

Ship for World Youth Alumni Association-India



Country Report 2012-2013



Ship for World Youth Alumni Association-India
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This year our two countries are celebrating the 60th anniversary of Japan-India diplomatic relations. The theme is Resurgent Japan and Vibrant India: new discoveries, new exchanges. Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda visited India in December 2011 and Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh will be visiting Japan in 2012. On this occasion SWYAA-India would like to express our warm greetings to all friends of SWY program in Japan.

Ship for World Youth Alumni Association-India (SWYAA-India) completed five years in March 2012. It has been a very fruitful journey which was made possible with mutual cooperation from friends and supporters of SWYAA-India. We strengthened relationships with organizations affiliated with Japan in India and found new acquaintances. While our ex-participants individually made a mark in their respective fields, achieving great heights and bringing laurels to the country, SWYAA-India was hailed as one of the most active Alumni Associations and got recognition in India and Japan. SWYAA-India was acknowledged by the Embassy of Japan in India for effectively promoting people to people contact, cross cultural exchange, and nurturing the spirit of international cooperation while serving the disadvantaged sections of the society. The social development activities undertaken as part of the post program initiatives made an impact and helped in changing the lives of the underprivileged sections of the society.

The social development activities of SWYAA-India included initiatives for promoting Peace, encouraging volunteerism and education of children undertaken by SWYAA-India as part of the post program initiatives. We received encouragement from the Japanese Embassy in India, Indian Embassy in Tokyo, Universities in Japan, Japanese companies like Canon India and Mitsui Chemicals and Rajiv Gandhi National Institute for Youth Development, Government of India.

In 2012 -2013 SWYAA-India scaled new heights and throbbed with as it harnessed youth power for volunteerism through lectures and interactions. Our activities have made a great impact and helped increase the social responsibility and voluntarism among Indian and Japanese youth who understood the ideas behind a face to face and non-violent society as outlined by the Father of Our Nation, Mahatma Gandhi who had said a century ago to be the change you want to see in the world. Youth contributed their time and efforts for maintaining ecological balance, environment, education, HIV/AIDS, empowerment of youth, skill training and conservation of natural resources. Through the Indo-Japan Friendship group meetings we welcomed new friends from India and Japan and were a spring board for new initiatives. In the 60th year of the diplomatic relations we look forward to a new chapter of friendship and cooperation between India and Japan.

As part of our endeavor to encourage volunteerism SWYAA-India collaborated with Prof. Takizawa, Professor and former Advisor to SWY 22 program. Together we worked out a program for sensitizing the Japanese students about the social issues and encourage them to participate by volunteering their time with children and elderly in the marginalized communities, SWYAA-India organized a visit of sixteen Japanese students from Toyo Eiwa and Sophia universities from Japan.

RAVI CHOPRA
General Secretary

1. Collaboration with Japanese University: Study tour by Japanese students of Toyo Eiwa University



In collaboration From August 17-24, 2012 fifteen University students from Toyo Eiwa University, Tokyo came on a study tour to India along with Professor Saburo Takizawa. This was their first visit to India and the aim was to understand the reality, culture, people, spirituality, issues and situations as well as to volunteer in our social development activities. They taught children in the open schools in the project area in west Delhi slums and participated in the education fair and the health camp for the slum community.



SWYAA-India networked with Chief Executive of Help Age India who arranged the visit of Patiala city in Punjab state for two days. The Japanese students had an opportunity to interact with Indian students of department of social work in the Punjab University. They also visited two rural old age care homes of Help Age and spent time interacting with the elderly and saw the similarity of issues concerning elderly care in India and Japan.

They were taken on a visit to see the 'Taj Mahal' in Agra and visited the historical monuments like the 'Kutub Minar' and 'Delhi Haat'.



SWYAA-India organized a get together in the Japan Foundation where these students gave a demonstration of their traditional dress, the Kimono and held a tea ceremony. A fashion show was organized by SWYAA-India volunteers and some of the students wore the traditional Indian sarees. Mr. Katsuma Doi, Director General and Mr. Yojiro Tanaka, Director of the Japan Foundation welcomed the Japanese students, were present during the program and extending full cooperation.



