



SWYAA FIJI



SHIP FOR WORLD YOUTH ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF FIJI

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

RE: Appeal to Bring Back the Ship for World Youth Program

On the behalf of the Ship for the World Youth Alumni Association of Fiji, I would like express our most sincere gratitude to the Government of Japan for the initiative of hosting one of the World's best Youth Development Program that has touched our hearts in establishing networks and promoting joint activities among Japanese youths and foreign youths around the global through providing us the concrete and practical opportunity to make an visible international contribution from the perspective of youth human resource development.

Fiji is a very small developing Country in the vast Pacific Ocean that has really benefited with its youth participation on this prestigious program with our members now holding very important positions in Government and Private Sector Organisations including foreign missions aboard.

We humbly plea that Ship for the World Youth Program to continue in order to build the bridges across the oceans for our Youths in International Youth Exchange Program with Cabinet Office leading in this World's best Youth Development & Outreach Program.

Yours truly,

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Patrick Morgam
President SWYAA- Fiji

The Ship for World Youth New Zealand Incorporated

New Zealand's Ship for World Youth Alumni Association

3 January 2013

Ms. Masako Mori
Minister for State for Youth Affairs
Cabinet Office

Dear Ms. Mori,

I am writing on behalf of SWYNZ to express our support for the continuation of the Ship for World Youth (SWY) program.

The program has served as a valuable platform for the past 24 years, creating valuable and lasting relationships between many New Zealand and Japanese youth participants. The program actively fosters cross-cultural relationships and understanding, and has played an important role in promoting global understanding of Japanese people and culture.

We believe that the SWY program has been very beneficial to New Zealand and those New Zealanders that have had the honour of being selected for the program over the decades. It has provided a number of Kiwis with the opportunity to broaden their perspectives and knowledge of other cultures and countries, particularly Japan, and we know this experience and cross-cultural understanding has been shared many times over the years with other New Zealanders, thus educating wide numbers of people about Japanese culture, history, and people.

It has also provided the opportunity for participants to develop their leadership and communication skills and these long-lasting benefits are evident in the people the program has produced – including, but not limited to, Helen Clark (current Administrator of the UNDP and former Prime Minister of NZ), Areti Metuamate (recognized as one of the 100 brightest young people residing in Australia in 2010 and recipient of a Freyberg scholarship), and Kieran Brown (Deputy Chairperson of the Youth Advisory Council of the Japan New Zealand Business Council and Co-Founder of the Aotearoa Development Cooperative – a charity that provides microfinance in Burma). For these outcomes to continue the SWY program needs to continue, and it is our sincere hope that it does.

We appreciate that Japan is currently operating in a difficult economic climate. However, we believe the value of SWY far outweighs the financial costs. If the program is abolished, it would remove a worthwhile and significant means of New Zealand youth developing mutually beneficial international relationships and cooperation, particularly with Japan.

We strongly believe the program should be recognized and continued. Thank you for considering our submission on this subject that remains very close to our hearts.

Sincerely,



Ms. Dana MacDiarmid
President of SWYNZ