

Monday, December 31, 2012.

**HON. MS. MASAKO MORI
MINISTER FOR STATE FOR YOUTH AFFAIRS
GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN**

Hon. Ms. Mori,

On behalf of the Mexican Ship for World Youth Alumni Association and myself, I would like to extend our congratulations on the formation of a new government under the leadership of Prime Minister Abe. As former participants of the Ship for World Youth, we look forward to continue working in close collaboration with the Cabinet Office and the International Youth Exchange Organization in promoting the values of the program.

The members of the Mexican Alumni Association express our deep gratitude to the government and people of Japan for organizing the program over a span of 25 years. Mexico has been honored with 12 participations in different batches of the Program (1ST, 3rd, 5th, 7th, 9th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 15th, 17th, 19th and 23th) and one invitation to participate in its 25th edition. The program has been life changing for dozens of Mexicans, creating a multiplier effect from the leadership and social skills developed in the program. SWY participants in Mexico have developed into leaders in Arts, Culture, Academia, Sports, Politics, Industry, Government, and Diplomacy. The tools and spirit acquired through the program have allowed us to positively impact our Communities, our Cities, our Country.

It is with this spirit, love for the Program and excellent results that we respectfully and humbly request your consideration to save and continue supporting the Ship for the World Youth Program. It is our understanding the previous government decided to cancel the program due to funding cutbacks. We are very respectful of this decision; however, we believe the Ship for World Youth represents an excellent investment that provides extraordinary returns for the Japanese people and for the Nations that are invited to participate in it. We believe this deserves a reevaluation of the costs and benefits, it will probably draw positive inputs to save the Program.

As Ex-Participants that have been blessed with the experience, we strongly feel future generations of Youth from Japan, Mexico and other Nations should benefit from the Program to foster cultural understanding and develop social awareness that will make this a better World. The Ship is an extraordinary example of the leadership of Japan in the world's development and should be allowed to continue. Please reconsider keeping our beloved Ship sailing to create a better World. Count on us to do whatever is needed to keep transforming our World's reality, to keep our beloved Ship sailing; we owe you this and so much more!

Once again, please accept our deepest gratitude. Gracias!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "José Ruiz Fernández".

**JOSÉ RUIZ FERNÁNDEZ
PRESIDENT
SHIP FOR WORLD YOUTH ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
MEXICO**



December 27th, 2012

Ms. Masako Mori

Minister for State for Youth Affairs
Cabinet Office, Government of Japan

Your Excellency,

With my profoundest appreciation, as President of the Ship for World Youth Alumni Association of the Republic of Peru, I would like to express my concern about the cancellation of the Ship for World Youth Program (SWY), sponsored by the Cabinet Office of the Japanese Government.

For the past 24 years, the SWY Program has brought together young leaders of diverse cultural backgrounds in a unique program that aims at making a profound contribution to human development and establishing globalized networks among the young leaders of Japan and the world. The strong bonds created from this experience are unique to a ship-based program like SWY, and there resides its more significant value.

Our country has been honored to be invited seven times in total, and our local Alumni Association counts for more than 70 members who are active leaders in all public, private, development and academic sectors. Because of the great impact of SWY Program in our lives, we consider ourselves as goodwill ambassadors of Japan and its culture.

Though we can find initiatives with similar objectives in other latitudes, no program compares to SWY in boosting leadership, intercultural understanding and international cooperation. It is the same for the way it positively influences the image of Japan between the future leaders of the world.

For all these reasons exposed, and on behalf of all Peruvian ex-participants, I humbly request your Excellency to reconsider the decision of cancelling the SWY Program. We understand that Japan is facing very severe economic difficulties and that priorities must be established. Nonetheless, as former participants of all ages and diverse backgrounds, we look forward to your Excellency's recognition of the program's importance and its vital necessity of continuity, for the benefit of future generations.

Yours sincerely,

Jaime Sotomayor
President
Ship for World Youth Alumni Association of Peru

December 28th 2012

Minister for State for Youth Affairs
Ms. Masako Mori
Cabinet Office
Tokyo, Japan.

Subject: Petition to bring back the Ship for World Youth program.

Honourable Minister,

The Ship for World Youth (SWY) program, operated by Cabinet Office, Government of Japan, is a historically prestigious international exchange program that involves youths from Japan and countries all around the world. Participants at the Ship for World Youth live together on a short trip sailing through the sea while they study and discuss the challenges of our modern world from a global and proactive perspective, generating solutions through team work and mutual dialogue. Youths also participate in other various activities that foster multi-cultural understanding between nations, forging the future leaders of tomorrow.

Since 1989 Venezuela has had the privilege to be part of this program, allowing more than 180 young men and women in Venezuela the opportunity to share their culture, traditions, the challenges they face as a modern country and their proposed solutions, with Japan and the rest of the world, in an effort to contribute to the improvement of the world. In the program, we have received special training related to voluntary activities in the areas of Environmental Protection, Education, Inter-cultural Understanding, youth development, and such others. Through this program, the Japanese government has prepared us all to serve as role models to our communities.

The Ship for World Youth Alumni Association Venezuela is a registered organization of Venezuelan ex-participating youths (EXPYs) that seeks to continue the program spirit of promoting cultural diversity among young people. Understanding and appreciating inter-cultural differences ultimately promotes a clearer communication, breaks down barriers, builds trust, strengthens relationships, opens horizons and yields tangible results for successful collaboration. Cultural diversity is thus an asset that is indispensable for poverty reduction and the achievement of sustainable development.

Every year SWYAA Venezuela helps coordinate a series of activities with local volunteers working with underprivileged children; giving talks using global examples of best practices to encourage conservation of the environment and cultural pluralism; participating in sports day with the Japanese school of Caracas; helping re-forest green areas of the city, and also supporting several cultural activities coordinated by the Embassy of Japan in Venezuela, in order to promote the Japanese values of Honor, Social Responsibility and mutual support which have always characterized your nation.

A few months ago, our organization received an unofficial communication from the Cabinet Office regarding the probability of abolishing the SWY program, due to the financial difficulties that Japan is facing after the Earthquake, and the tragedy of the tsunami that struck last year, which has caused a lot of pain and suffering to the people of Japan.

Considering all of the above, we would like to request your support to keep the SWY program alive, so that we can work together for the improvement of the Japanese communities affected by this terrible tragedy, and to help build a better world together, enriching the life of people in Japan, as well as in our local communities.

Yours Sincerely,



Edwin E. Solórzano C.
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