

# The Ocean and Climate Youth Ambassadors Programme

June-July 2018





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Photos by: Ryan Carl, Heather Slesar, Dakota Hall, Chema Sarri and UNDP Timor-Leste. Graphic Design: María Pérez

## About Peace Boat

Established in 1983, Peace Boat is a Japan-based international NGO which holds Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations (UN), is in partnership with the UN SDG Action Campaign and associated with the UN Department of Public Information (DPI). It promotes peace, human rights, equal and sustainable development and respect for the environment. Peace Boat carries out its main activities through a passenger ship that travels the world. Guided by the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Peace Boat's activities onboard and in port empower participants, strengthen local capacity for sustainability, and build people-to-people cooperation beyond borders. The voyages, on a social business model, blend sustainable tourism and lifelong learning with educational programmes, cooperative projects and advocacy funded by voyage participation fees. Peace Boat's next step in our 35-year evolution is to build the EcoShip, the world's most sustainable cruise ship, as a flagship for the SDGs and climate action.

# Introduction

## Youth Engagement for Climate and Ocean Action

Climate change is undoubtedly one of the main crises faced by the planet today. Throughout its 35 year history of chartering passenger ships for educational voyages, meeting people around the world and learning about their communities, Peace Boat has visited many small island states. In this time, we have seen first-hand the issues faced by these small territories on the front line of climate change and ocean degradation, and how communities are standing up in the face of these challenges.

In 2017, Peace Boat began a new programme to take the voices and experiences of young people from small islands around the world to raise awareness of the impacts of climate and ocean change in these countries. The programme was inspired by the successes of the Global Voyage for a Nuclear Free World - Peace Boat Hibakusha Project, a programme which for the last ten years has brought the survivors from Hiroshima and Nagasaki around the world to share personal testimonies about the impacts of the atomic bombs and call for nuclear abolition.

The Ocean and Climate Youth Ambassadors Programme was launched at the United Nations Ocean Conference in 2017, and recognised by the COP23 Presidency Secretariat as an Endorsed Event of COP23 in the same year. The programme brings youth leaders from countries which are members of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) 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.

After the success of the first edition, held following the Ocean Conference and in the build-up to COP23, which brought together youth from Fiji, the Marshall Islands, Kiribati, Seychelles, Maldives, Trinidad and Tobago and Belize, the second edition was held in 2018. The countries represented in this second edition were Fiji, Palau, Timor-Leste, Seychelles, Mauritius, Singapore and Barbados.

This report focuses on the second edition, held during Fiji's COP Presidency and before COP24 in Katowice, Poland. The programme contributed to the Talanoa Dialogue for Climate Ambition, a process to take stock of collective efforts to reduce emissions and build greater resilience, in line with the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement. Furthermore, it explored connections between SDG 13 (Climate Action) and SDG 14 (Life Under Water) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the goals related to quality education, responsible consumption, gender equality, reducing inequalities and peace and justice as part of Peace Boat's commitment as a campaigner for the SDGs.



### Building momentum and engaging stakeholders in the countries visited

Embarking in Stockholm, Sweden, the young leaders engaged with local, regional and national governments, civil society and the scientific community taking part in awareness raising and outreach events in ports visited, including in Copenhagen, Denmark; Bergen, Norway; Reykjavik, Iceland; Halifax, Canada and concluding their voyage in New York, USA. Participants gave testimony of their experiences and the impact of climate change and marine degradation on their communities, through Talanoa, defined in Fiji's Vision as 'inclusive, participatory and transparent dialogue that builds empathy and leads to decision making for the

collective good'. Music, dance, art and spoken word were incorporated into activities in port as a tool to appeal through social and traditional media, as a call to action for the climate and oceans. Throughout the programme, there was an emphasis on possible solutions to the crises as the youth shared inspiring initiatives in their own countries at the local and government level. During field visits and exposure programmes, they learned first-hand about local efforts for climate action and marine protection in the countries visited. This report outlines the activities of the programme, through articles mostly written by the participants.

