

Outline of the Ship for World Youth Program FY2022 (SWY Hybrid)

Office for International Youth Exchange,
Cabinet Office, Government of Japan

1. Purpose

Leaders of the next generation who are capable of leading and guiding people are required in this international society and local society. From this aspect, the Ship for World Youth Program (SWY) will focus on implementing programs where participating youth from various backgrounds will gain abilities to deal with different cultures, communication skills, leadership skills and management skills through having discussions, cultural exchanges and workshops that are organized by the participating youth themselves. In addition, it aims to establish globally strong human network beyond national borders.

Ever since the emerging of COVID-19 in 2020, it has been difficult to sufficiently ensure the security of the participants and staff involved in the program. Therefore, a face-to-face exchange program using a cruise ship was cancelled and the program was conducted online for the last 2 years.

This year, a hybrid format program, combining 1-month online exchange and 2-week face-to-face exchange including discussions, seminars and cultural exchanges that makes the most of the conventional SWY's characteristics will be implemented by taking thorough infectious disease measures and making use of the benefits of online that conforms to information society.

2. Program Outline

(1) Participating countries (tentative)

Australia, Kingdom of Bahrain, Federative Republic of Brazil, Canada, United Mexican States, Sultanate of Oman, Republic of Peru, Republic of Poland, Republic of South Africa, Kingdom of Sweden and Japan

(2) Number of Participating Youths

Approx. 80 Japanese Participating Youths (JPYs)

Approx. 80 Overseas Participating Youths (OPYs) (8 OPYs x 10 countries)

(National Leaders not included)

(3) Program Schedule (tentative)

	Contents	Dates
(1)	Preparatory Training Sessions for JPYs	Sept. 16 (Fri.) to Sept. 20 (Tue.), 2022
(2)	Online exchange (Western side region)	3 Saturdays; Nov. 26, Dec. 3 and Dec. 10
	(Eastern side region)	3 Sundays; Nov. 27, Dec. 4 and Dec. 11
(2)	Exchange in a virtual space (both Western and Eastern side regions)	Nov. 19 (Sat.) to Dec. 18 (Sun.) (Open for all PYs / Youths-led plan and operation)
(3)	OPYs arrive in Japan	Feb. 7 (Tue.)
(4)	Readiness program for face-to-face exchange (Online)	Feb. 8 (Wed.) to Feb. 10 (Fri.)
(5)	Face-to-face exchange program	Feb. 11 (Sat.) to Feb. 20 (Mon.) *Including 3-day local program
(6)	OPYs return home	Feb. 21 (Tue.)

(7)	Post-program Training Sessions for JPYs	Feb. 21 (Tue.) to 22 (Wed.)
-----	---	-----------------------------

3. Measures against COVID-19

- Reduction of the number of participants (avoid being too close and dense)
- Participants must have had COVID-19 vaccinated (type of vaccine shall be the ones which are approved by Japanese government in principle. The Cabinet Office will be informing of the details of the vaccine types and needed number of doses of vaccination later.)
- Participants should take regular and appropriate PCR tests to ensure COVID-19 negative proof when entering Japan for exchange program and before leaving for local programs and the like. The governments of respective participating countries shall be advised that participants to follow the requests to align with preventative measures of COVID-19 (wear face mask, sanitize fingers and hands, take PCR tests when necessary) and take PCR tests as participating requirements.
- Participants shall obtain travel insurance that covers COVID-19.
- Participants shall use the institutions and facilities that take appropriate measures in accordance with the Guidelines for Taking Action against COVID-19, etc. In the event where infected case was found, the Cabinet Office shall immediately consult with a healthcare center and follow the instructions of them.