



WAVES OF FRIENDSHIP

NEWSLETTER OF THE SHIP FOR WORLD YOUTH ALUMNI ASSOCIATION-INDIA



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Ship for World Youth Alumni Association-India (SWYAA-India) will complete twelve years in 2018. It has been a very fruitful journey which was made possible with mutual cooperation from friends and supporters of SWYAA-India. SWYAA-India worked hard in 2017 to reconnect with ex-PYs and key organizations who have been involved with the SWY program. 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. This year we are happy to receive the PYs of SWY 2018 at Kochi and hope you all are having an enjoyable learning experience on board Nippon Maru. *Bahut Dhanyavad!!!*

Ravi Chopra, President

SWYAA-India is a registered society (NPO) of Ex- Participating Youth (Ex-PYs) from India on the Ship for World Youth (SWY) organized by the Cabinet office of Government of Japan since 1989 in collaboration with various national Governments including the Government of India.



SWYAA-India was founded for the purpose of continuing the spirit that was fostered through the SWY program. The main activities include managing post-program social development activities that contribute to society, strengthening ties with the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India, Japanese Embassy and the Government of Japan.



SWYAA India undertakes youth promotional activities for social development in various states and regions in India. Till date, 168 Indian delegates have been sent by the Government of India in 15 batches.

Study tour by students of Keio University

SWYAA-India organized the study tour of 18 Japanese students from Keio



University, Tokyo who were accompanied by two professors from the department of Business and Commerce from 11th to 15th September 2017 in New Delhi and Bihar. In Delhi they volunteered in the SWYAA Open Schools and taught them Japanese songs, counting, painting and Origami.

In Bihar, SWYAA-India collaboration with 'Jeevika' rural livelihood program of the



Government of Bihar for studying the current economic situation and rural public health in India. The students visited rural villages, interacted with rural women to find out information in the areas of health and nutrition, social protection, rural employment and agriculture.

Field visit by students of University of Tokyo

In September 12 students studying liberal arts at the University of Tokyo visited



SWYAA Open Schools in Delhi. They belong to a NPO called MIS (Multilateral Interaction with Students) in Japan.

They interacted with the children and the community members and discussed about the possibility of starting a project in collaboration with SWYAA-India..

Education Program - SWYAA Open schools

In SWYAA Open School we educated 350 underprivileged children in the age group of 4 to 14 years living in slum



clusters in New Delhi. The children were taught up to primary level as per the school syllabus and 225 children were mainstreamed in the government primary schools for further education.

In addition SWYAA-India extended educational support in two municipal corporation government primary schools for 445 students of III to V standard. The students were supported in learning language, math and social science through activity based teaching and class room based support.

Visit of Ex-PYs to Open Schools

During the year eight Ex-PYs drawn from



different batches visited the Open Schools. They were also provided home stays. This was a joyous occasion for children as they got to learn some useful information, stories and songs from different cultures.

Visit of overseas volunteers to SWYAA open schools

Kristine Edith Morton, SWY17 from Norway visited with 12 college students to volunteer with children. They gave information about Norwegian culture and participated in the painting competition. Silje Bergitte Solli, SWY 12 sent two volunteers from Norway to teach computer skills to the children. Andrea Fani Wleugel volunteered for one month with the children and Simen Solli gave training in computers.



Satoru Someya and Yuki Miyasaka from Tsukuba University in Japan volunteered in the open school students by introducing Japanese culture and songs.

Collaborative project with Tsukuba Future Funding

This educational improvement project is being carried out for 300 girl students in



two municipal corporation primary schools through introduction of active learning by our facilitators and developing teaching learning material for increasing the learning level of students for realizing their true potentials for one year from October 2017.

Collaborative programs with other Alumni Associations

• Digital education with Norway

In collaboration with SWYAA-Norway we initiated the digital education and computer skills program for children of the Open School. Till date 53 children



have been trained in basic computer skills. Silje Bergitte Solli, SWY 12 visited the

Open School to start this project.

• Opportunities without discrimination with SWYAA NZ

SWYAA-India and SWYAA New Zealand launched the OWD campaign in government primary schools with more



than 1000 girl children in New Delhi. It was highlighted that we all face some form of discrimination and the lack of quality education is also a form of discrimination,



it does not allow the child to flourish. Accordingly the students took the lead in making stories about discrimination and presented role plays. SWYAA-India distributed education material and socks of different colors to students. Tiren Ratema, SWY 25 visited the Open School and also helped in distributing the material.

