

Youth World



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Issued by Nanami Inada,
Youth Intern at the
Y's Men International
Headquarters in Geneva

THE EXPERIENCE OF A LIFETIME

This summer I had a great opportunity to spend 2 months as a STEP student in Japan. I have taken a liking for Japan, its culture and language from the time of my stay there as a small child. Today, as I am a student of Japanese at Warsaw University, I thought that Japan would be the best place to go to. And I wasn't mistaken.

I arrived at Tokyo-Narita Airport on 6th July. I was picked up by Mr. Kazuyoshi Aoki from the Chiba Y's Men's Club. He and his wife Kiyoko were my host parents in Tokyo. My stay there wouldn't have been possible without their kindness and warmth.

After a short rest in Tokyo I moved for 2 weeks to the north of Japan, to Sendai. I stayed with a young family connected to the Sendai Y's Men's Club. I attended one of their meetings and talked about the Y movement around the world. They took great care of me. I had the opportunity to live in a typical Japanese house. I spoke Japanese with them, and ate their traditional food. I took a boat ride among the islands of Matsushima

Bay (one of the 3 most beautiful sights in Japan) and admired the picturesque view of a volcanic lake on the top of Mt. Zao (the tallest mountain in that area).

I came back to Tokyo to attend a two-week course of Japanese for foreigners at the Tokyo YMCA. Together with my newly met friends I did some sightseeing in and around Tokyo. The baseball match in Tokyo Dome, the trip to Disneyland and the big Buddha in Kamakura will stay etched in my memory.

Then I spent time, as an invited guest, at a YMCA camp for kids organized by young volunteers from the YMCA. It was a scenic place in the mountains by a beautiful lake near Nagano. I also made a short excursion to Kyoto and Nara, the oldest and the most beautiful cities in Japan. Though it was extremely hot and humid and I was exhausted, it was a great experience for me. I visited all the important shrines and temples and was even changed for a few hours into a real 'geisha'. I had all the make-up on and wore a beautiful kimono.

The scariest experience was a very strong typhoon, which caused lots of damage. And there was

an earthquake in Kyoto which, though it lasted less than 5 seconds and was not strong, made me feel a little bit scary.

Thanks to my Japanese Y's Men friends I learned more about Japan and its traditions, and met new people. This trip was not only a beautiful pastime but also kind of an educational one. New surroundings and the new knowledge of Y'sdom were an unforgettable experience. I will never forget this summer.

Amy Pokorski (Poland)



Why not be a host family?
Contact your Regional Director

AYC in Bloomington USA

When I was given the opportunity to go to the national youth convocation in Bloomington, Minnesota, I said OK. I didn't know what to expect, other than a good time and a great experience.

That is such an understatement. I arrived at the Thunderbird Hotel, where the convention was being held, and met several people including Nanami Inada and Lise Dalsgaard, who were originally going to stay at the convention and then attend the International Council meeting. Instead, they went with us to the convocation. After we all met, we participated in the flag ceremony. The first thing that we learned was the right, wrong, and Mueller way of how to hold the flags.

After the ceremony, we left for Camp Ihduhapi. When we arrived, we toured the camp and got to see where we would be having some activities throughout the weekend. Then our group moved to the Welcome Center.

We played name games to get to know each other better. At the end of the day we took on our first real challenge. There was a picture and 14 individual pieces of

wood. We were given an hour to put it together and then ten minutes extension. As the seconds ticked down to zero, the last piece was thrown into place and we had accomplished our goal. By the end of the night we were all very close friends.

The next morning, we had more challenges to face. Each time we had to set goals before the challenge began, and then we were given several opportunities to revise our goals. Each goal that we set, was met. No matter how frustrated we got, no one would quit until we got it right. This took up the entire morning and afternoon.

On the second night we had a campout, and we all worked together to get camp set up. That night we

stayed up late telling stories and introducing s'mores to Lise, our friend from Denmark.

The third day was, for me, the most fun, and for some, the most stressful. We went on the high ropes course. There were many different obstacles once we got up to the top, which was an obstacle itself. Every single person went up and did at least two obstacles on the course. They did something that they would have never



done otherwise, and they stepped out of their comfort zone with the help of the group. At times I would stop and think about all we had already done, and I couldn't believe that we had only known each other for a few days. That evening we went to an amusement park. There we went our separate ways and met up later to spend the rest of the night as one big group.

The next morning, we went back to the Thunderbird Hotel for the Convention's closing ceremonies. We were



given the opportunity to report our experiences to the Area Convention. However no amount of storytelling could clearly convey our experiences and emotions. In those few days we had formed such strong relationships with complete strangers, a thing that is very rare, especially for a group of ten young adults ranging in age from 15 to 23. I would not trade this experience for anything in the world, and I am very thankful that the Whittier AM Y's Men sent me to have this wonderful adventure.

