

MAKE A GREAT IMPACT

**Y'S MEN INTERNATIONAL
ASIA PACIFIC AREA**



**Chief Editor
ASD-BE Ranjith Dayarathna**

**Editor
AS Kayoko Maeda**

**Advisor
AP Joan Wong**



**3RD NEWSLETTER
DEC 2024**

Greetings From AEOs

New Year New Hope New Impact



AP Joan Wong

As we celebrate this joyful season, may I take this opportunity to wish you and your loved ones Happy New Year. May your 2025 be filled with love, joy and grace. May your job, business or voluntary work for YMI be successful and achievable.

Make A great Impact in 2025 !

I wish all the members, menettes, and youths a happy, prosperous, and healthy New Year! 2025 will be marked as the year of reunion and encounter as we gather to celebrate the 31st Asia Pacific Area Convention in Kumamoto. I look forward to welcoming you to Kumamoto in August.



IPAP Keiko Tonegawa

The wonderful holiday season is approaching. I pray that God will give you great blessings. The 31st ASP Area Convention will be held in Kumamoto City on August 1st, 2nd and 3rd, 2025. I hope to meet you all and deepen our friendship.



APE Tadashi Taboue

I appreciate all of your cooperation this past year. I wish you a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year. I look forward to seeing you at the 31st ASP Area Convention in Kumamoto, my hometown.



AS Kayoko Madea

I extend my heartfelt greetings to you and your families. Wish you all the best and good health. The Year 2025 is the Year of the Snake in the lunar calendar, and the snake is the sixth animal in the Chinese zodiac, representing wisdom, dexterity, and charm, as well as the arrival of good luck and success. Looking forward to another year of new challenges, shared successes, and continued growth. Happy 2025!



AT James Kong

New Year Greetings From RDs



**RD Sebastian Mathew
(Australia)**

As the year draws to a close, reflecting on our journey, I remain in gratitude and humbled by the activities in our Region, Asia Pacific and around the world. Together we pursue our contribution to this great cause, perhaps meagre but many drops make an ocean. Wish you a Merry Christmas and blessed 2025.

Happy New Year! Hope you all have a healthy and active new year. This year, we have started a new TOF project for the students who do not go to school for a long period. In Japan, it has been a growing concern in school and in families with school age children. There are 350,000 children who do not attend their schools. Why? We have applied for the support from Y's Men International TOF fund for these serious issues happening in all over Japan.



**RD Kohei Yamada
(Japan East)**



**RD Tsuyoshi Uniya
(Japan West)**

A Very Happy New Year 2025!
May the year ahead of us be filled with great advances, fruitful discoveries, and resounding success for all of us YMI members. This year will be particularly important for us as we shall welcome you to the 31st Asia Pacific Area Convention to be held this August in Kumamoto, Japan. We sincerely hope each of you will join our Convention to contribute to its success, an amazing success that we will truly co-create together. See you all soon.

May 2025 be a tapestry of success, laughter and cherished moments, weaving together the threads of shared experience and new found aspirations.



**RD Helena Cheah
(Southeast Asia)**



**RD Prasantha De Silva
(Sri Lanka)**

Sri Lanka Region send you a warmest greeting to all of you. Wish you all fulfill dreams and attain goals in 2025 .God bless you all . Happy New Year !

2024 was a difficult year in our area; there were Natural Disaster in some regions. But with everyone's concerted efforts, the rescue work was successfully completed. Hope us to carry forward the spirit of Y's Men to make the Y's Movement more vigorous. I wish everyone joy and peace in the coming year! Happy New Year!



**RD Mike Su
(Taiwan)**

Area President Message

New Year New Hope New Impact

Dear all beloved Y's Men & Y's Ladies,

Time flies. We have entered into 2025.

Frist of all, I would like to thank you for your unwavering support as RDs, ASDs, Committee members in the past half year. Your contribution and all your wonderful work made Asia Pacific Area a difference.