SWYAA-India collaborated with the School of Languages, Literature and Cultural Studies at the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) where the Indian students who are learning Japanese, Korean and Chinese languages had an opportunity to interact with the Japanese students.

Mr. Abraham George, Chairman and the faculty members namely Prof. Sushma Jain and Prof. Madhumita Roy facilitated the program. Around 100 Indian and Japanese youth expressed their solidarity and demonstrated songs, dance and games of India and Japan while holding animated discussions in group.



SWYAA-India collaborated with Mr. Vishnu Dusadh, Chairman of 'Nucleus Software' which is a global banking and financial powerhouse providing innovative pioneering products and software solutions doing business gave the students an idea of the plans of the company for expanding their business in Japan in the future.



This study tour provided a unique opportunity to the Japanese youth to have personal contact with Indian youth, experience the Indian culture and understand their social responsibility to contribute to the world for making it a better place.



2. Volunteer from Sophia University

Sophia University collaborated by sending one student Ms. Azusa Kurosawa to volunteer with us for a month. She developed a bond with the children of the open schools and taught them Japanese culture and basic communication skills in Japanese and English. She also spent time with the students of the government schools and taught them to sing Japanese songs and the art of Origami.



3. Promoting cultural exchange between India and Japan

A function named "Birds of the Ship" was organized in November to felicitate Mr. UKS Chauhan, Ex-NL of SWY 6 and the Vice President of SWYAA-India, for publishing his fifth book of poetry. In the presence of a large gathering of invitees, Japanese friends and Ex-PYs, he recited poems in Hindi and the translation of his poems in Japanese language.





SWYAA-India organized an evening of Indian classical vocal ‘‘Dhrupad’’ singing by Mr. Inoue Sou, Shinto shrine musician from Japan. He enthralled the audience with his deep resonating singing and correct pronunciation of the Hindi devotional music. He was accompanied on the Tabla and Tanpura by two Indian musicians studying with him in the presence of their master Mr.K.Dagar, a renowned exponent of Dhrupad singing.

4. Japanese Language Class



Children of the open schools and students of the government schools had an opportunity to learn basic communication skills in Japanese language from Ms. Azusa Kurosawa. She volunteered with SWYAA-India for over two months. These children picked up fast from their Sensei and were given educational material by the Japan Foundation, New Delhi as additional inputs.

She volunteered to teach the children basic Japanese language and showed appreciation in our activities with the underprivileged communities. She said that it was a very wonderful experience for them to meet the community members and parents. They were very impressed with children who have learnt Japanese in our Japanese language classes and taught them Japanese songs.

5. Canon Open Schools



SWYAA-India set up twelve Canon open schools to educate 1020 disadvantaged children in the age group of 4 to 14 years living in eight slum clusters in New Delhi. In the open schools children are receiving educational inputs up to primary level as per the school syllabus. This project was started from 2010 and after seeing the success Canon India Private Limited extended support for 2012-2013. As multi group and multi-level children were enrolled in the classes it was decided make the separate lesson plans for children of 4-6 years and for children in the age group 7 years and above. Younger children 4-6 years were taught to count, recite, identify and write numbers from 1-9 using simple activities like counting with beads, playing games, using the counting chart, writing on their slates. Education on health and hygiene was imparted using the kit provided by the Sesame Workshop India and flash cards, flip chart and picture mats were used. The monthly assessment plan included observing their ability to hear and recite what was taught.



In the remedial classes children studying in class 3rd and 5th were made to complete their homework using text books. They were able to recognizing and writing two, three and four letter words and writing their name. Children were given practice in counting and recognizing numbers from 1-50, carrying out addition and subtraction using three digits numbers and learn the tables from 2-10.



6. Education Fair



Four hundred seventy five students from the Canon Open Schools participated in the 'Education Fair' organized by SWYAA-India to the celebrations of 60 years of Indo-Japan diplomatic relations. Mr. Kei Eda, First Secretary, Embassy of Japan participated in the education fair and held games with all the students by asking them to correlate the numbers with the chart of rubbers and gave all of them presents in a fascinating Japanese game.



