

Report on the 24th Ship for World Youth (SWY) program

By the Egyptian Delegation

Introduction

We started our journey on the 24th Ship for World Youth program with our selection in late July to participate in this amazing-life changing once in a lifetime experience. From the month of July up until the day we departed for Tokyo on January 17th, we had been preparing, meeting, thinking, collaborating, and many more activities to make sure we were ready to take on the 45-days-long adventure ahead of us. We were 11 participants, one National Leader (NL) and 10 participating youths (two of which were Assistant National Leaders (ANLs)) from all walks of life and different aspects of the Egyptian society. We each had our own ideas and perceptions of how this trip was going to be and what we were going to learn, what we would return with and what we would leave behind, but in the end, we could all agree that we were going to represent Egypt as a group and that it was our most important task.

Who we are:

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|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Tarek Sherif – NL | 7. Khadija Mostafa |
| 2. Ahmed Samir – ANL | 8. Mushera Kamel |
| 3. Rabab Elmonofi – ANL | 9. Norhan Diab |
| 4. Ahmed Maher | 10. Nour Rady |
| 5. Ahmed Saad | 11. Youssef El Mahdy |
| 6. Dalia Younis | |



Short Summary

We arrived to Tokyo on January 18th where we were introduced to some administration staff, many of the other participating youths, and most of the ground rules we had to follow and some last minutes preparation for the beginning of our program the next day. On the 19th of January, our National Leader had a courtesy call with the Prime Minister along with one of the Assistant National Leaders, and then we had an official ceremony at the Cabinet Office and later a reception at the hotel which marked the start of the program. In the following days, until January the 23rd, we were sent to Yamagata Prefecture, more specifically Shonai-Shi, where we participated in the local homestay program along with the Venezuelan delegation. After our return to Tokyo, we were directly transferred to the National Olympics Memorial Youth Center for the pre-departure training period until January 30th. During that period, we were introduced to our discussion course, our letter group, our committee, and many other things. We were given the opportunity to have a planned tour of

Tokyo, to practice for our national presentation, to make new friends with the participating youth and finally to have institutional visits such as those with our discussion course but also the United Nations University. On the 30th we arrived in Yokohama where we finally came face to face with our home for the next 35 days. On January the 31st we departed for Singapore, spent one night there from the 7th of February until the 8th and then departed for Chennai, India. On February 11th, we had our national presentation. We had chosen this day in particular, for the meaning it held for us, it had been a year since the end of an era, one which most of us never thought would have an end. On February 12th, we arrived to India. We spent three days in Chennai and then departed for Colombo, Sri Lanka on the 14th. We arrived to Colombo on the 16th, where we spent four days until the 19th and we were sadly off to our return trip. We arrived to Singapore on the 23rd of February after a long journey at sea, where we spent one night and were off to our final stop Naha-Shi, Okinawa. The same day of our arrival on March 2nd, we departed for Tokyo where we were taken to the airport to take our flight back to Cairo.

Part I: Local Homestay Program and Pre-Departure Training

A. Local Homestay Program: Shonai-Shi, Yamagata Prefecture (Jan. 20-23)

We left for our homestay program on January 20th along with the Venezuelan delegation and were all looking forward to experiencing the wonders of Japanese culture. For many of us, going to Yamagata meant that we would see snow for the first time, it was a thought we could not contain. When we arrived at the airport in Shonai-Shi, some of us could not resist but go outside to touch the snow; to us it was a wondrous thing. We started our visit with a tour of the Maruhachi pickle company where we were given a private showing of how things function at the factory, where the pickles are stored, for how long, the annual sales, etc... After the factory visit, we were taken to the hotel in which we were spending the night. We experienced the traditional grand bath, very traditional Japanese dining and of course, sleeping on the floor (a first for many of us). The next morning we were allocated a certain time period where we could enjoy ourselves in the snow, the Egyptian and Venezuelan delegations decided to separate into camps and fight each other in a game of snowball-throwing. After we had our fun and rested, we then went to our institutional visit which was Tohoku University of Community Services and Science. During that visit, we took part in a discussion with Japanese students about the way family was represented in our different cultures and how important the bonds and activities between us were. From this discussion we learned that there were many more similarities between the Venezuelan and Egyptian way of life than there are between both these countries and the Japan.