Kate Huff



The youth convention was a lot of fun for me. I liked

meeting all new people and making friends from all over. I never thought that I would make such good friends going there and especially only knowing everyone for a few days. I have friends that I have known for years and they haven't been as good friends as the ones I met at the convention. It was a great experience meeting all new people. It was the best summer I have ever had and I hope it was the same for everyone else who went.

Grant Fryia



HOT AYC IN HOT TAIWAN

The Asia Area Youth Convocation this summer was different from earlier ones in that the program emphasis was on practical experience. Therefore, those who participated for the first time had no difficulties. My air-



plane approached Taipei during a typhoon. It was extremely bumpy and I was very fearful. The typhoon brought serious damage to Taiwan. The program of the youth convocation was also changed greatly. However, we were able to make it an even more wonderful convocation through the cooperation of all participants.

The "Youth Convocation" is a mere instant in our life. However, the six days we lived together were a very significant time. We will never forget. I hope we can harness the experience got in this convocation and use it throughout our life.

Takahiro Goto

An Invitation to Attend YC 2002

It is our very great pleasure to invite all young people between the ages of 15 and 25 to the International Youth Convocation which will be held in conjunction with the 65th International Y's Men's Convention in Sydney. YC 2002 will be held at the Collaroy Centre, Collaroy Beach from 29th July to 4th August 2002.

Nestled in 10 acres of leafy terrain, overlooking Collaroy Beach, with spectacular views of the Pacific Ocean and just 35 minutes from the Centre of Sydney, the Collaroy Centre is a place to have fun, to learn a little and to find out what makes us strong – mentally, emotionally, physically and spiritually. Founded in 1900 and rebuilt for Australia's Bicentenary in 1988, the Centre has become one of Australia's leading Conference venues. It has provided a place of recreational and spiritual renewal for thousands of Australian and overseas visitors, from all age groups and backgrounds.



For the times when we need to discuss matters of importance to the Y's youth of today the Centre provides plenty of indoor and outdoor facilities and each accommodation block has its own common room, which can hold 30 people.

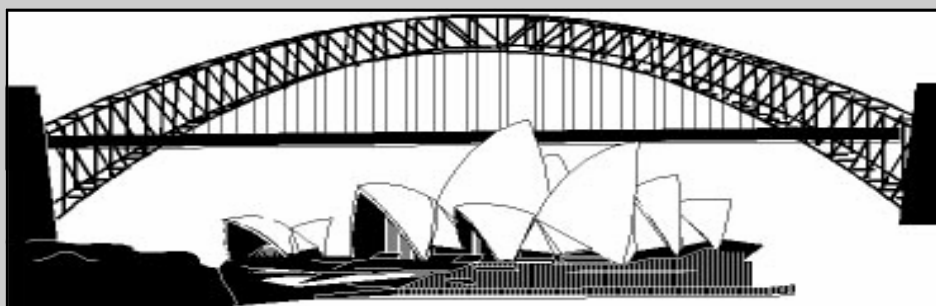
During YC 2002 there will be a range of recreational facilities available to our participants including:

- ◆ Abseiling – The abseiling tower allows flexibility and choice of height and difficulty depending on the needs and skills of the player.
- ◆ Artificial Rock Climbing Wall – The flexibility and ability to adjust this wall to suit an individual group's needs makes climbing both challenging and achievable for all ages and skill levels.
- ◆ Flying Fox – This safe yet exhilarating ride is fun and challenging for all ages.
- ◆ High Ropes Course – designed to challenge a participant's trust and confidence in both themselves and their belayer. Naturally, participants are at all times completely safe as they are attached to a safety line.
- ◆ Giant Swing – Once harnessed and attached to the swing, participants are pulled up to their chosen height (up to 14m) and released. The ride is exhilarating.

All this and much, much more will be made available to all participants at YC 2002, so what are you waiting for, hop to it and send your registration form NOW!

For more information about the Collaroy Centre, click on their website on www.collaroycentre.org.au On line registration will be available soon at <http://sydney2002.ysmen.org.au> or for registration forms and more information email Clarrie & Pam Stevens on evenstevens@ozemail.com.au

Ysty Yours, Clarrie & Pam Stevens



NOT LATER THAN 14 DECEMBER 2001!! **Request for subsidy to International Youth Convocation 2002**

Y's Men International is making subsidies available for young people 15 to 25 years of age. We hope that at least one from all countries with Y's Men's Clubs (or one from each Region in countries with more than one Region) will attend the Youth Convocation 2002. Funds come from the "Brotherhood Fund" (BF) and from the "Operating Account". Each country (or Region if there is more than one Region in a country) has one subsidy.

For further details, contact your Regional Director.

