Ship for World Youth Alumni Association-India



Country Report 2023



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Ship for World Youth Alumni Association-India (SWYAA-India) completed seventeen years in 2023.

SWYAA-India promoted and took part in the various activities of the Embassy of Japan in India and promoted culture, heritage, travel, and cuisine of Japan.

SWYAA-India was acknowledged by the Embassy of Japan in India and the Japan Foundation 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 postprogram initiatives made an impact and helped in changing the lives of the underprivileged sections of the society through the SWYAA-Open Schools. This year the educational inputs for the students of SWYAA-India remained focused on online teaching through digital education.

SWYAA-India continued to promote youth leadership for international peace, harmony, and Nonviolence in Japanese Universities by conducting lectures, seminar, training courses and established collaboration between by SWYAA-India and other Japanese agencies in India during 2023.

SWYAA-India has taken forward important, innovative initiatives to establish networking opportunities around India focusing on areas such as education, environment, healthcare, and Social Justice.

We envisage SWYAA-India as the empowering institution for the post program activities in India with networking opportunities in the SWYAA-International countries towards the development of leadership with capabilities to serve humanity.

SWYAA-India conducted online lectures and certificate courses on the philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi in collaboration with the Indian Mission and encouraged the Ex-PYs to take part in the courses and learn Mahatma Gandhi's messages of universal Peace, nonviolence, harmony, and brotherhood. They well appreciated this event as it fulfilled the objectives of furthering friendly exchanges and people-to-people contact.

on racis about your country s	Alumni Association:
Country	INDIA
Name of the organization	SHIP FOR WORLD YOUTH ALUMNI ASSOCIATION-INDIA (SWYAA-INDIA)
Organisational structure	Officially registered with the Government of India as an NPO
Board members (Name/batch)	President: Mr. Ravi Chopra Vice President: Ms. Samrita Gill Treasurer: Mr. Rupesh Gupta General Secretary: Dr. Hepesh Shepherd Joint Secretary: Mr. Pradip Somasundaran Chief Executive: Dr. Shobhana Radhakrishna
Number of members	Total number of ex-PYs: 179 Active members: 74
Annual membership fee	Yes → Indian Rs.500 or US\$ 8
asic facts about your country's	participation in SWY:
Which batches has your coun participated in?	16 Batches (SWY2, SWY4, SWY6, SWY8, SWY12, SWY14, SWY16, SWY18, SWY20, SWY22, SWY24, GLDP27, SWY28, SWY29 & SWY30)
Which institution has conduct the selection process?	Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India
Which institution has conducted the pre- departure training?	Government of India and SWYAA-India
How many days was the pre-departure training?	5 days
ommunication:	
How does your AA communicate internally with members & externally with non-members?	Website \rightarrow <u>https://www.swyaa-india.in</u> Facebook page \rightarrow <u>https://www.facebook.com/swyaa.india</u> Twitter \rightarrow https://twitter.com/SWYAA10GA Newsletter \rightarrow Wave of Friendship (Yearly) E-mail \rightarrow swyindia@gmail.com
TWORKING AND COLLABORATIC	NS WITH JAPAN AND THE GLOBAL COMMUNITY
Important associates and collaborators?	Embassy of Japan in India Vivekananda Cultural Centre, Embassy of India in Tokyo Japan Foundation, India

