SWYAA-Sweden Annual Country Report January to December 2015

Report submitted to swyaa@iyeo.or.jp on the 18th of January 2016. The report consists of 12 pages and is compiled by Carolina Hawranek, president of SWYAA-Sweden 2015 with the generous contribution and help from the Swedish ex-PY's. Contact SWYAA-Sweden: carolina.hawranek@gmail.com.

Basic facts about your country's Alumni Association:		
Country	Sweden	
Name of the organization	SWYAA-Sweden (short for Ship for World Youth Alumni Association Sweden)	
Organisational structure	 □ Umbrella organization of the government ☑ Officially registered □ Voluntary group □ Other ()
Board members (Name/batch)	President: Carolina Hawranek (SWY 23) Vice President: Malin Öhrman (SWY 23) Second Vice President: Karolina Leopoldsson (SWY 23) Secretary General: Anna Lind (SWY23) Treasurer: K-G Eriksson (SWY23, GLDP)	
Number of members	Total number of ex-PYs: 12+11+11+11+8 (53 participants in total) Active members: 23 members have paid their membership fee in full during the year 2015. Of these around half are currently involved in the activities of the association on a regular basis in some way.	
	Affiliate members: 46 ex-PYs are members in our closed Facebook group where we share official documents, information from Japan, invitations from the Japanese Embassy, and more. The majority of them follow updates and discussions regularly.	
Annual membership fee	✓ Yes → How much? (200 SEK, approx. 3000 JPY)□ No	
asic facts about your country'	s participation in SWY:	
Which batches has your country participated in?	SWY 4 (1992) SWY 10 (1998) SWY 18 (2006) SWY 23 (2011) GLDP (2014)	
Which institution has conducted the selection process?		
Which institution has conducted the pre-departure training?	Japanese Embassy (partly involved, usually invites the selected participants for an information meeting and pre-departure courtesy call at the Embassy). Government Youth organization	

SWYAA (mainly plan and conduct the pre-departure training in practice, prepare the participants and the performances, activities and logistics.)		
□ Other ()		
How many days was the □ 1 day		
pre-departure training? \Box 2 – 3 days		
\boxtimes 4 – 6 days (counting the different planning sessions, information		
meetings and social gatherings all together).		
□ Other ()		
Communication:		
How does your AA Website → URL (http://swysweden.org/)		
communicate internally □ Newsletter → Please attach a copy of the newsletter to this report		
with members and externally with		
non-members? Racebook page (https://www.facebook.com/groups/207896345902412/)		
Other (individual members use social media, local press and other		
channels to market, inform and engage friends, relatives and the public.	.)	
NETWORKING AND COLLABORATIONS WITH JAPAN AND THE GLOBAL COMMUNIT	ГΥ	
Important associates and Government sector (name:		
collaborators?		
Japanese community		
Other organizations (name:		
Do you organize events with the Japanese SWYAA Sweden has not yet had the opportunity to co-organize any official event - but we continuously help in marketing event that the		
Embassy? embassy supports or co-organises with other institutes/stakeholders.		
During 2015 we have helped to spread information about:		
1. A Japanese Film Festival in Gothenburg - open to public and		
free		
2. Japanese Speech Contest in Stockholm - at Stockholm univers	ity	
Our association do have an ongoing contact with the embassy staff, and	l	
during 2014 we discussed possibilities of arranging some sort of	-	
film-screening, lecture or slide show about the cultural exchange		
programmes created by the Cabinet office of Japan. During the past year	ır	
we have not had the opportunity to take this matter further, and instead		
hope to reinitiate potential talks on the matter with the newly appointed		
ambassador shortly.		
Do you organize events	nity	
with the Japanese currently (i.e the Stockholm Japanese community with offical webpage		
community? here: http://japanskaforeningenisthlm.se/).		
However, several of the Swedish alumni have hosted, guided and		
supported Japanese exchange students coming to Sweden for university		
studies or Japanese overseas travellers working temporarily in Sweden.		
We hope that our efforts have made them feel a little more welcome in Sweden.		
5 weden.		
Activities from January to December 2015		
International reunions		
International reunions Name of the event International Japan and Mexico night		
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E	Countries represented: Sweden, Mexico, Japan, Vietnam, Korea
From which countries?	Mexican PY Patt Cardenas and JPY Ayaka Ishikawa hosted an
Please write a summary of the event	international reunion evening at Robert Cedermark's residence in Stockholm. The event joined five Swedish SWY PY's, one JPY, one Mexican Ex-PY, one Korean exchange student from Japan (Younjae), one Vietnamese
	guest (Tai) and one Swedish guest (Axel).
	The participating SWY alumnis were Anna Edman, Shahyan Khan, Robert Cedermark, Karl-Gunnar Eriksson, Sofia Jagbrant, Patt Cardenas and Ayaka Ishikawa.
National reunions (Please write	your AA has hosted a national reunion)
Name of the event	Annual General Alumni Association Meeting
Date of the event	May 31st 2015
Hosting city	Linköping, Östergötland County, Sweden
How many participants?	Seven Swedes in total. Four Swedish ex-PY's on location, one Swedish AA-member participated through video-conference call from Mexico, and two SWY-spouses joined in for the social meeting.
Please write a summary of the event	This year the board decided to arrange the annual meeting at an alternative location - two hours southwest of Stockholm - just outside Linköping. The members who had the possibility to participate met in a small summer house situated in the midst of the forest. Despite this - we had an excellent connection by video with Mexico throughout the afternoon - the conference call lasted more than four hours.
	The annual meeting focused on evaluating last years activities, choosing the board members for the next year and setting up new goals for the association for 2016.
Name of the event:	GLDP national reunion
Date of the event:	13th of June 2015
Hosting city:	Gothenburg
Participants:	Swedish ex-PY's: Robert Cedermark, Pär Örlander, Shahyan Khan, Anna Edlund and K-G Eriksson, JPY Ayaka Ishikawa and her japanese friends Ayaka.
Summary:	Mid-June the alumni members who participated in the Global Leaders Development Programme had a national reunion with japanese visitors in Stockholm. The event included a traditional swedish outdoor barbeque on the cliffs by the water.

