

Peace Education and The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals in Latin America

July 20 - August 3, 2018





INTRODUCTION


Peace Boat US educational programs provide an opportunity to learn about ongoing global issues such as climate change, environmental degradation, poverty and sustainable development. The non-profit organization works to build a culture of peace by connecting people across borders and creating opportunities for learning, activism and cooperation. Individuals from around the world participate in Global Voyages onboard the Peace Boat ship, traveling to more than 100 countries per year. Since 2016, Peace Boat is sailing as the flagship for the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with the logo painted on the hull of the ship. These 17 ambitious goals provide a clear vision of what is needed to achieve the 2030 Agenda, and as an NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, Peace Boat is committed to helping achieve this vision.



In 2015, 193 UN member states came together to define 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to shape the global agenda for sustainable development in the next fifteen years and beyond. Peace Boat has made promoting and advancing the UN SDGs a key part of its mission. This program welcomed students and young people between the ages of 18 - 30 years old from all backgrounds and nationalities who are currently involved in SDG-related activities and have a strong desire to learn about sustainable development.

Achieving the SDGs requires mobilization of young people through entrepreneurship, volunteering, research, education and other endeavors. Toward this aim, Peace Boat US is providing various scholarships under the “Youth for the SDGs” theme to encourage the participation of youth in the SDGs and to give them the tools they need to work on the global scale.

Sailing onboard Peace Boat, “Youth for the SDGs” scholars attend presentations, seminars, and workshops addressing the implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Participating youth also enjoy being immersed in the onboard community with many opportunities to participate in other cultural, educational, and social activities and events. In ports, youth visit local NGOs and others who are working directly on SDG issues related to climate change, youth engagement, and policy-making.



“I have returned home with a deeper understanding of Latin America; the people, experiences and learning reminded me how to be that change we all want to see. I recognize the importance of networking and the foundation of the SDGs is the grassroots projects we are all involved in.”

Anne-Sophie Page (New Zealand)
2018 Program Participant



“The Peace Boat program allowed me to meet and learn from other young professionals who are fighting for change in the world. The networking and alliances we made during this trip helped us clarify the importance of the SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals, as it reminded us about the power of combined efforts and the importance of working together towards a common goal. This immersive program provided me with many opportunities to participate in cultural, educational, and social activities that reinforced my passion to work for Latin America’s development.”

Grecia De La O Abarca (Mexico) 2017 Program Participant





Cultural Exchange with the Kuna Indigenous Community in Panama



On July 21, the Youth for the SDGs scholars on the summer program received a warm welcome from the Kuna Indigenous Community in Panama. Through dialogue and brief presentations, both the youth and members of the community shared their stories and learned from each others' traditions and cultures. The youth engaged in a tour around the community where they had the opportunity to learn about the different steps that are being taken to preserve their cultural heritage while developing their own communities in the outskirts of Panama City.

Historically, the Kuna indigenous community has been marginalized within Panama, and currently faces various challenges in improving the living conditions of the population. Of particular concern to Kuna community leaders are conditions including poor sanitation, lack of waste disposal systems for latrines, and lack of proper roads. During our visit to the Kuna indigenous village in previous occasions, Peace Boat has supported the community in sustainable development projects addressing these issues.

At the community house called "Casa Comunal Dagargunyala", members of the Kuna shared the women's hand-woven selection of clothing and artwork with the youth. By speaking about the Molasses, handmade pieces of cloth that form part of the traditional women's clothing of the Kuna, in addition to a musical performance, the youth scholars learned more about the depths of the origins of the Kuna indigenous peoples and the importance of maintaining their traditional culture despite common challenges to conform to the current city life in Panama. The youth and the children of the community also bonded through sports activities, games and group conversations. Upon request from the community, Peace Boat donated soccer balls and volleyballs to be used by the sports committee and children at the community center.

The experience with the Kuna indigenous people helped to demonstrate the advantages and challenges of being an autonomous community set up outside of a "comarca", a territorial subdivision of a state for the indigenous communities in Panama. The Youth for the SDGs were able to learn about the different forms of social structure and organization that have been created by Kuna people in order to maintain a sustainable lifestyle. Many of the youth scholars were inspired by the community leaders and came up with an idea to create a small library together with the Kuna, Peace Boat participants and youth volunteers at the regional offices of UNEP and UNDP in Panama City. Peace Boat looks forward to new ideas from the Youth for the SDGs scholars and continuing to work closely with the Kuna indigenous community to support local sustainable development.

