



Report of Activities 2010~2011

Condolences

First of all, I would like to express our deepest condolences to the people of Japan in remembrance of the Earthquake and Tsunami that affected the northeast region last March. Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of the victims, their towns, and the workers at the Fukushima nuclear plant, the volunteers and the Government officials who have to lead the ways towards the recovery.

The Japanese nation had certainly given the world an example of order, peace and resilience to be emulated by the entire sister nations. RIP



Post Program Activities

Scientific and Academic Activities

A) Japan Society for the Promotion of Science US Alumni Association (JSPS US AA)
日本学術振興会



1st Multidisciplinary Science Forum, University of Washington, Seattle. March 11, 2011

The JSPS US AA extended an invitation for Mr. Paul Foppe, President of the SWYAA USA, to be a guest speaker to its First Multidisciplinary Science Forum at the University of Washington in Seattle. In cooperation with Blanca Kacouris, Chairperson of JSPS US AA and President of SWYAA Ecuador, lecture on “The Ship for World Youth Program as a Case Study for Improving and Sustaining an International Exchange Program for Young Adults • was given. Several scientists were curious about the program details and expressed their input towards the betterment of this social phenomenon.



To look at the proceedings of the meeting please go to

http://www.jspsusa.org/Alumni_association/20110311_MSJF/20110311_MSJF.html

B) 2nd Multidisciplinary Science Forum, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo. October 28th 2011

The second JSPS Alumni Forum took place in autumn. Prof. Sir Anthony Leggett Nobel Laureate Physics 2003 was the keynote speaker during the forum. JSPS AA Executive Committee extended an invitation to Prof. Haruko Ishii, Hokkai Gakuen University, Hokkaido Japan, Adviser to the SWY Program to explain on the Youth Exchange Program. Prof. Ishii gave an interactive lecture in which the scientists participated vividly.

Prof. Ishii's lecture was

"Theories and strategies of developing cross cultural sensitivity: applying experiences in Japan".

During the same forum, JSPS AA was proud to welcome several students from overseas including countries of China and Japan. Mr. Kazuto Matsuda, expy SWY22, under the mentorship of Dr. Blanca Kacouris, expy SWY1 and JSPS Chairperson, presented a poster on his experiences as a volunteer in the affected areas by the earthquake and tsunami in Japan. His poster caught the interest of the attendees and several earnest discussions were held.

In this manner the SWY AA and JSPS US AA had established close collaboration. The SWY Program had been analyzed at a scientific level by brilliant researchers and former Japan scholars from all over the world.



Kazu Matsuda SWY22, Prof Haruko Ishii SWY ADV, Blanca Kacouris SWY1 at the Forum

Please follow the link to see the JSPS US Alumni Association newsletter on the event

<http://www.jspsusa.org/index.html>

Relief Efforts for Japan

A) Help Restore Japan Campaign-Donation to the Embassy of Japan in Ecuador



As a first action to join efforts to help in the recovery of Japan, we sent a condolence letter to Ambassador Osamu Imai at the Embassy of Japan in Quito. His Excellency Imai sent us a quick note of appreciation for the solidarity of SWYAA Ecuador.

A logo design followed and we started a campaign to "Help Restore Japan", please see logo above included. Mr. Allan Avendaño, expy SWY22, was the designer of the logo.

As a result of the campaign, the Consul General of Japan in Guayaquil, Mr. Jaime Simon, and the SWYAA Ecuador joined efforts to collect donations among our members that were matched by the Consulate.

An amount of \$1050, 00 USD was delivered to the Embassy of Japan in Quito on behalf of the SWYAA Ecuador. The Ecuadorian ex-pys sent their contributions from USA, Europe, and Chile and from inside Ecuador. I need to note that family and friends joined these efforts. We are a small country but we have a great appreciation for our sister nation of Japan.

The Ambassador himself received the donation and expressed his gratitude to the SWYAA Ecuador. I want to take the opportunity to thank the Japanese People for allowing us to visit and experience your culture through the SWY Program. We will always be grateful. Our best wishes for prompt recovery. Our efforts will continue. Ganbare Nippon!

To see full text of the letter sent to IYEO please go to
<http://www.iyeo.or.jp/ja/shien/ouen.htm>

B) Folding Cranes for Japan-Students Rebuild Sponsorship.

As a first response to the natural disaster that happened in Japan, Blanca SWY1 acted locally and invited several Japanese ladies to join the Girls Scout Troop 20237 in Chicago in an effort to fold cranes in order to get the matched donation of \$2 per crane offered by Students Rebuild Organization.

The Japanese ladies taught the girls how to fold the origami cranes; parents attended as well and join the workshop. The troop was able to fold 433 cranes that matched an \$866 donation for Japan relief. Another 100 cranes were sent to Oshkosh B'gosh that donated a piece of clothing to children from the affected areas.

Special Thanks to Olimpia Kacouris (7 years old) girl scout for her commitment and leadership in this activity. Thank you to Ms. Rika Sato, Eriko Ishii and Yukari Findley for their time in teaching the girls origami.