	Sophia University in Tokyo		
	SWYAAs in Japan and Norway		
	DISHA, New Delhi		
	Discover Japan Club, India		
	Municipal Corporation of Delhi		
Do you organize events with	Yes		
the Japanese Embassy?	→ How often: Six-monthly		
	ightarrow What kind of events: seminar, lecture, meeting, and courses		
Do you organize events with	🗌 Yes		
the Japanese community?	\rightarrow How often: Six-monthly		
	ightarrow What kind of events: seminar, lecture, meeting, events, festival		
	& voluntary work		
ACTIVITIES IN THE PREVIOUS YEAR			
International reunions (Please w	rite your AA has hosted an international reunion)		
Name of the event	No		
Date of the event			
Hosting city			
How many participants?			
From which countries?			
Please write a summary of			
the event			
National reunions (Please write your AA has hosted a national reunion)			
Name of the event	Get together and meeting were organized by SWYAA-India		
Date of the event	May and December 2023		
Hosting city	Delhi		
How many participants?	12		
Please write a summary of	Ex-PYs narrated about their activities to promote SWY program with		
the event	youth. They also informed about the various social development		
	activities that they had done over the year including training,		
	mentoring and blood donation programs.		
	It was decided to promote volunteerism in social development		
	activities with a cross section of youth from universities, colleges,		
	and schools in their respective areas.		
Receiving ex-SWY participants			
How many SWY visitors did	3 Ex JPYs from Japan		
you receive in your country?			
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Did you organize a "Homestay + 1" project for the visitors? If yes, please write in detail.	Yes. We organized a Homestay+1 project for Ms. Tomoko Okawara in February 2023
OTHERS	

Ms Ramya Haridass SWY24 got elected as the Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha (MP) from Alathur, Kerala, in May 2019. Her term is till 2024.

Mr Sajeev Joseph SWY24 got elected as the Member of the Legislative Assembly, from Irikkur constituency in Kerala, in May 2021.

Mr. Ravi Chopra, SWY6 President of SWYAA-India, continued as the President of the Discover Japan Club, India. He was awarded the order of the Rising Sun with golden and silver rays for his contribution in promoting Indo-Japan relations.

Mr. Atulya Misra, IAS, SWY4 Members SWYAA-India became the Principal Secretary in Government of Tamil Naidu (Sr. Bureaucratic posting in Indian Government).

Ms. Samrita Kaur Gill, SWY6 Vice President of SWYAA-India, promoted to Joint commissioner in the Government of India.

Dr. Shobhana Radhakrishna, Chief Executive of SWYAA India, took on the responsibility as the Chief Functionary of the Gandhian Forum for Ethical Corporate Governance for Public Sector Enterprises and as the Advisor to Gandhipedia, Ministry of Culture, Government of India.

Mr. Satya Ranjan Swain, SWY29, was appointed as the senior panel counsel to represent the Government of India in Delhi High Court.

POST-PROGRAM SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN BY SWYAA-INDIA DURING 2023 ARE AS UNDER:

Visit of Ex-PYs of SWY and Homestay + 1 project

<u>1) Ms Okawara Tomoko</u>, Director of Centre for International Youth Exchange, and the Ex-President of International Youth Exchange Organisation (IYEO) of Japan visited our educational program in slums and Municipal Corporation Primary School in Delhi. It was a great opportunity for students to learn about Japan and its culture.



Okawara san conducted Quiz, Origami, Japanese songs, and danced 'Soranbushi' together with children. Tomoko san performed the traditional Japanese dance 'Sakura Sakura' much to the enjoyment of the students. This visit provided an opportunity for promoting people to people exchange between both our countries.



The Embassy of Japan in Delhi has also appreciated the visit of Okawara san to promote Japanese culture hosted by SWYAA India.

Home Stay+ 1 : We extended home stay for Tomoko- san for two days. We provided her with the opportunity to participate in voluntary activities at SWYYA -Open schools.

2) <u>Ms Rinito Komiya</u>, Ex-JPYs of SWY21 visited India in October 2023 and had a meeting with SWYAA-India. It was a wonderful opportunity to connect with her and learn about her interest in the Open School activities.



3) <u>Ms. Kumi Matoba</u>, Ex-JPYs of SWY14 working in Delhi with Doctors without Borders as a Pharmacist continued to support the educational programs of SWYAA-India by visiting the Open Schools three times over the year.



Collaboration with Embassy of Japan in India

Photo Exhibition 'Japan from India's Perspective' held at the Municipal Corporation Primary School in Delhi by SWYAA-India

The Ship for the World Youth Alumni Association-India (SWYAA-India) organized an exhibition of photographs for the students of three primary schools in the Karol Bagh zone in collaboration with the Embassy of Japan in Delhi. This was a part of an exhibition of a selection of the best photographs taken by Indian visitors to Japan.

