

# Report of the 10<sup>th</sup> Ship for World Youth Alumni Association Global Assembly India 2016



*Sponsoring Organization:*

*Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India*

*Supporting Organization:*

*Cabinet Office of the Government of Japan*

*Co-organizers:*

*Ship for World Youth Alumni Association- India*

*International Youth Exchange Organization of Japan*



From

**Ship for World Youth Alumni Association-India (SWYAA-India)**

13/88, Block C-4/B, Janakpuri, New Delhi-110 058 (M) 9810078620

[www.swyaa-india.in](http://www.swyaa-india.in) [www.swyga.org](http://www.swyga.org) Email: [swyaaindia@gmail.com](mailto:swyaaindia@gmail.com)

**Introduction:**

Ship for World Youth Leaders (SWY) program, operated by Cabinet Office, Government of Japan, is a program that involves youths from Japan, India and countries around the world. The participants board the Ship for World Youth, live together, and while on board, they study and discuss common issues from a global perspective and participate in other various activities that involve multi-cultural and multi-national exchange opportunities. There are approximately more than 6500 youth (Ex-participants) from 62 countries who have participated in the SWY program over these 28 years. The SWY program which began in 1988 marked its 28th voyage in 2016.

By exchange of the Japanese youths and youths from other countries, this program aims to promote mutual understanding and friendship of youths. This program is also conducted to develop youths who have an important role for the next generation by broadening the international perspectives of youths and fostering the spirit of international cooperation.

The Ship for World Youth Leaders program aims to develop the ability to deal with different cultures and the communication skills and to improve leadership and management skills through the discussion and cultural exchange with those from various countries and various backgrounds. By attending the seminars conducted by experts including planning activities and holding workshops by themselves, the youth participants from various countries are able to deepen mutual understanding and broaden global views, and furthermore, strengthen their spirit of international cooperation. As a result, the Japanese Government seeks to cultivate youth who are capable of contributing to society by exercising their leadership skills in various fields in the globalizing and diversifying society, and moreover to establish a strong human network beyond borders.

The Ship for World Youth Alumni Association (SWYAA) Global Assembly Conference is hosted by the International Youth Exchange Organization of Japan (IYEO) and the SWYAA of the visiting country. The approval is given by the Cabinet Office of Japan for selecting the host country and their representative participants in the Global Assembly. The main theme of the SWYAA Global Assembly is designated as: *Contribution of the SWY Alumni to the Society*.

**Purpose of the SWYAA Global Assembly**

- To provide an opportunity for the former participating youth of the SWY program and related programs by the Cabinet Office from various countries and different participating years
- To meet, and by sharing thoughts, strengthen their international alumni network;
- To provide opportunities for the ex-PYs to learn about the culture and people of the visiting country;
- To provide opportunities to the ex-PYs to be engaged in volunteer activities so that they can contribute to the society;
- To share information about post-program activities that are taking place around the world;
- To revitalize SWYAA by hosting or participating in the Global Assembly.

SWYAA Global Assembly (GA) takes place in conjunction with the Conference for Post-Program Activities from fiscal year 2007 in order to strengthen the international cooperation and building an international network between the participating countries with active support from the alumni associations. The GA aims to promote activities that contribute to society locally and globally

### **Brief about Organizers**

Ship for World Youth Alumni Association-India (SWYAA-India) is an Alumni Association (AA) of delegates sent by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (YAS), Government of India since 1989 to participate in the Ship for World Youth (SWY) program and the Global Youth Leadership Development Program organized by the Cabinet Office of the Government of Japan.

SWYAA-India comprises of 169 Indian delegates who were sent by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, GOI and have participated in the SWY program since 1988 in 14 batches. SWYAA-India members have received in depth training in leadership development from the SWY program and have a wide network of international batch mates. SWYAA-India was founded for the purpose of continuing the spirit that was fostered through the SWY program. The main activities of the SWYAA India include managing post-program social development activities that contribute to society in India, strengthening ties with the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India, Japanese Embassy and the Government of Japan, as well as offering support and organizing training for the future participants of the program. SWYAA-India is a part of the centralized network of AAs from across 34 countries, SWYAA-International and the International Youth Exchange Organization of Japan.

After participating in the Ship for World Youth Program the ex-participating youths from India have been working actively towards fostering International Cooperation among the Ex-Participating Youths (Ex-PYs) from various countries of the SWY program. This is being done through international exchange activities and youth programs in their societies, workplaces and schools capitalizing on their experiences gained through the SWY program. In addition, they have assumed a role as a bridge of friendship between the other participating countries around the world.

