



ISSUE 77 | OCT 2019

# YOUTH WORLD

TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE DUTY THAT ACCOMPANIES EVERY RIGHT



# SERVICE THAT WORKS





Y's Men International, 9 Avenue Sainte Clotilde, CH-1205 Geneva, Switzerland

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Cover photo courtesy of the Southern Taiwan Club. Club members smile at the camera as they celebrate a successful year of community service.

# FROM THE EDITOR

*Welcome to the first issue of the 2019-2020 Y's Men year Youth World 77 (YW77).*

*It is always a privilege to showcase the best service work our youth has done recently.*

*In YW77, I'm happy to announce the 2019-2020 Youth Committee. These hard working young people are ready to tackle the challenges of leading Y's youth into 2020, the year of our International Convention (IC) and International Youth Committee (IYC), which will be held in Denmark.*

*In addition to an overview of the first year of successful activities of the Southern Taiwan Club, we have a wonderful report from Tomoki Ishida, a youth from Japan, who recently had a sweeping STEP experience in Denmark*

*I am happy for all these experiences, and it is my hope for this new Y's year, that more of our youth will become involved in their communities through consistent hard work and love.*

.....

**May the favor of the Lord our God rest on us; establish the work of our hands for us— yes, establish the work of our hands.**

Psalm 90: 17 (NIV)



*Stephanie Spencer*  
Youth World Editor





# Our Best Health!

## **MAKE A DIFFERENCE THIS OCTOBER - BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH**

According to the World Health Organisation, breast cancer affects 2.1 million women each year.

Help lower the stats by supporting your local non profits, charities, and brands that support Breast Cancer Awareness initiatives.

### ***Want another great idea?***

Organize a fundraiser in your local Y Service or Y's Youth club for the cause.

Every little bit of help counts.

So, let's get out there and make this our **"best health"** year yet!





# MY STEP EXPERIENCE IN DENMARK

TOMOKI ISHIDA | AREA ASIA PACIFIC

Before I begin, I want to thank the STEP Programme for accepting my application as a STEP student. I had a wonderful experience in Denmark. As a Japanese youth, I always wanted to go overseas and interact with many different people from various cultures.

I asked my grandmother, Yoko, who is a member of the Takarazuka Y's Men's Club, if there were any YMCA or Y's Men's programmes where I could experience a different culture. I thought she might know something because she often talked about Y's Men International programmes. But I didn't want it to be an ordinary sightseeing trip. I wanted to learn and study about another country's architecture and culture.

My grandmother told me, the "Y's men's Club has a STEP program. This programme makes young people get involved with Y's Men's families all over the world." So, I applied.

I was happy that many Y's leaders like members of Takarazuka Y's Men's Club, the Regional Directors, and the ASD/ISD for STEP & YEEP, helped me to find a placement in Denmark.

Why Denmark? It would be my first trip abroad, by myself, so I wanted to go to a





safe and exciting country. The fact that I am studying architecture at the University in Japan, made the Scandinavian countries an easy choice. There are many famous architects from these countries, such as: Alvar Aalto, Arne Jacobsen, Finn Juhl, and Jorn Utzon, etc. I wanted to be inspired by visiting their homeland.

### **PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAMME**

The purpose of the STEP programme is to learn more about the Y's Men movement on an international level, and to understand its value. This is important, especially for young people like me. I think it is necessary to have many experiences abroad, and to experience different cultures, languages, foods, etc. There are many real things one can experience as a local, even though a picture is worth a thousand words.

### **EXPERIENCE AND ACTIVITY IN DENMARK**

For the three weeks that I was in Denmark, I

stayed with seven host families. My first host family members, Bjarne and Vita, picked me up from Billund Airport. I was a little nervous about everything—as I was by myself and didn't speak English well—but I was relieved when I saw them. I received a warm welcome.

As a STEP student staying with my host families, I enjoyed many experiences with them. They organized many activities for me, including: Y's Men's Sports Club, Architect offices, schools, the Kronborg Castle, Christiansborg Slot, the Opera House, Tivoli, and so on. I also went to many Y's Men meetings and an escape room at the YMCA.

Had I just gone for a sightseeing trip, I would have never met such wonderful people, or see the special locales by myself.

Another great moment for me was seeing the refugees. I know there are some refugees in Japan, but I never see them.



It was like I lived in a different world from them. I wanted to find out more information about the lives of the refugees. It would be my first step in thinking about what was going on in other countries.

I was also very impressed by Denmark's social system. Most of the facilities were used for free social welfare. I think Japan needs to learn about social welfare from Denmark.

Thanks to the great generosity of the Danish Y's Men host families, I was able to have a wonderful experience.

## **ACHIEVEMENT**

Thanks to the STEP programme, I believe I am more confident and much stronger. I realised that there were so many things that I didn't know about the world, or even about my own country. I've become more interested in what is going on in the world after my trip to Denmark. Now, I am trying to improve my English, so that I can travel again if given the opportunity.

## **FINALLY**

I really appreciate everyone's support throughout this process.