In the new year, people usually forget all unpleasant experience or failures and look forward to the future, even set a full year goal or plan. No matter what you wish to achieve in 2025, just think about what is a real hope in your life and to do what we make our tomorrow.

As IP Adv A. Shanavakhan wrote in the IP News, "Christmas is a time to giving and bringing smiles on people's faces by showing our love and care ". In this Christmas holidays, I put it in action. I was proud of being a volunteer in "Birmingham Shelter Week", the biggest 50 years charity project for providing homeless people a 3-day shelter with overnight stay, shower, food and other services such as hairdressing & housing advice, etc. I was helping in catering department for 2 days. In the shelter, we treated every homeless people as guests and offering our respect, smiles, love and care to them.

Love and Care is action. The greater the impact of your service, the brighter your future. Keep your passion and make the Y's movement more shine.

Wish you all brilliant and prosperous 2025 !

Yours Y's ly,

Joan Wong
Area Presidnet



Brilliant 2025 !

Editor's Message

I am thrilled to publish our 3rd News Bulletin in the Asia Pacific Area. It is my honor and privilege to serve our organization and communication with you all through this platform.

As we continue to navigate the challenges of the current times, it is more important than ever to stay connected and informed. The news bulletin will serve as a means to share important updates, members achievements and upcoming event, and to highlight the impact of our projects and initiatives.

Through this News Bulletin, we aim to create a platform that will inspire, educate and inform our members. As we want the News Bulletin to be as inclusive as Can be, we encourage all of you to share your ideas, stories and feedback with the editorial team. We value your input and look forward to hearing from you.

Let's work together to make a positive impact in our Asia Pacific Area and beyond. I hope you enjoy reading the last News Bulletin in 2024,