The photographs covered a range of subjects from traditional Japanese architecture, including temples and shrines, people, and landscape. There was a section on the History of Japan - India, Japanese culture, crafts, shrines, and temples. These photographs showcased distinctive seasons, traditional culture, architecture, and the latest technology seen through the perspective of the Indian travelers.



In February 2023, SWYAA-India collaborated with the Embassy of Japan in Delhi to display selected photographs of Japan to Municipal Corporation Primary school (MCPS) children. The first exhibition was held on 25th February 2023 in MCPS Naraina school for girls of classes 3rd to 5th in the forenoon.

The special invitee on that day was Ms. Kumi MATOBA, Ex-JPY from the Ship for World Youth program and currently working in India with the organization Doctors without Borders.



Ms. Matoba interacted with the students of standards 4th and 5th and explained about each of the photographs in great detail. She introduced them to Japanese culture through counting, language, and taught them a song in Japanese in which the students took part enthusiastically. She regaled the students with anecdotes about Japan and taught Origami paper craft. A special video was shown to introduce the students to various aspects of Japan which were specific to the needs of the children.

This was followed up by an interaction with MCPS Naraina village, shift-2 for boys in the afternoon. The boys keenly observed the exhibition and asked many questions. In the assembly hall Ms. Kumi Matoba gave an orientation about Japan- India relations and the cultural inflow between our two countries.

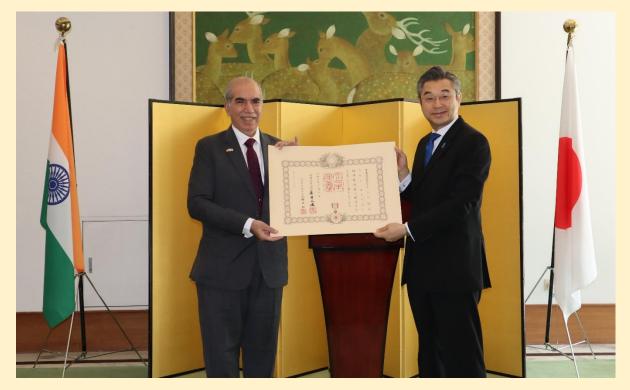
On 4th March 2023, this exhibition was organized at the Municipal Corporation Primary School in JJ Camp Naraina Vihar. Apart from the exhibition, special counters were set up for students and the teachers. These counters displayed and taught Origami and use of chopsticks to the students. A session on Japanese songs Sōran Bushi and dance was also held for the students, which was the most appreciated and enjoyed activity. Sōran Bushi (ソーラン節) is one of the most famous traditional songs and dance (min'yō) in Japan.



The school principals, along with the teachers and the students, liked these initiatives very much and appreciated and applauded the efforts of the Embassy of Japan and SWYAA-India.

Conferment of Decorations by Japanese Government

The Government of Japan officially conferred the 'Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays' award to Mr. Ravi Chopra in recognition of his contribution to promoting friendship and mutual understanding between Japan and India through people-to-people exchanges.



This has become more special as Japan and India are celebrating the 70th anniversary of the establishment of the diplomatic relations and all of us will continue to work to further deepening of Japan-India relations. This is one of the highest orders, bestowed by the Japanese government awarded in the name of the Emperor of Japan.

Reference:

- https://www8.cao.go.jp/shokun/en/orders-of-the-rising-sun.html
- https://www.mofa.go.jp/announce/info/conferment/index.html
- https://www.mofa.go.jp/files/100415157.pdf at Page 14)

On 8th August 2023, Ambassador of Japan to India, Mr. Suzuki Hiroshi hosted a ceremony at the Embassy of Japan for the conferment of Decoration of the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays! H.E. The Ambassador has had an experience of the exchange program in his school days and said that he understood the importance of such SWY programs on the lives of youth.



