

SWYAA International Joint Statement at the Tokyo Conference for the Ex-Participating Youth of “Ship for World Youth Leaders” Program and Related Programs

I. The Aim of This Statement

This statement is written on behalf of the 32 member countries of the SWYAA International and has been written by their representatives at the Tokyo Conference 2016. Its purpose is to detail the history and outcomes of the Ship for World Youth program that has been organized by the Cabinet Office of the Japanese Government. This statement also aims to provide an overview of its successor programs and to emphasize the social, environmental and economic value of its post-program activities.

We respectfully encourage the Japanese Government to continue sponsoring the current Ship for World Youth Leaders program and reaffirm our ongoing commitment as SWYAA International to continue to maximize the program's contribution to society through positive social impact.

II. History and Outcomes

A. History of the program and of the alumni associations

1. In 1988, the Japanese Government reorganized and upgraded the Japanese Youth Goodwill Cruise program into the Ship for World Youth program to develop young leaders in Japan (and globally) who would have the capacity to create positive change and meet the demands of an increasingly international focused and globalizing world.
2. In 1995, in order to build the international network of the Ship for World Youth program, the Japanese Government, in collaboration with the Japanese alumni association of the program, the International Youth Exchange Organization of Japan (IYEO), called for and supported a reunion event for the alumni network onboard the ship. This took place during the program's port of call visit to Mexico.
3. In 1996, in order to develop strong alumni associations, the Japanese Government invited 13 representatives from east bound route countries¹ and held the Tokyo Conference. The representatives at the conference wrote an agreement and started to build a network of Ship for World Youth Alumni Associations (SWYAA). In 1997 countries from the west bound route created a similar agreement.
4. In 2005, the existing two agreements were unified into one SWYAA Charter.
5. Prior to 2007, SWY reunions had been held onboard the ship during ports of call. This process was reviewed and the SWYAA created a formal structure for reunions and the first SWYAA Global Assembly was held in Greece in 2007. All past participants are invited to attend these annual Global Assembly events.
6. In 2013 representatives from 27 countries attended the Tokyo Conference. The SWYAA Charter was amended into a new SWYAA International Charter. This became foundation of an international organization, the SWYAA International.
7. Three programs were held within Japan (the program visited several Japanese locations as port of call activities), namely the 25th Ship for World Youth program, the Global Leaders Development Program, and the Global Youth Leaders Development Program 2015. Following these programs, the program returned to its overseas route in 2016 in The Next Generation Global Leaders Program “The Ship for World Youth Leaders.”

B. Significance and the outcomes of the program

1. Significance of the program

This program intends to develop young leaders who are aware of their own national identity and that of others, who are able to adopt a global perspective and who are able to establish cross-cultural

¹ At the time, the program had two different voyage routes, east bound and west bound, and the old agreements were written by two groups of the alumni association that were grouped depending on the route taken by the participating countries.

connections and networks in order to develop strong collaborations. This is a very unique and valuable program for developing youth leaders and for contributing to the establishment of international peace and collaboration. The fact that the Japanese Government not only organizes the program but also supports the building of network among participating countries, further strengthens the long term benefits of the program for Japan, the participants, participating countries and beyond.

2. Outcomes of the program and the post-program activities

The participating youth develop their leadership capacity throughout the program, and particularly their ability to deal with, understand and cooperate with different cultures. Past participants become leaders in various fields such as politics, public administration, education, international cooperation, private companies, and nonprofit organizations. The members of SWYAA International from each country are leaders and change-makers who are involved in wide range of social activities such as youth development, promoting cross-cultural understanding and creating positive change in the local and global community. The projects that have been conducted locally and internationally include, but are not limited to disaster relief, education, microfinance support to developing countries, projects with environmental and/or social benefit, cross-cultural exchange and the promotion of Japanese culture within their respective countries.

III. Specific Requests for the Continuation of the Program

The program is very valuable for its social capital development and for the contribution to international society. To maintain these benefits, it is imperative that the program continues to be delivered on the same scale so that the participating youth can benefit from the range of experiences that come with such a diverse program.

We would like therefore to respectfully request the following:

A. Length of the program and the visiting countries

1. Continuation of the ship-based program.
2. Seven days or more of joint training (based in Japan) for Japanese participating youth and overseas participating youth.
3. That the on-board training (based overseas) preferably be extended beyond the current length of 34 days.
4. That the program include two or more ports of call outside of Japan.