Yours in Y's Men Spirit,
ASD-BE/IPRD Ranjith Dayarathna



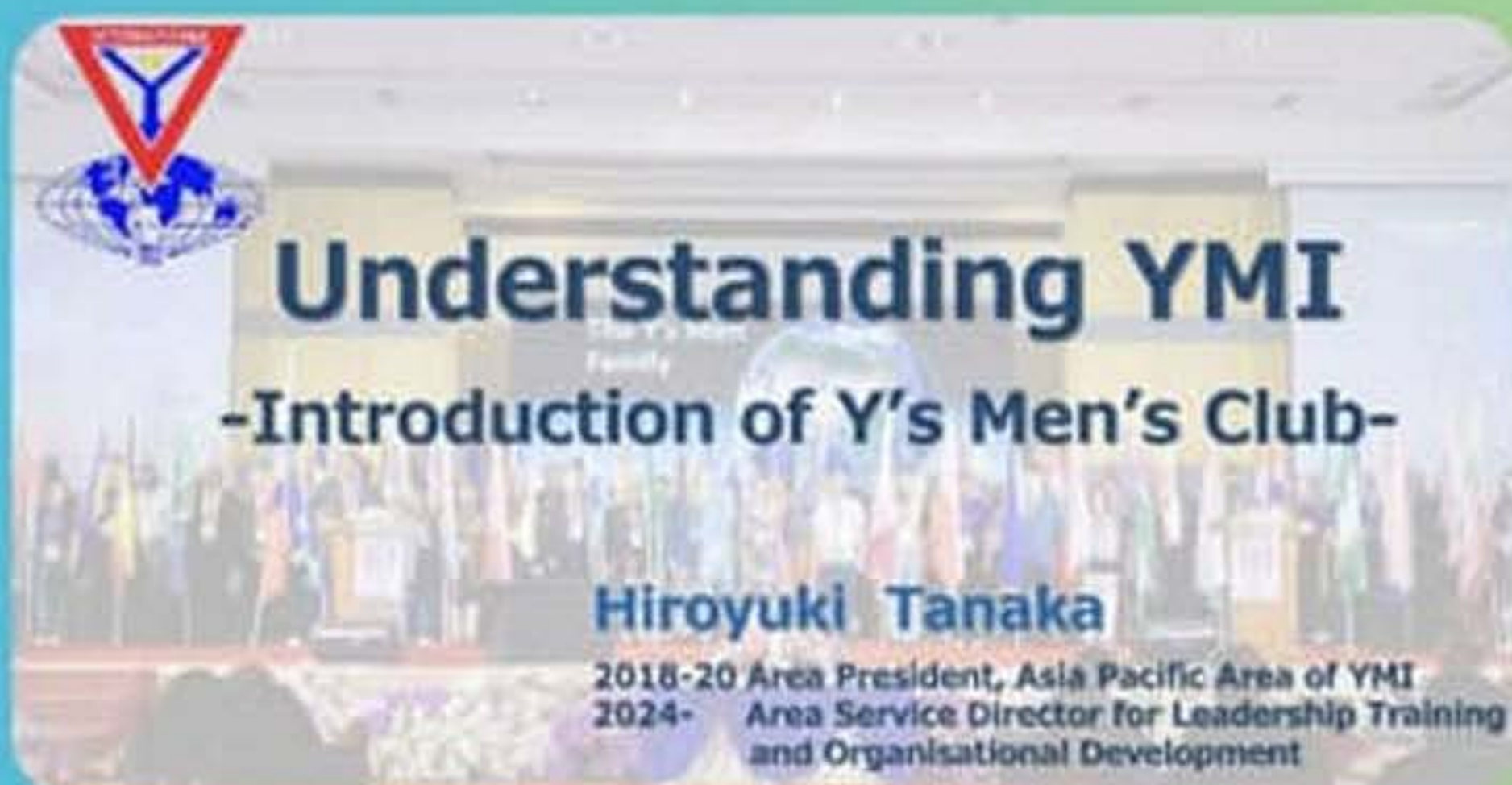
Asia Pacific Area Supported APAY



Asia Pacific Area supported and contributed USD 1800 to the 40th Advanced Studies Program which took place via zoom and in-person in Penang, Malaysia from November 1 to 30, 2024. The sponsorship covered one participant (from a financially struggling YMCA)'s board and lodging, expenses for exposures and resource persons, etc. during the whole one-month course of the Asia Pacific Alliance YMCAs (APAY).

ASD-LTOD/PAP Hiro Tanka offered an introduction of Y's Men's Club to the YMCA staff from Asia Pacific on ZOOM during the programme.

APAY is our great partner. Asia Pacific Area has been supporting this training programme over the past ten years.



December Emphasis - Christian Emphasis (CE)



"Sendai YMCA Citizens Christmas" is an event for international students. Sendai has long had many international students. Many of them are unable to return to their home countries during the Christmas season. The normally bustling city of Sendai becomes completely quiet and deserted during the year-end and New Year holidays. "Sendai YMCA Citizen Christmas" was started about half a century ago to cheer up the lonely international students.

Sendai YMCA Citizens Christmas

Many club members worked together this year as well, hoping that international students could meet each other and develop warm feelings for each other.

Sendai YMCA has had a problem that was the lack of youth volunteers. Many youth leaders participate in the activities prepared by Sendai YMCA staff. However, they had not made any plans on their own for a long time. In that sense, this year has been a memorable year.

A daughter of a club member participated in a meeting to prepare for "Sendai YMCA Citizens Christmas," and in response to her call, about 15 youth got in touch, made their own plans, and joined to the "Sendai YMCA Citizens Christmas." The youth members were in charge of the game corner. The Sendai YMCA staff and the members of the Y's Men's Club were encouraged by their efforts. The "Sendai YMCA Citizens Christmas" had 250 participants, of which about 50 international students and 50 children had a truly wonderful time. It was a night filled with Christmas blessings.

ASD-CE Naoya KAWAKAMI

January Emphasis - Endowment Fund (EF)

More Interest in EF

EF donations are indispensable donations that support international associations. It includes headquarters expenses, staff salaries, travel expenses, and investment expenses, which are collected in Geneva and kept in a safe place.