Ravi Chopra explained and introduced about the SWY program. The Ambassador was very appreciative of social contribution activities of SWYAA-India and especially of involving Japanese university students for voluntarism in the SWYAA Open schools. The links of the Embassy of Japan and the media coverage:

- https://www.in.embjapan.go.jp/itpr_ja/11_000001_01012.html
- https://twitter.com/HiroSuzukiAmbJP/status/168 8903009604886528
- https://www.facebook.com/EmbassyofJapaninInd ia/posts/pfbid02enVvpQp9kYC9ieihFAyn9BDqgaW 3Rkn58TnJjiDie2rVeJDmD1PV6aStw4R67R1RI

Media coverage



- https://theprint.in/india/japans-envoy-felicitates-president-of-delhi-based-organisation-for-promoting-india-japan-friendship/1706141/?amp
- https://www.ptinews.com/news/north/japans-envoy-felicitates-president-of-delhibased-organisation-for-promoting-india-japan-friendship/626366.html

Participations in the events organized by the Embassy of Japan in India

1) Washoku Conclave": President and Chief Functionary of SWYAA India were invited by the Embassy of Japan in Delhi to participate in their "Washoku Conclave" - Explore Our Table for Sustainability - a Curtain - raiser event on 18th June 2023. This is to mark 2023 year as "Japan-India Tourism Exchange Year"



The year 2023 marks the 10th Anniversary of the registration of "Washoku", one of the traditional Japanese cuisines, as a UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage. And a new initiative is underway to register "Traditional Sake Brewing" as a UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage". In addition, the year 2023 has been designated as the "Japan-India Tourism Exchange Year" by the Japanese and Indian governments. Taking this opportunity, the Embassy of Japan in India had planned to organize a series of events that will allow the people of India to cultivate knowledge and enjoy Washoku, including Japanese Sake.

To kick, start the activities the Japanese Embassy organised "Washoku Conclave. The executive chefs from Japan and India had talked about "Sustainability" in a Culinary Culture of India and Japan and interestingly invitees have experienced Sushi, Japanese curries etc. Japanese companies will exhibit fabulous Japanese foods during the conclave.

- 2) Lecture by Prime Minister of Japan: SWYAA India had invited to participated in the special event organized by the Embassy of Japan in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of Indian and Indian Council of World Affairs in Delhi on March 2023. The Prime Minister of Japan Mr. Fumio Kishida had delivered a Lecture on a New Plan for a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific" during this event.
- **3) Birthday celebrations of Emperor of Japan**: Ambassador of Japan to India Mr Hiroshi Suzuki hosted a gala reception on 15 February 2023 at their official residence in the Embassy of Japan to celebrate the 63rd Birthday of His Majesty Emperor Naruhito, which also happens to be Japan's National Day. 23rd February is Japan's National Day to celebrate the 63rd Birthday of the Japan Emperor Naruhito. Naruhito is the 126th Emperor of Japan, according to the country's traditional order of succession. The President and Chief Functionary of SWYAA India were invited by the Embassy of Japan to participate in this reception.

The invitees on the occasion of the reception on Wednesday included top diplomats from various countries and prominent people from industry, trade, commerce, government, defense forces, hospitality, travel, education, and media. The Indian Minister of state for external affairs and education and his wife were the guests of honor on this occasion.

SWYAA India collaboration with Japanese Sophia University

SWYAA India facilitated the visit of a team of senior management of Sophia School Corporation Japan and faculty members of Sophia University, Tokyo, to Delhi during September 2023. Their names and designations are:

1. Prof. Sali Augustine, Chancellor of Sophia School Corporation (Operating Sophia University as well as four junior-senior high schools and junior college in Japan) and Professor of Faculty of Global Studies, Sophia University

2. Prof. Tetsuo Morishita, Vice President of the Global Affairs, Sophia University

3. Prof. Tomoharu Shibuya, Dean of the Faculty of science and technology, Sophia University



4. Prof. Gonsalves, Faculty of science, Sophia University

SWYAA-India held meetings with the visiting professors for collaborating in the study tour of student from Sophia university for volunteering in Delhi. SWYAA India organized a courtesy call of the visiting professors at the Embassy of Japan in Delhi. A meeting was arranged with First Secretary, Mr. Nakayama and other officials of the Embassy on 13th September to discuss about the possibility of collaboration with the Indian Universities.