Too old to be a youth.... but not old enough....



Fellow youth, I am Reji Thomas Mathew. I hope those who attended the International Youth Convocation in Finland in 1998 remember me. Since then, I have not been involved in many Y'sdom related programs, mainly due to my tight schedule and relocating to Bangalore from Trivandrum.

Even though I was not active, my mind was telling me to be a member in a Bangalore-based club, but I worried about being too young to be a Y's Man (only 27!! and yet to get a Y's Menette too!). Then the next option was to become a member in a Youth Club. There also I had a problem, I am too old to be a youth. So I delayed my decision as to how to be involved in Y'sdom.

Recently Yy. Suja Jacob, India Area Youth Rep 2000-01 (she represented India Area at Hong Kong in 2000) told me about an outing by Bangalore youth and, since she is one of my best friends in Y'sdom, I couldn't turn it down. So I went with them and the experience was so electrifying that I decided to be a member in that youth club till I become a Y's Man. We had a nice trek (climbing up and down a steep mountain for about 4 hours!!!) followed by a river bathe and an information meeting in which everyone had lots of things to share. The hot blooded younger generation trekkers were singing songs and cracking jokes all during the journey, which added colour to the trip. This trip's fun, happiness, togetherness and sharing of information, food and love made me go back a few years to the days in Finland and Area camps of India Area, where we used to have such an atmosphere. I will never forget the impact of Y'sdom and Y's youth activities in moulding me into a person with almost no stage fright and much better communication skills than the timid Reji of my teens. (I still remember my trembling, when asked to deliver a speech in those times.)

Have a nice time.

Reji Thomas Mathew



Hello from AYR South Pacific

Hi, My name is Connie Giorgi. I am Australian, aged 26.

I have been with the YMCA since 1995 when I volunteered as a Camp Leader on their school children's camps. I then became employed as a Leisure Services Officer for the Camping Department in 1997. I worked on Leadership School Holidays, City Camps and a Father/ Daughter/Son Programme (Adventurers and Explorers) and remained in

this position till 2001. In 1999 we went through a name change and became known as the Outdoor Recreation Unit. In 2001 I became the Manager of that Unit.

I have been involved with Y's Men probably since 1998 and have always attended their change-over dinner. In 1999 I went to a convention and met other youth in the programme. In 2000 our volunteer leaders set up the First South Pacific Y's Youth Club, which I am part of. This is my second year as AYR. This year our Youth are hosting the Regional Y's Men Convention and have worked hard - the theme is "Discovering your Youth". It promises to be an incredible event. They also contributed to the Time of Fast Fund and we are trying during our conference to inspire more groups to be formed.

Connie



Hello from AYR Europe

How are you? My name is Anna Wargren, I am a Swedish girl aged 20. I am the new AYR for Europe. I have been a member of Y's Men International for two years. The name of my club is Wetter Y's Men's Club, Jönköping. In 1999 I was a STEP student in South Korea and Japan and I have also attended two IYCs and three AYCs. On October 9th I am leaving Sweden for Japan and I will stay in Tokyo until Christmas, when I go back to Sweden.

Anyone who would like to get in touch with me can send me an e-mail at: annawar24@hotmail.com. Looking forward to meeting all of you one day!

Anna

The petite profile of the Youth Intern

Name: Nanami Inada

Pen name: zuinou

Birthday: May 1st, 1978

Nationality: Japanese.

Likes: contemporary arts, cats, baby pigs, good sense of humour, to create something, to see impressive things, picnics, open mind, trips, watching people who enjoy my cooking, time I can think deeply and **IHQ**.

Favorite food: any foods which taste good

Dislikes: boring and sleepless days

Motto: co-existence.

Hobbies: cooking, Shorinji kenpo (martial art of amalgam of Chinese and Japanese) and playing the piano

Y'sdom: I am a Y'sling from the Numazu club.



THE OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUTH INVOLVEMENT IN Y'SDOM

There is no doubt that we are living in a period of history where youth are playing a more and more important role in the different orders of life. Y's Men is no exception. We must recognise that if we want to be relevant in today's world, if we want to renew our Movement and regain dynamism and strength, we need to open a big door to youth and promote their full participation in the Movement.

The International Council that took place last July in Bloomington, USA, approved unanimously the Second Draft of the Strategic Plan for Youth Involvement. In that plan we say:

- ◆ We do not pretend to be a youth organisation or an organisation that gives service to the youth. We would like young people to be active participants in our Movement - helping to make decisions, participating in leadership training and also executing concrete actions.
- ◆ We do not wish youth participation to be "side by side" with our organisation but within it.
- ◆ We do not pretend to compete with the YMCA in the excellent programmes they develop with youth but we want to enrich the support we give to the YMCA and the community with youth participation as well.