EF donations are personal donations. Therefore, if you are a Y's men from the International Association, you can boldly read the activities and overcome the harshness of this unprecedented coronavirus crisis. Isn't it?

It's a unique opportunity to discover the joy of new members making donations without assuming they are annual event.

The pandemic is showing signs of ending. Many members are enjoying the days as usual and making many precious. "Let's leave experience in an EF donation!"

In addition, January is the month of EF emphasis.



ASD-EF Mitsuko Morita 6

Regional News (Japan West Region)

WEEK 4 WASTE by Musashi Club

On Sunday, November 10, 2024 35 Musashi Y's Men's Club members, Musashi Global Community Center (GCC) program participants and their families and YMCA staff gathered at Musashi GCC at 7:00 a.m. We were divided into two groups and set about cleaning up Changjiang Boulevard. As expected of Japan, there was very little trash, and the collection bags were full of cigarette butts and fallen leaves. Thank you to all who participated.

CS Tadashi Tanoue



Y'S DAY IN KYOTO

The Kyoto District Y's Day was held at Roam Square Kyoto. The event's aim was to promote the Y's Men's Club and raise funds to support the victims of the Noto Peninsula earthquake and flooding. Another event was being held next to the venue, and the area was packed with people! Amongst the crowd, there was a dance contest between a general kids' dance team and the YMCA dance club. As there were many elementary school children, there were also many parents watching, and it was a very lively event. The dance performances were wonderful. Seven clubs provided food and drinks at other booths. In addition, YMCA youth had a wooden key ring-making experience at different booths. A booth appealed for the establishment of a YMCA international school in Laos, and the YMCA's activities were widely publicized. Finally, donations from each club and a portion of the booth sales were used to support the Noto Peninsula earthquake and flood disaster victims. The meaningful Kyoto Y's Day ended successfully!

DG Daisuke Yamashita



Regional News (Southeast Asia Region)

Tree Planting in Phnom Penh

Y's Service Club Phnom Penh and Cambodia YMCA team had organized their 1st tree planting event. 100 Trees were planted, assisted by 10 youth volunteers, 30 teachers and 200 students at Vong Tek High School. They also contributed some learning materials to 70 students.



World AIDs Day

Y's Men's Club of Malang, Indonesia commemorated World AIDS Day on 1st December 2024. They are committed to fight together to eliminate stigma and discrimination against people who are living with HIV.



Regional News (Philippines Region)

Raha Philippines Club Care Program

The Rotary Club of Amazing Manila, in partnership with the Y's Men Club Raha Philippines, organized "HOPE: The Amazing Magic of Sharing" at the DSWD-Reception & Study Center in Quezon City. This initiative supported 60 underprivileged children who faced abandonment, neglect, or abuse, promoting inclusivity and reducing stigma. Activities included creative and educational sessions, such as coloring, to enhance their talents. Each child received gifts, including vitamins, toys, and educational materials, and enjoyed a joyful day. Volunteers provided attention and encouragement, making the children feel valued and loved.



Regional News (Japan East Region)



New Club Charter

Stepping into the 2nd Quarter, a new club -Y Service Club of Yamoto-Creative was chartered under Japan East Region with a total of 8 members. The charter ceremony was held on November 24, 2024. Let's give them a big welcome.

Congratulations to RD Kohei Yamanda, CP Nakatumi Komatsu & the sponsor club YMC Atsugi for making things happen and Asia Pacific Area wishes them and the new club every success.

Regional News (Sri Lanka Region)

Supported Girls Band

Y's Men's Club of Young Moratuwa donated musical Instruments for helping form an Eastern Band for the Methodist College, Rawathawaththa in October 2024.

The girls in Methodist College had a chance to explore and develop their Musical talent in an event. This project was found and coordinated by the Y's Lady Mystica of Y's Men's Club of Young Moratuwa.