# Profiles of Participants

## PACIFIC OCEAN



### GENEVIEVE JIVA (25) - FIJI

Genevieve Jiva is passionate about advocating for strong action on climate change. She graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in History and Politics, and completed a Postgraduate Diploma in Diplomacy and International Affairs from the University of the South Pacific. She is currently completing a Masters in Diplomacy and International Affairs, with a focus on Pacific Diplomacy and Loss and Damage negotiations within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). She has been a member of the Pacific Islands Climate Action Network (PICAN) since 2015, participating in their activities and advocacy. In the lead up to COP23, she joined the PICAN Secretariat as their policy officer, leading policy development and supporting preparations for and participation in COP23 and participated herself in the Climate Change Conference in Bonn. She is a volunteer with the WWF Pacific Volunteers Program and is currently the President of the volunteer steering committee.



### MANZEL NGIRMERIL (24) - PALAU

Manzel is from the small Pacific Island of Palau which recently introduced the Palau Pledge, a world-first eco-initiative that asks all inbound visitors to make a compulsory promise, directly to the children of Palau, to preserve their home. Manzel is a Maritime Officer with the MOJ Division of Marine Law, working to protect the Palau National Marine Sanctuary in various ways ranging from community outreach and educational awareness to aerial and surface surveillance targeting illegal fishing, pollution and human trafficking. Through his work, he has witnessed firsthand the effect of global human demand on our precious resources. Manzel served in the United States Marine Corps for 6 years while simultaneously pursued his bachelor's degree in business management. While serving, he contributed to the Malala Foundation through campaigns and fundraising efforts and operated in many parts of the world in need of great humanitarian assistance - from the "Horn Of Africa" to Latin America. In Palau, he has advocated for equal opportunity in all walks of life including launching an all-inclusive youth organization and affecting change for the good of the planet. He has travelled across the Pacific spreading awareness about his passions by using human inclusivity as a mechanism to solving worldly dilemmas.



### JAKE LASI (26) - TIMOR-LESTE

Justaquiu (Jake) is passionate about environmental protection both in theory and practice. Jake is in his final year of a Bachelor of Earth Science at the National University of Timor-Leste (UNTL). His participation in the programme was supported by the UNDP in Timor Leste in his role as Ambassador for SDG 13 and 14. As the President and Founder of the Joventude ba Dezenvolvimentu Nasional (JDN, Youth for National Development) organisation from 2012 onwards, Jake led a team of dedicated young people to create leadership opportunities for other youth across Timor-Leste. He has also participated at several international meetings, including the 2014 Waste Management Study Tour in Japan and the International Conference for Climate Change in 2017. Jake has worked across a range of sectors including health with the UN Mission and USN Mercy. The ocean is Jake's church, school and passion. Since 2017, Jake has dedicated himself to ecotourism, working as a consultant to teach swimming, scuba diving and snorkeling. Jake is excited to share the Timorese rituals about the ocean with fellow Peace Boat colleagues.

## CARIBBEAN

### SAGE BELGRAVE (20) - BARBADOS

Sage is a chemistry undergraduate student at the University of the West Indies Cavehill campus with a interest in environmental chemistry. He has represented his school and his country in model United Nations Moots including one by the Rotary Club of Barbados which specifically targeted the issue of climate change. He also represented his country at the Global Young Leaders Conference in Washington D.C. Sage hopes to be a voice for his nation Barbados and the rest of the Eastern Caribbean. In Barbados, Sage volunteers with Future Centre Trust a non-profit which organises beach clean ups and marine restoration projects and Slow Food Barbados which brings awareness of preserving marine life through awareness of sustainable fishing. Sage was named Mr. Barbados Caribbean 2018 for his love for the stage, coupled with charity work and ambassadorship for Barbados.