The Japanese students participated in activities such as painting, Ikebana, educational games, mental math, quiz, singing, dancing and storytelling besides others along with the students of the Open Schools. A special attraction was the Japanese song performance and Origami display by slum children who were performed under the guidance of their Japanese sensei. Magic shows and puppetry were added to their excitement as traditional artisans were perform to regale the audience mainly comprising of children in the age group of 5-14 years. Education Fair was jointly organized by SWYAA-India and Canon India Private Limited.



Fifteen Japanese students from Toyo Eiwa University participated in Education Fair along with their Professor Saburo Takizawa, who was the guest of honor on this occasion. Ms. Masako, exponent of Odissi tradition of Indian classical dancing performed in front of the children much to their happiness. She taught some of the intricate steps to interested children and danced along with them. The volunteers engaged the children in painting, dancing, craft and singing.

7. Youth Development-Volunteerism and Peace Education in India



Lectures on International Peace

Mrs. Shobhana Radhakrishna, Chief Executive and Mr. Ravi Chopra, General Secretary of SWYAA-India visited various universities and colleges in India for giving lectures on 'International peace, non-violence, universal values and ethical leadership based on the messages of Mahatma Gandhi.'

These lectures have enhanced the understanding of Indian youth about the ideologies of the greatest man of this century. The students were very interested to inculcate non-violence in their lives and wanted to find out the practical aspects of adopting in their life and work. They were genuinely concerned about simple life and judicious use of natural resources.



Lectures were given to youth from colleges and universities across India to encourage them to volunteer for social development and nation building. It was impressed upon the youth that during the period of their studies they should prepare themselves in the service of those who are downtrodden and offer their contribution in nation building.



Inspired by Mahatma Gandhi's constructive work, in post-independence era the National Social Service (NSS) was set up with a view to integrate social service with the educational process. More than 600 youth were addressed during the lectures at National Youth Festival, Mangalore and they were invited for on hand training for volunteerism at our various project sites. Many youth have enrolled with SWYAA-India's social development work.

8. Indo - Japan Friendship Group



SWYAA-India has formed the Indo-Japan Friendship Group (IJFG) with an aim to promote people to people contact, alliance, social and cultural interactions and cross cultural exchange between India and Japan with representatives from diverse fields such as social development, art, cultural, industries, commerce, religion, academics and students. Indians and Japanese people have had an opportunity to exchange views, ideas and get in depth understanding about each other's cultures. It also helped facilitate dialogue between India and Japan.



All the eminent people shared their views on the cultural inflow between India and Japan through the centuries, about the SWY program and various experiences of organizing the post program activities by SWYAA-India. SWYAA-India felicitated the Professor Takizawa and the Japanese students by presenting them the traditional hand woven shawls and flowers. Ms. Ito, Japanese student shared audio visual presentation about her personal experience of coping up with the great Earthquake and Tsunami of 3/11.



In the twelfth such meeting organized by SWYAA-India during the visit of the Japanese University students the participants included Ms. Neeta Chowdhary, Secretary, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India, Mr. Noda, Councilor, Japan Cultural Center, Embassy of Japan and Mr. Watanabe, Senior representative of JICA India, Mr. Pankaj Agrawala, Secretary, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Government of India and President of SWYAA-India and NL (SWY2), Mr. UKS Chauhan, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India, NL (SWY6), Mr. Ravi Chopra, General Secretary, SWYAA-India and Ex-PY (SWY6) Ms. Shobhana Radhakrishna, Chief Executive of SWYAA-India Mr. Rupesh Gupta, CA, Ex-PY, SWY6 and Treasurer of SWYAA-India, Ms. Pyeinbeit Passha, Ex-PY (SWY 2), Ms. Aishwarya, Ex-PY, (SWY2) , Prof. S. Takizawa, Toyo Eiwa University and invited guests from various fields and Indian and Japanese companies.

9. Environment Conservation

To conserve the precious resource of water and soil in the drought prone area in the villages of Bihar, individual rain water harvesting tanks of 2000 liters capacity were constructed. During the monsoon season the tanks were full and the excess rainwater was channeled in the wells bringing up the water table. This changed the lives of the poor families and reduced the drudgery of waiting endlessly for water and improving the quality of life.



