highly ineffective.” Consequently, the organization of this group would develop a less diverse or more “mono-cultural” work environment. In area “b,” the organization shifts to a “single-culture” team or team with similar values. The team performance becomes “average,” which means that effectiveness is improved compared to the condition of area “a.” When the organization “learns” from this experience, it attempts to exclude people with different values and attitudes. It would be easy and less complex than to work to negotiate with people with different values and attitudes. Indeed, Adler states that many organizations worldwide still have the tendency of preference to shift from area “a” to “b,” as indicated by the peak of the curve.

The real success is in area “c,” which features

multicultural and diverse teams with rich intercultural experience and “training for working in a multicultural environment.” We should remember that “innovation” often emerges from interactions among people with different values and ideas. However, this figure shows that few organizations have ventured a shift from area “b” to “c,” although area “c” could become highly effective and innovative. This is because of the fear that originated in area “a” of failure by working with multicultural values. Whether the team can shift from “b” to “c” depends not only on team members’ individual intercultural experiences but also on whether members received “training for working in a multicultural environment.” Only those organizations with a real commitment to creating a multicultural team could provide such training.

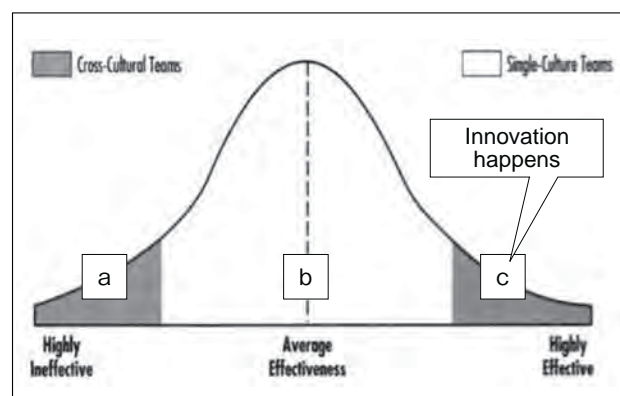


Fig. 1 Multicultural Team Effectiveness (Adler, 2008: 140)

In the beginning, the SWY program would have been in the condition of area “a.” There were PYs with different values from different countries as well as different multicultural experiences. It is our hope that through SWY, all PYs bring their experiences together to create an environment like that of area “c,” because this experience

would benefit the PYs in their efforts to become global leaders in the future. Area “c” has enormous potential to derive the most out of PYs’ differences and uniqueness. I believe that SWY has provided PYs with the best possible training environment to experiment with intercultural interactions.

The DMIS (Development Model of Intercultural Sensitivity)

The basic theory defining the development of one’s intercultural adaptation is presented in the DMIS (Development Model of Intercultural Sensitivity) by Bennett (1993). This theory is based on the premise that there is no “right or wrong culture,” so if one develops intercultural sensitivity, one will be less threatened by cultural differences and less likely to view others through stereotypes. An individual with intercultural sensitivity would stop passing negative judgments on other cultures based only on his/her own culture. Eventually, such an individual will be able to adopt the point of view of other cultures, accept cultural differences and adapt to other cultures. There are many similar modes of cultural development given by other researchers, but Bennett’s model is one of the most frequently cited to explain intercultural sensitivity. Fig. 2 describes the idea of this theory, with development proceeding from left to right.

are always right, but sometimes a person adores another culture and feels that his/her own culture is inferior. The “reverse” is the attitude that another culture is better than one’s own. In either case, the base is a “we” vs. “them” mentality. At these first two stages, people rely on cultural group stereotypes for judgment, because they cannot grasp the reality or recognize individual differences. It is said that people in ethnic or religious conflicts are often at these two stages.

To resolve two groups in conflict, one technique is to help people recognize commonalities between the cultures that are in conflict. That is, to resolve conflict, peace efforts may intentionally bring both groups to the next stage, Minimization. However, the Minimization stage is still a transit point of intercultural sensitivity development, because the “similarity” in Minimization usually means that people are the same after all. This is true in a sense, but the danger is that we forget to acknowledge or value individual differences and uniqueness. Moreover, Minimization might bring us to our comfort zone by saying, “I get along with her/him, because s/he is like me.” Overvaluing people who are similar to “MY own values” could misguide us that “my (our) value is the universal value,” which can lead us to “universalism.” At the Minimization stage, the complexity of cultural differences is not yet appreciated; rather, one could feel threatened by differences, and an increase in that threat may take a person back to the Polarization stage. The above three stages compose the Monoculture Mindset, with Minimization as a transitional stage, in which one finds it difficult to shift perspectives and therefore judges the world based only on one’s own cultural view.