B. The number of the participating youths and the participating countries

1. Invited countries from overseas: Ten countries or more from five continents around the world.
2. Twelve participating youth or more per country.
3. Approximately 120 Japanese participating youths.

IV. Vision for the Activities of SWYAA International

A. Contribution to the SWY program

1. Support for the port of call activities.
2. Offer their expertise in the selection and recruitment of new delegations within their respective countries as appropriate.
3. Contribution to the preparatory and post-program training session by the ex-participating youth.
4. Continue to pursue new avenues to promote the SWY program and its post-program activities to internal and external stakeholders.

B. Proactively foster positive social contribution through the delivery of post-program activities (SWYAA common activities).

Individual SWY alumni associations may pursue a range of activities within their individual alumni (and promote these globally). These individual projects are developed as the alumni identify a need within their local community or the wider society. Individual projects are guided by the three pillars of SWY:

1. International understanding and cooperation.
2. Youth leadership.
3. Promote youth contribution in society.

The following are the **common projects** that will be pursued by SWYAA International as a collective body:

1. **"SWYAA Natural Disaster Relief"** - to offer immediate and ongoing relief to areas affected by natural disaster.
2. **"Educate for Tomorrow"** - to facilitate local projects that will deliver quality education and increase opportunities for children in challenging environments.
3. **"SWY Forest"** - an environmental initiative to support the sustainable development of SWY Forests.
4. **"Blood Donation Week"**- to promote awareness and encourage organization of an annual SWYAA blood donation week.
5. **"Opportunities Without Discrimination"** - to take part in an international social media campaign to promote social inclusion and diversity on SWY Day.
6. **"Homestay + 1"** - to accommodate ex-PYs who wish to perform social contribution activities when they visit other SWY countries.

C. International Communication Committee


The SWYAA International intends to establish an International Communication Committee to oversee public relations, international brand development and digital strategy to communicate SWY program news, updates, mission expansion and to promote international common projects.

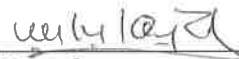
D. Summary and our determination


1. The SWYAA International believes that the unique SWY program positions Japan as a global leader of positive social change. The SWY program plays an invaluable role in spreading an understanding of Japanese culture and creates strong ties between Japan and the rest of the world.
2. The SWYAA International believes that the SWY program promotes mutual international cooperation and cross-cultural understanding and has established the SWYAA network of young leaders with the capacity to work collaboratively to create global change.
3. The SWYAA International believes that the tangible and intangible benefits of the SWY program and the post-program activities have an unmeasurable positive impact at an individual, local and international level.
4. To this end, the SWYAA International is committed, and determines to:
 - a) Realize the vision for the activities of SWYAA International.
 - b) Proactively foster positive social contribution through the delivery of post-program activities.
 - c) Maintain and develop local SWY Alumni Associations and SWYAA International networks.
 - d) Establish an International Communication Committee.
 - e) Continue to foster a strong relationship with the Japanese Government and support them to realize their vision for the SWY program.
 - f) Work in a spirit of international co-operation to promote the spirit of SWY.

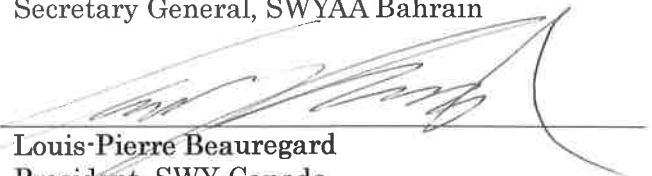
Done this 23 March 2016, WE, the undersigned, hereby AGREE, ADOPT and COMMIT to the SWYAA International Joint Statement :


Full Members


Rebecca Marshall
President, SWY Australia

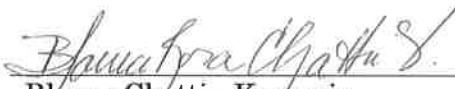

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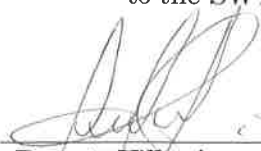

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Done this 23 March 2016, WE, the undersigned, hereby AGREE, ADOPT and COMMIT to the SWYAA International Joint Statement :



Donato Villarán
President, SWYAA PERU



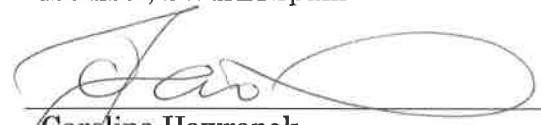
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