



Rotary Yoneyama Memorial Foundation

A Collaborative Program by Japan's Rotary Districts



The Rotary Yoneyama Memorial Foundation is a scholarship foundation jointly supported by all the Rotary districts in Japan. To date, the Foundation has awarded scholarships to more than 17,000 students (Yoneyama Scholars) from 121 countries and regions to support their study in Japan. Providing a

matrix for heart-to-heart communication, the program also seeks to help the young scholars understand and emulate the Rotary spirit.

The Foundation's Scholarship Program

The Rotary Yoneyama Scholarship Program uses funds donated by Rotarians across Japan to provide scholarships to overseas students who self-finance their educations in Japan. The program's mission is to foster a large cadre of young people who, imbued with the Rotary spirit, will play active roles in international society while building bridges of understanding and cooperation between their countries and Japan. In sum, the program's goal is the same as the Rotary's—to advance international understanding, goodwill and peace.



Japan's Largest Private-Sector Scholarship Program

With approximately 800 students receiving \$12 million worth of scholarships each year (FY2011 figures), the Yoneyama Memorial Scholarship Program is the largest private-sector scholarship program in Japan. As

of July 2012, a total of 17,028 students from 121 countries have received scholarship support under this program.

Creating Heart-to-Heart Understanding between Scholars and Rotarians

In addition to the financial assistance provided to Yoneyama Scholars by way of their scholarships, the program has another uniquely



Rotarianesque feature: a system of *sewa* clubs (host clubs) and counselors that gives the scholars moral support and caring assistance during their tenures. Each Yoneyama Scholar is assigned a *sewa* club chosen from among the Rotary clubs in his/her area. One member of the host club serves as the scholar's counselor, who helps to deepen the relationship between the scholar and the club members and endeavors to make the scholar's stay in Japan a rich and rewarding experience. While imbuing the scholar with the Rotary spirit of service, the system also works to deepen the Rotarians' own understanding of the role and value of the Yoneyama Memorial Scholarship Program. For further information, see the foundation's website at

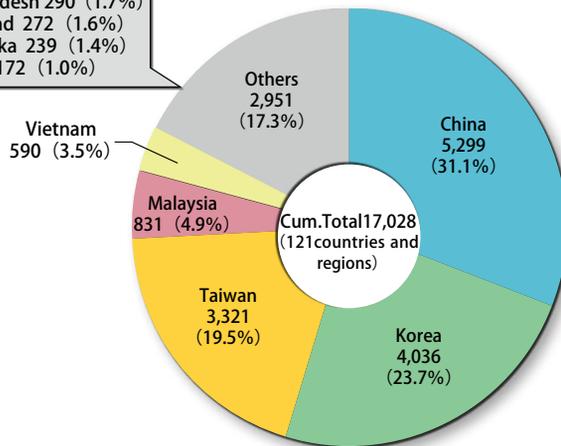
<http://www.rotary-yoneyama.or.jp/>



Yoneyama Alumni in the World Today

1. Countries and Regions Yoneyama Scholars to date where are from

Indonesia 342 (2.0%)
 Bangladesh 290 (1.7%)
 Thailand 272 (1.6%)
 Sri Lanka 239 (1.4%)
 Nepal 172 (1.0%)



※ Total of Yoneyama Scholars for 2012:
 827 students from 44 countries and regions

2. Number of alumni obtaining PhDs: 3,331

By country or region

1. South Korea 1,255
2. China 1,152
3. Taiwan 607

(Total number of alumni as of July 1, 2012: 16,203)

3. Clubs established centering around Yoneyama alumni

- Rotary Club of Taipei Tokai (D-3480)
Chartered: January 31, 1995
- Rotary Club of Taichung Wen Shin (D-3460)
Chartered: March 16, 2007
- Rotary Club of Tokyo Yoneyama Yuai (D-2750)
Chartered: March 16, 2010
- Rotary E-Club of District 2750, Tokyo Yoneyama
Chartered: June 21, 2012

Brief History of Rotary Yoneyama Scholarships

The first Yoneyama Scholar, Somchard Ratanachata of Thailand, arrived in Japan.



Somchard Ratanachata at a meeting of Tokyo Rotary Club.

Rotary Yoneyama Memorial Foundation was established receiving authorization by Ministry of Education.

Rotary Yoneyama Memorial Foundation received an award from the government for its commitment to strengthening ties with foreign students studying in Japan.

Rotary Yoneyama Memorial Foundation received a status of Public Interest Incorporated Foundation by Japan's Prime Minister.

1952 Dec.

The Rotary Club of Tokyo launched an international scholarship program to commemorate the achievements of Umekichi Yoneyama, "Father of Japan's Rotary."



1954 Sep.

1957 Sep.

The Yoneyama Memorial Scholarship Committee was formed as a joint undertaking among all the Rotary clubs in Japan.

1967 Jul.

1998 Oct.

Scholarship program extended to students from all nations regardless of whether their own country has Rotary clubs or not.

2001 Oct.

2004 Nov.

The Rotary International Board of Directors commended the Rotary Yoneyama Memorial Foundation for its contribution to world understanding and peace through its granting of scholarships to deserving recipients.