International Youth Exchange Organization of Japan (IYEO) is the association of the mainly former participants of the international youth exchange programs organized by the Cabinet Office (the Management and Coordination Agency, Prime Minister's Office of Japan). The IYEO spearheads a global network of organizations of Ex- participating youths of various exchange program of the Government of Japan that stretches to more than 100 countries

### **GA Outline**

Title of the event:	10 <sup>th</sup> SWYAA Global Assembly India 2016
Dates:	September 20-24, 2016 (Official Program) in Delhi September 25-27, 2016 (Optional Tour) in Agra and Jaipur
Hosting Organizations:	Ship for World Youth Alumni Association- India (SWYAA-India) International Youth Exchange Organization of Japan
Main event:	Conference for Post Program Activities Welcome Reception Seminar on Non-violence and Civil Disobedience Heritage visit Indian Cultural program Institutional visits Farewell function City Tour and visit to handicrafts bazaar
Optional event:	Yoga and meditation session

The Global Assembly Organizing Committee members and IYEO of Japan prepared the detailed schedule including selection and coordination of the places to be visited for various activities.

### Program Schedule

Official Program: September 20-24, 2016

Place: New Delhi

DATE	TIME	ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION	DRESS CODE
Tuesday, 20 <sup>th</sup> September	10:00 to 22:00	Participants should arrive on this day Transfer service to the official hotel	Casual
		Registration and Orientation at Hotel	
		Free day to leisure	
Wednesday, 21 <sup>st</sup> September	06:00–07:00	Special Yoga and Meditation Sessions (Optional)	Casual
	08:15	Assembly at the lobby for transfer	Casual
	09:00	Arrival at Conference Venue	Smart casual
	09:00 – 13:15	Official Inauguration of GA and Conference on Post Program Activities (country reports)	
	13:30–14:15	Lunch at conference venue	
	14:15 – 14:45	Conference on Post Program Activities (discussion)	
	15:00 –18:00	Free time	
	18:00	Assemble	Formal /national costume
19:00 – 22:00	Welcome Reception and dinner		
Thursday, 22 <sup>nd</sup> September	06:00–07:00	Special Yoga and Meditation Sessions (Optional)	Casual
	09:00	Assembly at the lobby for transfer	Smart casual
	09:45–10:45	Institutional Visit to Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti	
	11:00–13:30	Seminar and Discussion on civil disobedience & non- violence	
	13:30–14:15	Lunch at seminar venue	
	14:30–16:15	Heritage Visit to Humayun's Tomb	
	17:00–19:15	Indian Cultural Program	
	19:30–22:30	Free night	
Friday, 23 <sup>rd</sup> September	06:00–07:00	Special Yoga and Meditation Sessions (Optional)	Casual
	09:00	Assembly at the lobby for transfer	Smart casual (Dependin g on the institution)
	10:00–13:00	Social Contribution Activities in three groups <i>Group A: SWYAA India Open Schools</i> <i>Group B: TARA (Technology and Action for Rural Advancement) Group C: Tibet House</i>	
	13:30 – 15:00	Packed Lunch, return to the hotel	
	15:00–19:00	Free time	
	19:30 – 22:00	Closing Function and Farewell Dinner	Smart casual
Saturday, 24 <sup>th</sup> September	06:00–07:00	Special Yoga and Meditation Sessions (Optional)	Casual
	09:45	Hotel check out	
	10:30 –13:00	Sightseeing visit to Rashtrapati Bhavan and India Gate	Smart casual
	13:15–16:00	Exposure to Indian handicrafts place - DilliHaat	Casual
	16:15	Depart for Delhi Airport and Optional Tour (Agra-Jaipur)	



Optional Program: September 25-27, 2016 Place: Agra and Jaipur

DATE	TIME	ACTIVITIES
Saturday, 24 <sup>th</sup> September	1600 Hrs	Departure from Delhi for Agra
	21:00	Arrival in Agra and check-in at Hotel Clarks Shiraz
	21:30	Buffet Dinner in hotel
Sunday, 25 <sup>th</sup> September	06:30-07:30	Breakfast at hotel
	08:00- 12:30	Proceed to Visit TajMahal , visit to local crafts of Zardozi and marble inlay work and Agra Fort
	12:50-14:40	Hotel check out and Buffet Lunch at hotel
	14:50	Departure from Agra
	20:00	Arrival at Jaipur and check-in at Hotel Marriott, Jaipur
	21:00	Dinner at hotel
Monday, 26 <sup>th</sup> September	07:00-08:00	Breakfast at hotel
	08:30-12:30	Visit to the HawaMahal, Amber Fort,elephant ride and JalMahal
	13:00-14:00	Lunch in hotel
	14:00-17:00	Visit to the City Palace, JantarMantar, shopping at Bapu Bazaar
	17:00-19:00	Free time for shopping etc. or relax at hotel
	20:00	Dinner at hotel
Tuesday, 27 <sup>th</sup> September	08:00-09:00	Check-out and buffet breakfast at hotel
	09:10	Departure from Jaipur to Delhi airport
	13:00 -14:00	Lunch at midway at Neemrana Tree House
	17:00	Drop off at Indira Gandhi International airport - Terminal 3