The musical event was graced by Sri Lanka Regional Director Prashantha De Silva. PRD Ranaraj Serashingha, PRD Milroy and a few more clubs officers.



Y'S MEN INTERNATIONAL ASIA PACIFIC AREA SHORT VIDEO CONTEST

2024-2025



THEME

MAKE A
GREAT IMPACT

CATEGEORY

- 1) COMMUNITY PROJECT
- 2) FREE CREATION

SUBMISSIO OF ENTRIES

PHASE I : DEC 5, 2024

PHASE II : FEB 5, 2025

PRIZES & AWARDS

UP TO

USD400 CASH PRIZE

*Did
You
Submit
?*

- 1) COMMUNITY PROJECT
- 2) FREE CREATION



Details
&
Enrollment



Dubai, Nov 5 to 10
15 Asia Pacific Area Delegates

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CONVOCATION SHARING MESSAGE BY DELEGATES SRI LANKA REGION

H.M.D.J. Wanninayaka
Y's Men's Club of Maha Nuwara



Praveeni Fernando

The week of IYC 2024 is an unforgettable experience and will be a lifelong memory, held and shared for many years. As Y's Youth came together from different parts of the world, we embraced different individuals. We shared the many vibrant cultures, the fellowship of what it is to be a Y's youth and our cause, as well as the many different views of leadership while sharing the warmth of friendship. As a usually shy and introverted person, IYC helped me to open up to the world, invoking a yearning, for more friendship, fellowship, and cause as a Y's Youth that could enable positive reinforcements in need.

IYC 2024 in Dubai was a transformative experience that brought together 70 participants from 12 countries to foster leadership, cultural exchange, and global collaboration. The event offered workshops on leadership development, problem-solving, and innovation, with a focus on real-world applications like sustainability and AI. Cultural activities, such as dance presentations and origami, allowed us to embrace diversity and connect deeply with others. Working in groups enhanced my teamwork and communication skills, while learning about different cultures broadened my perspective. This experience significantly developed my leadership, creativity, and problem-solving abilities, inspiring me to lead by action and create positive change.

I would like to thank AP Joan Wong and RD Prasantha De Silva for presenting me with this amazing opportunity to improve my skills as a Y's youth and I am hoping to implement what I have learned to improve Y's dom in Sri Lanka



INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CONVOCATION SHARING MESSAGE BY DELEGATES TAIWAN REGION



Yi-Chi Chen

*Gathering from Around the World –
2024 Dubai IYC*

Dubai is a rapidly developing city that combines towering skyscrapers with a wealth of traditional, historic culture. Due to local policies, I encountered many international migrant workers from South Asia, including India, and the cultural differences left a strong impression on me. Life here moves at a slower pace. Over the past few days, I've tried to blend into the local lifestyle by chatting with vendors at street stalls, though most shopkeepers are unfamiliar with Taiwan. Riding the local metro and buses, I noticed that people here are not deterred by crowded conditions. They will push you in without hesitation, showing little concern for physical contact with strangers.

Regarding food culture, I observed that Indian and American cuisines heavily influence the local palate. When I asked people for recommendations on local dishes, interestingly, none of the ten people I asked suggested any Arabic food, which I found unfortunate.

As a country with a highly developed tourism industry, Dubai seems to have

lost of diverse cultures, and from my experience, it seems that, similar to some of its unique cultural essence. Like the United States, Dubai is a melting pot of most highly developed cities, traditional culture here is not actively promoted.

At this IYC event, participants from various countries presented the issues their countries face and described the programs their clubs have implemented to support their communities. I think Taiwan's Y's Men face a major challenge with a lack of young members. There are few young volunteers, and the organization has low visibility in Taiwan. Due to Taiwan's comprehensive social welfare system, there is less urgency to support disadvantaged groups compared to other countries. Therefore, we might consider adopting a different approach, such as organizing activities that could attract more attention from young people and increase youth involvement.

