Young Leaders Return To Switzerland page 3

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Problem solving: How one Young Leader takes charge and gets it done page 2

Pacific Islands Society expands throughout the globe page 4
For information about applying to attend Young Leader US Rear Admiral Raquel Bono, Surgeon for Pacific Command, explained to me recently that understanding what you want the end state of change to look like is key to measuring its success.

As my first anniversary as Director of the Young Leaders Program approaches, I'm reflecting on the Admiral's wisdom. Specifically, how far we've come and where we want to be. I've spent a lot of time talking to Young Leaders about what they want from the program and how they think we can improve. We've incorporated many of those suggestions, and the procedures are now in place for Young Leaders to really drive their experience.

In measuring our success, over the last year there has been a small, but necessary, shift towards raising expectations for all including what a YL experience entails, what you can expect from us and what we can expect from you. The return on this investment is clear. So far this year, we've been particularly pleased with the YL conference participation and project delivery, as well as publications by YLs (both in house and external). Great work Young Leaders, keep it up!

For the next year, I'd like to focus on getting a better a sense of how we're perceived by others, and what we need to do to raise our profile globally. That is, for the Program as a whole but also for YLs as individual members of our community. It would be great if next year, I could write about how the Program and YLs themselves are building a brand that is broadly recognized for a commitment to excellence in seeking next generation solutions for enduring and emerging security challenges across the region.

**Young Leader Profile:**

**Thom Woodroofe**

Last month's Switzerland conference posed an unusual challenge for Young Leaders - the hotels where YLs stayed did not have irons and none were available to borrow from the front desk. While some YLs paid the steep hotel fees to have their clothing ironed for them, Thom Woodroofe demonstrated the resourcefulness and problem-solving skills that make him YL material.

"Facing the prospect of an unironed shirt, I did not let this deter me," he explained. Woodroofe walked across the street to Geneva's Hotel Warwick, where Young Leaders had a briefing, and explained to the front desk how the hotel where he was staying had no iron and was charging to have clothes pressed.

Amazingly, Woodroofe managed to win their sympathies. "An iron and ironing board was subsequently organized in their conference room," he said. Woodroofe was able to iron three shirts, without a fee, and turned up sharply dressed at all Young Leaders events.

It's this kind of practical, take-charge thinking that has allowed Woodroofe to accomplish so much at such a young age. Woodroofe is the founder and CEO of Global Voices, an Australia-based nonprofit that creates "opportunities for young Australians to engage with international policy at home and abroad," according to the organization's mission statement.

"We take young people fully funded overseas to diplomatic forums like the G20 and APEC. Only two and a half years into it, we have now fully funded 89 young Australians to go overseas!" he said.

While being the head of an organization that Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard calls “outstanding" is a feat for most, Woodroofe also helped establish the Left Right Think Tank, an achievement for which he was recognized as “Young Victorian of the Year" in 2009. Woodroofe is also a fellow at The Asia Society. “[This] keeps up my intellectual engagement with all things foreign policy and allows me to write regularly for outlets like the ABC. All fun and games!"

As for what’s next, Woodroofe is “about to do some work hopefully around the Pacific and climate change. In terms of impact this region is one that stands the most to lose from climate change, but often one that is most underrepresented in global negotiations.”
April 2013 Young Leaders Program in Geneva and Zurich

Twenty-eight Young Leaders attended the 10th International Security Forum in Geneva, Switzerland with generous support from the Zurich-based International Relations and Security Network (ISN), Worldwide Support for Development, and Dr. Handa Haruhisa.

The theme of the Forum was “Facing a World of Transition,” and Young Leaders were able to select from five different thematic tracks: Human Security: Non-State Actors and Transnational Movements; Regional Transition: Political Transitions; Regions in Transition: Regional Systems in Fluidity; Conflict and Arms Control: Transforming Security; Conflict and Arms Control: Disarmament and WMD.

“The International Security Forum allowed Young Leaders to learn about different perspectives from academics, governments, and international organizations that are from a wide range of countries,” stated Mihoko Matsubara, former resident SPF Fellow at Pacific Forum CSIS.

“Usually, international conferences that Young Leaders participate in have a few dozen attendees from several countries and their agenda is heavily focused on the Asia-Pacific. The agenda, participants, and size of the International Security Forum provided a precious opportunity for Young Leaders to obtain balanced insights about Africa, Europe, and international law and peace keeping efforts in addition to their expertise on Asia,” she continued.

The ISN also hosted a special networking session at the conference for Young Leaders to interact with senior experts from the US National Defense University’s Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Studies.

In addition to the two-and-a-half days in Geneva, ISN organized six briefings as part of a special “Europe 101” seminar for Young Leaders. These off-the-record discussions featured a number of distinguished speakers including Dr. Andreas Wenger, professor of International Swiss Security Policy at ETH Zurich and director of the Center for Security Studies, among others.