### Activity Schedule

#### Tuesday, 20 September - Arrival Day for the Official Program

In the 10<sup>th</sup> SWYAA Global Assembly 94 participants came together on the first day of the from 22 countries. At the orientation in the hotel, the participants were delighted to see old friends and excited to start new friendships. After the orientation the participants had a day of leisure and many went out to explore various places in Delhi. They also deepened their understanding about the history of the city from talks with the members of the organizing committee and from the information provided in the GA kits about various places of interest in and around Delhi. In the evening the participants visited their places of choice and visited Jama Masjid and ChandniChauk area in Old Delhi

## **Tuesday, 21 September –Conference for post program activities**

- Inauguration of the conference by Hon’ble Shri Vijay Goel, Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India

### **Speakers:**

- Shri Ravi Chopra, President, SWYAA-India
- Mr. Shun Obu, representative of the Cabinet Office of Japan
- Mr. Tatsuya Nagasue, Vice President, International Youth Exchange Organization of Japan
- Shri Rajeev Gupta, Secretary (Youth Affairs), Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, GOI

Shri Ravi Chopra welcomed the dignitaries and the participants of the Global Assembly by expressing his deep gratitude for the support in organizing the important event which was the summit of the post program activities of SWYAA -India.

Mr. Shun Obu explained the current situation of the modifications to the SWY program. He also reported on the Ship for World Youth Leaders program which was conducted in 2016. He reported on the survey of the former participating youth (hereinafter, Ex-PYs) of the program and thanked the audience for their collaboration.

In continuation Mr. Tatsuya Nagasue mentioned that from the messages of the H.E. President of India and Hon’ble Prime Minister of India for the success for the Global Assembly it was established that SWY program is a well-recognized program by the Government of India due to the efforts of Mr. Ravi Chopra, the acting President of SWYAA-India.

Shri Rajiv Gupta mentioned that the SWY program fully implemented by the Cabinet office of Japan as a unique program for promotion of cross cultural understanding and international cooperation.

Hon’ble Shri Vijay Goel said that such program as the SWY program is a very important for promoting next generation leaders and the Indian Government was very thankful to the Government of Japan for the implementation of SWY program since the past 29 years and assured of all the cooperation for the Port of Calls in India as well as for the 10th SWYAA Global Assembly.

## **Country presentations on the theme of Contribution of SWY Alumni to Society**

Ms. Tamae Saito, Secretary General of SWYAA International made a short presentation on the Tokyo Conference Charter and the six main programs on which the Alumni Associations could implement either individually or in collaboration with other AAs. She introduced Homestay+1 as the common activities the SWYAA International was carrying out. After the short presentation she screened a fifteen minute film on SWY28 program to introduce the various aspects to the government officials and the participants.

- SWYAA Australia- Ms. Lauren Fehlberg, SWY28 gave a presentation about communication, engagement and promotion by the SWY 28 team with an aim to build stronger connection with the Japanese and Australian communities
- SWYAA Bahrain- Ms. Budoor Kamal, SWY23 talked about the initiative of the Ministry of Youth and Sports as Youth City 2030 and summer program of Bahrain Association for parents and friends of disabled

- SWYAA Ecuador- Dr. Blanca ChattinKacouris, SWY1 presented their efforts for earthquake relief and fund raising activities and relief delivered in Bahia, Ecuador
- SWYAA Egypt- Ms.AmaniRabei, SWY6 shared the various programs for highlighting the Mexican way, participation in Tokyo conference, their efforts for selection of PYS for SWY29 and about the Cairo based social entrepreneurship program.
- SWYAA India-Ms.ShobhanaRadhakrishna, JYGC and Chief Executive spoke about post program activities of youth exchange with Japanese universities ,SWYAA-Open Schools, culture and cooperation between India and Japan, talks on international Peace and Non-violence to inspire people for selfless service, joint programs with various AAs.
- Japan, IYEO-Mr.TatsuyaNagasue, SWY13 presented the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary project, Tohoku visit project, fund raising project, Kumamoto Relief Activates and SWY Sports Day.
- Japan, SWYAA-International- Ms.Tamae Saito, SWY10 presented about the transition of SWY program, report of SWY28 and the outcome of SWY program
- SWYAA New Zealand-Ms.TireniRatema, SWY25 presented about Opportunity without Discrimination project to eliminate all forms of discrimination
- SWYAA Oman- Mr.Mahmood Mohammed SalimAlfarsi, SWY 22 spoke about the youth development program including Khasab 4<sup>th</sup> youth summit, Shababi program and Club Youth camps
- SWYAA Poland-Mr.Lech Karol Sekyra, SWY17 presented about the high position they have achieved due to SWY program and the Nippon Maru Foundation for undertaking joint projects
- SWY Russia- Mr.DmitryLabykin, SWY19 talked about the SWYAA Russia train program
- SWYAA Turkey - Ms.GulEksi, SWY12 spoke about the current situation in Turkey and the activities of 8<sup>th</sup> SWYAA GA in Turkey
- SWYAA UAE-Mr.HamadSaeedAlZaabi,SWY22 presented about the annual get together, bi monthly meetings, relations ship between youth
- SWYAA UK-Mr.George Butler, SWY14 informed about the activities in a verbal presentation
- SWY USA-Mr.AugustineBarting , SWY17 gave a verbal presentation

### **Welcome Reception**

The welcome reception for the participants of the Global Assembly was hosted by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India in the Jacaranda Hall at the India Habitat Center, New Delhi. The participants wore traditional costumes of different countries and everyone felt as if they were back on their own ship program and enjoyed the company of friends.

