Sailing for Sustainability in Asia
Education for the United Nations
Sustainable Development Goals
April 2 - 20, 2018

www.peaceboat-us.org
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.

Peace Boat and the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development

As part of the observance of the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development, Peace Boat is engaging with the WOrld Tourism organization (UNWTO) to support this global campaign. In October of 2017, Peace Boat US launched the “Youth for the SDGs” scholarship for young people who are working towards the 2030 Agenda to participate in the “Sailing for Sustainability” program in Asia. This important campaign for sustainable tourism, led by the United Nations, provides a unique opportunity to raise awareness of the contribution of sustainable tourism to development among public and private sector decision-makers and the public, while mobilizing all stakeholders to work together in making tourism a catalyst for positive change. In the context of the universal 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals, the International Year encouraged a shift in policies, business practices and consumer behavior towards a more sustainable tourism sector that can contribute to the SDGs.

In April of 2018, a diverse group of youth scholars were chosen to join Peace Boat’s “Sailing for Sustainability” program in Asia during the 97th Voyage. Along with representatives from the Rutgers University Division of Global Affairs, the youth served as SDGs advocates joining hundreds of other participants onboard. The program provided opportunities to learn firsthand about global topics such as climate action,
biodiversity of the ocean ecosystems, environmental degradation, water conservation, and global development. Participants experienced grassroots peacebuilding efforts both at sea and in ports of call aimed at finding sustainable, innovative, and constructive solutions, both locally and globally.

Programming concentrated on the United Nations 17 SDGs, with a special emphasis on SDG 13 for Climate Action, and SDG 14 for Life Below Water, as part of Peace Boat’s commitment to the Ocean Pathway Partnership. A COP23 Presidency ocean initiative, the Ocean Pathway Partnership embodies the important relationship between the ocean and climate change.

Fiji and Sweden co-chaired the first UN Ocean Conference in June 2017 and the Call for Action underlined the urgency for a healthy ocean and the critical relationship between the ocean and climate. Peace Boat US seeks to encourage more youth to learn about the UN Sustainable Development Goals and take action to protect our oceans.

In 2018, Peace Boat organized the second edition of its Ocean and Climate Youth Ambassador Program in Stockholm, Sweden. This program was announced at the Ocean Conference in June, 2017 as a voluntary commitment towards the implementation of SDG 14 for Life Below Water. The first edition took place from September - October 2017 and was an Endorsed Event of the COP23 Presidency.

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 young leaders, all active in their own communities on issues related to SDG 14, as well as 13, connected with civil society organizations and government agencies in ports visited. Their voyage culminated when the ship docked in New York City during the UN High Level Political Forum for Sustainable Development where the youth ambassadors reported on their efforts to both the United Nations community and the broader public.

As Peace Boat works towards raising awareness about the SDGs and building the world’s first Ecoship, youth programs will be focused on the connection between climate action and ocean conservation. During the “Sailing for Sustainability” program in Asia, participants had the opportunity to visit Singapore, Cambodia, Thailand, and Vietnam to witness and participate in a variety of peace and sustainability initiatives. Throughout the program, youth exchanged ideas, discussed collaborative initiatives for sustainable development, learned about diverse cultural traditions, and met with NGOs in local communities to discuss the SDGs in relation to climate action and the oceans.

Learn more about the Peace Boat US Spring program through this 2018 report, and join future efforts with the organization to help achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.
Citizen Farm: Understanding Food Production in an Urban Setting

Peace Boat US Youth Scholars participated in a hands-on farm tour and workshop about the UN Sustainable Development Goals at Citizen Farm, located in the heart of Singapore. The visit focused on learning about issues such as climate change, food security and organic agriculture in Singapore. Citizen Farm is a sustainable, urban farming model that showcases a closed-loop urban agriculture system which integrates natural systems with modern technology.

Rather than consuming industrially-produced food transported across the globe, Citizen Farm encourages the community to thrive on sustainable, safe, and locally-grown fresh food. The farm aims to help cities become more self-sufficient by growing food in underutilized spaces like rooftops, under viaducts, and in local communities. Citizen Farm believes that growing their own food will reconnect people with nature, conserve natural resources and help cultivate a sense of community. Their model features an array of different farming systems which grow the best quality produce with the least amount of waste. Unlike traditional farms, the agricultural byproducts are composted and upcycled into fertilizer, which goes back into nourishing the soil and plants. This circular economy is robust, sustainable, and can be a great example for local farmers. Ecological farming is based on the diversity of nature to produce healthy food for all: diversity of seeds and plants; diversity of crops grown in the same field; and diversity of insects that pollinate or eliminate pests. Such local and natural diversity is also essential to build resilience to climate change.

Three action items you can do to make a difference:

- Buy sustainable or organic fresh produce whenever possible from ecological farms near your community
- Calculate how many “food miles” your produce took before you buy
- Buy from local farms or farmers markets whenever possible

Gardens by the Bay: Learning about Climate Change and Biodiversity

Participants explored the expansive Gardens by The Bay in Singapore, a 101-hectare garden in the city boasting two massive greenhouses and the iconic Supertrees. Underlying the concept of the garden are the principles of environmental sustainability. Being mindful of the impact of climate change, the energy and water sustainability manifests through the design of the greenhouses and the Supertrees. The greenhouses utilize glazed glass to provide an energy-efficient solution in cooling while the Supertrees harvest solar energy for lighting purposes. The youth scholars were able to visit the Cloud Forest and Flower Dome to learn more about the world’s rich biodiversity and examine various ecosystems through the educational exhibitions of plantlife.