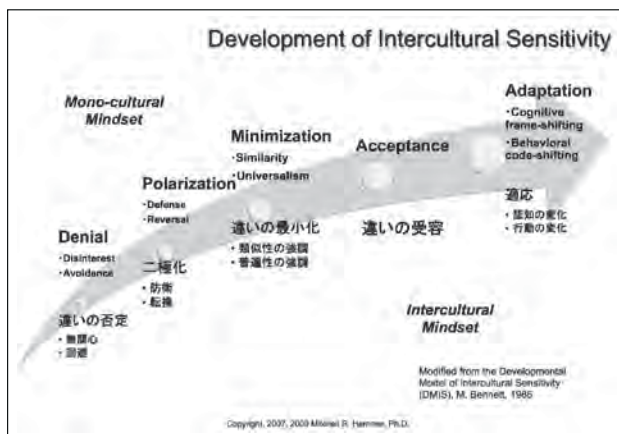


Fig. 2 Intercultural Development Continuum (Hammer & Bennett, 2002)

To give a slightly more detailed explanation, the first stage is called Denial (indifference or avoidance toward other cultures). In this stage, one is not interested in culture or cultural differences. The typical attitude is that “people are all the same.” However, if the person cannot avoid seeing culture (which usually entails cultural differences), s/he enters “defense mode.” This second stage is called Polarization. In this stage, one constantly makes cultural comparisons with judgments in the form of “we” vs. “them.” Typically, the accompanying mentality is that “we”

If the person thinks that sticking to commonalities are boring or wants to appreciate different cultural values more, s/he proceeds to the next stage, called Acceptance, which involves acceptance of differences. This is the beginning of the attitude that “There is no right or wrong culture. They are simply different. There are many ways that are different from my own, and I will accept them as they are.” At this stage, one’s cognition develops to appreciate the complexity of cultures and accept and respect different

perspectives. A person at this stage will attempt to see the world from different angles and often feel, “Ah, that’s how you think. That is not a bad way.” If the person tries to think from other perspectives or behave in different cultural ways (cultural ways of “others”), this behavior is called Adaptation, which is the last stage. The attitude of the last two stages comprises the Intercultural Mindset. With this attitude, a person can feel “true to him/herself” even in other cultures or while studying or working in an intercultural environment. This is because this person can expand her/his horizons and make new perspectives part of her/his own perspectives.

However, we should note that this model does not say that you are a “superior” or a “more sensitive person” if you can shift from left to right. Sometimes it is difficult to accept cultural differences, especially if one’s experience (or life in other cultures) is unkind (for example, a person may experience racial prejudice). Additionally, although Bennett uses the word “stage,” one cannot necessarily

“finish a stage” as one does when playing a game to advance to the next stage. The characteristics of Minimization are also not necessarily altogether wrong. For example, when we were children, we were taught “to behave towards others the way we would like to be treated ourselves” and to make friends by “finding commonalities.” Nevertheless, a problem resides in that simplicity. Upon losing interest in the complexity of culture and the diversity among individual human beings, we can have only “simpatico friends” and do things only in “usual ways.” In other words, if we go back to Fig. 1, area “a” is full of people at the Denial and Polarization stages, and area “b” comprises people at the Minimization stage. It is easy to see why reaching area “c,” which is at the Acceptance and Adaptation stages, is difficult. However, we can learn so much from diversity by appreciating differences while embracing commonalities as human beings. These are the basic ideas underlining the following results of the IDI administered in SWY.

IDI (Intercultural Development Inventory) in SWY28

IDI (Hammer & Bennett, 2002) is based on the aforementioned DMIS. It is a 50-question questionnaire with a five-point Likert scale that asks participants about their ideas related to culture. The participants of IDI this year were all JPYs. One hundred twenty-three participants finished the IDI before the program started, and 107 finished it after the program; all completed the questionnaire online. In this report, a group tendency (shown in Table 1) will be given based on the calculated average scores. The analysis is based on detailed scores, but because of the limitation of space, I will give only a summary of the report. Additionally, some individuals who took this IDI may feel that it does not apply to them; however, to restate, this is a report based on the average scores.