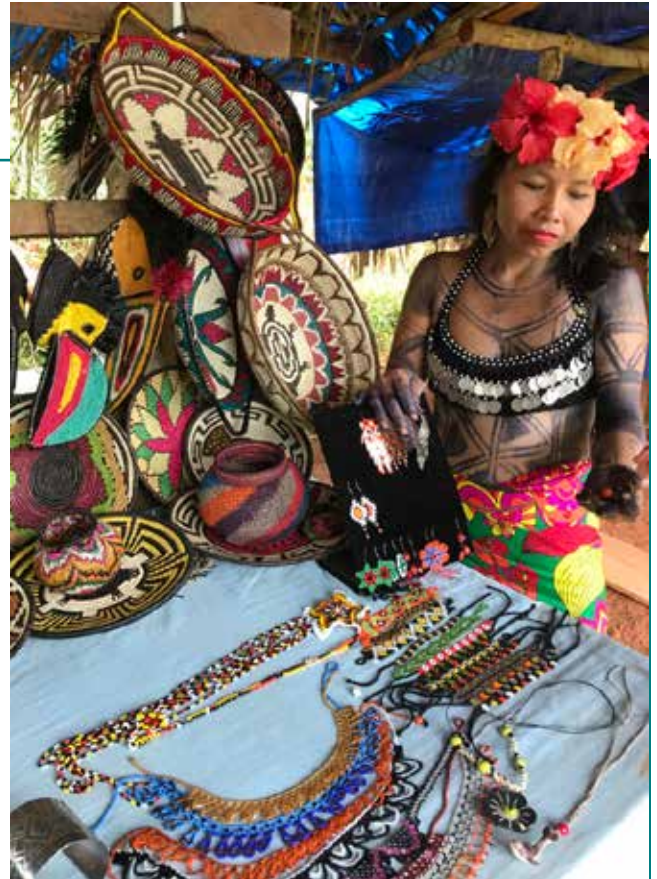
Homestay program and exchange with the Embera Quera Indigenous Community



On July 21-22, Youth for the SDGs scholars had the opportunity to participate in a cultural immersion with the Embera Quera indigenous community. To arrive at their village, the scholars were taken on a boat ride through small canals and rainforests with some of the local youth guiding the boats down the river. When they arrived, the community welcomed them with traditional dance and music. The elders of the village gave an introduction to the Embera Quera's history and together they engaged in dialogue to understand the importance of the natural environment for the livelihood of this particular community. A crucial part of this trip for the youth was the opportunity to not only learn about the origins of the Embera Quera, but to also experience firsthand the different ways in which ecotourism is used to preserve and give voice to their culture. This Embera community has created a self-sustainable eco-tourism project that allows them to thrive as a village through cultural exchange programs, fair-trade artisanal markets and traditional handicraft workshops that they offer throughout the year to share their culture with others.

The overnight homestay program and engagement in multiple cultural activities allowed the youth scholars to be immersed in nature and the local environment. Furthermore, students were able to learn, question and dialogue with members of the community about the social practices and structures that have helped to maintain such an intimate and high functioning community. Lastly, this experience inspired many youth to learn more about the vibrant indigenous communities in Latin America and how the SDGs are being implemented at the local level. The experiences at both the Kuna and Embera Indigenous Community also connect to SDG 11, recognizing the communities' different practices of sustaining their lives, roots and culture.

On every Global Voyage, Peace Boat aims to provide participants with the opportunity to learn more about the indigenous people and culture of the countries we visit and have a better historical understanding of their way of life and the impacts of colonization. Moreover, given the challenges of the 21st century, such as rapid depletion of natural resources and an increased dependence on electricity, it is our hope that through these activities, youth will feel inspired by indigenous traditional knowledge. More specifically, we hope that Peace Boat participants will walk away with lessons about how to be more in tune with their environment and how to establish and maintain intergenerational connections with their families and communities.