The Gardens lake system also incorporates key ecological processes and functions as a living system where students can learn first-hand about local marine life. It acts as a natural filtration system for water from the Gardens catchment and provides aquatic habitats for biodiversity such as fish and dragonflies. These habitats are created within the lake system by maintaining a diversity of aquatic plants and reed beds, which are incorporated to absorb nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus in the water. The lake system depicts the role and importance of plants in the healthy functioning of our ecosystem. It raises awareness of the value that aquatic plants play in nature, and highlights the significance of clean water in sustaining biodiversity.

Waterway Watch Society: Conserving Water and Managing Waste

An interactive session was held with the Waterways Watch Society, an environmental nonprofit organization started in 1998, to discuss the importance of the SDGs, water conservation and waste management. The grassroots organization, with more than 500 members, is tirelessly engaged in cleaning up the reservoir via kayaks and patrolling the shore with bikes and eco-hikes. They place significant emphasis on outreach and education and believe that successful change is produced through a combination of approaches, promoting individual responsibility and shared ownership of our water resources and environment. The organization has established various programs and strongly believes in forming sustainable partnerships with passionate individuals, schools, community groups, companies and government agencies across the board. Their goals include a zero carbon footprint belief, to support environmental education and provide solutions to issues related to sustainability.

A pedal boat powered clean-up was organized in the water, where Peace Boat youth scholars enthusiastically volunteered to clean up the river, fishing out aluminium cans, glass bottles, litter and plastic bags from the reservoir. The Water Watch Society members explained that many animals get caught in the plastic and bottles floating in the river, thus threatening their livelihood. Participants learned about environmental issues facing the city and the importance of maintaining a healthy marine ecosystem from the rivers to the ocean.

Marina Bay Sands: Promoting Sustainable Tourism in Singapore

A private sustainability tour was organized by Marina Bay Sands – one of the world leaders in the hospitality industry. Roger Simons, the Associate Director for Sustainability, explained the successes and challenges of running an environmentally sustainable business of such a high scale - with 2600 rooms and an average occupancy rate of 96%. Participants experienced how Marina Bay Sands sets an example of an environmentally conscious and sustainable business. While it has taken small, yet courageous, steps to reduce carbon footprint by introducing ‘Earth Friendly Menu’ and reusable and biodegradable cutleries, it also did not shy away from investing in world class technology by introducing a centralized secondary-waste processing plant to process the 33 tons of waste it generates every day. Participants were invited to learn about the food waste management system, energy efficiency program and visit the outdoor garden in the atrium of the hotel where local chefs are able to source fresh produce and herbs for their dishes. The Sands ECO360 Global Sustainability strategy is designed to help minimize their environmental impact and reflects their vision to lead the way in sustainable building development and resort operations.

www.marinabaysands.com
Rutgers University Division of Global Affairs lecture onboard: Peace & Security

The Youth Scholars had their first introspective workshop, held by Dr. Richard O’Meara who is the Director of the Division of Global Affairs at Rutgers University. During his presentation he broadly discussed development and the SDGs. Dr. O’Meara proposed thought provoking questions to the scholars concerning their future in working on the SDGs and the different approaches that can be involved in working with civil society and governments alike. He motivated the youth to continue studying and showed appreciation for their work to promote the different SDGs in their home communities. Rutgers University Division of Global Affairs has a partnership with Peace Boat to educate youth and lifelong learners about peace-building, sustainability and the 2030 Agenda. To further this collaboration, university students and professors are invited to join the onboard programs. Students are also able to participate in a special internship program at the Peace Boat US office in the United Nations plaza, New York where they are able to join UN Conferences and participate in NGO activities.

Youth Forum: Presenting the UN Sustainable Development Goals

Onboard the Peace Boat, the youth scholars gave a presentation about their work for the SDGs in their local communities and shared knowledge about the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in their respective countries. Emilie McGlone, Director of Peace Boat US, began the presentation with an introduction to the program goals and the “Youth for the SDGs” scholarship, supporting youth to join the ship to learn about the Sustainable Development Goals in different regions of the world. Representing the Division of Global Affairs at Rutgers University, Dr. Richard O’Meara presented on his work focused on educating students about global development, followed by faculty member Sonam Tashi's personal story of how he became involved in education and social impact. Peace Boat works in collaboration with Universities to invite speakers and youth onboard for peace education programs focused on linking the issues of climate change, conflict resolution and peace-building through onboard lectures and in port experiences. They cover contemporary global issues and enable participants to gain a better understanding of how local communities and individuals are affected by, and find creative solutions to, challenges that exist around the world in achieving sustainable development.
Mangrove Reforestation: Preserving a Community through Eco Tourism

The first day in Cambodia was filled with adventure and learning, beginning with an opportunity to visit a mangrove community center in the city of Kampot, where global citizens conduct mangrove reforestation projects. The youth were able to paddleboard through the mangrove forest, learning a new skill while also enjoying the beautiful nature that surrounded them. When they reached their destination by paddleboard, together they planted 20 mangrove trees and over 300 seedling bags as part of the reforestation project organized with local community members.