The overall scores in Intercultural Sensitivity are divided into two sections. One is Perceived Orientation (PO), which shows participants’ understanding and ideas toward different cultures. The other is Developmental Orientation (DO), which represents their true sensitivities

toward different cultures. In short, PO reflects one’s ideas (or ideals), and DO is how one actually interacts (the reality). It is always the case that DO scores are lower than those of PO; this is the gap between the ideal and reality.

Intercultural Orientation

The average PO score before the program was 121.32, which shows that the participants’ “ideal orientation” toward cultural others was in the Acceptance (Table 1). The score increased slightly after the program to 122.52. The change in the ideal of the intercultural view (PO) is important; however, DO as actual development orientation is usually considered more important to see the development of participants in intercultural workshops or programs. The average DO score of SWY28 before the program was 89.62, which increased to 92.25 after the program. Actually, the DO score matters, because the result score shows how they were able to actually interact with cultural others.

	Before the program (n = 123)	After the program (n = 107)	gains
Intercultural Orientation	(out of 145)	(out of 145)	
Perceived Orientation (PO)	121.32	122.52	1.20
Developmental Orientation (DO)	89.62	92.25	2.63

Table 1 Worldview Profile of SWY28 before and after the program

Both scores before and after are placed in Minimization (Fig. 3 below) however, if the scores are compared to those from research performed based on a study abroad program in the United States (Vande Berg, Paige, & Lou, 2012: 345), the gain 2.63 of SWY28 is approximately equivalent of that of 1.5 years of undergraduate international students studying at a US university. The experience for PYs in the

SWY program must have been more complex intercultural experiences than students in a study abroad program in the sense that there is no target geographical culture to follow in the onboard SWY program as there is when living and studying in one country. Therefore, the gain of 2.63 achieved by the JPYs is valuable and should be highly praised.

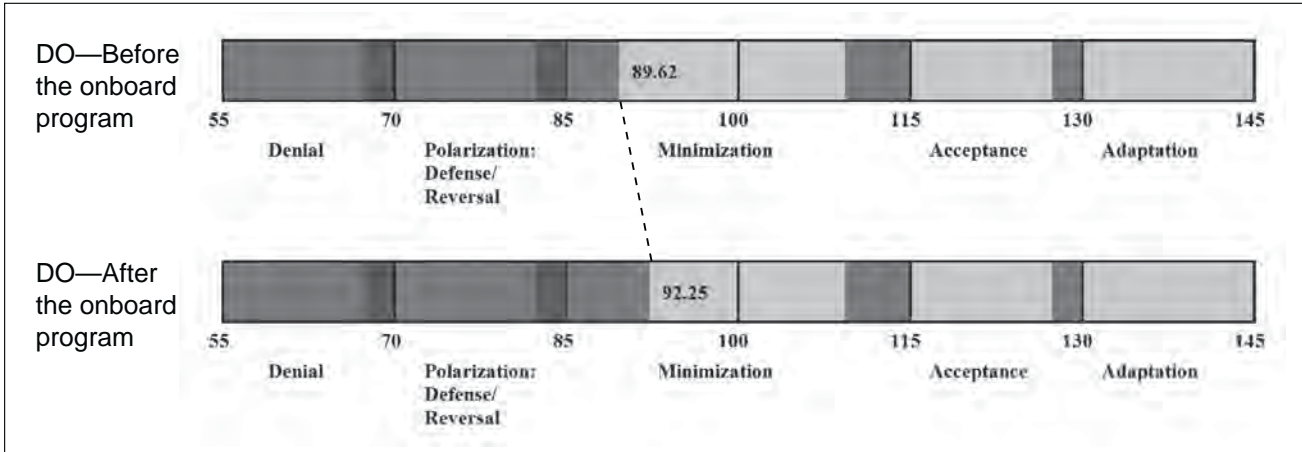


Fig. 3 Comparison of DO before and after the program

Worldview Profile

The “Worldview Profile” gives an overview of the participants’ tendencies in DMIS stages. A “+” sign in “gain” signifies the area in which their scores increased; conversely, the “-” sign denotes a decrease. (Table 2)

In general, scores went up except for the M (minimization) Scale. Especially, the DD (denial–defense) Scale and the AA (acceptance–adaptation) Scale increased from 3.80 to 4.08 and 3.73 to 3.98, respectively, which is a valuable achievement because their scores exceeded

or nearly reached 4.0, above which a score is reported to be worthy of achievement (Hammer 6 Bennett, 2002). However, the scores on the M (minimization) Scale are quite low and decreased from 2.97 to 2.65 after the program. It is thus assumed that participants enjoyed the diverse environment, but most appreciated interacting with and depended on cultural others who were “similar to me in thinking” or had experiences that “we are all same” after encountering some cultural dissonances.