This of course was shocking to both delegations, as we did not expect to have any similarities given our different cultures. After the university visit, we were taken to the Shonai-Shi Town Hall for our welcome reception and homestay matching. There we met our families, Shonai-Shi officials and were taught how to do the “hanagasa” dance (a very traditional dance from Yamagata Prefecture). On the 23rd of January, when we returned from our homestay, we attended a courtesy call at the Town Hall where our National Leader was asked to give his first speech and then we attended our second courtesy call at the Shonai Branch Office, where our National Leader was asked to give another speech. This last courtesy call marked the end of our local homestay program, from which we returned directly to Tokyo and were transferred to the National Olympics Memorial Youth Center (NYC) for our pre-departure training.



B. Pre-Departure Training, National Olympics Memorial Youth Center (NYC), Tokyo (Jan. 24-30)

We started our training with an ice-breaking game organized by the National Leaders of all the participating countries, in order to get us more acquainted with the Japanese participants, but also with the overseas participants. Because we had spent about two days with the overseas participants before our local homestay program, this was mostly to help us get better integrated with the Japanese participants. At first it was very random but eventually we were each divided into our letter group. In the next following days, we had a series of orientations, seminars and lectures all explaining to us the procedures of the program, the rules we had to follow, the things we would be doing, etc... On January 25th, our National Leader had an audience with His Imperial Highness the Crown Prince along with the other Assistant National Leader. While this was occurring, the different groups met to decide in which committee each member would be. That same morning, we were given a “special seminar” which was mainly about sexual harassment. This seminar was presented by the National Leaders, some of the participants and the advisor of the Cross-Cultural Understanding course, Ms. Haruko Ishii. In this seminar, they taught us how to say hello in the different participating countries, what was sexual harassment in each of the different cultures, what you could and couldn’t do, etc... The following day, we were all separated into our different discussion courses and had our own institutional visit (related to the course). On January 26th, we had our very first Leadership Seminar, where we were required to think of our future goals, whether they were short-term or long-term. We had to assess our personalities, our good and bad qualities, we

had to discuss them with our group members and then decide on what our goals were and how we would achieve them. On January 29th, all groups went out for the Tokyo City Tour organized by the Japanese participants of each group. We all visited different locations around Tokyo and enjoyed the time spent with our group. Finally, for our last day in Tokyo, we completed our most important institutional visit, the United Nations University, where we were given a lecture by renowned speakers. We were then taken to Yokohama, and introduced to the M/s Fuji-Maru, our home for the upcoming 35 days.



Part II: Ports of Call

A. Chennai, India (Feb. 12-14)

We arrived in Chennai on the 12th of February where we had our first institutional visit with our group. After the visit, we were taken back to the ship to enjoy free time. The next day, we went to the Rajiv Gandhi Institute, where we each attended a lecture of our choice followed by a cultural show and lunch. After the institute, we were separated into groups and taken to poor villages in Chennai. We presented them with gifts and they presented us with warm smiles, friendly welcomes and beautiful cultural shows. After the village visit, we were taken back to the ship for our on board reception where VIPs were invited. On the following day, our last day in Chennai, we had free time in the morning before we would depart for Sri Lanka in the early afternoon.



B. Colombo, Sri Lanka (Feb. 16-19)

We arrived in Colombo on the 16th of February and were welcomed by a cultural performance on the docks while we stood and watched from the ship. It was a historical moment in SWY history for both us and Sri Lanka, because Fuji-Marui had not visited Sri Lanka in over 10 years. They were well-prepared and ready to receive us with open arms. On this first day in Colombo, we did not have any official port of call activities planned; however, we received an orientation from the SWYAA of Sri Lanka who had an answer to all our questions. We were also given free time on this first day to enjoy the beauty of Colombo. That night, we had the welcome reception on board, where ambassadors and VIPs joined us. On the second day, we had our institutional visit by course discussion; each of us visited a location that was related to the things we were given in our course discussions. Following the institutional visit, we were taken to the National Youth Services Council (NYSC) where we had lunch and were given a private show of Sri Lanka martial arts “Angam Demonstration”. Following this show, we took part of a friendly football game between the Sri Lankan national youth team and our very own Fuji team (composed of players from all delegations, both male and female), then, we took part of a culture show, where the Sri Lankan youth performed for us many of their cultural dances and where some of the participating countries in SWY also performed one of their dances. On the third day, we were taken to visit one of the most beautiful creatures in the world, the Asian Elephant, at the Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage. After that visit, we were divided into two groups based on our letter groups, some of us went to visit a

school, and others went to visit an ancient Buddhist temple. Finally, on the last day, the 19th, we had the honor of being visited by the President of Sri Lanka who presented us each with a small gift from the heart of Sri Lanka. We departed for Singapore by midday.