This project was initiated as a response to multinational corporations that entered the region with unsustainable development designs. The potential construction would have proved disastrous for the environment, devastating the community. Kampot is a fishing village, but its natural resources have been depleted due to the deforestation of mangrove trees. The youth scholars had the opportunity to talk to the community leader, Mr. Sim Him, and his son, Rosat, who explained the history of the mangrove restoration projects, as well as the challenges the project has faced. Because of the restoration efforts, fisheries are being replenished and mangroves are growing in abundance.

This was one of the most meaningful programs during the trip amongst the group of youth scholars. Mangroves are an important part of an ocean’s ecosystem. They are nestled between the land and the ocean, creating shorelines and offering a barrier for the environment against tsunamis and hurricanes. Furthermore, mangroves allow the surrounding region to flourish, coral reefs find greater protection within them, and the area may serve as nurseries for ocean creatures. Endangered species may also find a home there.

Mangroves do not simply serve the interests of their animal inhabitants, however. Local populace in the area may develop a fishing industry as a result of them, finding shrimp and fish to sell to others and improve their own livelihood. This also allows the community to diversify their own income. Families in the Kampot fishing village benefit greatly from the mangrove project and their children were able to go to school using funds generated from the fishing industry which improved after the mangrove conservation project began. Furthermore, mangroves may serve as a source of ecotourism, allowing others to visit and learn more about them such as in the case of the visit to Cambodia with the local nonprofit in Kampot.

The youth scholars were impressed by their work in the community and recognized an opportunity to help the project obtain certification by the government and to be recognized by the ASEAN community; these efforts embody SDG 17 and the importance of Partnership for the Goals.

http://mangroveactionproject.org
Kep National Park: Eco-hiking through rich biodiversity and learning about the history of Cambodia

Peace Boat US Youth Scholars headed to the Province of Kep to engage in a 7-kilometer hike in Kep National Park. The park, established in 1993, covers 50 square kilometers and has become home to diverse species of plants, trees and animals that live together in harmony and balance the ecosystem. The park is being maintained by The Squirrel Association, an NGO who took charge of establishing markings, resting areas, and a café where hikers can rest with an overlooking view of the coastal community. The park management regulates the tourist population in order to preserve the forest and prevent the disruption of the natural environment. During the hike, participants were able to learn about the various species of plants and fruits that are endemic to the region.

Forests as a Place of Refuge during Conflict

Mr Kim, the local guide, shared his personal testimony about the civil war in Cambodia and how the forest and the mountains became a place of refuge for many people seeking to escape the war to find safety for their families. The war caused a refugee crisis in Cambodia with two million people—more than 25 percent of the population—displaced from rural areas into the cities, especially Phnom Penh which grew from about 600,000 in 1970 to an estimated population of nearly 2 million by 1975. Children were widely used during and after the war, often being persuaded or forced to commit atrocities. He himself spent months in the forest, relying on local plants and wildlife for sustenance. As they hiked, he showed the youth different fruits, nuts and plants that were able to provide food for refugees during the conflict. On the Peace Boat, youth often have the important opportunity to learn directly from locals through their testimonies about the atrocities of war and the impact on communities. Students were able to see the linkages between peace and security and how our environment is directly related to SDG 16.

Supporting local Fisheries: Exploring the Crab Market

The scholars explored the local seafood market and tasted Kep’s freshest seafood including crab, squid, and shrimp. The coastal town is often regarded as the “Seafood Capital” of Cambodia. They also witnessed how the locals harvest crab from the nearby sea, with many women helping to weave the baskets that are taken out to the fishing boats. A women’s collective helps support the traditional fishing practice of wading out to sea to catch local crabs just off the coast. The women then are able to sell the seafood at the local market and provide for their families.
Cultural Exchange: NGO Networking Dinner

Upon arriving in Pattaya, Thailand, the youth scholars attended a networking dinner with local nonprofits including Rotary Peace Center from Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, Estudio Carnas, and the Global Health Asia Institute. Thought provoking conversations and discussions regarding sustainable development illuminated the night. The youth scholars headed back to the Peace Boat with several new connections, ideas, and friends. Partnerships for the SDGs are necessary and it is important to foster exchange amongst civil society, academic institutions and local non-profits working on Sustainable Development. Peace Boat strives to practice a progressive form of travel which aims to benefit people and communities at the local level as well as create a more meaningful and educational travel experience based on people-to-people exchange. The organization seeks to continuously identify and implement new practices that will help achieve a better redistribution of the income generated through tourism towards NGO or grassroots partners.