Conference on Implementing the SDGs in Latin America at the United Nations Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean

On the morning of July 23rd, and thanks to the coordination of Humberto Jaime from UNDP, the Youth for the SDGs scholars visited the City of Knowledge to learn more about the work of the United Nations' Regional Base for Latin America and the Caribbean Office in Panama. The deputy resident representative of UNDP, Fernando Hiraldo, explained the 5 axes that promote the Development Objectives and that are summarized in the care of the Planet, the well-being of the People, and the search for Prosperity, Peace and Partnerships to achieve this. During the visit to the UN House, they also had the opportunity to learn about the work of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the Resource Efficiency Unit at the United Nations Environmental Program Office. Matias Gallardo, the coordinator of UNEP Financial Initiative gave the group a small tour and an explanation about the objectives and programs that UNEP is leading in the region, such as circular economy, green economy, the next Minister Forum and UNEA 4. This exchange allowed the youth to better understand the close relationship between social development and environmental programs. During this visit, potential future alliances to be made between Peace Boat and UNEP were identified.





Celebrating the SDGs with United Nations Development Program With UNDP & RET (Relief-Education-in-Transition)

In Panama, the month of August is recognized as the month for the SDGs. To celebrate this occasion, UNDP hosted an SDG gathering for the Peace Boat youth scholars and young people from the non-governmental organization Relief-Education-in-Transition (RET) at the House of the United Nations. UNDP representatives spoke about the inter-relationships between the 17 SDGs and how the five main sub-topics (people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnerships) cannot be achieved independently. As a group, it was discussed how the SDGs have been developed with the intention of leaving no one behind, and how they suit every single country in the world, pushing forward sustainable development globally.

Many fruitful discussions continued onboard the Peace Boat, where Lorena Gómez, Vice Director of Civil Security; Meyvis Blackman, Secretary of Youth of Colón; and Michelle Muschett, Vice-minister of Social Development were invited to speak to youth from RET and Panama that were invited to the ship. In this event on-board, Emilie McGlone, Director of Peace Boat US, gave an introduction to the efforts of the Peace Boat to bring a culture of peace by connecting people across borders. Then, Ms. Gómez, Ms. Blackman, and Ms. Muschett presented about the work that they do with youth in Panama. The exchanges the Youth for the SDGs scholars had with them furthered their understanding of the challenges that youth face in LatinAmerica.



The Powerful testimonies of Hibakusha to create a nuclear-free future

The Youth for the SDGs scholars had the opportunity to listen to the testimonies of the survivors of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic bombs (Hibakusha in Japanese). Representatives from the United Nations and Panamanian government were also present in this event. The testimonies that Hibakusha shared with the youth were deeply moving and made a big impact on everyone that was present in the room. At the end, there was a clear consensus on the need to abolish nuclear weapons to prevent such a tragedy from ever happening again.

Peace Boat has long worked in collaboration with atomic bomb survivors, and since 2008, has invited Hibakusha of Hiroshima and Nagasaki to participate in the "Global Voyage for a Nuclear-Free World: Peace Boat Hibakusha Project." As of 2018, over 170 Hibakusha have travelled around the world giving personal testimonies about the effects of the atomic bombs and calling for nuclear abolition in 59 countries and more than 84 cities. These testimony sessions are organized in cooperation with ICAN - the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, and various partners around the world, including member cities of Mayors for Peace. The 2017 Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to ICAN "for its work to draw attention to the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons and for its ground-breaking efforts to achieve a treaty-based prohibition of such weapons." The award shines a light on the path the ban treaty provides towards a world free of nuclear weapons and gives momentum to ICAN's cause.



A Hibakusha's testimonial has the potential to deeply move people from all over the world and to draw attention to the catastrophic humanitarian consequences these weapons cause. These testimonies constitute the foundations of the movement to prohibit nuclear weapons under international humanitarian law. As the average age of the Hibakusha is now close to 80 years old, the time remaining to hear directly from them is very limited. The Hibakusha and victims of nuclear test explosions around the world played a pivotal role in the negotiations that led to the adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. Peace Boat will continue the Hibakusha project, calling on all states to sign and ratify the treaty.

Traveling through the Panama Canal from the Atlantic to Pacific Ocean



After embarking the Peace Boat in the port of Cristobal, Panama, the ship passed through the Panama Canal. The original canal was constructed more than 100 years ago as a conduit for maritime trade, cutting across the Isthmus of Panama with an 82 km (51 mi) waterway to connect the Atlantic Ocean with the Pacific Ocean. While crossing the canal, participants gained a better understanding of SDG Goal number 9 which aims to build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation. Participants spent the day watching the ship pass through the canal and learning about its technology and functionality first-hand.