Mrs. Shakuntala Devi with individual rainwater harvesting structure built by SWYAA-India

10. SUPPORT TO PYs AND Ex-PYs



Indian delegation for SWY 24 program during orientation training in January 2012 by SWYAA-India representative in Delhi and RGNIYD.

The participating youth from India for SWY24 were oriented at Delhi and Chennai at the Rajiv Gandhi Institute for Youth Development. Earlier a welcome dinner was organized by SWYAA-India in Delhi for the visiting government and semi government officials of SWY24.



11. PORT OF CALL ACTIVITIES IN INDIA FOR 24th SWY PROGRAM



The *Fuji Maru* ship is docking in Chennai from 12-14 February, 2012 for Port of Call activities with the PYs of SWY24. SWYAA-India will be extending all the support and cooperation for making this successful.

The Japanese ship '*Fuji Maru*' carrying a contingent of 272 youth of various nationalities from thirteen countries were part of the Ship for World Youth (SWY) Program being run by the Cabinet Office, Government of Japan. A vibrant and cross cultural society existed on board the Japanese cruise which docked at the Chennai port from 12th -14th February 2012. Twenty Ex-Participants (Ex-PYs) of the SWY program and members of the Ship for World Youth Alumni Association of India (SWYAA-India) welcomed the participating youth (PYs) at Port of Chennai on 12th February, 2012. Two Ex-PYs from Nepal and two Ex-PYs from Japan also joined SWYAA-India in the Port of Call activities. Mr. Atulya Misra, IAS and Chairman, Port Trust of Chennai, himself an Ex-Participant of the SWY16 program provided all the help on behalf of the Port authority.

When the ship arrived at the port they were welcomed by a band and banners by SWYAA-India and oriented the youth about the post program activities being carried out in India through a presentation and a short lecture by SWYAA-India. This event was hailed as an important event to celebrate the 60th year of diplomatic relations between India and Japan. All the members of SWYAA-India welcomed the youth and the ship administration to India. Earlier on January 31st the ship had left Yokohama (Japan) carrying 140 youth from Japan, 132 youth from countries like India, Bahrain, Brazil, Canada, Egypt, New Zealand, Peru, Russia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Turkey and Venezuela cruising around Chennai, and Sri Lanka before returning to Tokyo on March 5th, 2012 under the 'SWY Program'. Eleven youth are representing India in the SWY 24 program this time.

A photo exhibition of the activities of SWYAA-India was displayed on board ship *Fuji Maru* for two days and the newsletter was distributed. During the reception on board on 13th February evening Mr. Masanori NAKANO, Counsel General of Japan in Chennai and Mr. Maasaki Sato administrator of SWY24 highly appreciated the efforts of the Alumni Association of India of extending help to participating youth of SWY24 in Chennai and the post program initiatives of social development. Mr. Ravi Chopra, Secretary General of SWYAA-India presented gifts to the dignitaries present in the function.

On the 12th February RGNIYD arranged for the international youth delegates to visit seven different institutions viz., Bal Vihar, IIT (M), The Banyan, Ethiraj College, Stella Maries College, ICWO and I.V. Prasad Film and TV academy. The participating youth (PYs) accompanied by Indian Ex-participants (Ex-PYs) in all their visits to which was of great help in understanding the work and the local culture.



SWYAA-India members accompanied the participating youth and took part in focused group discussions at the RGNIYD on 13th February. They witnessed a cultural program comprising a mix of classical and folk dances and got a glimpse of rich Indian heritage. Later, the delegates of the ship visited seven groups to seven village visits to understand the Indian way of life and local governance.

This port of call in India helped in establishing networks and promoting joint activities amongst youth around the world and contributed towards youth leadership development and cross cultural exchange.

12. Reunion of Indian Ex-PYs

SWYAA-India hosted some of their SWY friends from Japan and Nepal who were on a visit to India. Home stay, cultural tourism and voluntary activities were organized for them. They also participated in the POC activities of SWY24.

After the POC SWYAA-India held a get together of the Ex-PYs from India Nepal and Japan in Chennai facilitated by Mr. Atulya Misra, NL SWY 18 and the Chairman Port Trust, Chennai.