I felt that there was a strong international connection between the YMCA and the Y's Men clubs of Japan and Denmark. The Danish Y's Men's Club welcomed me more, I believe, due to the fact that we were both YMCA members. They were like my family.

Once again, a very big THANK YOU to Bjarne, Vita, Connie, and Flemming.

This summer has become one of greatest treasures. I will do my best in assisting the YMCA and Y's Men in every possible way.

Please keep providing opportunities for youth like me. 

## **An International Brotherhood Club (IBC) meets STEP**

*When I received the Short-Term Exchange Programme (STEP) application, from the Regional Director (RD) of Japan West, for Tomoki Ishida, I forwarded the documents to the relevant authorities in Denmark.*

*What amazed me was that in less than three hours, I received a response from RD Bjarne Hyldgard. He had gladly accepted Tomoki as a guest, to further the 'brother' relationship between clubs: Give, in Denmark, and Takarazuka, in Japan.*

*After the arrangements had been made between RD Bjarne and the RSDs, Tomoki began his journey on 14 August 2019. To summarize Tomoki's experience, he had an exceptional time in Denmark with the Give Y's Men's Club.*

*I take this opportunity to thank RD Bjarne and family, RSDs Flemming and Connie, and all members of Give Club who made Tomoki's STEP dream a reality. He left his 'large Y's Men family' behind and arrived in Japan on 4 September 2019. I hereby present Tomoki's STEP experience!*

**– ISD STEP & YEEP Rita Hettiarachchi**





Meet the 2019-2020 Area Youth Representatives (AYR) as we head into the 2020 International Youth Convocation (IYC) year!

# THE 2019-2020 YOUTH COMMITTEE

This year, the 2019-2020 Youth Committee is rearing to go as we head into an IYC year in 2020. The health of an Area depends on the strength of communication between local clubs and youth leaders. Some of the main tasks of an AYR is to represent the youth and their interests at an International level, manage the fulfillment of Area goals, and to liaise on the youth's behalf at Area meetings.

This year, we say thank you and farewell to the hardworking AYRs who diligently represented their Areas for the past two years. They are **Natasha Lelievre, (Area Canada/Caribbean)**, **Diya Vijaya (Area India)**, and **Matthew Rodriguez (Area USA)**.

Read on to meet some new and familiar faces!





# GARRETT PIERSON

AREA USA | USA

## **What are your goals for your AYR term?**

Organize the youth members in my Area's regions into a more centralized youth community and expand youth membership.

## **ICE BREAKER: "If you had one extra hour of free time a day, how would you use it?"**

If I had one extra hour of free time every day, I would work through it, so that I would have time to go hiking on the weekends.





# ANDREW KALMYKOV

AREA EUROPE | RUSSIA

## **What are your goals for your AYR term?**

One of my goals is to use the IYC 2020 in Denmark as an opportunity to promote Y's Youth Movement in the western part of the Europe Area.

## **ICE BREAKER: "If you had one extra hour of free time a day, how would you use it?"**

I would probably use it to work on my personal projects. I've got many ideas but not enough time.