Working towards Environmental Justice and the SDGs



On the Peace Boat, each of the Youth for the SDGs scholars gave a workshop, beginning with Griselda Solis, who spoke about how her development as a person led her to find her passion for environmental and social justice. Griselda Solis is from the United States and has Mexican roots. While she was born and raised in Phoenix, Arizona, her passion for the SDG's was developed in Mexico. As a child, she spent her summers working on a farm, living a simplistic life, and through oral histories of the land, grew a deep appreciation for the natural world. At the same time, Arizona fostered her passion for social justice because of the inequalities she witnessed and experienced as a youth, such as the immigration raids that indiscriminantly rounded up Mexican workers and racist policies like SB1070, a bill that encourages racial profiling. She says "Growing up in Arizona and at the same time in Mexico, led me to my passion for environmental and social

justice. I realized the racial inequalities in both of my home countries, and saw how climate change disproportionately affected my Latin community and other communities of color." For this reason she made a lifestyle change which led her to the global objective of working towards the SDGs for all youth.

One of her largest projects was a three-bin disposal system at her school. This three-year long endeavor became recognized by the City of Phoenix and established a partnership to use her high school as a prototype. Now, there are 6 other schools in the district looking to implement recycling and compost to reduce waste. Her composting and recycling project has helped her community to prevent sending trash to landfill which also prevents more chemicals from contaminating the soil and water resources.



Working Towards a More Just Society: An Interview with Costa Rican lawyer Roberto Zamora

Onboard the Peace Boat, the SDG youth have had the privilege of meeting and exchanging stories with Roberto Zamora, a man who has dedicated his life to fighting for justice. When Roberto was 16-years-old, living in Costa Rica, he took part in a hunger strike because the Costa Rican government wanted to privatize public communications (television, radio, etc.) and electricity. This protest gave birth to Roberto's long work of human rights activism through law. Currently, Roberto has been using his authority as a notary public to marry same sex couples in Costa Rica, where it is considered illegal. Despite the laws in place preventing people to marry who they love, Roberto believes that he has the duty to uphold justice even if he has to face the repercussions of his action for defying the law.

Youth for the SDG's demonstrate passion for a variety of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, but they are united by their ambition to make the world a just place. Roberto's message to the youth about participating in activism and politics served as a motivation to the youth and the possibility of changing social norms that oppress people. He also emphasized the fact that the issues that we bring attention to should focus on the message, not the messenger. We all have the power to change the systems by using our creativity, facing the truth and having self-determination. His story and advice brought perspective and inspiration to all the youth for the SDG's especially those who desire to pursue law or politics.



Creating a High-Quality Healthcare System in Mexico that Works for Everyone



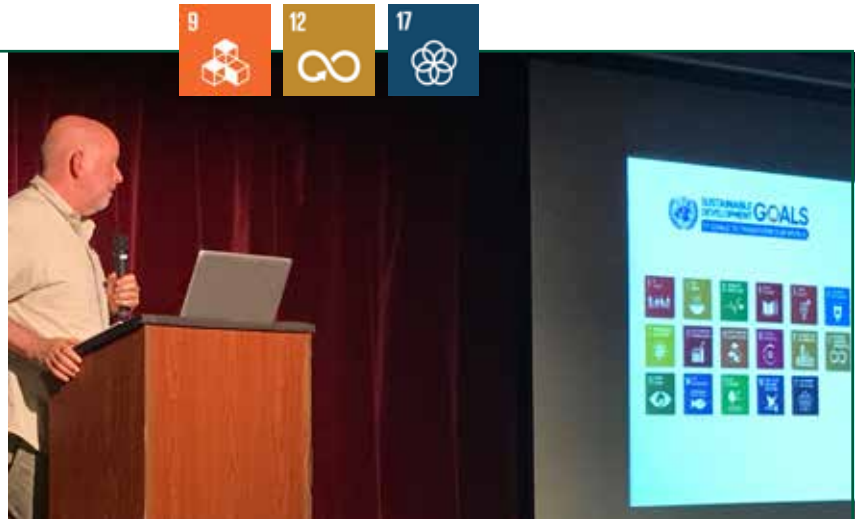
Javier Kim is one of our SDG Youth Scholars who is working in Mexico City for a think tank called the International Institute for Health Futures. One of the projects they are working on is called Re-Inventando Salud (Re-Inventing Health in Spanish), which aims to design and implement an action plan to improve the health care system in Mexico over the next 25 years. This project is working on creating a sustainable health care framework that actually focuses on making people more healthy and not only less sick. Its long-term perspective has the objective of outliving the 6-year presidential terms in Mexico. This is crucial because the Mexican healthcare system is stagnant and there is a need for innovative solutions and new preventative health care measures. Every time a new president comes into power, all the efforts of the previous administrations are thrown out, meaning that the Mexican people lack the support of a stable health care system. With the implementation of Re-inventing Health, people will have a high quality health care system that has a long-term perspective. Javier is a leader pushing the progress in the improvement of health care in Mexico and plans on continuing working towards an inclusive healthcare system that cares for everyone.