Pacific Forum CSIS extends its thanks to Dr. Peter Faber, Patricia Moser, Piotr Aleksander Switalski and Julia Kreienkamp of ISN for their planning support and on-the-ground coordination.
Young Leader founds Pacific Islands Society, sees enormous growth

The Pacific Islands Society, launched from the University of London’s School of Oriental and African Studies last August, has grown from an idea into a powerful new organization – and it shows no signs of slowing down.

Pacific Islands Society president and founder Eddie Walsh created the organization to highlight the region’s role and contributions to the international community, which are regularly overlooked.

“Too often, those outside the Pacific Islands region fail to recognize the significant political, economic, social, and cultural contributions made by the Pacific Islands to the broader international community,” he explained.

“To cite but one example, few Americans realize that the Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs) of American Samoa, Guam, Hawaii, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Pacific Remote Island Areas form the largest regional EEZ in the United States at approximately 2 million square miles. Unfortunately, the social and cultural contributions of Pacific Islanders are even less well understood and valued outside of Pacific Islander communities. For this reason, I founded the Pacific Islands Society to bridge the geographic divide between the Pacific Islands region and the larger international community. It is my hope that this effort will foster stronger people-people relations and thereby increase the international community’s familiarity with the Pacific Islands region and its people.”

Despite being less than a year old, the Society has rolled out a variety of initiatives, including a highly successful 2013 Ambassador Speaking Series. These events are free, open to the public, and have featured a range of speakers including H.E. Winnie Anna Kiap, the Papua New Guinea High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, and Solo Mara, High Commissioner of the Republic of Fiji. The Society maintains an active social networking presence and, at press time, had 1,120 “likes” on its Facebook page – no small feat considering the page was just launched at the end of January.

Walsh attributes his organization’s successful growth to volunteer and partner support, sound marketing and communications investments, and “simply a lot of pent up demand for our programs. The ambassador series is a good example. It was really not that difficult to organize because most of the diplomatic missions that we targeted had a pre-existing interest in speaking on the topic of international security in the Pacific region but lacked an appropriate venue to do so.” He invites other Young Leaders to participate in the fall ambassador series, with events set for Hawaii and London, and to check out opportunities to volunteer. As for the future, “we hope to expand our physical presence to a number of Asia-Pacific countries, including Japan, South Korea, Indonesia, Russia, Chile, Peru, Singapore, New Zealand, and the Philippines. We would be excited to hear from Young Leaders in these locations, who would be interested in being part of a multi-year project to expand the Society.”

For more information, visit http://pacificislandssociety.com/
Young Leader Opportunities

Rotary Peace Fellowship
Rotary Peace Center

Over the past ten years, Rotary Peace Centers has provided over 700 future peace leaders with peace and conflict resolution education and field experience. Our alumni work all over the world with organizations ranging from grassroots peace initiatives in Africa to the United Nations.

In an effort to reach out to more qualified candidates all over the world, Rotary is reaching out peace-related organizations and top universities asking them to post our fellowship opportunity to their websites, social media, listservs or newsletters.

The Rotary Foundation is now accepting applications for the world-competitive Rotary Peace Fellowship.

The fellowship provides academic and practical training to prepare scholars for leadership roles in solving conflicts around the world. Up to 100 fellows are selected every year in a globally competitive process based on personal, academic, and professional achievements. Fellows earn a master’s-level degree or a professional development certificate in peace and conflict studies at one of six Rotary Peace Centers at leading universities in Australia, England, Japan, the United States, Sweden and Thailand. To learn more about the program, applicants are encouraged to visit the Rotary Peace Centers website at www.rotary.org/rotarycenters. All applications are due 1 July 2013.

East-West Center
Call for Submissions

Asia Pacific Bulletin

The Asia Pacific Bulletin, published out of the East-West Center office in Washington, D.C., considers articles for publication that provide cogent, timely, and rigorous analysis of contemporary issues in the Asia Pacific region, and encourages contributors to write on subjects that impact both U.S. and Asian policy. Submissions must be original work, not published elsewhere, and must be between 1,000 and 1,100 words. Articles that exceed 1,100 words will not be considered. The publication welcomes a diversity of opinion and is particularly keen to publish voices from the Asia Pacific region. For further information contact Damien Tomkins, APB Coordinator, at tomkinsd@eastwestcenter.org

Asia Matters for America.org

The Asia Matters for America.org initiative is designed to be a resource for credible and nonpartisan information, graphics, analysis and news on US-Asia Pacific relations at the national, state and local levels. Individuals are invited to submit short articles (300-600 words) highlighting connections between the United States—stories that may not make the national headlines but are important at the community level. Examples could include a student exchange program, a sister city relationship, a local business delegation from Asia to the United States or vice-versa, exports or investment. The point is to draw attention to the numerous connections at the local community level between Asia and the United States. For further information contact Chris Feddersen, Programs and Outreach Coordinator, at feddersc@eastwestcenter.org