During this journey, I thoroughly enjoyed making friends from different countries. I found a group of friends who share a love of fun, and after activities, we would head out together from the hotel to explore the city and try local street food. On our first day in Dubai, we ran to the beach, wrestled in the water, and returned to the hotel soaked to attend the evening event. Every night, the first thing we would ask each other was, "Where are we going next?" We would play music from different countries, talk about our interests, jam on the guitar, and play games in our hotel rooms, creating a deep bond over these few days. When it was time to say goodbye, everyone cried. The memories of this IYC event in Dubai are beautiful, and I truly wish we had more time together.

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CONVOCATION SHARING MESSAGE BY DELEGATES SOUTHEAST ASIA REGION



Pinky Ho
Hong Kong District

I am deeply grateful for the incredible opportunity to learn about the diverse challenges faced by young people around the world. Connecting with participants from different countries, like Sri Lanka, Kenya, opened my eyes to various social issues and the unique ways youth are making a difference in their communities.

We shared stories of activism, resilience, and hope, which inspired me to think critically about my own role in creating positive change. This experience not only broadened my perspective but also motivated me to contribute more actively to solutions in my own community.

I am also filled with gratitude for the friendships I formed with people from all over the world. I felt a deep sense of camaraderie and support, which made my first trip to IYC so special.

I look forward to keeping in touch and continuing these important conversations!

Thank you again. Looking forward to see you next year.



Tayakorn Chuangcham(Katen)
Bangkok Metropolitan Club

The International Youth Convocation (IYC) in Dubai, held from November 5th to 11th, 2024, was an exceptional experience for me. Not only was it my first time in Dubai, but it also an opportunity to discuss global challenges and solutions with young people from difference countries. Many of the seminar topics addressed critical issues that need wider public attention, especially AI technology.

The current world, with the evolution of AI technology, there will be many job losses and misuse of the technology, but it also represents a future brimming with new possibilities.

Lastly the organizer team may have struggled with the wide differences in culture and attendees, but the convocation was still a success nevertheless able to meet and discuss, giving hopes and knowledge, and to further expand the relationship among the attendees.

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CONVOCATION SHARING MESSAGE BY DELEGATES SOUTHEAST ASIA REGION

Pinyapass Ladaphongpattana (Ping)
Bangkok Metropolitan Club



My Unforgettable Experience at IYC Dubai 2024

Attending the International Youth Conference (IYC) in Dubai, UAE, has been the most memorable experience of my year. I went in with high hopes, and the event exceeded all my expectations, leaving me with countless unforgettable memories.

The journey to Dubai itself was exciting. I had never been on a flight longer than two hours, and this was my first time traveling to the Middle East. From the moment we landed, Dubai captivated me. The desert vibe was unmistakable, with the hot sun shining down from clear, cloudless skies. I found it fascinating that despite the heat, the locals didn't seem to rely on hats or umbrellas. The city's charm came not just from its unique environment but also from its people. The locals were incredibly kind and friendly, making me feel at ease in this new and unfamiliar place.

The conference itself was packed with meaningful activities. Meeting friends from all around the world was the highlight for me. We exchanged ideas, shared our cultures, and discussed topics that mattered deeply to us. One of my favorite days was when we went sightseeing around Dubai and visited The Emirates National School. During our discussions about third-culture generations, I gained so many insights and inspirations that I couldn't wait to take back home.

Over the five days we spent together, I grew close to the other participants. We shared countless happy moments and created memories that I'll treasure forever. What struck me most was how unique everyone was. Each culture brought something special to the experience. The Indians were lively and amazing dancers. The Japanese and Hong Kong participants had fun and vibrant personalities. The Jamaicans impressed me with their cool mindset and positive attitude, while the Africans were incredibly fun to be around. I learned so much from their diverse perspectives and personalities.

The interactive sessions were equally transformative. We discussed the challenges in our countries and brainstormed ways to tackle them. Listening to world-class speakers was an honor; their wisdom and advice motivated me to recognize my role in making the world a better place.