Receiving ex-SWY participants

Records from reported "Homestay + 1" projects

Homestay plus ONE (School study visit - language class for migrants) Ex-PY alumni SWY4 Gigi Lönn Ståhle hosted a Japanese visiting acquaintance Yuriko Kawakubo and conducted a study visit for them at a

acquaintance Yuriko Kawakubo and conducted a study visit for them at a local school in Norberg, in the County of Västmanland where Gigi works as a teacher.

Yuriko is a collegue/friend of one of the administrators for SWY4 and is currently working in Sweden on a two-year contract dispatched by the Japanese Ministry of Education. Her role is to coordinate and support Japanese Exchange students studying in Sweden, and also support those Swedish students who are applying for exchange studies in Japan.

This was her second visit to Gigi, and this year she was interested in visiting a local school to study how Swedish language class for migrants is conducted. In the morning the study visit included participation at a class of pupils from the 1st though 3rd degree. In the afternoon they visited a class of pupils in the high school age and interviewed the teacher. På fm var hon med mig i SVA klass och i en integrerad klass åk 1-3. Yuriko was very please with the study visit.

Homestay plus ONE (Stockholm Royal Palace and Opera visit)

4th of May ex-PY's Anna Edman and JPY Ayaka Ishikawa visited the Swedish Royal Palace in Stockholm to see the o see the traditional and famous changing of the riding Royal Guard - also called The Royal Dragoons. The guards are always accompanied by the The Royal Dragoons orchestra which also ride horses. The Royal Dragoons have been on duty as the Royal Guard since 1906 and can only be seen during the summer period. As a cultural experience finale Anna brought Ayaka to the Royal Opera House to see a live performance of "A Midsummernight's dream".

Homestay plus ONE (West coast trip and National Day Celebrations)

Between the 5th and 7th of June 2015 Anna Edman travelled with JPY Ayaka Ishikawa and another Japanese friend (Mayu) to the West Coast of Sweden. They took part in a traditional National Day Celebrations, stayed two nights in Mölndal and tried horseback riding for the first time.

Homestay plus ONE (Swedish summer camp study visit)

Between the 10 and 12th of June Karl-Gunnar (K-G) Eriksson hosted JPY Ayaka Ishikawa for a two-day study visit to a children/youth camp where in the Jönköping area in central Sweden.

Homestay plus ONE (Midsummer's Celebration)

18-21 of June Ayaka's mother visited Anna Edlunds family. Cultural exchange activities included celebrations of Swedish Midsummer - a pagan festive holiday to mark the fertility of mother earth.

They travelled to Anna's parents home in the heart of Sweden for an extended homestay and participated in local traditional celebrations of Midsummer. Swedish National Costume from the area and Japanese Kimono were worn to mark the occasion.





Homestay plus ONE (Japanese Homestay Family visit in Sweden)

2-8th of august 2015 Anna Edlund hosted her entire host family from Tokushima, Japan for a week. Anna planned and guided her Japanese guests which started with sight-seeing in the capital of Stockholm and continued in the countryside of County of Värmland, where Anna grew up. The activities included a number of institutional visits and cultural exchange activities. Among other, the family visited a local candy factory and got to produce hand-made traditional swedish candy. They participated in a traditional Crayfish party, were treated to eating moose meat and go mushroom picking - something that was seen as a highlight!