# INDIAN OCEAN



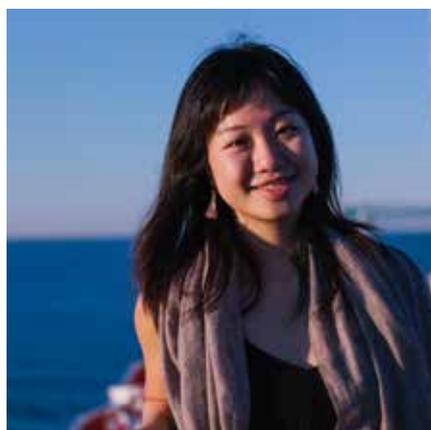
## FRANCES BENSTRONG (20) – SEYCHELLES

Frances is from the Seychelles which this year created a vast Marine Protected Area. She is an ocean enthusiast who loves diving. She is also the co-founder of the Inde Eco club at her former school for students to learn about the importance and the rich biodiversity of the ocean in the Seychelles. In 2016, she took part in a programme organized by SYAH, a youth-led NGO focused on advancing and implementing youth-led sustainable development in Small Island Developing States (SIDS) of the Atlantic, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean, and South China Sea (AIMS) region. During this time, she completed internships in several companies related to the Blue Economy. As a Blue Economy Champion, she participated in beach cleanups and scientific talks. This September, Frances will start her studies in Ocean Science and Conservation at Plymouth University. She is an avid photographer and has won photography competitions both internationally and nationally including the Prince of Wales Environmental photography competition.



## EVE ISAMBOURG (20) - MAURITIUS

Eve was born on the French coast and she grew up in Mauritius Island. From a family of surfers, she moved to Paris two years ago to study International Relations at the University of Sciences of Paris, where she specialized in Global Environmental Governance, Ocean and Climate Change issues, and Photography. Passionately interested in “Environmental communication”, she has launched the #IspeakBlueToo campaign to support the UN World Oceans Day, supported by UNESCO. For her 3rd year of studies, she will be doing internships abroad related to Ocean Conservation, first in charge of Public Relations & Social Media for the World Clean Up Day 2018 (By ANPRAS Mru.) in Mauritius before continuing her work in Indonesia. Eve is dedicating her professional career to environmental issues raising awareness to protect our planet using her skills as an artist, photographer and writer. (for Immersion Mag.). Eve is above all a voice for the Ocean, volunteering for Ocean Conservation NGOs Surfrider foundation, Women4Ocean and Take3ForTheSea.



## SHERENE TAN (26) - SINGAPORE

Sherene is a passionate environmentalist and avid traveller of diverse interests. After earning a Bachelor of Science in Life Science degree at the National University of Singapore, her interests led her into various internships for wildlife documentaries and environmental research in Singapore. She worked as a resident Marine Biologist in the Maldives. Based at COMO Cocoa Island, her work included propagating coral fragments to help conserve the impacted reefs and raising awareness of marine ecology amongst the resort’s international guests. Working on environmental conservation in the private luxury sector amidst local culture in the Maldives provided Sherene with meaningful insights and new perspectives on the need for multidisciplinary conservation action. She now dedicates her time to the Singapore headquarters of COMO Hotels and Resorts, to boost its environmental advocacy in the private sector.



## CHEMA SARRI

Based in Tokyo, Chema Sarri is an International Coordinator for Peace Boat. Before joining the Japanese NGO, he worked as a journalist for different newspapers, magazines and radio broadcasters. He is currently the Communications Manager for Peace Boat’s EcoShip and the coordinator of the Ocean and Climate Youth Ambassador Programme.