www.rotarychula.org
http://globalhealthasia.org

Bangkok: Evaluating the SDGs in an Urban City

Scholars had the opportunity to spend one full day in Bangkok and evaluate the progress of the Sustainable Development Goals in an urban area. First, the youth visited the Grand Palace complex and observed the great historical temples, statues, and impressive monuments. Exploring the local waterways, the tour guide led the group to the Klong Canals where the youth were able to gain an inside glimpse into how many of the local citizens use the canals for transport. This boat ride highlighted different inequalities in the area, specifically observing the imbalanced housing and infrastructure along the waterfront. Later, the scholars were treated to a traditional meal near the Klongs including vegetarian curries, steamed rice and mango dessert, followed by a visit to the Wat Arun temple and fresh coconuts to rehydrate on a hot day. Throughout the program, scholars were accompanied by a local tour guide who provided them with information about the history and current situation of Bangkok. The scholars engaged in discussion surrounding the SDGs and learned interesting facts about the massive production of cars in the city as well as the use of coconut flowers to harbor sugar for local farmers.
Global Education: Attending Lectures held by Guest Speakers

Onboard the Peace Boat, the youth scholars attended several daily lectures. Guest Educators gave lectures onboard to shed light on a journey to shed light on violence and discrimination, and their causes and consequences in global and regional perspectives. Programs for peace education and sustainability offered onboard utilize Peace Boat’s ship as a neutral learning space and mobile classroom. Educational opportunities are provided to all participants through numerous lectures and workshops, which take place on the ship daily throughout the voyages. Guest educators - professors, journalists, musicians, community activists, artists and experts in their fields - are invited to join Peace Boat voyages to share their experience and knowledge as an essential part of the onboard education program.

Asian Peoples’ Regional Dialogue on Inter-Racial and Religious Solidarity: Dialogue with civil society from throughout Southeast Asia

An educational session was organized by the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC) Southeast Asia, FORUM-ASIA and other civil society partners onboard the ship, to discuss discrimination against religious and ethnic minorities in Southeast Asia. Peace Boat is the Regional Secretariat for GPPAC in Northeast Asia since its launch in 2004, and regularly hosts related dialogues and program onboard the ship. This international network of NGOs working in peacebuilding and conflict prevention was launched in response to a call by former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, and is made up of 15 regions, each working with its own action plan to address specific issues.

During this event, civil society representatives and grassroots activists from throughout Southeast Asia discussed the background of various conflicts taking place in the region, ongoing human rights violations and systematic discrimination, and the humanitarian crisis impacting the Rohingya community. Speakers shared personal stories of how these conflicts affect their communities, as well as initiatives led by these communities to work towards resolving the conflicts and protecting human rights. Through this event, the audience was urged to think, reflect, and share their stories in order to raise awareness about these issues, and consider the role of citizens and the international community at large.
“Three Media Stories That Have Changed My Life”

Al Jazeera journalist, Tiffany Ang, joined the Peace Boat as a guest speaker to share her experiences as an investigative journalist. One of the lectures the youth scholars attended by Ms. Ang discussed the impact journalism has had on her life. Ms. Ang emphasized that a reporter’s role is to listen, report, and write stories that initiate change. Born in Singapore, she began her career at Channel News Asia before moving to Al Jazeera in 2011, for whom she produced award-winning documentaries on topics including child labour in Cambodia's fast-fashion manufacturing industry and the Rohingya refugee crisis. One of the challenges of her job is finding ways to connect local stories to a global audience. “With every report, I try to tap into the universal values that hold us all together. If I can do that effectively, anyone can relate to a story.” Ms. Ang stated to be among the most impactful was the story of a man who was injured during a protest and was unable to receive medical treatment. Publishing his story resulted in him receiving language lessons to help with his advancement to supervisory position in his job to ensure a higher wage and money to take care of his medicals. As a result of this lecture, the youth scholars learned that storytelling is necessary in the localization of the SDGs.

Lecture on Human Trafficking in Asia by Peace Boat Staff

During the Peace Boat visit to Thailand, participants had the opportunity to learn about a study program organized with the IOM X Campaign for the Prevention of Human Trafficking and Exploitation. The United Nations Migration Agency helps to ensure the orderly and humane management of migration and provides humanitarian assistance to migrants. The youth learned about the experiences of many young women and children who are victims of human trafficking in Asia and how that is related to marine life and the tourism industry. It is estimated that there are nearly 21 million victims of human trafficking in the world, with more than half of the victims in Asia or the Pacific. The situation is often made worse by increased vulnerability due to poverty, conflict, natural disasters and climate change. Thailand is the world’s 4th largest fish export country. Often times, men and boys caught in the circle of human trafficking face difficult working conditions, 18-20 hour work days, infrequent payments and physical violence. Children are also trafficked and forced to sell products to the local markets. After paying off their debt, many children are not returned home to their parents. The UN Migration Agency promotes international cooperation on migration issues and helps raise awareness about the global plight of refugees and displaced people.

Learning about Vietnam’s History and Culture

The scholars attended an introductory event about Vietnam, where they learned a brief history of the country and its rich cultural heritage. Two of the scholars were selected to join other participants in showcasing the country’s traditional costumes on stage. Peace Boat creates a unique environment in which people can live, learn and travel together to some of the most fascinating regions on earth. During each voyage, Peace Boat organizes a range of educational and cultural activities to share experiences and connect participants with people from around the world.
Meeting with Peace Boat Staff - Leading the way to the SDGs!