A Japanese Tea Ceremony was arranged with invited local guests and Anna was given a yukata in which she had the privilege to serve tea.





Homestay plus ONE (Istanbul, Turkey)

On the 10th to 13th of July 2015 SWY-JPY Natsuki Ishiguro Zihnioglu hosted Swedish ex-PY Anna Edlund and her partner Axel Rydborg for a cultural stay in the capital of Turkey. Natsuki lives in the United States, but was in Turkey to spend time with the family-in-law. Anna and Axel were taken to all the cultural sights in Istanbul i.e. Ayasofia and the Palace. They also got to taste the curlinary highlights of Turkey at numeral restaurant visits. An experience not possible without the fantastic SWY-network!

Homestay plus ONE (Vienna, Austria)

September 10th 2015: Åsa Danielsson (ex-PY SWY23 and NL SWY23) visited Almudena Ramos (SWYAA Spain) in Vienna and took a guided tour of the UN headquarters with detailed visits to the following offices: The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)



Cultural exchange and homestays between ex-PY's

Skis and snow when hosting Mexican ex-PY

Anna Edman and Robert Cedermark celebrated New Year's Eve together with the Mexican ex-PY Patt Cardenas in the small skiing resort of Idre. The swedish duo took Patt on as their pupil and did their best as acting skiing instructors to teach her a bit of one of Sweden's national sports - skiing. Patt was Roberts guest until leaving Sweden on the 10th of January.

Japanese and Australian ex-PY's on Sweden Tour

Carl Bradshaw wet up with Hitomi Otsuki and Lien Lee in Gothenburg Sweden in April and guided them around the city.

Carolina Hawranek hosted Lien and Hitomi in her home in the city of Linköping and they squeezen in a short day of sightseeing and family fun. Karolina Leopoldsson and Anna Lind met with Lien and Hitomi in Stockholm. Kassem Echehade met up with Lien and Hitomi in the Malmö area.





Canada and Sweden ex-PY's meet in London
On the 26th of April 2015 Mike Lafleur (ex-PY and advisor swy23) and
Virginia Palm (ex-PY swy23).



Russian ex-PY visit and reunion in Ängelsberg - UNESCO site
On July 11-12th Russian ex-PY and her Danish friend Jorge arrived in
Sweden for a short reunion in Ennora and Ängelsberg in the County of
Västmanland hosted by Gigi Lönn Stråhle. Carolina Hawranek also joined
with the entire family. We had the opportunity to give Elisa and Jorge the full
swedish outdoor experience, as Gigi's family supplied canoes and cayaking
equipment and we went swimming in the chilly lake.

The next day we visited the UNESCO World Heritage village of Ängelsberg and the adjacent art and sculptural outdoor park wich includes among another the artwork "Black button XII" by Japanese sculptor Hirochi Koyama.





SWY18 reunion and advisor homestay in Gothenburg

In September, ex-PY from SWY18 Anneli Börjesson and her family had the pleasure to host Brazilian ex-PY Gustavo Guimares from SWY18 for a couple of days. It was so nice to catch up again after nearly 10 years, and also a joy to show Gustavo the beautiful archipelago of Gothenburg!





This was the second time that Annelie had SWY'ers in her home - the autumn before we were delighted to have the former advisor for SWY21 Lavenia Rokovucago from Fiji as our guest.

SWY10 reunion in Mozambique - December 12th 2015

Mini SWY10-reunion in Mozambique with famous night leader Hiroyuki Hasegawa and his family in their beautiful garden in Polana Cimento, Maputo, Mozambique.



Alumni reunions - international visits South America

Åsa Danielsson has also met with Lillian Solheim (Norway, advisor SWY23) in Oslo, ex-PY's SWY23 Yury Braga and Amanda Freitas (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil) and Adriano Lira in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Voluntary (Social Contribution) projects – Post-Program Activities

*Name of the event	Fundraising drive for Vanuatu - Cyclone Pam Relief Donation
Date of the event	19th of march 2015 and 13th of April
Hosting city	N.A. Online Sweden/Japan/Vanuatu
How many ex-PYs involved and how many beneficiaries?	16 swedish ex-PY's donated funds to this releif effort. We hope that the beneficiaries are counted in hundreds, as the funds were reported to among other things to repair schools in affected villages.
Please write a summary of the event	The first express call for emergency aid was sent out during march 2015 and with short notice we managed to fundraise almost 3 800 SEK (48 500 JPY) and made a transfer to Tamae Saito in Japan who acted as the middle hand in this first delivery of aid to Vanuatu.
	The second round of fundraising yeilded another 1 600 SEK (19 000 VUV in local currency) and was transferred directly to Antonny Arnhambat in Vanuatu in april 2015.
	Among others, the funds were used to help in the repair/reconstruction of a school building demolished by the cyclone.