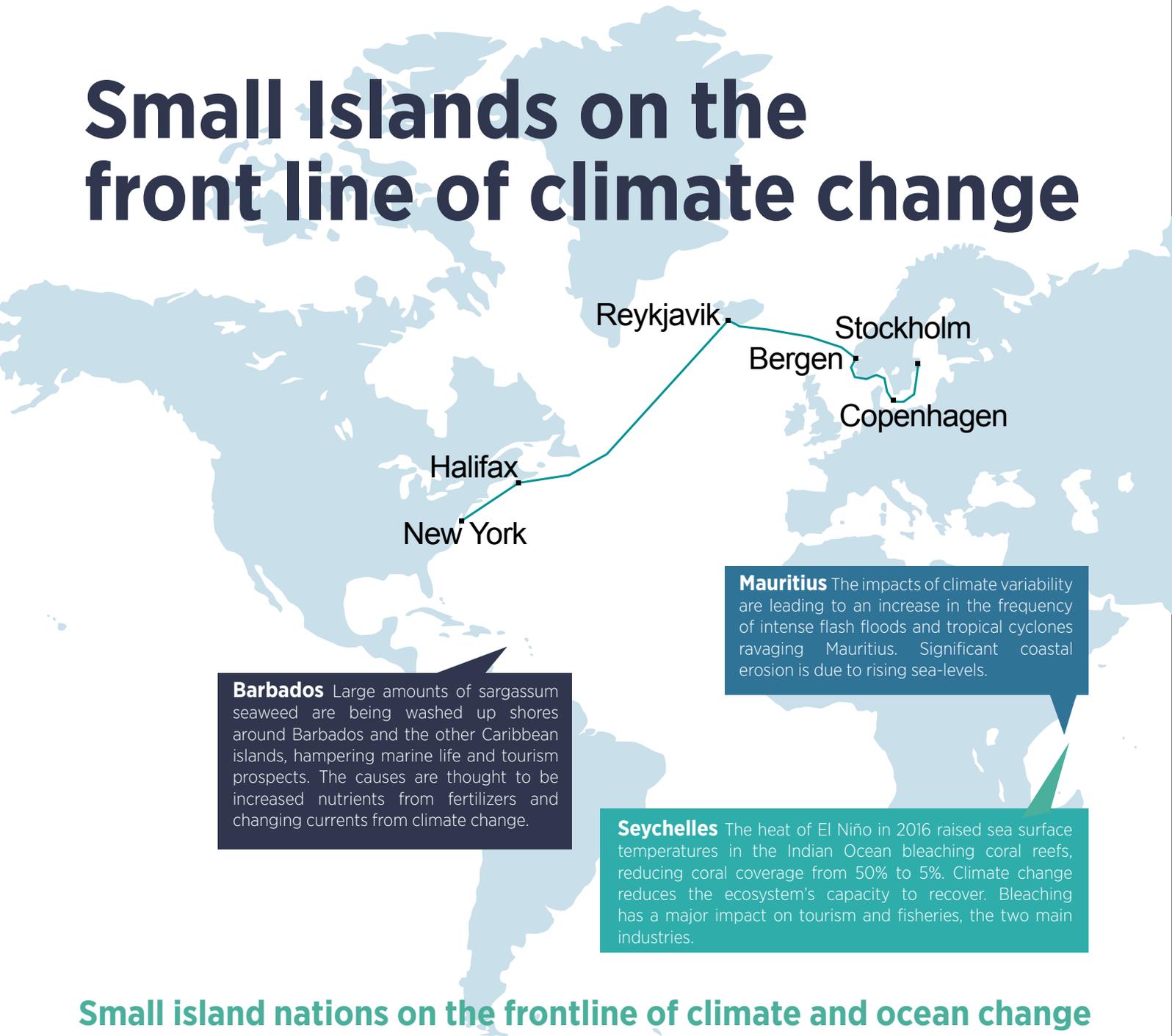


## KAREN HALLOWS

Based in Europe, Karen Hallows is an International Coordinator for Peace Boat. She has been working on peace and sustainability education programmes and advocacy onboard Peace Boat, sailing on more than ten Global Voyages. She is currently Project Coordinator for Peace Boat’s EcoShip and the coordinator in Peace Boat’s involvement in the United Nations Climate Change Conferences.