Looking back, I am incredibly grateful to everyone who made this event happen. Attending IYC Dubai 2024 was a truly eye-opening experience that taught me about the power of connection, culture, and collaboration. It inspired me to think bigger and work harder toward creating positive change.

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CONVOCATION SHARING MESSAGE BY DELEGATES SOUTHEAST ASIA REGION



Wuttipong Phongterdsakngs
Bangkok

First of all, my name is Wuttipong Phongterdsak, and I am Chareef. I was a youth representative from Chiangmai, Thailand, and participated in the 19th International Youth Convocation Dubai, UAE. It was a great opportunity for me. In the convocation, there were plenty of companions from many countries around the world and we were good together and created memorable things with each other that we will never forget. There were 6 days of activities. For the flight to visit Dubai, I went with Emirate Airlines because I could get the tourist Visa at the same time as I bought the ticket from them. Then, for the accommodation I stayed with all of the participants in the Al Bustan Residence that Y's men afforded us. It was an excellent hotel within a good environment and there was a shopping mall included.

On the first day, orientation happened after we had all finished registration. The event took place in the hall of Al Bustan Residence. Mostly, for this day we spent time getting to know each other and playing the ice-breaking games.

The second day was also an ice-breaking day. We got to know the Y's Men's Club from the activities that they provided for the night. There was the first-day cultural night performance from our friend who came out to show the cultures of their countries through the performance.

On the third day, today we went out sightseeing in Old Dubai and New Dubai such as Old City downtown, Dubai Frame, Burj Khalifa building, Dubai Mall, Museum of Future, and Palm Trees Island. For the evening event, we went to the Dubai Desert Safari Tour.

On the fourth day, we went to the Emirate National School and led students to join IYC Session 3 of Youth for a New World Order and discussed youth issues in our society. Then at night we had Cultural Night Performance Day 2. This was my turn to perform about Thai traditions. Then I got 3 performances to show on that day. Firstly, I sang a Thai song. Next, I taught everyone to play by Hiding a cloth behind one's back (Mon-Son-Pha) which is a Thai traditional classic game. Lastly, I told them to know Moo Deng was a viral Thai hippopotamus on the Internet at that time and led them to dance to its song. All of these were very funny things.

On the fifth day, in the daytime, there was IYC session 4, Future Business Innovations of Global Trends, by a Korean lecturer. He talked about a very interesting topic involving the AI industry. For the nighttime, we participated in the IYC2024 Gala night, which was hosted by the Middle East Region. There were a lot of fun activities such as the Traditional Dress Fashion show, Musical Band, Karaoke, Quiz on YS Men & SDGs, and Team games.

On the sixth day, this day was the last day of this program and there was the closing ceremony consisting of a highlight video and reflections and sharing memories with everyone. After that, we did the farewell and went back to our own countries. Left only great memories behind.

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CONVOCATION SHARING MESSAGE BY DELEGATES JAPAN EAST REGION

Nao Shimoyama

First of all, thank you very much for your warm support this time. It was very helpful that you always cared about us, and I was able to spend my days in Dubai with peace of mind.

I participated in AYC 2023 in Nepal last year and learned a lot. However, when I participated in the IYC 2024 held in Dubai this time, I realized once again how big the world was and realized that I still have a lot to learn. What surprised me the most this time was that cultures, ways of thinking and values differ greatly from region to region around the world. By interacting with the Indian and African people who were the majority of the participants, I was not only able to learn about cultures that I had never known before, but I was also able to re-examine Japanese culture myself. Also, onlinization has progressed and people around the world can interact with each other on the Internet now, but I felt that there were things that could only be gained by actually gathering and interacting. I would like to accumulate the experience I have gained this time and make use of it in my future activities, including the AYC 2025 to be held in Kumamoto. Once again, thank you very much.