Public and Private Partnerships for Sustainable Development

On Peace Boat, guest educators from various realms - such as professors, journalists, musicians, peace activists, social creators, and artists - are invited to join our voyages. Onboard, guest educators not only give lectures and workshops on a wide range of topics, they also co-create events with staff members and participants. They are an essential part of the onboard education program and life onboard. During the Latin American segment of the voyage, Peace Boat welcomed Dr Jorge Nowalski onboard from Panama to Costa Rica to speak about public and private partnerships for the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Dr Nowalski is the President and Academic Director of the International Center for Development Studies (ICDS), and also chairs the Foundation for Sustainability and Equity (ALIARSE), organizations based in San José, Costa Rica. He is also involved in the fostering of international education and of public-private partnerships for development.

Onboard, the Youth for the SDGs scholars had the opportunity to join a lecture by Jorge Nowalski focused on using public private partnerships (PPP) as a way to sustainably develop communities. A public private partnership is



an agenda with a partnership between governments, the private sector, and civil society. Through PPP's, community values, responsibility, and democracy results in strength. The collaboration of public and private organizations requires to work towards sustainable development through individual and collective responsibility. A couple of the projects that Jorge Nowalski currently works on involve products to reuse plastic in infrastructure. Bank Block or Eco Block, is a startup project that is building homes for low-income communities. Another similar project is called "Green Roads" which takes plastic and then mixes it with asphalt to reduce the amount of traditional material needed to build roads. These projects are examples of innovative PPP strategies that are working towards reusing plastic and preventing it from ending up in our oceans.



Rain Forests, Butterflies and Beach Clean-ups in Costa Rica

Any country that contains 5% of Earth's biodiversity carries huge responsibility. Because with that 5%, floods tourists and animal enthusiasts from all over the world to Costa Rica's gates. Having experienced the wonders of Panama a few days before, the youth scholars disembarked the Peace Boat with open minds, ready to gain insight and new perspectives in understanding Costa Rica's definition of sustainability.

The day started with a two-hour drive through the mountains from the port of Puntarenas to Monteverde National Park, which is home to a forest completely submerged in a cover of clouds. Being one of the most visited attractions in Costa Rica, this gave the youth scholars new insights on sustainable ecotourism practices. The forest guide, Giovanni, who has 45 years of ecotourism guiding experience behind him, was passionate and shared a love for the rainforest that was contagious. He reminded the youth scholars of the importance of placing people in front of natural wonders in developing emotional connections with the environment and encouraging responsibility to do your part to protect it. After hiking through the cloud forest and learning about its rich biodiversity, the youth scholars came to the conclusion of the tour where they had the opportunity to walk through the butterfly enclosure and develop a clear understanding of why the biodiversity of Costa Rica is so famous.



The day was concluded back in Puntarenas where everyone was involved in completing a beach clean up on the beach surrounding the port. The plastic that was collected is a relevant reminder of how important SDG 14 (Life Below Water) is in maintaining the health of our planet. Inspired by Costa Rican female environmentalist and activist for the oceans, Carolina Sevilla, the youth dedicated their time to doing a #5minutebeachcleanup. This hashtag is used by Carolina and many of her followers around the world to always take at least 5 minutes during any beach trip to help clean up plastic from the sandy shores before it ends up in our oceans. Each small action can make oceans of change !