The meeting included:

- Report of the activities on the accomplishments of SWYAA-India over the year and the efforts of promoting social development activities by Ravi Chopra, General Secretary, SWYAA-India
- Mobilizing the resources for organizing activities from government, corporate sector and promote corporate social responsibility in fulfilling the youth development activities

13. Forth coming events

SWYAA-India has initiated a program for volunteerism with the students of TUFFS University in Japan. Prof. Fujii has shown interest in bringing twenty students to India in 2013 for one week hands on voluntary training.

Peace program for youth supported by Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development, Government of India and interactive workshops for youth in National Integration Camps for social transformation in different states.

14. Publication

SWYAA-India brought out two coffee table books of photographs by the underprivileged children titled 'Our World One World' and 'My Habitat; My Friends' with the support of Canon India Private Limited. This book has sixty photographs taken by fifteen slum children highlighting their habitat, friends, families, joys and aspirations. These books were released by the H.E. Mr. Hideaki Domichi, Ex-Ambassador of Japan in India.

SWYAA-India brought out yearly newsletter 'Waves of friendships' in February 2012 and distributed at Ex-PYs, PYs during POC of 24th SWY and to Japanese embassy and agencies in India

15. Media Coverage

Print and electronic media in India and Japan gave exclusive coverage to various aspects of SWYAA-India. The magazine of the Embassy of Japan titled 'Japan Calling' carried the coverage in their two issues.



16. Networking and Linkages

SWYAA-India strengthened the linkages with the Embassy of Japan in India as well as with the Embassy of India in Japan. Strong relationships were forged with Sugunami City in Japan, Sugunami Association for Cultural Exchange, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Tokyo University for Foreign Studies (TUFS), International NGO Volunteer Platform in Japan, Japan Foundation, Initiatives for Change-Japan, Canon India Private Limited, OISCA International, Sophia University, Institute of Oriental Philosophy of Soka University, Universal Peace Foundation, SASAKAWA India Leprosy Foundation, Indo-Japan Partnership Forum and Indian Council for Cultural Relations. Meetings were held with the officials of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India and the official of the Rajiv Gandhi National Institute Youth Development, Government of India for the youth development program.

Profile of the Ship for World Youth Alumni Association-India (SWYAA-India)

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Legal Status	:	Registered under societies registration act XXI of Government of India <i>Registration No.:</i> S/58262 <i>Registration date:</i> 02/04/2007 Registered under section 12A and 80G of the Income Tax Act 1961, Government of India
Geographical coverage	:	States of India - Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Uttaranchal, Kerala and Assam
Executive committee	:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ President : Mr. Pankaj Agrawala, (I.A.S.) ▪ Vice -President : Mr. U.K.S.Chauhan, (I.A.S.) ▪ General Secretary : Mr. Ravi Chopra ▪ Treasurer : Mr. Rupesh Gupta ▪ Joint Secretary : Ms. Samrita Kaur Gill ▪ Chief Executive : Ms. Shobhana Radhakrishna
	▪	Contact Person : Mr. Ravi Chopra, General Secretary

“Be the change that you want to see in the world”.

-Mahatma Gandhi

Expressions of underprivileged Children

Art works by school children

Paintings on Mumbai Terror, Peace & Harmony



Pooja Paswan, 11 years



Krishna, 11 years



Krishna, 11 years



Krishna, 11 years



Lata, 11 years



Gohli, 11 years



Sheetal, 11 years



Jaha Ghosh, 11 years



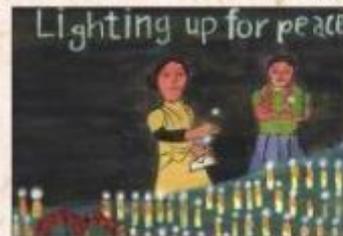
Beena, 11 years



Bharti, 11 years



Mahal, 11 years



Neha, 11 years



Bharti, 11 years



Pooja Sharma, 11 years



Jaha Ghosh, 11 years



Pooja Sharma, 11 years



Pooja Sharma, 11 years



Jaha Ghosh, 11 years

These paintings made by the primary school children in Delhi show us their impressions on the Mumbai terror attack and their message of peace, harmony and their testimonies against violence and terrorism.

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