## PROGRAMME COORDINATORS

# Small Islands on the front line of climate change



**Barbados** Large amounts of sargassum seaweed are being washed up shores around Barbados and the other Caribbean islands, hampering marine life and tourism prospects. The causes are thought to be increased nutrients from fertilizers and changing currents from climate change.

**Mauritius** The impacts of climate variability are leading to an increase in the frequency of intense flash floods and tropical cyclones ravaging Mauritius. Significant coastal erosion is due to rising sea-levels.

**Seychelles** The heat of El Niño in 2016 raised sea surface temperatures in the Indian Ocean bleaching coral reefs, reducing coral coverage from 50% to 5%. Climate change reduces the ecosystem's capacity to recover. Bleaching has a major impact on tourism and fisheries, the two main industries.

## Small island nations on the frontline of climate and ocean change

**C**limate change and ocean degradation affect the development of all nations, regardless of location or size of economy. Yet, no other group of nations is more vulnerable to its devastating effects than the Small Island Developing States (SIDS). With one-third of their population living on land that is less than five meters below sea level, the threat of sea level rise, storm surges, and coastal destruction pose existential risks to SIDS. While contributing less than 1 per cent to the world's greenhouse gas emissions, these countries are among the first to experience the worst and most devastating impacts of climate change with greater risks to economies, livelihoods, and food security. As large ocean states, SIDS are on the frontline of ocean degradation with their livelihood and cultures deeply connected to the ocean. Yet, despite serious threats and challenges, the SIDS continue to demonstrate

global leadership across the areas of climate change, disaster risk reduction, and sustainable development. For example, countries like Palau, Seychelles or Fiji have taken the lead at the international stage. With the second edition of the Ocean and Climate Youth Ambassador Programme, Peace Boat brought the voices of the SIDS to six different ports in Europe, Canada and the US to raise awareness and call for action to protect our climate and ocean. It was an opportunity to share the situation in their own communities and learn about the countries they were visiting, each time sharing both problems and possible solutions.

During the programme, the youth introduced the Pacific concept of Talanoa, a process of inclusive, participatory and transparent dialogue, in different events.



## What is Talanoa?

Talanoa is a traditional word used in Fiji and across the Pacific to reflect a process of inclusive, participatory and transparent dialogue. The purpose of Talanoa is to share stories, build empathy and to make wise decisions for the collective good. The process of Talanoa involves the sharing of ideas, skills and experience through storytelling. It has been introduced to the climate negotiations by the Fijian Presidency.

During the process, participants build trust and advance knowledge through empathy and understanding. The COP23 Presidency emphasises that blaming others and making critical observations are inconsistent with building mutual trust and respect, and therefore inconsistent with the Talanoa concept. Talanoa fosters stability and inclusiveness in dialogue by creating a safe space that embraces mutual respect for a platform for decision making for a greater good. The Talanoa Dialogue was launched at COP 23 in 2017, and will culminate in a high-level Dialogue at COP 24, convening in December 2018, in Katowice, Poland.



**Palau** As a small island state, Palau's coastal villages and agricultural resources are threatened by rising sea level as well as devastating unpredictable weather patterns that the island has never seen before.

**Singapore** As a low-lying island, the rise in sea level poses the most immediate threat to Singapore. Much of the nation lies only 15 m above the mean sea level, with about 30% of the island being less than 5 m above the mean sea level.

**Fiji** In 2014, Vunidogoloa moved two kilometres inland, becoming the first village in Fiji to relocate because of the effects of climate change. In 2016, Fiji was devastated by Cyclone Winston. Tropical cyclones are predicted to increase in intensity in the region.

**Timor-Leste** Studies predict that the climate in Timor-Leste will become about 1.5 °C warmer and about 10% wetter on average by 2050. In the future, the intensity of the cyclones (with high wind speeds) and extreme rainfall events will increase.



