

## Testimony from Alumni of APYC



**Sulari- Government Officer, Sri Lanka**

**Sri Lanka Delegate, APYC 2015 Cambodia**

“APYC 2015, is one of most precious and memorable experience of my life. It was a space to build new friendships and develop mutual trust with respect by understanding each other. I was inspired by the beauty of the action 'Serving others before yourself' and, it changed the way of my life. APYC 2015 was also a personal space for me which made me realised the importance of inner listening and reflecting my self to correct my own mistakes rather than correcting others. I am very lucky and so glad to meet lofC, through APYC.

**Sulari Wibhusha Kumarasiri.** currently working as a government officer at Department of Inland Revenue, Colombo Sri Lanka. She graduated in Peace and Conflict Resolution and currently following Masters' in Development studies. she believes that earning peoples' hearts is more important than earning money. She is very passionate about volunteerism and she wanted to be a life time volunteer. Currently she is engaged with lofC- Sri Lanka, believing that ' be the change which you want to see in the world'.



**Lord Leomer Pomperada- President, World Youth Alliance**

**Philippine Delegate, APYC 2014 Taiwan**

“My experience at the Asia Pacific Youth Conference was truly life changing. I will forever remember the valuable lessons that I learned from very inspiring speakers and from the meaningful exchanges that I had with my fellow participants. Some of the memorable experiences that I had from the program include our Family Groups, Quite Time and the Youth Open Spaces, where we had very interesting discussions on different issues. What makes the APYC unforgettable and life changing is its ability to bring together young people from different backgrounds so they can learn from each other and at the same time providing them a holistic learning experience– teaching their minds, touching their hearts and inspiring their souls with the end goal of personal transformation. I will forever be grateful to the Initiatives of Change for all of the wisdom, experiences and friendships that they've given me through APYC.”

**Lord Leomer Pomperada**

President, World Youth Alliance



## **Ai Yamamoto- Academic Office at Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University Japan**

### **Japan Delegate for APYC 2012 & 2013**

I have participated in the APYC twice in the past. Just now, Kiyoshi-san shared the story of a Filipino lady who did not like Japan because in the war time a person who was very important to her was killed by a Japanese soldier. However, later when she joined the APYC a Japanese lady made a sincere apology to her about what happened in the war time and this apology healed this Filipino lady's feelings. These two women were able to build trust through APYC. I also have had such a experience though the APYCs. In APYC2012, I had a chance to talk with a few Korean girls. I'm not going to hide that there are political and historical conflicts between Korea and Japan. A few Japanese girls, including myself, gathered at night and talked to the Korean girls. The Korean girls told us the history they have learnt about Korea and Japan and their feelings about Japanese people honestly. I felt I learnt things that night which I did not learn from my education in Japan. The Korean girls, as well as the Japanese girls, were touched by the sincerity of our conversation. I thought it was a very special and meaningful experience. So I decided to participate in the APYC2013 held in Korea, with my mission; to make this sincere conversation happen again and get more people involved in it. Then, about 20 people from Korea, Japan and even people from other countries gathered at night and talked about the history

and feelings between Korea and Japan. What happened was, people from other countries listening to the conversation also started to talk each other about the problems in their countries. Before long, a group of Taiwanese and Chinese formed their own group, then a group of Vietnamese and Cambodians formed. People from Nagaland talked with people from India and Tibetan and Chinese people talked to each other during conference as well. I believe that people who were there all realized that sincere conversation heals the wounds from the past. Sincere conversation has a power to clear suspicions and make stronger our bonds with each other. However, these conversations did not happen coincidentally. There was one small action; I said, "I want to know what you know about my country, what you feel about my country. Can we talk?". I was able to take this action because of a lesson I learned at my first APYC, which is; "You can make change with a small action. You don't have to be super man or start a company. You can start with something you can do, Right now." I was very inspired by this idea and the experiences I just shared convinced me that it was true. I believe we will learn and be inspired at this APYC in Taiwan as well. Let's have a great time together.