Participation in the CAO meeting for SWY FY2023

President of SWYAA-India participated in the Meeting for Representatives of Participating Countries of SWY FY2023 program that was hosted online by the Office of the International Youth Exchange, Cabinet Office, Government of Japan in June 2023. The purpose of the meeting was to explain and exchange opinions on the implementation of the SWY33. The main contents of the meeting were to explain the future schedule of the program. SWYAA India shared progress about the selection of NL and PYs from India in this meeting and give some suggestions for implementing of SWY33 program.

Education Program - SWYAA Open Schools

SWYAA-INDIA is implemented the in-school interactive project for education of girl children studying in the Municipal Corporation primary schools of Delhi in the academic year 2023-24. The project was implemented in close collaboration with the Department of Education, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi and DISHA. The project started after obtaining the required permission from the Department of Education to carry out the project in two Municipal Corporation Primary School.



From January 2023 to December 2023, SWYAA-INDIA provided digital education and academic support in Hindi and Math to girl children studying in class 3rd to 5th. The academic support was given to students in the classroom as well as in the digital resource centers for enhancing the quality of education of the students. SWYAA-INDIA also engaged the class teachers by sharing information and outcome of the innovative pedagogy used by the school facilitator successfully through school curriculum interventions in the Open Schools.

SWYAA-India aimed to provide inclusive and fair quality education to disadvantaged girl children for promoting lifelong learning opportunities, as per the UN Sustainable Development Goal-4. One of our focus areas is inclusive education through innovative approaches for underprivileged children and to advocate for making quality education a reality for all by 2030. SWYAA-India aimed to play a transformative role in shaping young minds and molding their characters.



With this aim, SWYAA-India educated 262 students in the SWYAA-Open Schools set up in two slum clusters and in two Municipal Corporation Primary School in Delhi. SWYAA-India recognizes that education is a must for a better future. Our work with students studying in 3rd to 6th classes is through imparting primary level education, preparing them for socialization, and mainstreaming in the classes. Children who were school dropouts or working learned in the remedial classes.



SWYAA-INDIA provided digital education and academic support in language, general science, and math for girl children. Academic support was given to students in the classroom and in the digital resource centers for enhancing the quality of education of the students. SWYAA-INDIA established resource centers in the space allocated by the schools. The Teaching-Learning Materials, storybooks and resource materials were placed for the students to use and learn. Students attended the digital resource centers to carry out activities with the teaching-learning materials.

This support has enabled the students to avail learning opportunities through the pedagogy of activity-based learning. The education support with the help of our facilitators has enabled them to learn language, math, general knowledge, and English in a joyful learning atmosphere and with the aid of attractive teaching-learning materials.



Activities in the Open Schools included teaching multi-level, multi-age and multi-grade children in language, arithmetic, and general science. For this, we used games and play-based curriculum, child-friendly, joyful activities for the holistic development of the students.



In addition, in the SWYAA Open School, Japanese culture and language were introduced through songs and books to the students.

Introducing inspiring stories of unsung warriors

As we celebrate 75 years of India's independence, we also remembered the stories of women forgotten by time, but whose contribution to our freedom movement is ever lasting. Our effort was to celebrate the lives of some women who led the charge and lit the flames of protest and rebellion throughout the country during the Freedom Struggle and mobilized millions of people from every walk of life in protest against the colonial rule.



As part of the Digital education SWYAA India brought together the stories published by the Ministry of Culture, the Government of India as pictorial illustrated stories to share with the students. The students took great interest and raised questions to understand more and participated in the question-and-answer sessions enthusiastically.



Organized UN International Peace Day and Gandhi Katha

Each year, the International Day of Peace (IDP) is observed around the world on 21st September. The UN General Assembly has declared this as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, through observing 24 hours of non-violence and cease-fire. Never has our world needed peace more. SWYAA India celebrated the International Peace Day with the 5th class children in Open Schools.



Children were also taught peace and non-violence and speaking truth, using the childhood story of Mahatma Gandhi. They were surprised to know that a shy child, Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi them became a Mahatma applying truth and honesty all throughout his life. Children tried to understand different values like honesty, Self-Reliance, and punctuality through role-plays, sharing their experiences etc.