C) Bushindo Ju-Jitsu Guayaquil

In Guayaquil, the Bushindo Ju-Jitsu Academy held a special tournament in which the SWYAA Ecuador participated with a small stall to raise awareness towards Japan relief.

Margarita Chatten NL SWY22 contacted Mr. Gustavo Sanchez from the martial art school and coordinated the activity. A donation box was placed at the stall and a modest amount was collected among the participants. The main goal of this activity was to raise awareness of the natural disaster in Japan.



D) Japan Society for the Promotion of Science US Alumni Association

During the 2nd Multidisciplinary Science Forum in Western Michigan University, JSPS Executive Committee in coordination with the Ship for World Youth alumni Association organized a charity bazaar to raise funds for Japan relief. The Executive Committee pledged a \$600 donation if the goal of folding 1000 cranes (senbazuru) was achieved. With the participation of the students of Japan Soga Center and the general public at Western Michigan University over 1000 cranes were fold.

During the lunch session, calligraphy, origami and a bazaar were held. Prof. Kajino from University of Tokyo demonstrated his skills on calligraphy, Prof. Haruko Ishii SWY ADV taught origami. Kazu Matsuda SWY22 and Blanca Kacouris SWY1 sold Japanese souvenirs to the public. Over one thousand dollars were collected for this cause.

Thank you to all volunteers!





JSPS US Alumni Association group photo

Social Contribution Activities

A) Donation of Books and Schools Supplies in Ecuador

Yael Piedra SWY22 organized a book and school supplies donation for a rural school in Ecuador.

The location was in Gualea, a 2 hours drive from Quito, to benefit the “Alfredo Pérez Chiriboga” High School. Books and schools supplies were donated to support the children efforts in achieving education. Mitsuyo Azuma SWY22 was visiting Quito and attended the post program activity as part of her Homestay + One.

During the visit to Gualea, Mitsuyo and Yael had the opportunity to share their experiences on SWY and Japan. Mitsuyo and her friend Mio (who also traveled to Ecuador for the first time) were able to showed Japanese calligraphy to each students by writing their names as a keepsake.

Great Appreciation goes to Arturo Delgado SWY7, Monica Luque SWY7 (Miami), Margarita Chattin NL SWY22, Saulo Aroca SWy22 and Blanca Kacouris SWY1 for their assistance with the donations, school supplies, banner and logistics. Cheers Yael, Mitsuyo and Mio, good job! Well done!



Yael, Mitsuyo and Mio delivering the books and school supplies at Gualea.

B) Ronny Yantalema Project

Ronny Yantalema is a peasant child that got burnt in his home fire in 2008. Since that time the SWYAA Ecuador had been helping Ronny and his family with the cost of the medical treatment as well as coordinating Ronny's physician appointments.

This year Ronny continue his recovery and needed medicine, dressings and help with transportation from his countryside home to the city. Monica Luque SWY7 and Margarita Chatten SWY22 are in charge of this project and provided with the funds and assistance to obtain his medications.

Mr. Nelson Yantalema, Ronny's father, expresses his gratitude to Margarita and Monica, who are always providing his child with the necessary treatment, otherwise unavailable to him due to the expensive cost.



Helping Hand for Ronny!

Cultural Activities

A) “Taller Japón” (Japan Workshop) at Centro Ecuatoriano Norteamericano (CEN)

Last December, Kazuto Matsuda from SWY22 traveled to Ecuador. Prior to his departure the SWYAA Ecuador extended an invitation to Kazuto to hold an activity called “Taller Japón”, this event would give a brief introduction of Japan to Ecuadorian Youth. History, geography and arts like origami and Japanese calligraphy were included. The highlight of the lecture was for Kazu to share his experiences as a volunteer in Iwate Prefecture during the relief efforts.

The preparations started with a Junbi Iinkai between Eduardo Icaza SWY7 (Academic Director at CEN), Margarita Chatten NL SWY22 and Kazu Matsuda. Press releases, TV coverage was coordinated. To see the video of the interview aired in January 2011 please go to the SWYAA Ecuador web site www.swyaaeq.freehostia.com/wordpress
<http://swyaaeq.freehostia.com/wordpress/2012/01/31/japan-workshop-news-coverage/>



Yayo Icaza SWY7, Margarita SWY22 and Kazu during the Junbi Iinkai at CEN.



Kazu during his TV interview to promote Taller Japon

Due to the overwhelming response of the public, the workshop was divided in 2 sessions in order to accommodate the students at CEN.

Special Thanks to Saulo Aroca SWY22 for providing the banner for the events and for uploading the news to the web site.

B) “Taller Japón” (Japan Workshop) at Centro de Disciplinas Orientales

Once the voice was passed on the Japan Workshop held at CEN, the Centro de Disciplinas Orientales (Center for Oriental Disciplines or CDO) contacted the SWYAA Ecuador in order to establish collaboration in holding another “Taller” with Kazu. Daniel Espinosa from CDO and Margarita SWY22 coordinated the venue and promotion of the event.