Peace Boat US Youth Scholars met the energetic staff of Peace Boat’s 97th Voyage to present the projects they have initiated within their respective countries. After the discussion, the Peace Boat staff joined the youth scholars on deck for a group photo with the SDGs Youth banner. Having supported the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Campaign since 2009, Peace Boat and the staff onboard the ship have renewed their commitment to building a more equitable and sustainable world by pledging their support for the UN’s 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Many Peace Boat staff members lead lectures and workshops onboard focused on topics such as human rights, gender equality, peacebuilding, education, environmental issues and sustainable development. As young people onboard and staff members travel and learn together, they inspire action and dedication to achieving the SDGs.

Onboard Presentation: Sailing for Sustainability in Asia

Before disembarking from the Peace Boat, the youth scholars addressed the Peace Boat participants once again. This time, the youth recounted their experiences throughout the “Sailing for Sustainability in Asia” program. Each youth scholar chose the activity that they most resonated with and analyzed its relation to their personal work and the Sustainable Development Goals. The presentation conclusion with a slideshow of the youth throughout their time with the Peace Boat.
WORKSHOPS: PROMOTING THE SDGs IN YOUR COMMUNITY

The age of Conflict and Discrimination: The background and current scenario

The first session of the day was initiated by Dr. Richard O’Meara, the Director of the Division of Global Affairs, Rutgers University in New Jersey. Dr. O’Meara, a retired Army Officer, began the workshop by questioning the cause of violence and debating if violence can be avoided in today’s society. To introduce a broader perspective to the audience, the session was driven towards various types of conflicts and mass violence. Dr. O’Meara stated three principles: power projections, law, and morality in conflict. He briefly discussed various conflict cases using these principles and defined how the direct and indirect consequences of conflict intervention shaped communities around the globe. Peace Boat offers Global University programs that are intensive, advanced, peace and sustainability programs that often challenge participants to confront regional and global issues through workshops, seminars, and in-port exposure programs. They are structured in thematic units that vary according to the itinerary of the ship and voyage. In addition to Rutgers University, partners include the University of Tokyo (Japan), Tubingen University (Germany), China Foreign Affairs University (China), Hanshin University (Japan) and Kyung Hee University (South Korea).

Climate Action and Waste Management in India

Avinash Singh, a youth scholar from India, presented on his own NGO, “Waste Warriors”, and how a dream of cleaning a single village materialized and expanded into cleaning up the entire country of India. The organization has successfully conducted educational programs for schools with a focus on environmental science geared to engage and inspire students to learn about the cycle of waste, energy saving, environmental petitions, e-waste and water. Through their campaign, students learn to communicate through videos, art, photography and writing to raise awareness about important environmental issues. For Waste Warriors there are three rules to follow to achieve success:

1. Find strong will power
2. Always adapt
3. Have fun at work

The lecture also highlighted the significance of engaging people in your mission, stating great things can be accomplished even if there is no money: “If there is a will, there’s a way!”

The Mangrove’s Role in Biodiversity

Daniela Izquierdo, a youth scholar and international aid worker from Mexico, spoke on the significance of the mangroves and biodiversity. As stated by Daniela, mangroves are among the most important ecosystems in the world. They serve as nurseries and are a vital food source for marine life while providing a habitat for endangered species. Notably, mangroves create a transition zone between land and sea and create shore lines while buffering coastal ecosystems against hurricanes and tsunamis. Finally, mangroves provide 5x more carbon sequestration per tree than a normal rainforest and adapt to rising sea levels which will become key to the adaptation and survival of local communities during future environmental disasters.
Sade Deanes’s presentation on Sustainable Consumption focused on small actions that can result in a greener and more sustainable way of life. Issues that the beaches in Sade’s home country of Barbados are facing were discussed at length, including detailed information and data that has been gathered on the diverse types of waste that can be found on the beaches. SDG 12, Responsible Consumption, carried a common theme throughout Sade’s presentation along with others such as SDG 14, Life Below Water, and SDG 15, Life on Land. Barbados is one of the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and faces many environmental challenges related to maritime issues. Peace Boat is committed to supporting the process of the Conference of Parties (COP) to advance the work of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and also partners with the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS). In the future, Peace Boat will offer the new vessel, Ecoship, for AOSIS/SIDS-related activities on climate impact.

Keneth De Gracia, a youth scholar from the Philippines, discussed organic agriculture and presented a variety of personal exploits within this field, including his own farm, Costales Nature Farms, and Costales Development Skills and Agricultural Institute, an enterprise which he manages. His agricultural model perpetuates income generation. This is due to its cyclical nature; as waste is generated, the means of production increases and profits are then swiftly reinvested for continued agricultural development. The quality of the farm is safeguarded through the organic farming approach, which is a traditional method of land cultivation. Kenneth however improved upon it by involving a higher level of community coordination and including modern botanical practices of soil fertilization. The application of market analysis facilitates the choosing of crops for cultivation. This approach is concerned with maximizing economic return and ensuring productive sustainability for the business and development programs. This looping system of agricultural production is a product of intensive research. It is ultimately designed to allow a business to operate at a high level whilst preserving the local ecology, and pre-existing social structures. This is an agricultural model which should be spread as it has demonstrated sustainable efficiency.