Higher officials from the government of India welcomed the participants and lauded the initiatives of the Cabinet Office of Japan in bringing such a diverse group together since the past 29 years.

The highlight of the evening was enthusiastic address by the Hon'ble Gen, (Dr.) V.K. Singh, and Minister of State for External Affairs, Government of India and the impromptu 'Soren' dance by the Japanese participants and the delightful dancing by the Omani and Bahraini participants.

We are grateful to the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India for sponsoring the event.

### **Thursday, 22 September Official Program**

The second day of the Official program was for institutional visit to Gandhi museum under the Ministry of Culture, Government of India. Participants had the opportunity to visit the place where our father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi was assassinated on 30<sup>th</sup> January 1948. Also see the multimedia museum to learn and have a full experience of his life and messages and get inspired.

The participants were received by Dr. ShailjaGollapulli, Program Office of Gandhi Smriti and she introduces about the Gandhi Museum and presented the gifts the Autobiography of Mahatma Gandhi to each participant.

### **Seminar on Civil Disobedience and Non-violence**

After the visit to the Gandhi museum, the participants joined for a seminar on Non-violence and Civil disobedience to hear the views on non-violence in today's violent world and how to solve issues of racial, economic, political and religious injustice with non-violence and peaceful means through civil disobedience. This seminar is in commemoration of 100 years of Satyagraha - Truth (satya) implies love, and firmness (agraha) engenders and therefore serves as a synonym for force and universal solvent for injustice and harm). The panelist and the participants together sang a song on World Peace.

#### **Speakers:**

- Dr. S.N.SubbaRao, Eminent Gandhian
- Dr. Amarendra Kumar Dubey, Officer on Special Duty, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India
- H.C. Virendra Gupta, Former Indian High Commissioner to South Africa
- Acharya Dr. Lokesh Muni, Founder President, Ahimsa VishwaBharati
- Ms.ShobhanaRadhakrishna, Gandhian Forum for Ethical Corporate Governance

The panelists highlighted different aspects on Mahatma Gandhi's leadership and it's impact on humanity. The deliberation was as under:

#### **Dr. S.N.SubbaRao**

It's a wonderful experience to see all colorful people march in. Before I say anything I want you all to join me in to a small adventure because you all are in India. India's language is Hindi and I want you all to join me in singing a Hindi song. The song says because when we were fighting for India's freedom we had a Slogan called "Jai Hind" Victory to India! India became free, then we said our vision must be much large now, so we had a great Leader Mahatma Gandhi's close associate, whose name was VinobhaBhave. He said let us make our slogan "Jai Jagat". Jagat is a Sanskrit word which means the Universe. He said why to say Jai only for one Country. I was asking Shobhana how many countries are here, 24, beautiful! I welcome every one of you! Song says, 'let us say victory to whole world, march on, with the slogan on our lips and for the good of all, let us sacrifice our own small comforts and this message comes into the song "let us break away all the barriers that have been dividing man from man; barriers of colors, barriers of nations, languages, let us build one Human family, let the day of peace and loves dawn and let us say goodbye to the dark night'!

You have given me a pleasant surprise that you could do it so well. When people ask me what you do I tell them by profession I am like a vagabond! One of our elderly friendsand Mahatma Gandhi's close associates, Kaka Kalelkar was his name. We were celebrating his 95th year in



Delhi and a good gathering was there. He was asked to speak and bless us, Kaka sahib told us that “younger people say that I’m old and still keep working, I want to tell you, I am alive because I am going place to place. I have written to the death God ‘Yama’ My age is over and my bedding is ready you can pick me any time you would like. Yama came to Delhi to take me and I was in Tokyo that day when he rushed to Tokyo by the time I was in Mumbai. Yama chased me that’s how still I’m alive. I have taken the lesson from him.”

Once I was passing through New York. I was standing there to collect my luggage; I saw a huge banner in one side, what a surprise, I thought, it is at John F. Kennedy (JFK) International Airport. I saw one Big Gandhi on the left side and seven to eight feet big “What made Gandhi?– Gandhi”. Thousands of people pass through the J. F. Kennedy Airport per hour and one side the same size of banner of Abraham Lincoln is placed. For Lincoln they have written Failure, Failure, Failure, and Perseverance. Lincoln, his job was a failure, marriage was failure then he became one of the best presidents of US. But for Gandhi they have asked- “What made Gandhi? – Gandhi” because as a boy Gandhi was a cowardly boy, he has written in his autobiography, I am glad to know that the Gandhi Smriti has given you a copy of that today . Gandhi says, ‘I was sitting with my father, brother and mother. It was night; there was no electricity. At home, rooms are very small to go from one room to another only three steps needed to be taken. But Gandhi was scared to go there. How he become from one cowardly boy to the Hero of the world?