Peace Boat's vessel sailed with the flag of the COP23 Presidency during the Ocean and Climate Youth Ambassador Programme



# Stockholm

## The very beginning of a unique blue journey



*By Eve Isambourg*

**O**n June 23, even though I could hardly believe it, I'd just landed in Sweden, and I was finally able to say that this adventure was on, that this departure was real. A hostel in Stockholm was our meeting point, and I had the privilege to encounter the three first ambassadors on that Saturday evening: that was it, we were already in the same boat, even though we were still on land. The day after, we went discovering the amazing capital of Sweden together, while waiting for the rest of the team to arrive, and our first official meeting with everyone on June 25. With the biggest smiles, ever, warm hearts, our curiosity being at its fullest, and our motivation at its highest, we shared each other's backgrounds, after competing about

who had had the longest flight to get to Sweden, the longest transits, and the worst jet-lag. It was already a lot of fun and good vibes. There was the team!

On June 26, we left the city to board Peace Boat, a very exciting moment. All of us, with our heavy bags -full of our traditional clothes and warm coats -we're from tropical islands, you know- were smiling! Suddenly, there it was! The ship that what was going to be our home for the three following weeks was there in front of us, with its massive and impressive size. It was quite emotional to be there in front of what we thought was a dream.

None of us had been on a cruise ship before, and like 'Alice in Wonderland', we were amazed by every single detail of this floating village. Passports checked, check-in done, bags in the rooms, the programme was officially starting, while the boat was still "à quai" for the day. What a better opportunity to start the programme than a symposium on the ship with about 100 people from very diverse and interesting backgrounds.

It was a very inspiring experience to share and learn in this event co-organized by Peace Boat and the Global Challenges Foundation. The event started with introductions from the Youth Ambassadors where introduced ourselves and our countries, presenting the problems we are facing and examples of solutions being implemented. We then heard the presentations of the representatives of local NGOs and organizations onboard for the occasion, including Race for the Baltic, a leadership platform for a well managed and sustainable Baltic Sea and the Stockholm Resilience Center. During the event, our colleagues from Singapore and Fiji headed a panel with local representatives which just before introducing the next activity, the Talanoa Dialogue session. Introduced by the government of Fiji for the COP23, the Talanoa Dialogue aims at facilitating the dialogue, encouraging informal discussions, to reach out solutions and conclusions more easily. We had the chance to share all of our stories in small groups full of interesting and caring people.

After that first day, we were all feeling inspired already, and excited about what was ahead of us. Very quickly after this first event we could draw out two main conclusions to keep in mind for the programme. First, when talking about climate change, it is not only about environment, but also about the social and economic factors. Plus, we realized, with the discussions we had, especially in the Talanoa Dialogue session, that for things to change, we must move all together in the same direction, all actors being involved, from both the public and private sectors, just as every individual.

At 7pm, the departure ceremony started and our voyage officially began. We were waiting for this moment for a while, the moment when the ship would be officially sailing. With a beautiful sunset over the islands of the Swedish archipelago, we all were happy to be part of this experience. We were all smiling, while meeting the other participants, the volunteers, and having inspiring and amazing discussions all together on the deck. The view was unique, breathtaking, and very quickly it reminded us, and confirmed us, the reasons why we love the ocean so much and we want to protect it.

The trip was starting, and all of us we were ready, for this new departure, an amazing adventure, to celebrate the Blue Planet, and to protect what we care about, what we all depend on, and need: the ocean.

*The programme in Stockholm was organized in collaboration with the Global Challenges Foundation.  
[www.globalchallenges.org](http://www.globalchallenges.org)*



# Copenhagen

## The Green City of Denmark

*By Frances Benstrong*



**D**uring our three weeks' journey, our second stop in Europe was Copenhagen, the capital of Denmark. In this country, the first thing we noticed about it was how clean it was as a city. We also noticed that in Copenhagen everyone seemed to own a bicycle and this carbon neutral transport was a very popular way to go around the city.