Bioorganic Farming: Agrotourism and Urban Gardens

Transitions to a Low Carbon Economy

Maria Mejia, a youth scholar from Guatemala, presented on the impact of climate change in urban cities. She referenced a USAID project she participated in within the municipality of Guatemala to diminish greenhouse emissions. She invited the scholars to evaluate and reflect on the policies their cities are enforcing in regards to climate change. Afterwards, she introduced the concept of the green employer of last resort as a solution for the transition to a low carbon economy.

Marine debris and Sustainable Consumption in Small Island Developing States (SIDS)

ONBOARD PEACE BOAT April 12-14, 2018
Hon Gai Local Market: Local food production

Upon arriving in Vietnam, the youth headed to the local market to experience the culture of the country firsthand. Hon Gai Local Market was well stocked in fresh fruits, vegetables, and an endless variety of seafood. The community’s dependency on SDG 14, Life Below Water, could easily be observed. The livelihoods of men, fishermen, and women, market keepers, alike rely on the fish population.

Halong Bay: Observing the Environmental Impact of Tourism

The youth scholars disembarked the Peace Boat and boarded a boat cruise tour through Halong Bay, a UNESCO World Heritage site since receiving its inscription in 1994. The 1600 limestone islands encompassing Halong Bay are protected by law from various ministries and environmental agencies. Developing into one of the most famous tourism locations in Southeast Asia, Halong Bay has a capacity limit of 10,000 tourists per day. While the youth scholars believed that the islands were not inhabited, they quickly observed native monkeys that have become an unsustainable attraction. The youth scholars witnessed tourist groups throwing wrapped food to the monkeys, resulting in trash being thrown into the bay. This inspired a quick trash clean-up by the youth as they paddled along in the kayaks down to pick up the trash along the coastal areas. The youth scholars explored the islands of Hand Sung Sot, Titop and Luon. The Titop island had an additional attraction of a narrow strip of beach which encouraged tourism as boats can dock in the shallow bay.

Pu Luong: Bamboo Rafting and Water Wheels

The Peace Boat US Youth Scholars traveled 6 hours north of Hanoi to visit the Pu Luong Nature Retreat. Upon arriving, the scholars were warmly welcomed by breathtaking landscapes before venturing off on a 3km hike to the water wheels. The water wheels are constructed out of bamboo native to the region. For people of the Thai, Muong, Tay and Nung ethnic groups living in the northwest, a water wheel is an essential agricultural tool that helps locals deliver water from the lower rivers or streams to the higher fields. People passing by large fields often catch sight of water wheels continuously spinning to take water to a higher place for irrigation of the rice during the growing season. The water wheels, exploit the natural rivers in the region to provide the community with sustainable, electricity free energy. The youth scholars returned to the village via bamboo rafts that were made by the community, supporting local fisherman who guide the boats with their bamboo poles.

Hanoi Water Puppet Show: Experiencing the Local Culture of the Fisherman

The youth arrived in Hanoi and after enjoying a local dinner, walked to the Thang Long Water Puppetry Theatre. The puppetry art has existed in Vietnam for more than 1,000 years and connects communal faiths and folkloric festivals. The puppet show depicted several scenes of traditional Vietnamese life and celebrations in the fishing villages. Cultural exchanges on the Peace Boat often include theater, music and art as a form of storytelling to share traditions in countries around the world.
Hanoi: Visiting the Vietnamese Women’s Museum

Before returning to their home countries, the youth had the opportunity to visit a museum dedicated to Vietnamese women. The museum contains three permanent exhibitions, Women in Family, Women in History, and Women’s Fashion, that highlight the women’s role in the development of Vietnam. The Vietnamese Women’s Museum, in collaboration with the Vietnam Women’s Union, has collected nearly 28,000 objects related to women and gender equality. These possession, such as textiles, pottery, and wood, come from all over the country and are accompanied by a story or reflection written by the owner. These personal anecdotes and experiences offer the museum an emotional resonance and historical perspective on the role of women in Vietnam.

Pu Luong Village: Hiking through the Rice Paddies and Learning from Traditional Farmers

The Youth Scholars began their morning with a 6km trek through small paths shrouded in vegetation that slowly revealed a picturesque village sitting at the base of a towering mountain. Continuing to the base of the valley, the youth weaved between roads and farmland, villages and wild fields, ponds and rivers, mountains and open land. They visited a local house on bamboo stilts and learned about traditional life in the village. Each house had one large floor divided into sleeping areas that sometimes could provide shelter for up to three generations of one family. The youth had the opportunity to savor the ever-changing scenery before returning to the village for lunch.

Mai Chau: Cultural Exchange through Learning a Traditional Dance

The Youth Scholars concluded the night by attending a dance performance in the village. The dancers, clothed in traditional dresses, showcased several routines before inviting the audience on stage. The youth participated in the cultural exchange and learned the basics to the local dances often held at community gatherings.

Mai Chau: Traveling Sustainably - Biking through Northern Vietnam

The Youth explored the nature of the Mai Chau community of Vietnam by biking across the landscape. They biked to the Mai Chau local market and learned about the Thai and Vietnamese culture of the community. The youth paused to speak with locals they met along the path to discuss their livelihoods. Local women invited the youth into their shop to teach them about the weaving loom and the process involved in creating the traditional scarves.