Gandhi wants to tell that there is some power in every one of you. In India there are many places where you take an Elephant ride a huge animal like an elephant controlled by the boy of may be 12 years. The elephant is huge and can crush the boy in a minute, but boy says to the elephant to sit, he sits. What is the energy source that boy has and that elephant does not have. Gandhi says that “I have that power and all of human beings have that power”.

It is a wonderful experience to see so many of you thank you all and carrying beautiful memories from here.

### **Dr. Amarendra Kumar Dubey**

What is fantastic is that through Gandhi the learning is about the concept of civil disobedience and Non-Violence. It is fantastic to know you are disobedient and you are not complying yet there is no criminality in it. Why, because intensions are good! Intensions are to remove difficulties, discrepancies and that is the intension. It is for the entire population although it might emerge from individual conviction it is in general when we talk of nonviolence we talk on behalf of everyone, for everyone, of everyone and my belief you say is in Japan, in Daisakulkeda. In India, Gandhi and many of his followers very simple living, high thinking, committed to common people and Martin Luther King in US. My belief is every society has a Gandhi because every society the public behavior there is something to still desire for more, for better and the situation throws up leaders those who don’t take it lying down they might have lost everything, yet their mentality and conviction to take up the causes emits all the adversaries it doesn’t get diminished, that is what Gandhi Means. It might be one individual, the Gandhian spirit that is something that keeps you going. When we talk of nonviolence what could be the time more appropriate than today’s contemporary world that we have to think about nonviolence in more serious manner. This is terrific kind of thing, where ever you see there are wars, there are differences of such great magnitude that people are not ready to think further about it. So, first thing that comes in that mind is- kill the other fellow, hurt the other fellow, immobilize the other

fellow and that is where have you gone all wrong. Imagine if this was the mentality right from the beginning when the first mother of the human kind started the journey in anthropological sense, where would have been all of us today, probably nowhere. Most of us would have not either survived or born. There can't be more anti thesis, there can't be more war; aggression becomes the order of the day. That is the stage of Gandhian thinking of Nonviolence which becomes more reliable. Anything which can be obtained through gun may not be live for long, but the thing which obtained without gun may live longer. What do you want to live long or longer?

The Greek philosopher Aristotle said "It's possible for an educated person to entertain the idea without accepting it". If we have this then probably the violence is not that much force. If the world has to last, if the culture has to last, it can only be done through peace. It is towards this end, this kind of gathering is a very major step, when societies and people from one portion of globe and come to other portion. I might have not known about that portion, then we interact we know our thinking are very similar to each other how it is. With your experience, this kind of bonding and diplomacy cannot be the answer but feelings can give an answer for it.

### **H.C. ShriVirendra Gupta**

First of all I would like to thank SWYAA who has given me an opportunity to interact with wonderful people from different countries as participants of this program. It is wonderful idea to bring national of different country and particularly young people together. This is a good session trying to tell about what Gandhi who stood for his civil disobedience and Nonviolence. I will restrict myself to what Gandhi did in South Africa. He spent nearly twenty years of his political life, his experiment of truth started in South Africa, all the method he used subsequently experimented and fine-tuned in South Africa. His story is one of evolution, he was not born as Mahatma, he was normal human being like you and me, his consciousness level and commitment for humanity raised him to a higher level, he went to south Africa, he was a focused as a lawyer, committed to the mandate that was given to him. Early days his stay in South Africa he went into the court and wearing a turban and asked to remove the turban, he did not remove turban whether preferred to leave the court. Encouraged British to be a little soft but did not happen. Many years later Nelson Mandella tried the same thing, in 1906 Gandhi entered into new phase of the struggle called Satyagrah came into being. The main ingredient is that you must be on the side of the truth.

### **Acharya Dr. Lokesh Muni**

Good Morning! All participants from different countries in this International gathering, we are talking about nonviolence not only India, Most developed country, United Kingdom of America even whole world is affected from the act of violence. In this era talking about Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy is very important. I would like to get your attention that, we want solution for nonviolence and wish to have peace, but the Government of different countries in the world spending billion dollars on the weapons for security of their country. Science has proved that we have an animal brain which we need to control; if it is not then it can make the person dull or more aggressive. It is true that changes will not happen by discussion, it will happen by the act. Brothers and sisters, if we have to finish the violence and terrorism from the world, we need to remove the root cause of it. This kind of program should be included in to the Education system from the starting itself.

