

Preface

In a globalization of today's world, where cross-border cooperation, coordination, and negotiation are indispensable at every field, leaders who are able to play a key role in initiating globalization are required at local communities as well as international society.

There are three main aims of the Next Generation Global Leaders Program "Ship for World Youth Leaders." First, to develop the ability to deal with different cultures and the communication skills; second, to improve leadership and management skills; and finally, to cultivate the spirit of international cooperation in order to develop youth who can contribute to the activities for the betterment of the society. In addition, by providing opportunities for discussions, cultural exchange, and communal life in an environment which can be referred to as a microcosm of the world, it is expected that the participating youth would further develop transnational human network and deepen mutual understanding. Thus, through this program, the Government of Japan aims to contribute to the field of international human development.

During the program, under the slogan "Towards Infinity: Tomorrow's Leaders Today," youth from 11 countries including Japan took part in the Onshore Training Session for 7 days in mid-January 2016. Following this, the ship set for sail for 34 days, which was the first voyage overseas after four years, and the participating youth engaged in Onboard Training Session and ports of call activities in the visited countries.

For the academic training program, the participating youth were divided into six Course Discussion groups (Community Development, Disaster Risk Reduction, Education, Environment, Information and Media, Youth Entrepreneurship) under the common theme of "Youth Contribution in Society." Further, for this year's program, Cross-Cultural Understanding Seminar, Leadership Seminar, and Project Management Seminar were conducted by advisors specializing in the respective fields, which enabled the participating youth to deepen their learning and understanding towards planning and implementing more tangible social contribution activities.

In the countries visited, namely India and Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, the participating youth visited institutions according to their Course Discussion themes, and deepened their understanding towards the culture and history of the respective areas through cultural exchange programs with local youth. They also practiced international protocol through official programs such as courtesy calls and receptions, and established profound connection with the local people.

After returning back to Japan, the Japanese participating youth joined a two-day Post-Program Training Session to reflect on the program and to talk about their future activities, and upon finishing this, successfully completed the whole program.

It is our determination that we would continue striving for improvement of the program to nurture global leaders of the next generation who will be able to serve an important function in various fields.

This report is a record of the various activities that the participating youth have undergone while in Japan, on board, and at the various countries. It would be my pleasure if, through reading this account, the readers could appreciate the fruits of this program and will continue to provide their support in the future.

It is very significant that the participating youth would capitalize on the knowledge and experiences they gained and the human network they established through this program to be active in international exchange programs and social activities globally, and the Cabinet Office would like to support their initiatives as well. It is my sincere hope that the participating youth would play an increasingly important role in the society.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude for the cooperation of the various government representatives from the participating countries that were involved, the Ship for World Youth Alumni Associations and their members (former participants), the host families, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other ministries involved, the local governments, and the youth organizations.

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List of Abbreviations and Acronyms

Next Generation Global Leaders Program “Ship for World Youth Leaders”	SWY
Participating Youth	PY
Japanese Participating Youth	JPY
Overseas Participating Youth	OPY
Ex-participating Youth	Ex-PY
National Leader	NL
Sub-National Leader	SNL
Assistant National Leader	ANL
Assistant Group Leader	AGL
Ship for World Youth Alumni Association	SWYAA
International Youth Exchange Organization of Japan	IYEO
National Olympics Memorial Youth Center	NYC

*Please refer to the list when the text includes abbreviations and/or acronyms.