	Before the program (n = 1123)	After the program (n = 107)	gains
Worldview Profile	(out of 5)	(out of 5)	
DD (denial–defense) Scale	3.80	4.08	+
R (reverse) Scale	3.51	3.55	+
M (minimization) Scale	2.97	2.65	-
AA (acceptance–adaptation) Scale	3.73	3.98	+

Table 2 Worldview Profile of SWY28 before and after the program

The Pitfall of Minimization

Some may wonder why the Minimization score was so low while the Acceptance score was high. As mentioned before, there are many cases in which the attitude of Acceptance is comprehended only partially. This is called “trailing orientation”. Minimization as a weak point is “trailing” on to maximize the quality of

Acceptance. Especially during the onboard program, a PY may have faced many occasions in which they had to accept the situation and eliminate any judgment of cultural differences. All PYs also tried new cultural activities, because they participated to enjoy the program of cultural diversity. They learned to live to accept and to adopt

cultural differences and even enjoyed the diversity. That was why your Acceptance score was improved. However, when there was a choice in working together with cultural “others,” some of the JPYs may have struggled to make the OPY understood their ways of doing things or with communicating in English. They may have ended up spending more time with the OPYs who “understand me” or “respect Japanese ways.” In other words, some of the JPYs chose to be with the OPYs who understood “my values” instead of the other way around. Additionally, there might have been many occasions in which “cross-cultural understanding” involved shared moments that even surprised JPYs and that OPYs from unfamiliar countries (for JPYs) had never thought to be friend because their cultures were so mysterious or unfamiliar. Laughing along at the same jokes would have been such a nice discovery, even confirming their belief that “we are so similar after all.” Once again, as mentioned before, I am not saying that these experiences are wrong at all. Minimization is very comforting because it does entail sharing commonalities.

Then what is the problem? The pitfall of Minimization is in that comfort. First of all, if one is comfortable in commonalities, they may not feel the need to take risks to change environments. In other words, s/he may create distances between her/himself and people with different attitudes or become disinterested in people who do not make the same effort as s/he does to understand each other.

Second, no innovative ideas will result from the attitude of Minimization, which blinds the differences and uniqueness of each individual. Of course, SWY participants are diverse, but they united in one philosophy of “how to make the world a better place” with abundant goodwill. “We are so similar after all” may reduce the conflict; however, there are seemingly slight, but deep-rooted differences that might be significant to cultural others (but

not for you), which you might ignore with Minimization. Weaving the differences is a key to the program as well.

The third pitfall of Minimization of SWY is difficulty in applying SWY experiences to real life. The SWY environment would be the nicest environment in the world with many good-willed youth – even more so for the JPYs, because many of the OPYs are interested in Japan and Japanese culture to a degree that does not exist outside Japan (or outside the ship). If you are a JPY, are you confident that you could perform as well as you did in the SWY program in a part of the world where nobody is interested in Japanese culture or Japan? If you are already aware of these pitfalls, then congratulations; you have accomplished good training for working in a multicultural environment yourself.

Let’s go back to “Fig. 1 Multicultural Team Effectiveness.” As mentioned before, area “b,” in which the team depends on commonalities and high context communication, can be identified as possessing the characteristics of Minimization. It has average effectiveness, and it may even be a comfortable environment in some ways. Therefore, the tendency of many people is to stay there. However, SWY requested that you become active and successful in area “c.” This is the area where you enjoy diversity and become innovative. In addition, in area “c,” you are expected to create a world where people accept not only cultural and value diversities but also diversity in race, ethnicity, religion, language, gender and gender orientation, handicap, etc. This is a world where people accept and embrace each individual as they are with their complexities. I hope you apply your diversity management experiences from the SWY program and become pioneers in creating such a world as ex-PYs.

Good luck!

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