### **Smt. ShobhanaRadhakrishna**

I am going to speak from my personal experience for all of you, it may be surprising that why we kept this entire seminar for you, why we took you to Gandhi Smriti and what was the relevance of it in the Global Assembly. We have been training youth in leadership, peace and nonviolence as the contribution of SWYAA to the society. Keeping that in mind, we designed this program, we thought it would be very important for you to discover your potential. When I was sitting with the group, there was lot of talk, lot of thoughts, and lot of dreams; it's good to dream, when it comes to practically applying it on yourself and seeing, you must become the change you want. We cannot expect others to change but you can change yourself. That is the first thing you can do! So why I am talking about Gandhi in the entire world and giving lectures on peace as part of our SWYAA India contribution and I am very proud to be associated with that. At the age of 24 years Gandhi went to South Africa to earn his living as a Barrister. There from an individual Gandhi he changed to become societal Gandhi. From the age of 18 to 21, Gandhi went to London, the most glamorous city at that time and became a barrister there. When he came back he was qualified in British laws but his dream was to free his country. But he realized that by learning British law it won't be possible. He went to his colleague Mr. Pint and who told him to 'You will have to improve your General Knowledge, collect as many facts as there are to present your case and you have to become a good judge of people.

Gandhi established communes, in South Africa he established two communes and in India two communes, one in Gujarat called Sabarmati Ashram and other in Sewagram ashram. My father worked with Gandhi for 21 years in these two. I was born in Sewagram Ashram and have grown up only knowing Gandhi and walking on the path shown to the world by Mahatma Gandhi.

I would also like to give a spinning wheel (Charkha) demonstration and on hand practice for the interested participants.

### **Heritage visit**

The participants visited the monument Humayun's Tomb of the Mughal Emperor Humayun as part of the Heritage visit in the afternoon. The tomb was commissioned by Humayun's son Akbar in 1569-70, and designed by MirakMirzaGhiyas, a Persian architect chosen by Bega Begum. This tomb showcases the Mughals love for gardens, symmetry and harmonious structures.

### **Indian Cultural Event**

In the evening the participants saw a scintillating performance of medley of Indian classical dances -- Kathak, Bharatanatyam, Odissi & Chhau led by renowned dancer Ms. Swati Wangroo Tiwari and demonstration of Indian percussion instruments by musicians organized by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) under the Ministry of Culture, Government of India and presented a short performance of the Soren dance. We are grateful to ICCR for sponsoring the event. Before the program a courtesy meeting was arranged for Mr. Shun Obu and Ms. Tamae Saito with Mr. Amarendra Kahuta, IFS, Director General of the Indian Council of Cultural Relations, New Delhi to discuss the cultural inflow between India and Japan.

Welcome address by:

- Shri Amarendra Khatua, Director General, ICCR
- Mr. Tatsuya Nagasue, Vice President, International Youth Exchange Organization of Japan

Vote of thanks by Smt. ShobhanaRadhakrishna, Chief Executive, SWYAA-India

## Friday, 23 September, Official Program

### Institutional Visits:

The participants were divided into three groups and went for social contribution activities to three different institutions according to the interest they had expressed.

- **Group A - SWYAA-India Open Schools:** A group of 33 participants went to visit the SWYAA-Open school along with Ms. ShobhanaRadhakrishna. They met 62 children of the open schools and interacted with them while a painting session was going on. Participants went for a slum walk to the open classes in the slum area and experienced the vast need in serving the educational and social needs of these children in the slum walk. Many of the participants engaged the children in action songs in Spanish and English which the children enjoyed very much. Our children presented welcome greeting cards of the paintings made by them to the participants. After the slum walk and interaction with the children of the SWYAA open schools, an interaction was held with the participants and Ms. ShobhanaRadhakrishna gave a brief overview about the history and the inspiration behind the post program activities of SWYAA-India spearheaded by Mr. Ravi Chopra.
- **Group B - Technology and Action for Rural Advancement (TARA):** A group of 28 participants went to visit the SWYAA-Open school along with Ms. NidhiSinghal, member, SWYAA-India. During this visit, the participants were divided into three groups of nine participants each and were taken to see different initiatives by the staff of TARA who explained that the ‘waste to wealth’ solutions ensure profitability for enterprises. The explained that also ensures that the products are affordable thereby they are replicable and has wider acceptance. According to them, the “Waste to wealth” solutions concentrate on the development of technologies for rural, urban and industrial applications for the SME sector. Here, Ex-PYs had an opportunity for on-hand experience in their ongoing activities, had a question and answer sessions and made some purchase of handmade paper bags and cards. Mr. ShrashtantPatara, CEO of TARA gave an overview of the organization and the vote of thanks was proposed by Ms. PassahPynbeitBha, Member, SWYAA-India.
- **Group B - Tibet House** was founded in 1965 by His Holiness the Dalai Lama to provide a center for Tibetan and Buddhist studies. His Holiness the Dalai Lama emphasizes universal interdependence and the need to develop a sense of harmony and compassion as the antidote to suffering. A group of 32 participants visited the Tibet House for learning more about Spirituality and service. The participants visited the library and the museum at the Tibet House and participated in the discourse by Venerable GesheDorjiDumdul. Ms. AmeniRabei participant from Egypt gave the welcome address of behalf of the participants. There was a Q/A session with Venerable GesheDorjiDumdul on spirituality, compassion, service, mediation and Buddhism. In the next session Dr. Tenzin Choedon, a well know Tibetan doctor enlightened the participants on Tibetan medicine and its benefit on the mind and body of a person. Mr. Ravi Chopra, President of SWYAA-India proposed the vote of thanks.