Hanoi: Visiting the Vietnamese Women’s Museum

Before returning to their home countries, the youth had the opportunity to visit a museum dedicated to Vietnamese women. The museum contains three permanent exhibitions, Women in Family, Women in History, and Women’s Fashion, that highlight the women’s role in the development of Vietnam. The Vietnamese Women’s Museum, in collaboration with the Vietnam Women’s Union, has collected nearly 28,000 objects related to women and gender equality. These possession, such as textiles, pottery, and wood, come from all over the country and are accompanied by a story or reflection written by the owner. These personal anecdotes and experiences offer the museum an emotional resonance and historical perspective on the role of women in Vietnam.
One of the “Youth for the SDGs” scholarship recipients from Barbados in the Caribbean, Sade Deane, is the National Coordinator of the Caribbean Youth Environment Network (CYEN) in her home country. The 97th Voyage delivered an experiential study program which allowed all of the participants to see various ongoing examples of sustainable development. She states that the most rewarding parts of the trip were the new environment in which people value approaching different ways of learning, the chance she was given to learn more about the connection between peace and sustainability, and of course meeting inspirational young leaders and seeing their positive impact on society. Furthermore, traveling on a ship for the first time in her life contributed to make it all even more exciting. Although she finds herself unable to narrow the whole experience down to only one best part, everything that allowed her to be on the water was what she appreciated the most. Besides traveling on a cruise ship, one of her most memorable experiences on the water in Asia was a boat ride to a local community restaurant for dinner in Cambodia, and the lovely sunset that came along with it.

She considers World Oceans Day on June 8th every year, as a birthday in her career as a development practitioner. Her contribution is often as simple as getting hundreds of people to divert up to 60,000 pieces of marine debris annually from the ocean to ensure the underwater world is left with healthy surroundings. When asked what she would do if she could go on the same Peace Boat trip again, she says she would visit more communities, engage them and make them aware of the SDGs in order to relate them back to their own environment. Let’s celebrate World Oceans Day every year by thinking about our ocean's health and helping to make a positive difference in our daily environment.

Emilie McGlone
Director of Peace Boat US
Emilie McGlone has been working with Peace Boat since 2004 and currently is the United Nations liaison and Director of the New York-based office of Peace Boat US. As an International Organization, Peace Boat holds Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations and works in partnership with UN representatives, Nobel Peace Laureates and community leaders from around the world to create opportunities for international cooperation focused on environmental sustainability, cultural awareness and peace education. Emilie works to foster youth education and develops specific programs to learn about important global issues onboard the Peace Boat. She is the coordinator for internships, university partnerships and initiatives to promote the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Dr. Richard O’Meara, Director of the Division of Global Affairs
Dr. Richard M. O’Meara is a faculty at the Division of Global Affairs at Rutgers University and a Professor of law and Global Security Issues. He is a retired Army General Officer and trial attorney and received his PhD in Global Affairs from Rutgers University and his JD from Fordham University. His research interest include the application of ethics to the used of military technologies, the intersection of ethnicity and violence in conflict zones, security and foreign policy issues in Sub-Saharan Africa and the North Pacific, and Conflict Resolution. He has traveled widely in Sub-Saharan Africa, Eastern Europe, Southeast Asia and Latin America working with stakeholders to create dialogue and solutions regarding the cessation of conflict.

Sonam Tashi, Global Program Manager
Sonam Tashi is the Global Program Manager at the Division of Global Affairs at Rutgers-Newark. His research interests include social capital, voting behavior, and democratization. His work examines voter turnout in violent elections across Sub-Saharan Africa. Previously, Sonam was the Principal Sovereign Risk Analyst for a consultancy firm advising hedge funds and other large institutional investors on political and economic risk in the emerging markets.

Sabrina Oliveto, Peace Boat US Intern
Sabrina Oliveto is a sophomore at Pace University double majoring in Peace and Justice studies and Modern Languages. She has been interning with Peace Boat US since August 2017. Peace Boat’s ideology of promoting a culture of peace and sustainability through global voyages appeals to her the most. Sabrina is excited join Peace Boat's 97th voyage in southeast Asia and work to promote SDG 13, Climate Action, and SDG 14, Life Below Water. Sabrina is looking forward to learning more about sustainable tourism while working with local NGOs to produce a positive environmental impact.
Keneth De Gracia, Youth Scholar

Co-founder of Costales Nature Farms in the Philippines, Keneth was most interested in programs which included workshops related to the SDGs, study programs about organic agriculture, climate action and life below water. When Keneth started his career in the agriculture industry, he saw the many plights of farmers and fishermen in his country. Climate change in particular has adversely affected their production cycle and yield, thus threatening food security. As SDG 13 for Climate Action and SDG 14 for Life Below Water are related to food production, he believes that the mobilization of these two goals will pave a way in enhancing the resilience of the agricultural food value chains. He believes that SDG 13 can strengthen the resilience of the agriculture industry to climate-related hazards thus making farming more productive. On the other hand, SDG 14 can promote the prevention and reduction of marine pollution, nutrient pollution in particular, making way for more sustainable fishing practices. As the farmers and fishermen still have a lot to learn from each other in his country, Keneth is ultimately aspiring for their advancement by way of promoting sustainable approaches that will maximize their resources. He believes that joining the Peace Boat Voyage was a great platform for him to learn new methods and approaches in promoting sustainability which he could use in upgrading his teaching modules eventually cascading it to his community.

