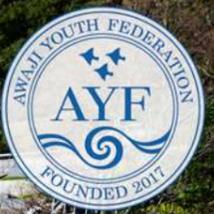


AYF NEWSLETTER

EDITION 4 | OCTOBER, 2021



AYF Spotlight

Fun Fact! On our last webinar Dr. Oussouby Sacko, President of Kyoto Seika University, told us that his University, is the first one to have a Graduate School of Manga! If you are interested in such popular area you should check it out: <https://www.kyoto-seika.ac.jp/eng/edu/graduate/manga/>

Check out the recording and discover what the future of education looks like according to experts
[Click Here](#)



**Our next webinar :
SDGs and Sustainability**

October 13th. 18:00 JST



AYF Alumni

YUNGA Japan at SCOUTS International Conference

Shaping the future of the World Scout Movement

As a role model of sustainability and an innovative youth empowerment organization in Japan, YUNGA Japan was officially invited last August to share their experience at the 42nd World Scout Conference and 14th World Scout Youth Forum which brought together a total of more than 3,000 leaders from 170 National Scout Organizations and global partners to shape the future of the world's leading educational youth movement.

Yunga presentation video:
<https://youtu.be/btGSvh9pmbU>

AYF GLOBAL

Mochi san, winner of the beyond Sushi Ideathon competition

AYF hosted a 24 hour Idea Marathon (Ideathon) to provide ideas for Ihatov Tohoku (<https://ihatovtohoku.com/>), the challenge provider.

This first edition challenge was about how to make Mochi & Dango, rice based traditional Japanese sweets as famous as sushi around the world. The AYF Global members challenged their skills and creativity, to provide ideas that impressed the judges... Matsumoto san, from Ihatov Tohoku, was satisfied with most of the ideas but team Mochi san stood out due to its great presentation, feasibility, and well thought out plan. The team was composed of Megha from the UAE, Emmanuel from Nigeria, and David from Benin.

Report YouTube Link: <https://youtu.be/IWjdRPwPkZA>

Our next Ideathon will be happening in October, if you would like to challenge yourself or recommend it to somebody, below is the details

Start: 15 October 2021

End: 22 October 2021

Topic: Develop a tasty dish based on Awaji ingredients.

Registration link





Valentin “Darkain” Defossez Kramarenko



AYF Alumni 2018.

From Reims, France.

Japanese language and culture specialist.

“AYF : three simple letters hiding a
life-changing experience.”

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/valentin-defossez>

Back in 2017, I was lucky enough to be selected to join the AYF program. For me, this was a dream come true since I was coming to Japan to contribute to a meaningful project, the development of a rural area. Although it wasn't easy to find a way to come to Japan after my studies in the Japanese language and culture, I did not give up until the time was right for me to come. AYF was an amazing opportunity for me to experience one of the most beautiful things in my life so far, meeting and interacting with talented people from all over the world. I sincerely believe that despite our paths leading in many different directions, the bonds we forged during this year are everlasting. So, thank you everybody for making this year in Awajishima, one of the most precious memories I have!

As I wanted to develop my career further in Japan, I decided to leave Awaji in 2019. I was then getting off to a rocky start in the capital city where I had unpleasant experiences at first. Regardless of the hardships, my passion for Japan prevailed and my determination to find an opportunity that would better suit me eventually led to me recently join a company.



My current work allows me to make full use of the language and project management skills I have honed during my time in Awajishima. I am proud to say that even in Tokyo I keep trying my best to connect, not just Awajishima, but Japan to the world. P.S.: Feel free to reach out to me via LinkedIn if I can be of assistance regarding your life in Japan.



Amanda Sakiye Rogers



AYF Alumni 2018.

From Los Angeles, California, USA.

Landscape Designer

“My soul craves creativity and
shaping spaces that evoke emotions
pertaining to the identity of the
given environment.”