After a nice walk along the sea front, we visited a company called Sustainia. They work with companies, cities and organizations alike to help them develop successful sustainability strategies, amplify their sustainability brand and communications efforts, and build mindset transforming digital tools. In their offices, we learned about some of the solutions to climate change and ocean degradation from the companies they are working with had an interesting discussion about the role of social media to amplify our stories. We learn more about how to use it effectively, how to share our knowledge with others and even more about

the importance of using different channels to get access to a wider audience with different age range.

After this very informative session private sector initiatives, we then visited "House of Green", a space funded by the Danish government that promotes the green sector in Denmark. There, we learnt many cool facts about what actions Copenhagen is taking to be a more sustainable and low carbon city. They had such amazing and mind-blowing infrastructures for climate mitigation. For example, the water in the port that is so clean than it can be used for the public to swim. To protect the city from flooding during intense rainfall, they have skate parks that collect water and act like a dam and later distribute the water around the city. I think Denmark is one of the top European countries leading by example when it comes to renewable energy. The decision was made to move away from fossil fuels for better energy security during the oil crisis in the 1970s. 42.7% of Denmark's energy mix



is from wind power and they want to be completely free from fossil fuel usage by 2050. It was also very interesting to discover how the people of this country are not resilient to paying high taxes because they see where their money is being invested as Denmark keeps building new infrastructure which the locals can benefit from and enjoy.

Since wind power is a very common way to produce energy in Denmark, the Ocean and Climate Youth Ambassadors visited a wind farm just off the coast of Copenhagen called Middelgrunden. It was one of the first windfarms, set up by a cooperative and symbolic of the move to renewable energy and lower carbon. It was the first time for me seeing a windfarm like this. At home in the Seychelles, we have wind turbines and they are found on land. I never thought that they could be built offshore. The offshore wind farms produce more energy compared to wind turbines on land,

however they are more expensive. We took a small boat from the port and few miles later we were in front of 100 meters tall turbines appearing to stand on the surface of the sea. They were huge, with 75 meters long propellers. We even got the opportunity to visit one wind turbine and even go inside. I was super amazed by how spacious it was! The Engineer, Julia that was guiding us explained how the turbine works. It was interesting getting to gain more knowledge about wind power and it was the perfect end for an amazing day full of new knowledge. For me, with all these interesting visits, Denmark was like visiting the future. We could see so many possible solutions to these pressing issues.

*The programme in Copenhagen was organized with the collaboration of DNV-GL and with the support of Sustainia, State of Green and Middlegrunden Cooperative.*



The group during the visit at the House of Green



Journalist Ralitsa Vassileva interviews the youth ambassadors for The Sustainian



# Bergen

## Norway from an Islander's Perspective



*By Manzel Ngirmeriil*



Yoyo Tuki from Small Island Big Song

**O**n June 30, the second group of Ocean and Climate Youth Ambassadors arrived in Bergen, Norway, very early in the morning. What an incredible city is Bergen! From the port, we could see the beauty it has to offer. We were met at the port by the United Nations Association of Bergen and started the day with an introduction to some local students, activists, and a young journalist who were going to take us to the local university.

Our journey walking from the port to the University was an eye-opener. We could engage in conversations that, in a short period of time, were captivating and informative. While talking to our Norwegian colleagues, it became evident that there was a great concern about climate change, ocean degradation, and how human action has been a great contributing factor to the problems we face today. I learned that the country of Norway, although a country that prides itself on being 100% reliant on renewable energy for its

own energy needs, its economy relies greatly on the exportation of fossil fuel. To me, I did not see this as a sustainable solution that takes us closer to achieving the UN Global Goals. I commend the Norwegians for the strides that they are making in the development of their own renewable energy sources, but exporting the problem is not the answer.