Aoi Iwasaki

It was a stimulating, fresh, and very good experience for me to interact with youth members from all over the world. Even though our backgrounds, cultures, and languages used are different, I believe we were able to communicate with each other through activities in the same program, such as sessions and sightseeing. AYC2025 will be held in Kumamoto Japan, but I have never been there, so I would like to research about the host city. I would like to do my best so that I can take the initiative to lead the association.



INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CONVOCATION SHARING MESSAGE BY DELEGATES JAPAN WEST REGION



Nanami Iwasaki

When we performed at the cultural performance, we introduced Japanese anime. We learned that Japanese anime was well-known worldwide, and there were many fans of Japanese anime, such as Totoro and Naruto. When we were dancing to the anime theme song during the performance, everyone was singing and dancing together along with our dance. I remembered seeing from the stage that everyone was smiling with joy at that time. After finishing our performance, they asked about the title of the song we performed and the works of Japanese anime we could recommend. We were able to talk with friends from various countries through anime. We realized again how wonderful the culture of Japanese anime was.



Kotomi Tsukamoto

Thank you very much for giving me such a valuable opportunity. I was able to grow myself through the convention. When leaving Japan, I wanted to decide whether to communicate with foreign members in English. Besides, it was my first time meeting Japanese members at the Airport. However, I got to know them immediately once we met and could understand and communicate with foreign friends. The reason I could speak English with confidence was through the words of a foreign friend. He said, "You had a good opinion, so why not tell it more?" Thanks to him for telling me this, I became able to convey my thoughts actively, and I was able to join the conversation with all my friends. Even though it was only a short week, I felt so much growth, and I was able to spend a fulfilling week, so I was very glad that I participated in IYC.

Yoshihiro Shimizu

During the discussion session, we discussed the four pillars listed in the "World YMCA Vision 2030" that YMCAs worldwide were focusing on, as well as SDGs in connection with these issues, exchanging opinions and ideas with members from each country. For example, a member from Africa said that their goal was to eradicate malaria and that people from any country could help as a global family. This session was where all the participants from each country actively listened to the situation in other countries and the opinions of others, and it was a place where I could put my thoughts into words.

During the convention, I could deepen my fellowship with friends from different countries while talking and having daily meals. I experienced how we could communicate beyond the differences in countries and languages through dancing and playing soccer together. A week went by in a flash, but it was a convention that taught me various things, such as challenges and efforts heading for the future and experiences I would never have had anywhere else.

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CONVOCATION SHARING MESSAGE BY DELEGATES JAPAN WEST REGION

Hiyori Okada



Through the language, I have made friends and connections with people from many countries, and it has been a great experience for me. I was a little anxious because I was not familiar with English, but my friends listened to me, and we worked together until the end. The days we spent together were invaluable.

One of the most memorable moments was when we went to school in Dubai and had an exchange meeting. I was the leader of the group, and when we discussed drug addiction, poverty, and other issues that are currently being discussed around the world, I was devastated by my lack of understanding and my inability to convey my thoughts to others as I wished. They took their time to talk with me until I understood them. They discussed slowly with me until I could understand them, and they were there for me. When I summarized the agenda and made my presentation in front of many people, I was shaking from nervousness, but I still remember being moved to tears when everyone ran up to me after my presentation and praised me. At that moment, I realized once again the kindness of people and what I lacked, and it was a moment that made me want to learn more English.

Also, at the culture night, the Japanese members of the group worked through trial and error to come up with ideas on how to convey Japan's charms to people from other countries. On the day of the event, our performance was very well received, and I felt that people from different countries loved Japan. I was very surprised when I received the award at the Culture Night, but I was thrilled to know that my thoughts and feelings were conveyed to people in other countries.

Lastly, this IYC was a wonderful experience for me in my life, as I learned about the differences in culture and ways of thinking between people from other countries, the importance of realizing the difficulties and joys of living together through these differences, and the fact that I became friends with so many people. I would like to understand and use my immaturity in my future life. I also realized that the country of "Japan" was loved very much, and I am proud of my country. I plan to learn English so I can go back next year and meet again with the friends I just met.





2025

happy new year