Maria Mejia, Youth Scholar

As the European Climate Foundation stresses, “Tackling climate change effectively is a prerequisite for peaceful, prosperous societies, as climate change ignores national and sectoral boundaries, climate protection strategies need to build bridges across those divides. Concerted action is vital”. Maria worked as representative for Guatemala’s municipality in the USAID project called “Estrategia para el desarrollo de Bajas Emisiones” that aims to implement public policies related to climate change. In that project, she was able to learn more about the conflict her country is facing in regard to climate change. Previously, Maria won a scholarship to study in a Masters program titled “Economic Policies in the Age of Globalization” with the specialization in finance and development from Sorbonne Paris Cité (Paris 13, 7 and Maison Sciences de l’Homme). Living in Paris got Maria more immersed into the climate change debate, she perceived the dramatic consequences of the Seine overflow but more important Maria got to know interesting theories and policies to approach climate change, such as the green employer of last resort proposal for the transition to a low carbon economy. Maria believes that she will get the most out of this encounter and take it in advantage to later apply all the knowledge and contacts towards fruitful projects. Maria wants to share her experiences on working in that area but more important she wants to learn from experts in the topic in order to take action!

Avinash Singh, Youth Scholar

Avinash has been working with Waste Warriors since 2013 and currently is the Chief Operations Officer at its headquarters. Waste Warriors, a voluntary non-profit in India, has three projects in northern India where it is trying to implement sustainable and affordable waste management systems in diverse socio-economic set ups. As the organisation completes its five years, Avinash works to streamline operations, lead outreach initiatives, build and mentor the team, preparing for the scaled up impact in the community. Climate change is real and it’s time to act! The youth of this world have a chance to contribute to reducing climate degradation. In his mountaineering expeditions, Avinash has seen fragile ecologies being destroyed due to climate change and as a waste management professional, he is always conscious about the pollution and disturbance of ocean’s ecosystem, especially those caused by plastic waste. Avinash continues to educate the local communities within which he works about sanitation, its negative impacts and how by taking care of sanitation problems the community can directly contribute towards achieving our SDG 13 and 14 goals. By joining the Peace Boat program, Avinash wishes to join hands with global communities to learn more and to contribute towards the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. He is excited to meet youth from all across the globe to discuss the world’s most pressing issues and reflect upon possible solutions which can be adapted from each other. Avinash believes in youth leadership and if we want to achieve our Global Goals, it has to be a global collaborative approach.

Sade Deane, Youth Scholar

Sade Deane is the National Coordinator of the Caribbean Youth Environment Network (CYEN) in Barbados. She is responsible for engagement and participation of youth in environmental and sustainable development issues across Barbados which she has done for the last five years. She represents the body on national committees such as the Cleanliness Committee (Barbados Tourism Product Authority) and the Climate Change Steering Committee (Ministry of Environment and Drainage); also within international, regional and local fora on disaster risk reduction, climate change, sustainable land management, marine pollution and sustainable tourism. Sade coordinates the annual Barbados International Coastal Clean-up (BICC), which is the first and largest island-wide monitoring mechanism for marine debris in Barbados. This allows for the participation and engagement of youth and the wider Barbados populace which we refer to as citizen scientist in order to gather primary data on marine debris to identify trending issues. She has facilitated the latest youth engagement and participatory activity which looked at introducing the sustainable development goals and examined the green economy approach in achieving them. The event was called the 2017 National Youth Consultation, whose theme was “Youth in Sustainable Development”. She has been formally trained in Tourism and Project Management at the University of the West Indies-Cave Hill Campus and certified in Sustainable Consumption and Production Approaches and Practical Tools by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research. Sade hopes this experiential opportunity will help influence new ideas for advancing the sustainable development goals in the area of youth, environment, sustainable development and tourism.

Ivonne Daniela Izquierdo Rodriguez, Youth Scholar

As someone who works in the development and humanitarian sector Daniela has had first hand experience on how climate change has already affected millions of people. Daniela has worked on resilience, and adaptation and mitigation for the most vulnerable and truly believes that something has to be done to prevent future catastrophes. Life below water—SDG 14, is one of the most important for the work she has undergone in recent years, not only to preserve all the life that comes from there but also how one minor change in the ecosystem is able to affect millions of people. Daniela has experience with mangrove projects that look into the proliferation of life below water at the same time prevention of humanitarian disasters all within the tourism sector in South East Asia. SDG 13 encompasses all the challenges that we must face in order to mitigate all the damage that has been done and that are affecting the most vulnerable populations all over the world. This is why Daniela is so excited to participate in the 97th voyage “to learn more about the subject”, to see different points of view and to participate in this very much needed dialogue on how to keep on helping tourism and sustainability in this region of the world.
More about the UN Sustainable Development Goals:
www.latinamerica.undp.org/content/rbl/la/en/home/post-2015/
www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/
www.globalgoals.org/
www.urban4sdg.org/

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

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