Hello AYF Family,

My journey with AYF began in 2017 with a passion to revitalize our Earth through Landscape Architecture and regenerative agriculture. I've learned that as much as I love regenerative agriculture, my soul craves creativity and shaping spaces that evoke emotions pertaining to the identity of the given environment. I am forever grateful that AYF has expanded my global consciousness through cultural experiences, education, and lifelong friendships.

After AYF, I moved back to Los Angeles to pursue my career in landscape design. One of my favorite projects I have worked on is Marcella Gardens (collaboration with TimothyJohnLA), an affordable housing complex featuring 60 apartments for transition-aged youth, homeless adults, and veterans (including shops, cafes, lap pool, playground, and more). I also enjoy helping homeowners design their dream landscapes - including a Brazilian jungle garden in the Hollywood Hills, lakeside forest entertainment space in Idaho, and a sculptural desert garden in Palm Springs.

My passion today resides in enhancing the quality of life for all through re-shaping one's environment. So, I am open to collaboration with AYF Alumni and fellow environmental designers. My current work involves high-end residential and commercial projects.





Waheed Oni



*AYF Alumni 2019
From Nigeria
Agribusiness, Food System and
Youth Development Professional*

“AYF was a good testing ground for my emotional intelligence, people skills, and leadership prowess”

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/oni-waheed-b037a298/>
<http://agrihub.youthagripreneurs.org/oyo-hub/>
www.mustonconsult.org

Hello, my name is Waheed from Nigeria, I am an Agribusiness, Food System, and Youth Development professional. Coming to Japan wasn't an easy decision but it was all worth it having met with various brilliant minds, technocrats, and experts. AYF was a good testing ground for my emotional intelligence, people skills, and leadership prowess that contributed to the new leader that I have become. I am very happy that the project “YUNGA Japan” we worked on has started gaining attention and recognition in Pasona Group based on the outstanding result the YUNGA team (<https://awaji-youth-federation.com/yunga/>) is getting in and outside Awaji Island.

After the AYF fellowship program, I went back to Nigeria to explore new opportunities. A few months later, I got offered an Agribusiness Hub Manager position on a project sponsored by International Funds for Agricultural Development (IFAD) to establish an agribusiness hub for training and supporting young emerging agripreneurs on various value chains. Coincidentally, this was my dream project at AYF, and my experience within the AYF Food and Agriculture team has come in very handy.



In addition to my current work, my passion for becoming a successful Agripreneur led me to co-found Muston Consult, a start-up company based in Nigeria that focuses on Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning (MEAL) for community and developmental projects. Achievers don't usually consider distance, places, or available resources but harnessing unique opportunities to forge ahead in life. Please stay in touch to share experiences and opportunities.

Pasona Information



Awaji Nature Lab & Resort

"Awaji Nature Lab & Resort" is a sustainable garden where visitors can experience a sustainable lifestyle that coexists with nature, through "farming" experiences such as harvesting seasonal vegetables and cultivating the soil, a restaurant that serves healthy "food" using vegetables grown naturally at the facility, and a stay in a "living" environment made from natural materials. It is based on a vast site of about 38,000 square meters on Awaji.

Through this project, Pasona Agri-partners will contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by proposing a new lifestyle and environment where people and nature coexist in harmony.

Examples of fieldwork

- Experience natural cultivation without fertilizers and pesticides.
- Compost making experience to learn about the food cycle.
- Experience making fermented foods such as miso, soy sauce, and amazake, which are made by utilizing the power of nature.
- Making dishes, teas, and bath salts using Japanese herbs such as mugwort and shiso.



TEDxAwaji

Known as the birthplace of Japan according to Shinto mythology, Awajishima is today the SDGs Island of Japan. Many activities and projects have been tackled to achieve the United Nations 2030 goals. TEDx was another project seeded by AYF Fellows to tell the world the potential of Awaji Island in terms of sustainability.



Supported by Pasona Group, the TEDx Awaji will be held at Sekaiha Awaji on **December 05, 2021**, in both English and Japanese with potential amazing speakers already identified.

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