On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi on 2nd October 2023, a series of Gandhi Katha were organized with the children of class 3rd to 5th. The Children were told about the various aspects of Mahatma Gandhi's life, work, and the independence movement. Topics covered were child Mohan, student Mohan, Barrister Mohan Das Gandhi, his fight against racial discrimination in South Africa and the contribution of Mahatma Gandhi in the Indian Independence movement. Children were trained to recite the Gandhi Dhun.



<u>National Unity Day – 31st October 2023</u>

'National Unity Day' or 'Rashtriya Ekta Diwas' is celebrated in India on 31st October every year throughout the country. The day is celebrated to mark the birth anniversary of India's great leader Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, who played a major role in the political integration of India. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel was born on 31st October,1875 in Nadiad district in Gujarat. In accordance with the above campaign, students were taught about the life and work of Sardar Patel.



Vallabhbhai Patel (31 October 1875 - 15 December 1950), popularly known as Sardar Patel, was an Indian politician. He served as the first Deputy Prime Minister of India. He was an Indian barrister and statesman, a senior leader of the Indian National Congress and a founding father of the Republic of India who played a leading role in the country's struggle for independence and guided its integration into a united, independent nation. In India and elsewhere, he was often called Sardar, meaning 'chief' in Hindi, Urdu, and Persian. He acted as Home Minister during the political integration of India.

Painting workshop:

SWYAA-India organized training in drawing and painting with the children of class 3rd on the occasion of World Happiness Day. Children also made drawings on the symbol of the human chain and different emojis. A painting workshop was organized in December 2023. The students made beautiful paintings on the theme of Christmas and New Year's 2024 greeting cards. These paintings were displayed in the resource center and some paintings were given to the teachers.



Joint Programs Between SWYAA-India and other SWY Alumni Associations SWYAA-NORWAY –DIGITAL EDUCATION AND COMPUTER SKILLS



In collaboration with Ex-PY Silje Solli from SWYAA-Norway, the digital education and computer skills program continued for students at the Open School. This year, 22 students learned digital skills. The parents of the students highly valued the computer class and expressed their satisfaction with the progress of their wards. In addition, we gave them the certificates of completion. Most of the students expressed their desire to continue to learn more next year.

Orientation Meeting with Officials of Embassy of Japan & Japanese Agencies

SWYAA- India held an orientation meeting with the newly joined officials of the Embassy of Japan in Delhi. From the Embassy of Japan, Ms. Minna Matsuyama, Mr. Yashuhiro Yonehara and Ms. Anshulka Bhatt joined the meeting.

Mr. Ravi Chopra, Dr. Shobhana Radhakrishna and Mr. Ramesh Kumar oriented them about the aims and programs implemented over the years and explained the future action plan of SWYAA-India.

We also had a meeting with Mr. Koji Sato, Director of the Japan Foundation India Office and Ms. Yuka Hayakawa, Deputy Director of the Japan Foundation about joint collaboration with the activities of SWYAA-India.

Networking and Linkages

SWYAA-India strengthened the linkages with the Embassy of Japan in India. We forged a strong relationship with the Japan Foundation and Sophia University. We held meetings with the officials of the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, for the International cultural exchange program.

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Website	:	www.swyaa-india.in
Legal Status	:	Registered under societies registration act XXI of
		Government of India
		Registration No.: S/58262
		Registration date: 02/04/2007
		Registered under section 12A and 80G of the Income Tax
		Act 1961, Government of India
Geographical covera	ge :	All India
Executive committee	ee :	
 President 	:	Mr. Ravi Chopra
Vice President	:	Ms. Samrita Kaur Gill, C.C.S
 Treasurer 	:	Mr. Rupesh Gupta, C.A.
General Secreta	ıry:	Dr. Hepesh Shepherd
 Joint Secretary 	:	Mr. Pradip Somasundaran
Chief Executive	e :	Dr. Shobhana Radhakrishna

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

"An ounce of patience is worth more than a tone of preaching."-Mahatma Gandhi