Ship for World Youth Alumni Association of Bahrain

- SWYAAAB -

2011 Annual Report
1. Introduction

The Ship for World Youth Alumni Association of Bahrain (SWYAAB) is pleased to present the annual report for 2011, which covers the SWYAAB activities and events during the past year.

In the coming few pages, we would like to illustrate the major SWYAAB activities during the last year, our eighth participation in SWY program and our international cooperation activities.

2. Post SWY Program Activities

SWY23 Selection

Following Bahrain’s invitation to participate in the 23rd Ship for World Youth Program, SWYAAB had to work closely with the General Organization for Youth & Sports (GOYS) to select Bahrain’s new representatives.

In order to reach the largest segment of the youth population in Bahrain and with the help of GOYS a number of channels were utilized to invite interested individuals to apply, SWYAAB targeted youth from different backgrounds and interests.

The selection committee involved two members from GOYS and two members from SWYAAB to undertake the screening and selection process. All contestants entered the first round of selection which is attending a general knowledge written test. The test challenges the general knowledge and IQ level with specific emphasis on Bahrain history and English language. Round two of the selection process was a personal interview which aimed to get an in-depth understanding of each individual applicant. The interview was followed by a constructed group discussion to gauge team-spirit and discussion skills.

SWY23 Preparation

The extensive preparation plan devised by SWYAAB was based on the wealth of the Bahrain ex-PYs experience, previous participation and the particulars of the SWY23 program.
SWY23 Reception

SWYAAB held a gathering that brought together families and friends of the SWY23 delegation members, officials from the General Organization of Youth and Sports and members of SWYAAB. The aim of the gathering was to introduce SWYAA to the participants’ families and friends.

Meeting with H.E. President of GOYS

The SWY23 Bahraini delegation met with H.E Mr. Hisham Al Jawder, President of the General Organization of Youth and Sports. H.E Mr. Al Jawder congratulated the new members of the delegation chosen to represent the youth of Bahrain in the SWY program.
Meeting with H.E. the Japanese Ambassador

H.E. Mr. Hideo Sato ambassador of Japan to the Kingdom of Bahrain received the new Bahraini delegation at the Japanese embassy. On this occasion H.E. the ambassador highlighted the major benefits of the SWY program that allow the youth to expand their experience, grow as individuals, and gain leadership skills.

3. SWYAAB – Japan Relations

His Majesty Emperor’s 78th Birthday Recreation

On 7th December, H.E. Mr. Shigeki Sumi, ambassador of Japan to the Kingdom of Bahrain hosted a reception to celebrate His Majesty the Emperor's 78th Birthday. Approximately 300 distinguished guests including ministers, dignitaries of various sectors of Bahrain and representative of Japanese companies gathered to celebrate the upcoming birthday of His Majesty the Emperor. As usual Bahraini ex-PYs were invited to attend the reception and interact with top government officials, diplomats from other embassies in Bahrain, and businessmen and women attending the reception.
4. International Cooperation

Sight Camp

During the SWY23 program the Bahraini delegation arranged with their fellow delegates from other participating countries SWYIDOL which aimed at discovering singing and musical talents as well as utilizing ticket proceeds for “Sight Camp”; a humanitarian project which targets giving back the gift of sight to people who cannot afford to pay for the cataract surgery. After completing the SWY23 program, the Bahraini delegates raised additional funds locally which reached around $1,000 and have been used to help 10 Africans regain their vision.

Somalia Aid

A group of Bahraini youth has completed a life-changing humanitarian mission to Africa. The volunteers, aged 15 to 28, went with a Turkish aid group to what is described as one of the world’s biggest refugee camps in the world in Kenya. They travelled to Dadaab, located 100km from the Kenya-Somalia border, to distribute packed foods such as rice, flour, wheat and milk, as well as tents and clothes, among refugees. Noora Ali (SWY18), Ahmed Al Mahmood (SWY18), Fajer Mufeez (SWY23) and 5 Bahraini youth made up the diverse group from Bahrain. They travelled to Africa for two days with the IHH Humanitarian Relief Foundation, which has been providing assistance to people in the region for the past 15 years. After a five hour flight and a nine hour drive to Dadaab, the group met a group of humanitarian activists and doctors from Turkey, UK and Kenya; this is where the journey started. On the next day the group went to the medical camp where a lot of patients arrived for treatment, the large number of patients couldn’t be covered due to shortage of the volunteering doctors. After the medical camp they were taken on a ride to see some of the projects that are under construction. The group also visited kitchens where rice is cooked for a large number of refugees coming to Dadaab. The number increases on the rate of almost 1,200 to 1,500 refugees a day. Humanitarian group Care states most of the hundreds of thousands of refugees in Dadaab come from neighboring Somalia. It says the Horn of Africa is experiencing the worst humanitarian disaster in the world, causing camps to be stretched to the limit with no end to a drought or food crisis in sight. In fact, it estimates there are almost 400,000 displaced people in three Dadaab refugee camps originally designed for 90,000.
5th GA 2011, Mexico

SWYAAB members participated in the 5th Global Assembly in Mexico. Zahwa Al Heddi (SWY20) and Fatima AlMusalli (SWY20) had the chance to visit the important and famous places of the country, experienced the Mexican culture and attended the conference of post-program activities. Zahwa Al Hiddi had the privilege to brief the participants about SWYAAB activities.

5. Others

SWYAAB Visitors

In 2011 few ex-PYs managed to visit Bahrain bringing with them memories from the lifetime experience of the SWY program.

New SWYAAB Website

The SWYAAB website has recently undergone a complete facelift and now is uploaded with latest activities and news and announcements of future events.
6. Upcoming Activities

SWYAAB members are working hand in hand with GOYS to arrange for the 6th Ship for World Youth Global Assembly which will be held in from 4th to 8th October 2012. We all are putting our effort to make it memorable for all the participants.

7. Conclusion

With this, we come to the conclusion of our 2011 activity report. Until next year we would like to wish you all seasons’ greetings from all of us at SWYAA Bahrain.