The President's Visit



Institutional Visits



SWY Football Team- National Youth Center in Sri Lanka

Part III: On-Board Activities

A. Committees

There were ten different committees on board, each with a different role, only one of which was decided departing for Japan, the others were decided during a group meeting at the NYC in Tokyo. NL does not take part of a committee.

1. Assistant Group Leaders (AGLs): Ahmed Samir and Ahmed Saad
2. Course Discussion committee: Norhan Diab, Nour Rady, Khadija Mostafa, and Youssef El Mahdy
3. PY Seminars committee: -
4. National Presentation committee (decided before departure): Rabab Elmonofi
5. Sports & Recreation committee: -
6. Exhibition committee: -
7. Farewell Dinner committee: -
8. Press committee: Mushera Kamel, Dalia Younis, and Ahmed Maher
9. Voluntary Activities committee: -
10. General Affairs committee: -

B. Club Activity

Each delegation was asked to have at least one club activity on board where we would show something related to our culture, our way of life or something about our country. We were each required to participate in two of the tens of clubs that were available, except for those who were on the organizing team of a club, they only had to pick one. Each club had a representative and two assistant representatives. Our club, which we called “Masr”, was represented by Mushera Kamel and her two assistants, Norhan Diab and Rabab Elmonofi. Our club was

mostly about handcraft. We taught 20 participants how to make Egyptian traditional necklaces with gold and silver plated coins, with Egyptian symbolic items and they had to connect them together. We also taught them how to make bracelets and anklets and finally how to sow Egyptian items onto a piece of cloth of their choosing. For our exhibition, we taught them very simple Egyptian dance steps and they performed them while wearing the things they had made



themselves during the four sessions.

Club Activity





C. Course Discussion

There were seven courses discussions, each given by an advisor and a facilitator. We had a total of seven sessions in each course and two in our choice of two courses to which we did not belong, and in the end we had what is called a Summary Forum, where each course presented the knowledge they have acquired through those seven sessions along with the institutional visits.

1. Cross-Cultural Understanding: Adv. Haruko Ishii, Fac. Naoko Yoshida and was attended by Ahmed Maher.
2. Education: Adv. Mercy Tamu Nkya, Fac. Miyuki Doi and was attended by Tarek Sherif and Ahmed Saad.
3. Information & Media: Adv. Jules Hoareau, Fac. Leonardo Kajioka-Nardon and was attended by Dalia Younis.

4. International Relations: Adv. Jose Nicolas Rojas, Fac. Jose Sano Takahashi and was attended by Rabab Elmonofi.
5. Leadership Development: Adv. Zhen-Dan Bao, Fac. Shigeko Yoshimura and was attended by Ahmed Samir and Khadija Mostafa.
6. Sustainable Lifestyle: Adv. Futoshi Sato, Fac. Masahiko Masuho and was attended by Youssef El Mahdy.
7. Volunteerism: Adv. Asako Haga, Fac. Bounheng Southichak and was attended by Mushera Kamel, Nour Rady and Norhan Diab.



D. Letter Group

There were a total of 13 letter groups. Each participant was assigned in to a group and no two participants from the same country could be together. With our letter groups we had visits, meetings, many activities, and we were also responsible for the morning call while we were on board. Each NL was group leader to the group in which he/she was.

1. Group A: Nour Rady
2. Group B: Ahmed Samir
3. Group C: Ahmed Saad
4. Group D: Youssef El Mahdy
5. Group E: Tarek Sherif
6. Group F: Rabab Elmonofi
7. Group G: -
8. Group H: -
9. Group I: Khadija Mostafa
10. Group J: Dalia Younis
11. Group K: Mushera Kamel
12. Group L: Norhan Diab
13. Group M: Ahmed Maher



Group Activity