# YVONNE HONG

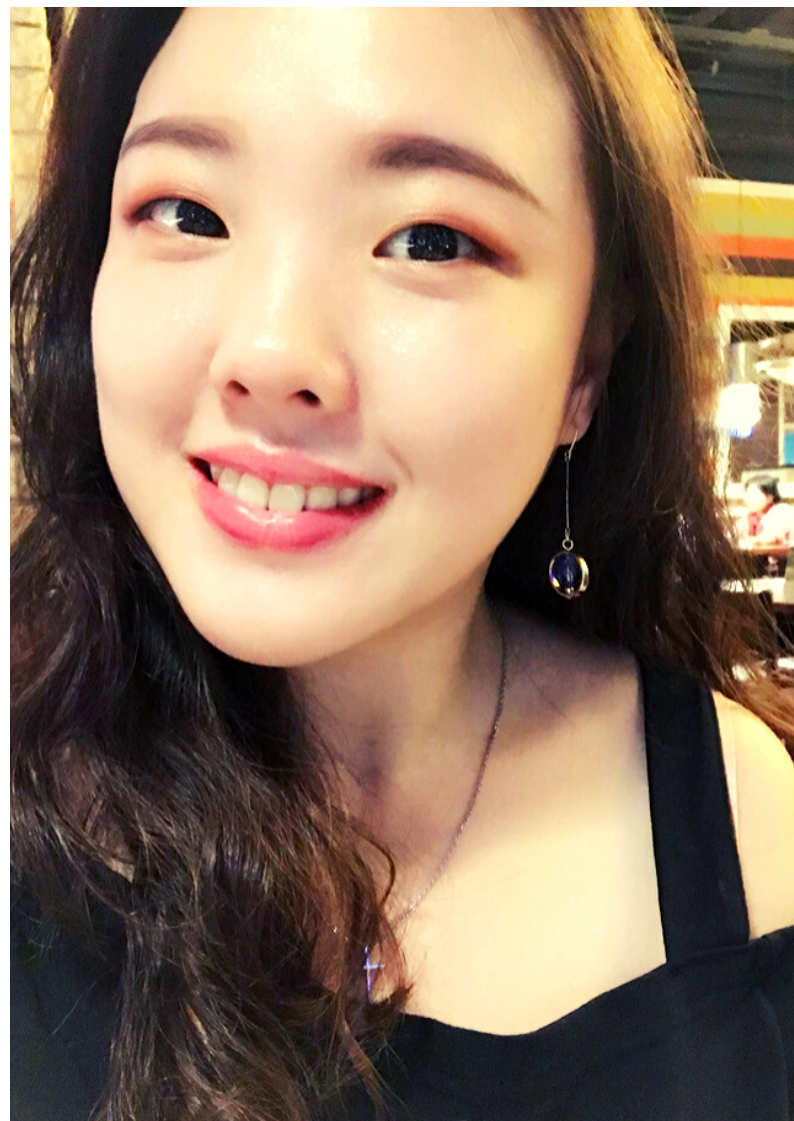
AREA ASIA PACIFIC | TAIWAN

## **What are your goals for your AYR term?**

Helping all the youth clubs in my Area schedule at least one meeting a month. My second goal is to start youth clubs in Malaysia.

## **ICE BREAKER: "If you had one extra hour of free time a day, how would you use it?"**

I would love Stephanie [YW Editor] much more. 🥰 On a more serious note, I would listen to music, sing, and dance more.





**2019-2020**

# **YOUTH COMMITTEE**

**Stephane Mbarga**

**Area Africa**

**Yvonne Hong**

**Area Asia Pacific**

**Christabelle Brown**

**Area Canada/Caribbean**

**Andrew Kalmykov**

**Area Europe**

**Parvathy Nair**

**Area India**

**Kwang-jin Kim**

**Area Korea**


**Leandro Toledo**

**Area Latin America**

**Garrett Pierson**

**Area USA**



A close-up photograph of a hand holding a branch with autumn leaves and evergreen needles. The hand is wearing a dark, textured sweater. The background is dark and out of focus. The text is overlaid on the image.

**It is only the farmer  
who faithfully plants  
seeds in the spring,  
who reaps a harvest in  
autumn.**

B.C. FORBES  
FOUNDER OF FORBES MAGAZINE





# THE SOUTHERN TAIWAN CLUB: OUR FIRST YEAR

ANGELA CHIEN | CLUB PRESIDENT | TAIWAN

After I'd received the Charter Certificate for the newly inducted Southern Taiwan Youth Club from Regional Director (RD) Dr. Shiao, and with the Club President (CP) badge pinned on, I was left with an incredible feeling:

**I am responsible for leading my fellow members forward.**

That feeling stayed with me when we had the Campus Charity Show soon after the ceremony. The concept was "Being Friendly to Animals". The show—which was a fundraiser—included

singing, dancing, and drama. Hand painted crafts were also sold, and all the proceeds went to the Stray Animal Association. It was our first project and it was a major success!

Our next project, was a collaboration with our 'mother club', the Kaohsiung Port YMCA. We hosted a large banquet for indigenous elders and their families in the mountainous region near Kaohsiung. Three hundred attendees were present and seated at thirty tables. Thirty volunteer chefs cooked a ten-

course meal for each table. Our youth club volunteers worked hard moving items, washing things, and ensuring the guests were comfortable.

Due to our rapidly aging society in Taiwan, the Southern Taiwan Youth Club have stepped up our activities in helping the elderly. In our 'aging programme' sponsored by the Zhongshan Medical University and the Taichung City Health Bureau, we encouraged the elderly to participate in the activities we had designed for them. If the elderly leave their homes regularly, it would help reduce their depression, which would lead to a healthier and happier life.

Through our service to our society, we grow stronger, and we have fun doing it.

What a wonderful first year of accomplishments for the Southern Taiwan Youth Club! ■





# Ready to take the next **STEP?**

*Take a look at our awesome Y's Programme!*

**Become an international ambassador for Y's Men International through our STEP programme!**

The **Short-Term Exchange Programme (STEP)** provides a great opportunity for young people to learn about the culture, traditions, and language(s) of their fellow Y's youth, and Y's Men, around the world. It's also a great way for youth to participate in local club activities.

If you're up for the challenge, you may be able to:

- Spend 3-11 weeks with a Y's Men's (Y Service) family in another country or region.
- Develop critical self-management skills.
- Learn about the customs, cultures, and languages of your host country or region.
- Learn about the activities of Y's Men (Y Service) clubs worldwide.



## Ready to apply?

**Contact Rita Hettiarachchi (Service Director of the STEP Programme) at [ritahetti@gmail.com](mailto:ritahetti@gmail.com) to apply.**



### CONTACT US

Please send all Youth World inquiries to YW Editor Stephanie Spencer at [stephanie@ysmen.org](mailto:stephanie@ysmen.org).