## **Farewell reception**

The farewell reception was held in the evening to mark the closure of the 10<sup>th</sup> SWYAA Global Assembly India 2016. The party started with opening remarks, announcement of the host country for the next GA, presentation of the commemorative gifts and distribution of certificates of participation. The participants enjoyed chatting with their old and new friends while savoring delicious India dinner. It was a typical SWY evening with a lot of hugs, smiles and time to say goodbye to those not joining optional tour, but also to celebrate another assembly of friendship, love and cooperation between our countries to celebrate the togetherness and SWY spirit!

## **Saturday, 24 September, Official Program**

On the final day of the official program, the participants were taken for a visit to the RashtrapatiBhavan, the official residence of H.E. the President of India. They marveled at the largest President's house in the world and took a guided tour of the sprawling premises. ---

In the afternoon they went for short city tour and a visit to the 'Delhi Haat', the local handicrafts Bazar where they had an opportunity to shop and enjoy ethnic Indian cuisine from different states of India.

The participants who had opted for the Optional Tour gathered in two buses and departed for Agra around 4:40 pm stopping by at the India Gate before proceeding to Agra and the rest of them went back to the airport or proceeded for their further travel plans in India.

On all the four days of the official program the interested participants opted for an early morning Yoga and mediation session in the hotel conducted by a trained Yoga teacher from AnandSangha, Delhi.

## **Sunday, 25 September, Optional Tour (Agra & Jaipur)**

The participants visited the magnificent TajMahal early in the dawn at 5:30 am to catch the sunrise and got mesmerized by the grandeur of the TajMahal. For many participants this was their dream come true as they posed for photographs at the TajMahal.

After the breakfast the participants went for local shopping to see the craft of 'Zardozi' and Marble inlay work in the heart of the city in Agra.

This was followed by a visit to the great Agra Fort and a guided tour of the history of the monument.

In the afternoon the participants departed for Jaipur for the remaining part of the Optional Tour and checked into Hotel Marriott Jaipur, to the delight of the participants. Later, at dinner time we celebrated the 33<sup>rd</sup> wedding anniversary of Lindell and Ross McConnell and cut a cake.

## **Monday, 26 September, Optional Tour (Jaipur)**

After breakfast the participants visited the 'HawaMahal' followed by a visit to 'Amber Fort' and took elephant rides up to the vantage point to have bird's eye view of the natural surroundings and stopped at the 'JalMahal' for photo sessions. After lunch at the hotel they visited the 'City Palace' and JantaMantar after which they were taken to the 'Bapu Bazar', the local market for shopping and enjoyed their time in the hustle and bustle of the pink city of Jaipur.



At dinner time the participants celebrated the birthdays of Maria Cristina Manrique de Henning from Venezuela, Amira Mahmoud Said Abdel Khalek from Egypt and Hussein from Oman with great fanfare. Later the participants organized an auction by themselves for raising funds for the children of the SWYAA Open Schools of SWYAA -India. They auctioned variety of items and raised funds for the education program.

### **Monday, 27 September, Optional Tour (Jaipur)**

The optional tour came to an end after breakfast as the participants boarded the bus for their return journey from Jaipur they stopped by at Neemrana for mid-way lunch and proceeded to the International airport at New Delhi in the evening. The beaming faces of the participants, their smiles, hugs, and tears were a testimonial to the SWY spirit which lives on forever.

### **Comment from participants about GA India**

- Ravi Chopra, India

It is time to share our experience of planning and organizing 10<sup>th</sup> SWYAA Global Assembly India 2016. Immediately after it was announced in GA Fiji 2015 that the next GA would be held in India, we started planning for it by interacting with other AAs who had successfully held the earlier GAs to understand the various aspects of co-organizing this significant event with IYEO of Japan.

We sought the cooperation of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India, the nodal agency for the SWY Leaders program. We held regular meetings under the direct guidance of the Secretary (Youth Affairs), who is the administrative head of the Ministry. This enabled us to get support and cooperation of the Ministry which is very essential for organizing the Global Assembly Conference in India. Their support enabled the participants to get the required permission for the Visa from the Ministry of External Affairs of our government. As we were concerned about the security of SWYers, their friends and family members who were visiting our country, we made an extra effort to reach out to the Ministry of Home Affairs of Government of India for getting clearance for the GA and requested for providing security cover for all the events in Delhi, Agra and Jaipur. This was very much appreciated and valued by the participants.