Konnichiwa Japan Cultural Festival

SWYAA-India took part in the celebrations for commemorating 2017 as the Year of Japan India Friendly Exchange by organizing 'Konnichiwa Japan cultural festival' on 18 & 19 November at New Delhi.

This festival transformed the venue into a little Japan island of all things local to Japan and was held to strengthen the cultural bonds between India and Japan. It indeed became a platform for the confluence of cultures where language was not a barrier. This two day festival was



endorsed by the Embassy of Japan in India as the official event during the Year of Japan India Friendly Exchanges.

The festival achieved its objective to showcase and introduce Japanese culture to Indian people as on these two days around ten thousand people Indians and Japanese both mingled with each other. The big surprise were the two Sumo Wrestlers who drew large crowds every time they introduced the intricacies of



Sumo wrestling and performed in the specially erected wrestling ring.

Seminar Lecture tour of Japan

SWYAA-India organized a seminar lecture tour to Japan for promoting International Peace, leadership, compassion and non-violence based on the Ideology of Mahatma Gandhi in Japan from 16th to 26th April 2017. The seminar lectures were delivered by Ms. Shobhana Radhakrishna, Chief Executive of SWYAA-India. The Embassy of Japan in



India and Consulate General of India in Osaka-Kobe endorsed this event and gave full support part of the events organized by them during 2017, The Year of Japan India Friendly Exchanges.

The seminar lectures were held in collaboration with seven universities and three organisations in Japan.

Child Sponsorship for Education

Ex-PYs from Norway raised funds to implement a joint project with SWYAA-



India and sponsored fourteen children education. Ex-PYs from Bahrain raised funds for sponsoring two children. Volunteers from Japan raised funds through crowd funding for the education of girl children in two Govt. Municipal Corporation Primary Schools in Delhi.

Ms. Yasuda from the Universal Peace Foundation, Japan and members of UPF India visited SWYAA Open School in September, 2017. They interacted with children and taught them Japanese songs.

Participation in Tokyo conference

Mr. S.K. Pandey from the Min. of Youth Affairs and Sports, Govt. of India and



Mr Ravi Chopra from SWYAA-India participated in the conference in Tokyo for effective implementation of the program for the port of call activities of SWY30 in Cochi, India.

Homestay+I

This year we arranged for Homestay+I programme for Masayo Tanaka, SWY29,

Tireni Ratem, SWY25, Garreth Stevens, SWY28, Monga Mukasa, SWY28 who visited India for the first time & enjoyed volunteering at the SWYAA Open School.

News

In October, 2017, the representatives of the Cabinet Office and IYEO visited India



to finalize the plans for POC at Delhi and Kochi in October with MoYAS, GOI. Mr. Ravi Chopra from SWYAA-India attended the coordination meeting and took part in the deliberations. In Kochi, Mr. Pradip Somasundaran from SWYAA-India was present during the visit of the Japanese officials to Cochin University and facilitated the conversation.

SWYAA-India hosted a special dinner for Mr. Shun Obu from the Cabinet Office, Ms. Tamae-Saito from IYEO, Mr. Kawasoe of Top Tour Travel Agency, Ms. Ikuyo Shimakura and Indian Ex-PYs in October. The team was in Delhi for coordinating the POC activities in Kochi in 2018.

Four Ex-PYs from India participated in the 11th SWYAA Global Assembly in UAE in November, 2017

Pre departure training of PYs

In December, 2017 representatives of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India and the members of



SWYAA-India conducted the pre departure training in Delhi for the PYs of SWY30 program. Detailed information was given about the SWY program by

showing them the official film and power point presentation.

Forth coming events

The Port of Call activities of SWY30 would be held from 11-13 February, 2018 at Kochi Port in in Kerala state. Forty Ex-PYs from India would be volunteering in all the activities during the POC.

A team of student s from the University of Tokyo would be volunteering in SWYAA Open School from 27-28 February, 2018. SWYAA -India would be organizing the training in Japanese chorus singing in a private school in Delhi by inviting Ms. Atsuko Arai, the renowned Japanese singer from Nara on 9 February 2018. Konnichiwa Japan Cultural Festival would be organized to showcase Japanese life, heritage, cuisine and culture in October, 2018 in New Delhi.