Driving Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment through Education



Grace Appiah is a Public Administration and African American-African Studies third year student at Rutgers University, where Peace Boat has a longterm commitment to working with students from the Division of Global Affairs and encouraging youth participation in Peace Boat's activities for the SDGs. Grace was born and raised in Ghana, West Africa and is very passionate about quality education and gender equality. Her work focuses on creating visibility for black women leadership in Africa and across the world. At the start of her presentation, Grace carried out an interactive exercise to help the group visualize how social factors affect the opportunities one has for personal development. Then, she exposed different social spheres in which gender discrimination against women takes place, in particular regarding wage gaps in the workforce. During her presentation, Grace talked about how women in Africa experience triple oppression and marginalization because they are women, black, and suffer from the effects of colonization. She explained that the composite action of these and other social factors is termed "intersectionality".

Seeing how some of her classmates who were girls drop out of school in order to work and support their families or get married, Grace decided to set up a leadership program for young women in Ghana. Through this program, young girls will be exposed to education outside of the classroom especially focusing on personal and professional development. They will also be exposed to empowerment and leadership training, mentorship, and will be provided with academic and financial support. The program seeks to encourage young women to take ownership of their own future and become leaders to address social issues that affect their communities. She commented that as of now, she has been able to secure partnerships with three Senior High Schools in Ghana, and that she is currently doing intensive research to deeply understand the life, history, politics and leadership of Black Women on the African continent. This will allow her to highlight the urgency for Black Women Leadership in Africa and in International Politics.

Learning about the Biodiversity of our Oceans through Climate Action



Through a powerpoint presentation and discussion, youth scholar Anne-Sophie Page from New Zealand shared her passion and work for the ocean and its inhabitants. Her enthusiasm for the water generated from her exposure to the essence of preserving the ocean at a very young age. Annie has participated in various sailing opportunities and both of her parents are marine specialists. In particular, her experience with the Tara Expeditions, a nonprofit organization that organizes voyages to study and understand the impact of climate change and the ecological crisis facing the world's oceans transformed her life. Annie alerted her fellow youth scholars that the excessive amount of carbon dioxide in the air affects the marine life, especially planktons. She describes planktons as sponges that absorb carbon dioxide, and release oxygen, which is essential for human existence.

She also emphasized the effects of climate change, including the increase in sea levels surrounding islands like New Zealand, her home country. Many small island states are in danger of being submerged as the sea levels keep rising, causing erosion of the coastlines and increasing the chances of losing land mass each year. She also highlighted the fact that the life below water contributes to the life on land. Therefore, we should all start paying more attention to the ocean and find ways to protect it. Annie's presentation served as a wakeup call for the young people to be actively engaged in caring for the ocean as well as taking actions to preserve the entire planet, including our precious marine resources.



Learning from the Hibakusha, survivors of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki



On the evening of July 28th, the youth for the Sustainable Development Goals had the privilege to deeply connect with Mr. Ueda Koji, Hiroshima survivor, exposed to the atomic bomb at the age of three, Ms. Kuramori Terumi, Nagasaki survivor, exposed to the atomic bomb at the age of one and Mr. Shinagawa Kaoru (2nd generation Hiroshima survivor). Through the Peace Boat Hibakusha Project, the survivors shared their testimonies, and experiences about the deadly atomic bombing that occurred in Hiroshima

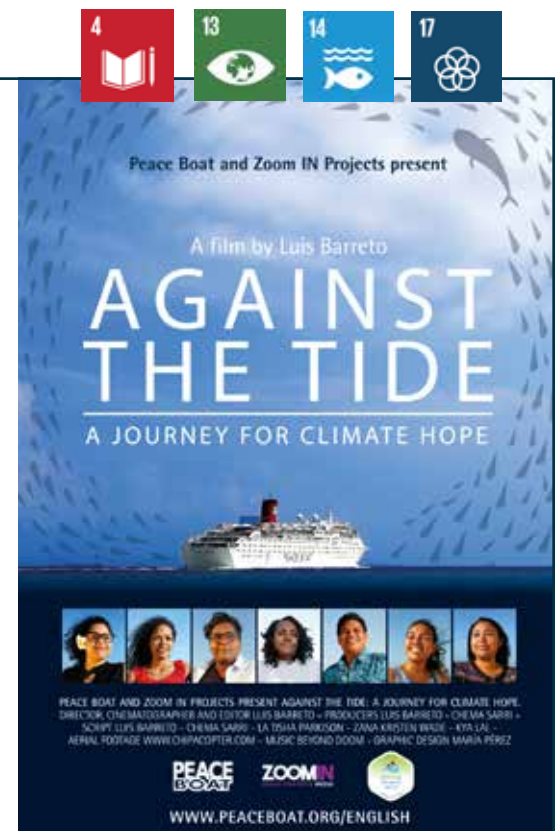
and Nagasaki, Japan in 1945 dropped by the United States of America. This important project aims to raise awareness through the testimonies of the survivors about the effects of nuclear weapons and the urgency to eliminate them entirely in order to sustain world peace and security. The evening began with a documentary entitled "Flashes of Hope", that revealed detailed information and truths about the atomic bombing, which profoundly impacted the youth.