The objectives of the plan are:

- ◆ To promote Youth Involvement at all levels of Y's Men (Local, Regional, Area and International levels).
- ◆ To implement a leadership training process at the youth level, to develop the all-round capacity of youth in all spheres of Y'sdom's operations and programmes.
- ◆ To encourage the development of ongoing youth programmes such as YEOP, STEP and International Youth Convocations.
- ◆ To define and promote new youth programmes.
- ◆ To increase youth membership in Y's Men.

This means that from now, all youth already involved in Y's Men at different levels will have the responsibility and opportunity to participate actively in the design of the final version of this plan and in its different implementation stages.

To coordinate this process, the International Council also appointed an International Youth Committee composed of: IYR, YI, the 8 AYRs, ISD YIA, YR Mentor and ISG. This committee is mainly responsible for monitoring the process outlined in the document. That basically involves:

- ◆ Implementation of this pre-plan (second draft) until IYC 02.
- ◆ Design of the final version of the first step of the plan to be discussed by IYC 02 and approved by ICM 02.
- ◆ Implementation of the first step of the plan until ICM 03.
- ◆ Evaluation of the first step of the plan to be presented to ICM 03.

We have the tools to continue promoting youth involvement in Y'sdom and right now is the appropriate time to strengthen youth participation in Y's Men at Local, Regional, Area and International levels. The approval of the plan by the International Council is the opening of the big door for you to enter into our Movement.

Do not miss this opportunity!!

Let's show what we can do...

Rolando Dalmás
International Secretary General



drawing by Nanami Inada

Youth Intern announcement

Y's Men International is looking for the next Youth Intern to work for one year at IHQ in Geneva. He/she will be between 22 and 27 years of age, have good English skills for working, and be actively involved with Y'sdom and/or YMCA. If you are interested, contact

lhq@ysmen.org

The application deadline is 31 December

Useful Addresses

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Send your articles, pictures, requests and jokes to the

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The next deadline 
11 January 2002

Youth Time Of Fast (TOF) Day: 26 February 2002

Dieting—the triumph of mind over platter

Do you know what these projects are?

Landmines Office (Africa Alliance), Resettlement Support for Refugees (Sierra Leone), Children's Informal School (Myanmar), Pastoral Day Care Centre (Estonia), Mobile Eye Clinic (India), Health for all (Brazil), Professional skills training for youth (Guarulhos), Credit citizen participation and neighbourhood development (Ecuador), Environmental cleaning (Peru).

These are TOF projects 2001/2002. TOF is now a popular programme where Y's Men members all over the world traditionally give up at least one meal (usually during the month of February, but it is welcomed anytime you want to act. Now action!!) and donate the cost of that meal to the TOF fund which in turn makes the money raised in this way available to projects sponsored by both Y's Men and the YMCAs all over the world.

Here you can see a detailed example of a project in Peru.

Background: Since 1999, the YMCA has operated a "Medical Caravan" to improve the health of poor people. This work has been frustrated by the serious environmental conditions under which these people live. Project: Provide education to 1,600 people (primarily

women and children) on the prevention of disease, based on the care and preservation of the environment. This will involve workshops for 640 adults and 360 children, preventive campaigns for 910 participants, and house-to-house visitation for 670 families. Dig 2 wells and build 679 latrines. Teach proper storage and disinfection of water to 30 participants. Train 30 people to promote health training. Install a communal first-aid kit with subsidized sale of medicine in 4 communities to provide unspecialised medical aid to over 3,000 patients. Evaluation will be carried out every 3 months to ensure effectiveness and its impact on the beneficiaries.

BUDGET

Staff US\$ 28,320
Offices 3,900
Services, training 1,700
Office supplies 1,200
Teaching materials 1,250
Transport 900
679 latrines 38,860
Medicine 6,000
2 wells 1,000
Medical supplies 800
YMCA 5% overhead 1,270

Total costs: US\$ 85,203
of which \$26,733 for 1 year is requested from TOF.

How to donate?

When you donate money, please tell your Club Treasurer to specify that out of the total amount raised for TOF, this amount comes from Youth



TOF. That way when it eventually reaches IHQ, we will be able to see how much comes from Youth TOF. Please do not send money to IHQ directly, as that creates complications as well as being a risk to mail money. Please do contact your local club.

The fund raising ideas for TOF are up to you !
Here are some examples of how your friends raised money

- * Sale of Christmas trees in Minneapolis;
- * Sale of home made crafts in Peru;
- * Carol singing and sale of Christmas cakes in India;
- * Flea markets in Denmark;
- * Used books and white elephant auctions;
- * Barbecues, cookouts and food booth;
- * Ask friends to join TOF.

If you would like to know more about TOF projects go to our web-site !!
www.ysmen.org

Any other questions? Contact us at



lhq@ysmen.org