Top: Handing over ceremony of the tonne cement to the Principal the community chief — with Merick Nathalie, Antonny Joseph and Telstar Jimmy. Photo: SWYAA Vanuatu Bottom: David from Vanuatu comments: "picture from my home island, this is like an hour away from Port Vila by boat but no assistance received until then, /.../ see for yourselves what I described as "dessert-like environment" as shown in this picture, my whole village was wiped off by this cyclone".

were lost for a few days. Meanwhile, the International Youth Exchange Organization

Name of the event	"Vanuatu we stand with you" - Film Project Brazil-Mexico-Sweden
Date of the event	March 2015 (Published 1 April 2015)
Hosting city	N.A. Online Sweden/Brazil/Mexico
How many ex-PYs involved and how many beneficiaries?	30 alumni in total. 23 SWY ex-PY's participated as volunteers with a personal picture and another 7 were involved in the production of the film. To date, the film clip has been watched by 366 people, and we have received a handful of comments thanking for the support.
Please write a summary of the event	Following an idea from our fellow Mexican alumni friends, the three countries of Brazil, Mexico and Sweden acted together to supplement the financial aid sent to Vanuatu with a message of friendship and global support. The film message was a joint creation, where 23 ex-PY's crafted creative letters and took a photo of themselves holding it up in front of the camera. The photos were edited by Swedish ex-PY Petter Falk who also contributed with the music for the film. The following official post online was published on April 2nd 2015: Dear SWY family, On March 13th, we woke up to the terrible news that Cyclone Pam had devastated Vanuatu, one of the most beautiful countries in the world, where we had met some of
	the nicest people on this planet during the Ship for World Youth 23 in 2011. Our hearts ached. We worried about our friends and their families. Communications

(IYEO) could get in touch with the vice-president of the SWY Alumni Association in Vanuatu, David Merick, and fundraised some money for immediate help. In Mexico, we thought of how the SWYAAs from Mexico, Brazil and Sweden could send our love, prayers and good energies to our friends in Vanuatu. We decided to make a video, and you can see it on the following link: http://youtu.be/C7vX6CQUuTM. Our message is: "Vanuatu we stand with you".

A special thanks to Petter (SWY 23) from Sweden who edited the video, and also contributed with the tune named "A song for Port Vila".

A big thank you to all the SWYers from Brazil, Mexico and Sweden who participated in the video:

Mexican volunteers:

N = Sacnicte, SWY 17; U = Raquel SWY 23; V = Sandra Swy 23; I = Patt GLDP SWY 26; U = Pepe SWY 15; S = Tania GLDP SWY 26; U = Ingrid SWY 23; Y = Andrés SWY 12 & GLDP SWY 26.

Brazilian volunteers:

A = Adriano SWY 23; A = Gustavo SWY 18; D = SWY 24; O = Leo SWY 18 & GLDP SWY 26; T = Geovana GLDP SWY 26; T = Italo SWY 27; W = Camila SWY 20 & SWY 27

Swedish volunteers:

N = Carl SWY 23; T = Anna & Robert GLDP SWY 26; A = Catrin SWY 23; W = Carolina SWY 23; H = Åsa SWY 10 & SWY 23; U = K-G SWY 23 /GLDP SWY 26; E = Malin & David (Mexico) SWY 23.

Other participants: Erica, Brazil SWY 27; Mathues, Brazil SWY 23; Vero, Mexico SWY 26; Naiara, Brazil GLDP SWY 26; Lu, Brazil SWY 23; Alberto, Mexico SWY 23; Raquel, Mexico SWY 23.

With our warmest regards and on behalf of our Alumni Associations, David Zazueta, Raquel Saavedra, and Alberto Negrete SWY 23 Mexico Lu Yonekawa, SWY 23 Brazil Malin Öhrman, SWY 23 Sweden

"Vanuatu we stand with you" can be seen through this link: https://youtu.be/C7vX6CQUuTM



A SWY-message to Vanuatu

A message from the SWY-families in Brazil, Mexico and Sweden to our friends in Vanuatu: Vanuatu we stand with you Mexican volunteers: N = Sacnicte, SWY 17 U ...