A discussion about the documentary and Q&A session with the Hibakusha followed after the screening. At the end of the meeting, youth used the words: inspired, empowered, decision and action to define their feelings. They became excited to preserve the stories of the survivors, share them with their colleagues, and also actively engage in the movement to eradicate the creation and use of nuclear weapons in the world.

Ocean and Climate Youth Ambassadors documentary film screening

During one of the final sessions on the Peace Boat, the youth scholars participated in a documentary film screening of the “Ocean and Climate Youth Ambassador program” to learn more about Peace Boat’s initiatives for youth education focused on ocean conservation and climate action. The program was announced at the Ocean Conference in June, 2017 as a voluntary commitment towards the implementation of SDG14. The first edition of the program took place September - October 2017 and was an Endorsed Event of the COP23 Presidency. On Peace Boat’s 97th Global Voyage, young leaders from Palau active on issues related to climate change, oceans and the environment joined Peace Boat to highlight the efforts being made by the Pacific island state including the Palau Pledge.

The next edition of the program was announced at the SDG Action Campaign Global Festival for Action. To be held in collaboration with Small Island Developing States (SIDS), the program brings together youth leaders from states on the front line of climate change and marine degradation to travel onboard Peace Boat’s ship, engaging in capacity building and bringing their message to citizens and government representatives through the voyage. The program highlights SDG13 (Climate Action) and SDG14 (Life Below Water) as part of Peace Boat’s commitment to the Ocean Pathway Partnership. A COP23 Presidency ocean initiative, the Ocean Pathway embodies the important relationship between the Ocean and Climate Change.



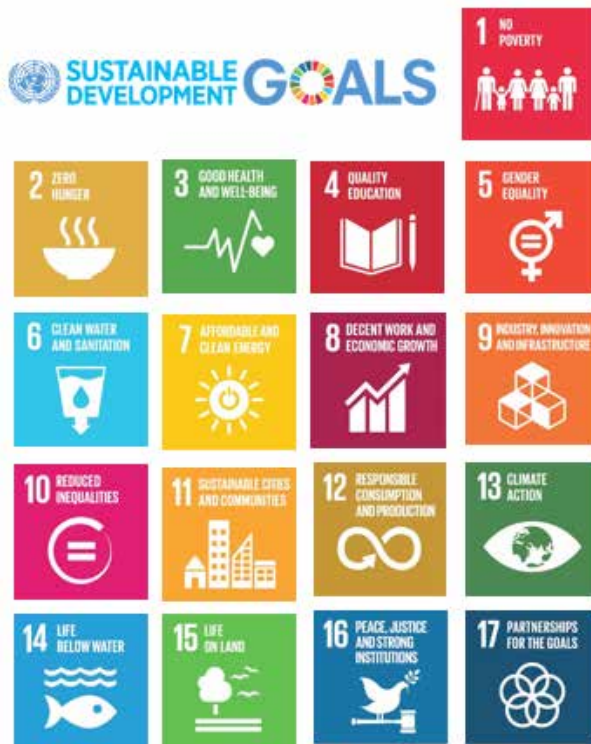
Youth Empowerment, Technology and Innovation for change



The first workshop of the day was from Bolivian Scholar Gloria Ordoñez, who explained how the power of a body of youth can bring about environmental change. Gloria belongs to various environmental networks and is leading students in inspiring projects both in her home country of Bolivia and throughout Latin America. While on the Peace Boat, she also shared these resources with the youth and encouraged them to seek further opportunities to learn more about the SDGs and share their knowledge with others, creating a network of youth around the world working towards sustainable development.