Many youth attended 2 more sessions of the workshop and practiced Shuji, origami, Japanese etc.

C) “Taller Japón” (Japan Workshop) at Universidad de Especialidades Espíritu Santo (UEES)

Diogenes Diaz NL SWY11 invited Kazu to have yet another Taller at UEES. Kazu once again was able to share his experiences with the students and gave a brief introduction on Japan and its culture.



Diogenes NL SWY11 left end, Kazu center and the students at UEES.

Special Note:

Kazu’s stay in Ecuador was fruitful and successful, SWYAA is very grateful to him for his initiative and support towards the Ecuadorian Alumni activities

Report from Kazuto Matsuda on the Talleres Japón Experience

In the beginning of January 2012, I held a Japanese cultural exchange workshop called “Talleres Japón”, which includes a presentation of Japan, presentation of the Great Japan Earthquake relief efforts, Japanese calligraphy (Shuji) session, and Japanese paper folding (origami) Session at CEN, CDO, and UEES in Guayaquil, Ecuador. In the workshop, there were approximately a total of 100 people that attended the workshops and to learn more about Japan and the Great Japan Earthquake. They also enjoyed practicing Japanese calligraphy by writing their names in Japanese and paper folding by making a Japanese warrior’s helmet called “Kabuto”. Everything the attendees saw and practiced during the workshop was so new and interesting that they seemed to have more interest in Japan after the workshops. As a Japanese citizen, it was a pleasure to share my country’s culture with the Ecuadorian people. I also learned a lot from the Ecuadorian attendees about their culture through conversation. My visit to Ecuador was a very productive experience, and I am very grateful for the great support of Ms. Blanca Rosa Kacouris, Ms. Margarita Chattin, Mr. Diogenes Diaz, and Mr. Eduardo Icaza from SWYAA Ecuador and so many other people for the workshops. I would not have had these great experiences without the effort of SWYAA Ecuador.

Arigato and gracias,

Kazu Matsuda-SWY22



Kazu and Margarita at Centro Ecuatoriano Norteamericano (CEN)

D) Decoration of the Order of the Rising Sun

It was with great pleasure that the Ship for the World Youth Alumni Association-Ecuador received the news that **Mr. Jaime Simon Isaías**, Consul General ad Honorem of Japan in Guayaquil has been awarded the prestigious Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays decoration of Japan for his contributions to the promotion of mutual understanding and friendly relations between Japan and Ecuador.

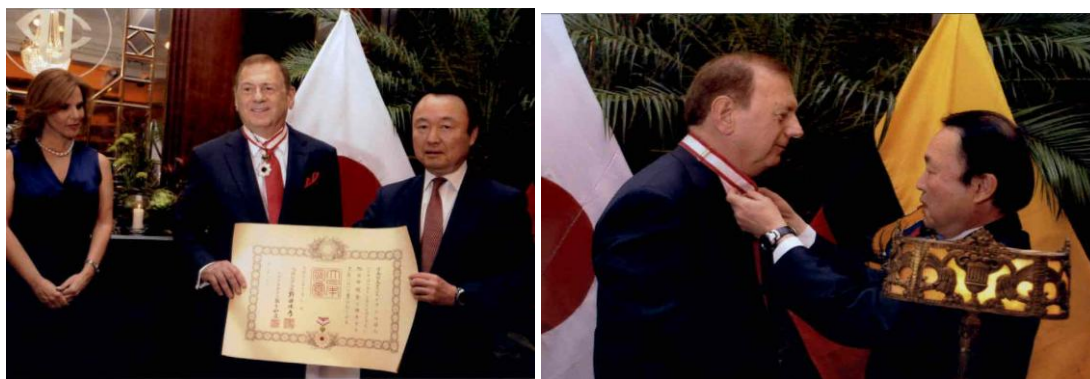
H.E. Mr. Osamu Imai, Ambassador of Japan to Ecuador, presented the Order on behalf of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan to Mr. Simon at a reception scheduled last December at the Union Club in Guayaquil.

Former representatives of the Consulate to the SWY Program, Eduardo Icaza and Margarita Chattin, were invited and attended the ceremony and reception on behalf of the SWYAA Ecuador. Congratulations Mr. Simon for this great achievement.



With Mr. Simon at the reception

To view more on this joyous occasion please go to: http://www.ec.embjapan.go.jp/jokun_07112011_es.htm



Acknowledgements and Final words

Thank you to all the collaborators for the annual report, volunteers and expys that coordinated all the above-described activities.

This year the SWYAA Ecuador had been able to established collaboration with several institutions for academics, scientific and cultural activities.

Our special gratitude goes to Mr. Jaime Simon, Consul General Ad Honorem of Japan in Guayaquil for his support and sponsorship towards the alumni activities.

Collaborators

Bushindo-Ecuador

Japan Society for the Promotion of Science US Alumni Association



Consulate General Japan-Guayaquil

SWYAA USA

Center for Oriental Disciplines

Centro Ecuatoriano Norteamericano

UEES University