YOUTUBE.COM

Name of the event	Cross Atlantic Twin Project 2015 - Global Blood Donation Initiative
Date of the event	December 5 - December 19 Dec 5 at 1 AM to Dec 19 at 1 AM
Hosting city	Global event (technically Linköping, Sweden) https://www.facebook.com/events/719279471506879/
How many ex-PYs involved and how many beneficiaries?	19 ex-PY's reported going 21 ex-PY's reported interested in the event We are not able to report beneficiaries, as they are recipient of blood donations and not known to us.
Please write a summary of the event	The event is described as follows: SWYAA Mexico and SWYAA Sweden are challenging all SWYAA-members* to make a social contribution around or on this date. We kick off the activity on the 5th of December - the "International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development" according to the United Nations. NEWS!!! This year, we're open for contributions for two weeks, so you've got plenty of time to donate or sign up between the 5th and 19th of december. This is how it works: 1) Look up the Facebook event called "Cross Atlantic Twin Project 2015" and mark "attend". 3) Donate yourself - or if you cannot - bring a friend who is willing to donate blood, or just go to the closest clinic and register as a future blood donor - that also counts!

4) Take a selfie in front of the hospital, health centre or mobile donation unit and post it to the Facebook event called "Cross Atlantic Twin Project 2015".

5) Enjoy feeling like a superhero - your donation can save a life!

Pass it forward:)

PS: bring, email, invite, post, share or tweet your pals around the globe!

*This activity is initiated by the joint spirit of the alumni associations in Sweden and Mexico to the Ship for World Youth programme (a cultural exchange and leadership programme financed by the Cabinet Office of Japan). We call it a Cross Atlantic Twin Project as our alumnis span the Atlantic ocean. More info at

http://www8.cao.go.jp/youth/english/koryu1-e.html



Above: This year's poster backdrop for our global call to action.

OTHER ACTIVITIES IN SWYAA-SWEDEN 2015

KIVA microloans - "CHANGING THE FACE OF POVERTY ONE LOAN AT A TIME"

Instead of keeping SWYAA Sweden's project funds on a bank account SWYAA Sweden has chosen to lend the funds via Kiva.org – a global collaborative platform for microlending. Microlending is the extension of very small loans to borrowers who might not be able to access other types of loans. It supports entrepreneurship and alleviates poverty and is a fantastic way to contribute to projects around the world.

SWYAA Sweden is a member of the Kiva Lending Team: Ship for World Youth Alumni Association since March 9th 2011. The SWY Lending Team was an initiative by a member of the Australian Delegation to SWY23. During the year of 2015 SWYAA Sweden has made 12 loans to six projects a total sum of 1050 USD. To read the full report please read the enclosed Appendix in pdf-file (or click on this link: KIVA yearly report 2015).

Annual donations to educational SWY-projects - october 2015

- Continuing our long term commitment to financial support for "Tupendane International" and "One more Child goes to School"

SWYAA-Swedens board and members have had the ambition to make a lasting impact and aid our fellow ex-PY's who are doing fantastic work in youth education and empowerment in developing countries.

Therefore we have taken on a more structured way of supporting two selected educational projects - one in Tanzania and one in Sri Lanka. In 2015 we continued this commitment and in October 2015 our treasurer transferred the yearly donation of 1 000 SEK (around 13 800 JPY) to each of these two projects.





Tupendane project (Kenya): Last year's donation contributed to investment in a poultry farm to provide stable financing for the school.



One more child goes to school-project (Sri Lanka). Our donation from last year (2014) contributed to equip school with new furniture.

Official Farewell Letter to thank Ambassador Morimoto - November 2015

In october of 2015 our association's president and treasurer were notified and invited to attend the official Farewell function for the Japanese ambassador Mr Seiji Morimoto in Stockholm. Unfortunately, we were unable to make the trip to Stockholm at this time - and could not send a replacement due to the nature of the personal invitations.

On order to express our gratitude for the efforts of Mr Morimoto during his time in office we decided to write an official thank-you-letter from our association. This was personally signed and sent to the embassy by post on the 3rd of November 2015. Below is a facsimile of the letter in full (click on the image to view the document in full size).



Membership survey for association development - december 2015

During the fall of 2015 two of the AA's board members have been working on a short electronic survey in order to gather insight into the members opinions on our association's future work, to boost community spirit within the AA and to give everyone a chance to contribute with ideas and thoughts on how our small alumni can use our resources in the most effective way.

At the end of the year 14 alumni members had completed the full set of questions and polls giving us a good knowledge base of the opinions and thoughts in our member community. We will start the coming year 2016 by analysing the results with the board and using as much as we can of our member's ideas, opinions and recommendations.