The second workshop was facilitated by Costa Rican scholar Alfredo Torres. He shared a series of photos from his family’s history and described the hardships they faced growing up in a community of coal miners in rural Costa Rica. He introduced the youth to the concept of “problem trees”, which helps to identify an issue, and how these diagrams can provide us with the roots of challenges no matter how big or small. He shared his passion for technology and its importance in connecting these issues with civil society in a way to generate action for positive change. He then proceeded to expand on the importance of the orange economy and its lack of recognition globally.



Youth Presentation on the UN Sustainable Development Goals

During their final day onboard, the youth scholars presented about their different projects and efforts that they are taking towards achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The topics of the presentations included ocean conservation and climate change research, the development of a long-term action plan to improve the health care system in Mexico, digital pedagogy and media in the development sector, youth leadership in environment issues, gender equality and women in leadership, amongst many others. The presentation closed with questions from the audience and discussions around each of the topics presented, allowing the youth to delve deeper into their work and experience around the SDGs while sharing their knowledge with the participants onboard.

Workshop: The SDGs and Partnerships for Peace-building in Colombia



Closing the session of individual workshops that each of the youth prepared to share with their peers on the boat, Juan Sebastian Huertas spoke about his roots and interests as a young Colombian social entrepreneur. He spoke about his passion for political and social change in Colombia and explained about the current situation of his country. He explained about the importance and uniqueness of addressing development issues with regards to inequalities and the environment in a Colombia post-conflict. He raised questions about what peace means for him in his society, explaining how important it is for young people like him to get involved and be active towards achieving a more sustainable and peaceful future.



Beach clean-up in Puerto Vallarta with My World Mexico

As the Peace Boat arrived to the final port in Mexico, they received a warm welcome from the local partners in Puerto Vallarta. Youth from the Guadalajara Coast University, My World Mexico, and Voluntad Organizada joined the Youth for the SDGs scholars at Las Olas Altas beach for a volunteer beach clean-up. They spent the day cleaning the local beaches and learning about efforts towards environmental conservation in the region. The activity ended with a traditional Mexican lunch and cultural exchange with the youth. Following the beach clean-up, the Youth for the SDGs scholars then hosted their Mexican counterparts onboard the Peace Boat to learn more about the SDGs programs and to visit the ship as it was docked in Puerto Vallarta.



SDGs and Ocean themed Mural Painting with the University of Guadalajara CUCOSTA



The SDGs youth worked alongside with My World Mexico, The University of Guadalajara, CUCOSTA and Voluntad Organizada A.C. to paint an SDGs themed mural on three walls at La Universidad CUCOSTA. Many of the volunteers involved were students at CUCOSTA and young leaders in their communities. They are all studying in a variety of fields such as biology, visual arts, medicine or have joined the workforce and are interested in teaching their community about the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. The mural serves as a platform to educate students and encourage more people to get involved in helping to protect our environment. Together, the youth painted a beautiful mural to create consciousness about ocean conservation and the SDGs.



Learning about Ecotourism and visiting a World Sanctuary of Sustainable tourism in Mexico



During the final day in Mexico, the youth enjoyed a day trip to the Islas Marietas, a National Park and Marine world Sanctuary. The Marietas islands were originally formed many thousands of years ago by volcanic activity, and are completely uninhabited. In 2005, thanks to the scientist Jacques Cousteau, the government decided to declare the islands a national park and are therefore protected against any fishing, hunting or human activity. Conservation efforts have included temporary closures of the islands and their beaches to allow time for coral rejuvenation and finding ways to limit the impact visitors have on the natural beauty of the islands and the habitats of the 100 birds and fish species that call the islands home. This experience highlighted SDG 14 which states that “by 2030, there is an aim to increase

the economic benefits to Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and least developed countries from the sustainable use of marine resources, including through sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism”.

After snorkeling, kayaking, and learning about sustainable tourism in action and paddle boarding around the Islands, the youth visited the Majahuitas beach to enjoy the clear waters and pristine nature along the coast. This program was organized in collaboration with Vallarta Adventures, which is a socially responsible tour company that works to raise awareness about wildlife and environmental protection through their ecotourism practices.



YOUTH

Youth4SDG: Youth in Action for Sustainable Development Goals



More about the UN Sustainable Development Goals:

www.latinamerica.undp.org/content/rblac/en/home/post-2015/
www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/
www.globalgoals.org/
www.urbansdg.org/

More about the Ecoship Project:
www.ecoship-pb.com



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