



January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2013

**H.E. Ms. Masako Mori,**  
**Minister for State for Youth Affairs, Cabinet Office**

The Egyptian Alumni Association for the Ship for World Youth (EASWY) has been involved in volunteer activities to promote for the Ship for World Youth (SWY) Program that has had a very positive impact on all those who participated in this Program, mainly to work hard to maintain our relationship with Japan and the very friendly Japanese people, get acquainted with all what the Japanese culture entails and adopt Japan role model in different fields that could support us in developing our country, especially in social community development. This has been strengthened by the Post-Program activities and the various events and activities we have been involved in with the Japanese Embassy in Cairo.

We have started preparations for the Celebrations of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the SWY Program (The Ship for World Youth) since 2012. But unfortunately, there may not be future SWY Programs with the Government of Japan adopting a final decision of not allocating any budget for the SWY Program. In this respect, the Egyptian Delegation of SWY24 (January – March 2012) may be the last Delegation from Egypt to have joined the Program.

As members of the Egyptian Alumni Association for the Ship for World Youth (EASWY), we believe we have the duty to be proactive, take practical steps, and explore all possible official channels to request the Japanese Government to save the Ship for World Youth Program (SWY) and make it continue and sustain.

We experienced the close relationship we have with Japan through its Diplomatic Mission in Cairo, starts for Egyptian Ex-Pys (Participant Youth) since the very first minute with our introduction to Japan or actually our first interaction with Japan when the announcement of the Program is made, selection process takes place at the Japanese Embassy in Cairo, and our involvement as Alumni Association (AA) with the Japanese Embassy in Cairo in coordination, preparation, and implementation of Orientation Sessions for the Egyptian Delegation joining the SWY Program as it happened with the last Egyptian Delegation of SWY24 in 2012.

Based on the continuous support all Egyptian Delegations that joined the SWY Program since 1990 till 2012 have been receiving from the Japanese Embassy in Cairo and many of the activities we had with the Japanese Embassy in Cairo, we are grateful for the initiative that Mr. Hideaki YAMAMOTO, Director of the Information and Culture Center, Embassy of Japan, Cairo, Egypt, took to voice our concern and make our request reach official channels in Japan when we discussed with him the status of SWY Program and expressed our eagerness to have it continue.

We, Egyptian Ex- Participating Youth of the Ship for World Youth (SWY) Program have created our Alumni Association in our country Egypt. The Egyptian Alumni Association for the Ship for World Youth (EASWY) is one of the biggest and oldest SWYAAAs worldwide, established in 1996 and remains active till now utilizing the global network through Japan with over 185 Ex PYs.

All members of EASWY benefited from this Program and we have all realized great steps based on the different skills we acquired in various areas of international society thanks to the SWY Program. EASWY Organized during the SWYAA GA2010 Egypt (The Ship for World Youth Alumni Association Global Assembly Egypt 2010) institutional visits in Egypt for Overseas and Japanese Pys known as OPYs and JPYs respectively to 57357 Hospital (Children Cancer Hospital), Food Bank of Egypt, Hearing Disability School ( funded by JICA Project ). In fact, having for the first time Official Representation from the Cabinet Office of Japan in the GA2010 of Egypt marked a turning point in the history of the Global Assemblies and gave leverage to the institutional visits and social community development projects performed by AAs in post-Program activities.

After the conclusion of the SWY Program, each one of us has become not only an Ex-Py of the SWY Program, but also an ambassador of Japan to Egypt as well as to any other countries that Egyptian Ex-Pys visit. How many times in our practical life since we came back from the SWY Program, we were tempted to go into Japanese products and technology, encouraged projects where Japan is a partner, mingled with Japanese delegations we meet in international conferences held in other countries or in our own country Egypt and lobbied together based on our understanding of the mindset of Japan so we can reach common ground that made us as SWY participants a very strong frontline in international fora promoting same international concepts and principles.



The Egyptian Alumni Association for the Ship for World Youth

SWY Program had an effect on most of the delegates' lives upon their return. Some Egyptian Ex-Pys participants decided to pursue graduate studies in Japan then going back to Egypt engaging in work and opportunities where Japan is involved and others chose to have Japanese families with marriage stories between Egyptian Ex-Pys and Japanese Ex-PYs. From a professional perspective, it is an honor to us that many Ex-PYs have prominent positions in Egypt: CEO of the national telecommunications company, Head of Coca Cola Regional Marketing, Head of Communications for Development at UNICEF, Cultural Attache of Egyptian Embassy in Tokyo, High Level Government Officials, Top level positions in multinationals and successful entrepreneurs on the highest level. One even decided after marrying a Japanese to go and study Masters Degree in Lifelong learning and specially the Community Learning Centers in Japan. Common among all is that whenever there is a chance to do business with Japanese it feels very comfortable.