The letter of endorsement from the Cabinet Office of the Government of Japan helped us in getting the approvals from the concerned government agencies and departments. The strong tie up with our government made it possible for us to coordinate for the institutional and heritage visits. Our relationship with the Embassy of Japan, cultivated over the years was helpful in getting their participation and involvement in GA India. Coordination on daily basis and regular communication with IYEO of Japan was helpful in adhering to the guidelines of organizing GA which is one of the most important post program activities of SWY program for sharing and learning from each other's social contribution programs.

We started the social media campaign and set up the web site almost nine months before the GA to give out information about the GA which we continued to do till the very last minute. This was very helpful in reaching out to the Ex-PYs all across the globe. We made arrangements for accommodation in a centralized best possible hotel, hired the most comfortable coaches for local travel and made certain that all the places in the planned itinerary were within a five km radius to avoid delays.

The strong network and communication with various AAs helped us to take the required steps for successfully organizing the GA. Thoughtful handling of the expectations of the GA India organizing committee members, sustaining their involvement and interest remained an essential component throughout the process of planning and implementation. The active engagement of some of the participants who had been involved in organizing previous GAs, proved to be of a great help to us while the GA was in progress.

All these efforts resulted in getting the due recognition for the Global Assembly in India and we were able to get the messages for the success of the event from the highest offices of the H.E., the President and the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, presence of the Minister of Youth Affairs, and the Minister of External Affairs, Government of India and the higher officials from both the Ministries.

Hosting the 10<sup>th</sup> SWYAA Global Assembly represented the summit of our efforts and the great opportunity to give back just a fraction of what we had received from the SWY program. The GA gave us a unique chance to share with the participants our heritage, culture, food, people and history and much more, without whose presence GA India would not have been a huge success! Being together in SWY spirit created a loving unity and friendship for world peace and humanity.

- Takako Debbie Samia Suzuki, Japan

I had a wonderful time in India. Thank you so much for your kind hospitality and supports! I enjoyed taking Yoga & meditation session every morning. It was a great opportunity to think and learn World Peace and Mutual Understanding this GA.

- Dr. Blanca Rosa, Ecuador

Incredible days visiting the open schools of SWYAA India, report sessions and fellowship with friends.

- Yukiko Chikamori, Japan

It was my first time to join the GA. Ravi san, Shobana san and the other Indian delegations were welcoming us with warm hospitality. And also, it was my first time to visit India. There were so many food, and some of dishes were even I had no idea what taste like. At that time, I just tried them to see how I feel, which was very fun to do.

During the conference we visited the Gandhi house and had the seminar about him. He also famous in japan and he was written in the history textbook. But this time I learned about him deeply and I realized how strong his spirit was. I had never thought like that, but I will try to believe strongly what I want to be in my work, life and etc.. Lastly I had never expected that I could get the same feeling when I was in the SWY21. We came from so much different countries and various batches, and share the time together which was very special. Thank you for everything and I will come again!

- Ayano Hamada, Japan

Thank you so much for everything that you gave us and i am so impressed by the warm hospitality of your country and the energy that comes from the kids in open schools.

I wanted to spend more time with you in India, which completely changed my view to India.

- Priyeshtha Mala, Australia

Thank you so much for the wonderful experience. I enjoyed every moment and met the most amazing people. My first visit to India was unforgettable. I really wish to join the ship the next time Australia is invited. Thank you for looking after me as well. I really enjoyed the sightseeing and the conference dinners. It was truly a global experience.

- Somaya Ali, Bahrain

A moment to remember with the monument of love

- Lech Sekyra, Poland

Incredible India, wonderful people

- MahmoodAlfarsi, Oman

SWYAA-Oman has participated in the 10th Global assembly in Delhi, India from 20-27 September 2016. Eight participants from Oman attended the global assemble along with 102 participants from 23 countries. The organising committee of the GA under the leadership of Mr Ravi Chopra and Shobhana have done extraordinary job to make it success as well as other Indian Ex-Pys and volunteers who assist with organization. A lot of formal events, voluntary activities and institutional visits was included in the program. In addition, high ranking Ministers such as Minister of foreign affairs and Minister of Youth Affairs& Sports as well as famous scholars contribute and sponsor the global assembly. Also, we have experience the Indian culture and attend traditional dances in India. It's was very well organised global assembly and memorable one a lot of thanks for the global assembly organizing committee and everyone who was part of it.

### **Acknowledgment**

We acknowledge with grateful thanks to Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports of the Government of India, Minster of External Affairs of the Government of India, Cabinet Office of the Government of Japan, the Embassy of Japan in India, Minster of Home Affairs of the Government of India, International Youth Exchange Organization of Japan, SWYAA-International, Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, Air India, Technology and Action for Rural Advancement (TARA), Tibet House, Ananda Sangha, New Delhi and the Security personnel from the Police departments from the states of Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan. We extend our special thanks to the GA India organizing committee members; Alumni Associations of SWY program for their support in organizing GA India and to all the participants for making the 10<sup>th</sup> SWYAA Global Assembly India, 2016 a resounding success.

Dhanyavaad!

**Shobhana Radhakrishna**  
Chief Executive, SWYAA -India