



1. What is the Ship for World Youth Alumni Association (SWYAA)?

Each country has an association for alumni participating youth, founded for the purpose of continuing the spirit that was fostered through the Ship for World Youth (SWY) program. The basic structure of the organization begins with the President (1 person), Vice Presidents (2 people), and E-mail Recipients (2 people) who are responsible for electronic information exchange. The main activities of the SWYAAs include, but are not limited to, updating contact information for members, planning and managing post-program activities such as those that contribute to society in their country, strengthening ties with Japanese Embassies and the Government of Japan, as well as supporting future participants of the program.

2. Participating Countries

As of March 2009, SWYAAs have been established in 42 countries around the world and are involved in various activities.

3. Objectives

- a) To provide a means of communication for the former and present participants of the SWY program.
- b) To provide a means of communication between SWYAA members and the Japanese Government.
- c) To provide information and develop domestic and international networks.
- d) To organize activities locally and internationally which would establish new social, volunteer and development initiatives.
- e) To strengthen relationships among SWYAAs in order to achieve common goals.

4. Details of Activities

a) Ship for World Youth Alumni Association Tokyo Conference (Ex-PY Conference)

This annual conference is sponsored by the Cabinet Office, the Japanese Government, and is attended by SWYAA representatives. The purpose of this conference is to exchange information on the development of post-program activities, as well as the structure and depth of each country's SWYAA, which provide the foundation for such activities. An additional objective of the conference is to have discussions to develop an international network of holistic ties between each country and the IYEO in Japan. Basically, participants discuss how the SWYAA network can be used in activities for the betterment of society, future directions of post-program activities, and how ex-Participating Youth (ex-PYs) can contribute to the SWY program. To date, the results of past conferences include: the development of a homestay network; recommendation to have ex-PYs as advisors on the SWY program; development of a preparatory manual for participating youth prior to the program or the handbook for National Leaders; development of a promotional kit to introduce the SWY program; setting up rules for the use of mailing list; and writing down a guideline which SWYAA members can use to conduct pre-departure orientation session for the new participants of the coming SWY program. The "Global Photo Contest" was organized in 2004 to promote cultural exchange and to strengthen the alumni network locally and globally. In 2005, a logo contest was launched to decide the common logo for SWYAA. In 2006, Handbook for Cultural Understanding was revised into a digital form to be uploaded on the website, and an official video of SWY program (10 minutes version) was created which can be used for promotion of the program. In 2007, in order to commemorate the 20th anniversary of SWY in 2008, it was agreed to work on collecting history of each SWY batch on the website (SWY History on Website), SWY Calendar, implement Charity Lunch, and contribute to the environment by planting "SWY Forest" in various countries. In 2008, as part of the international relief activities, International Exchange Organization of Japan (IYEO) began its cooperation with the project in Kenya (humanitarian support to the Internally Displaced Persons) and the educational assistance project in Sri Lanka (One More Child Goes to School Project).

b) SWYAA Global Assembly

International Reunion, which was held at a port of call on the SWY program route, was reformed into SWYAA Global Assembly from 2007. Any active SWYAA is given an opportunity to hold an annual Global Assembly, which is not merely an international reunion for the ex-PYs, but also a forum to discuss about post-program activities and how to promote social contribution activities locally and internationally. Conference for Post-Program Activities is an opportunity for the participants to understand about the activities taking place in different countries, and also to share the outcomes of the SWY program.

The 1st SWYAA GA was held in Greece in September 2007, and the 2nd GA was held in Tokyo, Japan in August 2008.

c) SWY News

This is an in-house paper published annually in English, focusing specifically on the SWY program. Regardless of whether one is a Japanese or an overseas participant, alumni from the previous 10 programs, as well as subscribers receive this paper. SWY News is filled with articles on details of post-program activities in various countries, a report of the SWYAA Ex-PY Conference proceedings, and the latest news of ex-PYs from all over the world. Thus far, 15 issues have been published.

d) Mailing Lists

In order to deepen the connections between the ex-PYs, electronic mailing lists have been established and are actively used. There are English and Japanese lists, and they include the following:

- Japanese mailing list for all Japanese ex-PYs
- Japanese mailing lists for Japanese ex-PYs from each year
- Mailing list for distribution of SWY related news and post-program activities (SWY-news)
- English mailing list for all ex-PYs (SWY-net)
- English mailing lists for each year
- Mailing list for SWYAA representatives (SWYAA-council)
- 18 Interest Group mailing lists

e) Website

In order to stimulate the activities of the SWYAA that are spreading throughout the world, strengthening networks through the use of computers has been encouraged. Through linking each country's websites with the SWYAA main website, various information sharing and exchange has been taking place, such as activities in various countries, homestay networks, or international reunions, etc.

URL: <http://www.swyaa.org>

f) SWYAA Directory

In the SWYAA directory, the name, address, phone number, fax number, e-mail address and area of interest of all ex-PYs are listed. This information is useful for alumni to get in touch with one another and promote their activities.