EASWY was able to implement activities within the framework of Post-Program Activities of SWY Program that kept tangible and intangible bonds with Japan directly and indirectly. We have been engaged in various social activities through volunteer projects. Japan has been the common factor that made us have our links with all continents under the umbrella of IYEO (International Youth Exchange Organization of Japan) through the Post-Program activities implemented by the different Alumni Associations of all the countries that participated in the Program. We all have a very huge and vast network stemming out of Japan as the center going everywhere in each corner of the whole world and participating in joint projects contributing into social community development in each participating country. We mention Japan, the SWY Program, we promote for it

We were able to have the 9<sup>th</sup> JEN (Japan – Egypt Network) Open Salon Event at the Japanese Embassy in Egypt under the theme of : "Always in Our Heart Japan: EASWY and the Ship for World Youth (SWY)" on May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2012 and it was our humble way to say "Thank You Japan" for the lifetime experience given to all Egyptian Delegations that participated in the Program and present to the Egyptian public through the cultural Salon of the Embassy how this unique structure of this program executed on board of a ship enforces real bonding between delegations which is believed to have an indirect impact towards world peace. We were pleased to have the Japanese Child Fun Day in 2011 in cooperation with the Japanese Embassy in Cairo at Saquiet El Sawy (venue for cultural activities very famous for Egyptian public).

We were honored to have H.E. Mr. Norihiro OKUDA, Ambassador of Japan to Egypt to give the Keynote Speech at the Official Opening of the biggest 4th SWYAA Global Assembly 2010 (4th SWYAA GA 2010) that took place in Egypt, organized by EASWY, hosted and fully funded by the Egyptian National Council of Youth, contributing thus into the strengthening of government-to-government relationship between both countries. Thanks to coordination with the Japanese Embassy in Cairo, the 4th SWYAA GA was attended by 180 participants from 24 different countries representing the 5 continents, including the 15 EASWY GA Organizing Committee members from Egypt, 120 Participants in the Optional Tour to Luxor and Aswan (Charter Flight & Charter Cruise).

Different aspects of cooperation and coordination with Japan have been taking place since we joined the Program while we were still on board and strengthened after we returned back to our country after the conclusion of the SWY Program. The Program on Board has served as the venue for a big international school down to earth where the youth network for tomorrow's leaders begins. Discussions on board during the Program itself of different economic, political and social issues taking into consideration the international perspective and interweaving it with the domestic one of all countries represented in the Program including Japan itself and managed by Japan contributed heavily in broadening our global view, preparing us to become what is internationally known as "Global Citizens", promoting peaceful co-existence, mutual understanding, and friendship, cultivating the spirit of international cooperation, the competence of practicing it, and respecting the culture of the other.

The program indeed is an asset so please keep on running it

***Thank you and Best Regards,***

***On Behalf of the Egyptian Alumni Association for the Ship for World Youth (EASWY)***

***Vitta Ibrahim,***

***EASWY Acting President and Managing Board Member***



## SHIP FOR THE WORLD YOUTH ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

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Ref. No.: 1  
Athens, January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2013

**To: Honorable Minister for State for Youth Affairs, Cabinet Office**  
**c/o: Ms. Masako Mori**

Topic: Petition to bring back the Ship for World Youth program

Dear Ms. Mori,

We are writing this letter as citizens of the world, trying to express our deep concerns regarding the news about the decision to be taken by the Japanese Government on the discontinuation of Ship for World Youth (SWY) program.

Today's process of economic globalization means that we cannot function in isolation but must interact with the rest of the world for survival. The global nature of many widely diverse modern problems and issues call for cooperation between nations. Practitioners in a wide variety of fields have realized the importance of intercultural communication which became a necessity. The Japanese people have realized this many years ago, proving to be pioneers in global cooperation and friendship initiatives, thus, they established the international exchange programs of International Youth Exchange Organization of Japan (IYEO). SWY is the best school for future global citizens, providing our societies with the leaders that will cooperate and deal with global issues, while at the same time gives them the tools to do so. We are confident that the world would have already been a better place if everyone had the chance to participate in SWY and if all countries were as generous and visionaries as Japan is.

We are writing this letter as citizens of a country in crisis, knowing better than anyone the importance of saving money but also realizing that the most important thing in the world lays not so much in where we stand, as in what direction we will decide to move on. The economic crisis can generalize in a deeper crisis of values and principles. SWY can be part of humanity's resistance, by being even more enriched, knocking down walls of differences and building bridges of understanding and cooperation. The real cost of educational programs like SWY cannot be measured in money but in the hopes and futures of its participants and the global society as a whole. It is indeed true that education costs money but then again, ignorance and isolation can cost more in the long term.

We believe that the art of becoming wise is the art of knowing what to overlook and we hope that the Japanese Government will take a wise decision realizing the value for