2012 Jan.

2012 Bangkok Convention Prompts Creation of New Yoneyama Alumni Association —Report on Convention Booth and Yoneyama Night—



At the Rotary International convention held May 6 –9, 2012 in Bangkok the Rotary Yoneyama Memorial Foundation ran a project booth at the House of Friendship, the first time we have done so at any convention outside of Japan. The idea of establishing an alumni association gained momentum among local alumni assisting with preparations for the convention booth, and in March the fourth overseas Yoneyama alumni association was born in Thailand, preceded by associations in Taiwan, Korea and China.

Yoneyama Booth a Great Success

“Sawasdee Krab” “Hello!”

“Sawasdee Ka” “Konnichiwa!”

The voices of the Yoneyama alumni in their matching pink sashes rang clearly as they called to the many guests who visited the Rotary Yoneyama Memorial Foundation booth in one corner of the House of Friendship at the convention. There Thai Yoneyama alumni explained to them about the Yoneyama scholarship program in Thai, English and Japanese. Visitors in turn left such messages on the message board as “Great work”, “Keep going”, “We greatly appreciate your support for students around the world.” 526 people signed the guest book during the course of the convention, meaning that perhaps more than 700 people visited the booth in all.

Thai alumni were thrilled that so many people came, this being the first activity undertaken by the newly formed alumni association. Their faces filled with joy as

they spoke with guests, never displaying the slightest trace of fatigue.

“Yoneyama Night” Celebrates the Newly Formed Alumni Association

“Yoneyama Night” was held May 6 at a hotel in Bangkok. Organized by

Thai alumni to welcome Rotarians from Japan attending the convention, this event also celebrated the creation of the Thai Yoneyama Alumni Association, with 27 Thai alumni and 80 Japanese Rotarians and their family attending. The new association’s first president, Mr. Wichit Khurewattanakul (1987 – 88 / the Rotary Club of Tokyo Asakusa) welcomed those attending on behalf of the association’s executive committee members. It was Wichit who personally sent out letters to each and every one of approximately 150 alumni, eventually contacting 48 of them and establishing the association. Explaining the association’s aspirations he said,

“We formed the association as a way of expressing our appreciation to all Rotarians. In the future we hope to further strengthen our ties with Japan.”

Two Speeches Reflect upon History and the Future

Among those attending this gathering was past RI president Bhichai Rattakul. Mr. Rattakul met with Wichit and other leading members in the early planning stages, strongly urging Thai alumni to unite. On March 25 he called an inaugural meeting and was present at the actual founding. In his powerful Yoneyama Night address he said, “These young men and women





are really the ‘Ambassadors of Goodwill’ for Japan. They are the future and the hope of not only for their own countries, but for the world.”

The gathering was also attended by Norachart Ratanachata, the eldest son of Somchard Ratanachata, the now-deceased first Yoneyama scholar invited from Thailand by the Rotary Club of Tokyo back in 1954. Presently the deputy director of a hospital in Korat, approximately 250 kilometers from Bangkok, Norachart made the trip especially to attend Yoneyama Night, saying he wished to welcome Japanese Rotarians in his father’s stead.

“While he was alive my father often spoke of how generously the members of the Rotary Club of Tokyo helped him. He was proud of the fact that he graduated from the University of Tokyo. Here in Thailand he established a center for raising silkworms and taught many people the techniques involved. When I was little, a Japanese friend of my father’s visited Thailand and taught me some Japanese. Because of this I fell in love with Japan and Japanese.”

His speech engendered in us a new awareness of the

sixty-year history of the Yoneyama Memorial Foundation.

Scholarships Bear Fruit in Thailand

Conversation resounded throughout the banquet room, and before the sounds died away, the evening’s final event featured Nuengnut Intharachit (2006–07/ the Rotary Club of Yokohama Tsurumi North/ President of Yoneyama Alumni Association in District 2590), who served as advisor to the establishment of the Thai Yoneyama Alumni Association, leading everyone in the singing of “Hand in Hand” as a fitting close to Yoneyama Night.

Reunited with Rotarians from their host clubs, Thai Yoneyama alumni told how happy they were that the warm-hearted care they received in Japan had come to bear fruit in Thailand.

We in Japan are proud of our Thai Yoneyama alumni who used the convention as an opportunity to join together and express their affection and gratitude to Rotary. We hope to see them unite more closely and play an even more active role in the future.



An E-Club centering around Yoneyama Alumni was established

June 2, 2012 saw the birth of Rotary E-Club of Tokyo Yoneyama (D-2750), the third Rotary E-Club in Japan, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Tokyo Yoneyama Yuai established centering around Yoneyama alumni two years before. The new E-Club has 27 members, 16 of which are Yoneyama alumni from seven different nations, giving the club the same sort of international flavor as its sponsor club.

Assuming duties as the club’s first president is Dina Faoziah, a 2008–10 Yoneyama scholar from Indonesia, who expressed sincerest thanks to the members of the Rotary Club of Tokyo Akishima who hosted her during her time as a Yoneyama scholar, and especially to her counselor, Kazuyoshi Watanabe. She spoke of her

decision saying, “I was deeply moved to be nominated as the club’s first president, and I hope to learn from experienced Rotarians.”