Messages



I am happy to know that as part of the celebration of 2017 as the year of Japan India Friendly Exchanges, Ship of World Youth Alumni Association - India' is organizing a series of lectures/interactive sessions in 8 Japanese Universities and other institutions between 16 and 26 April, 2017. The Indian side is represented by Smt. Shobhana Radhakrishnan and Shri Ravi Chopra, who would mainly be speaking on spirituality and service to humanity - Swami Vivekananda and Mahatma Gandhi... On this occasion, I extend my warm wishes to the speakers, organizers and the youth of Japan and wish the event all the success.

Mr. Vijay Goel, Honorable Minister of Sports & Youth Affairs, Government of India

I am glad to hear that you are going to spread the messages of Swami Vivekananda and Mahatma Gandhi to Japanese Youths on the occasion of the year 2017 being celebrated as the Year of India-Japan Friendly Exchanges'. I appreciate your effort to enhance the existing cultural ties between the two countries. I take this opportunity to convey my greetings and wish you and your team all success in your future endeavors.

Gen. (Dr.) V.K Singh (Retd.), Honorable Minister of External Affairs, Government of India

It gives me immense pleasure to note that Ms. Shobhana Radhakrishna will be



addressing the Japanese youths in a seminar-lecture tour on the Ideology of Mahatma Gandhi, from April 16 to 26, 2017. Japan and India are now enjoying an ever-closer friendly relationship under the banner of 'Special Strategic Global Partnership' and have been strengthening their ties in a wide range of fields, including politics, economy and cross cultural understanding.

In order to substantiate our Global Partnership, we need to further deepen our mutual understanding, and an event such as this seminar-lecture tour is certainly of great significance for this purpose... I extend my warm greetings and best wishes for the success of the event.

Mr. Yutaka Kikuta, Chargé d'Affaires ad interim, Embassy of Japan in India

Views



The experience of volunteering with the SWYAA India Open Schools is incredibly humbling. The curriculum offered there appears highly engaging. The students that I interacted with were just so inspiring, and I could see how much my visit and my time meant to them. This is the amazing thing about children no matter where you are in the world. That spark behind their eyes is so perfectly genuine when you get a chance to see it...

Ngā mihi - Tiren Ratema SWY25, NZ

It was a great privilege to visit the children of DISHA Open School Program for the second time. We sang & danced traditional Māori songs from Aotearoa/ New Zealand, it was great fun! My heart is warmly reminded of compassion and kindness through time spent with the children. I am extremely grateful for such opportunity and look forward to meaningful contribution on the future.

Garreth Stevens, SWY12, NZ



During 2017, in the year of Japan India Friendly Exchanges it was my honor to have visited Japan for giving seminar lectures to youth and people of Japan in various universities and institutions to promote

leadership, peace and harmony on behalf of SWYAA-India. Thanks are due to the Japanese ex-participants of SWY program for their overwhelming support, friendship and for the opportunity for promoting volunteerism, cross cultural understanding on global issues of common concern. This event has renewed the universal sharing of material and spiritual in the words of Mahatma Gandhi.

Shobhana Radhakrishna, Chief Executive, SWYAA-India



Ever since its inception in 2004 as a registered organisation, SWYAA-India has been striving relentlessly to empower young children with soft skills through basic education. We have been successfully running 'Open Schools' for the children of slum dwellers. The students have played host to the SWY Alumni during their visit to India. Japan holds a special place with them. We are now waiting for one of the schoolers to participate in the SWY programme!

- Samrita Kaur Gill, SWY6 Vice President, SWYAA-India

After SWY29, I visited India and got the opportunity to visit the SWYAA-India Open School. I enjoyed the time with children by folding cranes, singing the Japanese song 'Saita Saita' and showing Japanese costume Yukata. The children were very pure and energetic, I felt happy because they welcomed me and got interested in Japanese culture... I would like to meet their smile again.

Mayao Tanaka SWY29 Japan



SWYAA-India Executive Committee: Mr. Ravi Chopra, President; Ms. Samrita Kaur Gill, Vice-President; Mr. Rupesh Gupta, CA, Treasurer and Ms. Shobhana Radhakrishna, Chief Executive

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