This is not to say that people in Norway are unaware. We were given the opportunity to listen and talk to some people at the University of Bergen, with whom we shared similar goals and aspirations about the SDGs, especially Climate Action and Life Below Water. It was refreshing to see the youth raising their voices for a sustainable future. Among the many interesting conversations, I heard one person say: “As long as there is a demand for fossil fuel and Norway sees to profit from it, it would be very hard to lobby towards the abolishment of the oil industry.” I felt like it was imperative to send a message that we, as global citizens, should work together towards a better world for everyone. It was clear that our respective experiences with climate change and ocean degradation were varied and very different. I noticed then that there was a great disconnect between countries in terms of economic standing and geographic locations.

As a citizen of a large ocean state, the consequences of climate change from unpredictable atmospheric weather pattern to the rising sea level are much magnified. Because the fishing industry in Norway comes second to its oil export, Norwegians are very aware of the effects that human action has on ocean degradation. We had the chance visit the Natural History Museum where they had an exhibition called the “Plasthval” or Plastic Whale. In this museum,

you can see the remains of a whale that had been stranded off the coast of Bergen because it was ailing. Later, it was discovered that the whale had ingested plastic bags and, as a result, had fallen ill. The contents (plastics) from its stomach were on display. Some of the plastics were very familiar as they were packaging for some very popular products. The Plastic Whale changed the discourse in Norway about marine plastics and made many more people aware. The exhibition was an opportunity for us to see a very effective in connecting individuals with the problems and the possibilities for solutions.

Through this platform, we were able to have an exchange in knowledge and hopefully an impact that would eventually become a catalyst for change. Later in the afternoon, we got lost in the streets of Bergen and experienced the beauty that the city had to offer. We hiked all the way to the top of the Fløyen and took in the city at sunset. The next day we sailed through the Fjords and we were just as mesmerized. The untouched beauty and the evidence of nature’s work do give you the feeling of oblivion. Yes, we may feel small at times but we must shift the paradigms in the way we live our lives. The Earth was here before humans, it has been here, and will go on with or without us. If we want to stretch the spec of an era that is the human existence on this earth, we must preserve, conserve, and protect what will maintain our very survival. Norway has contributed to a great deal of change in the transition to a sustainable future, but like the rest of us, we still have a long way to go.

*The programme in Bergen was organized in collaboration of the United Nations Association of Bergen and DNV GL.*



Participants in the programme at the University of Bergen



Jökulhlaup bera með sér  
gífurlegt magn af ísjökum og  
jökulruðningi sem verða eftir  
á flóðsléttunni.  
Jökulhlaups carry a large  
amount of icebergs and rock  
debris. These are left behind  
on flat plains.

# Reykjavik

## The land of Snow and Ice



By Sage Belgrave

**A**rriving in Iceland was a like a dream for me. I am island boy used to warm sun every day and greeted by the ocean spray but that day I woke up to frosty breath and a pinching feeling of cold that I've never felt before. I also was not prepared for this weather. Luckily for me, Peace Boat saved me by lending me a warm coat. The date was July 4, a day filled with both overwhelming knowledge and splendor.

We left the ship and scampered onto our bus which was our saviour from the cold. The Small Island Big Song group joined us for the first part of the day. We felt so grateful to be travelling amongst such unique, interesting, and talented musicians. The special thing about them as well, is that they are bringing the awareness of the effect of climate change on small islands across the world. Their purpose is very similar ours, the only difference is that they use music to communicate.

Driving through Iceland was amazing, seeing all the buildings and the greenery, the architecture of some of the buildings was quite intriguing. Our first

stop was at IÐNÓ, a restaurant, café and a cultural centre by the Pond in Reykjavik. There we met up with some people in the country who already had an awareness of the environment and were working towards spreading it amongst Icelanders including Lanvernd, Iceland's leading environmental NGO and the Young Environmentalists of Iceland. There was a range of individuals with a diverse set of backgrounds and of different age groups. The event was organized and facilitated by Andri Snaer Magnusson who is a renowned Icelandic author and environmental activist. He was the one who facilitated the event. With us were also three members of the recently established SDG Youth Council in Iceland who told us about the great work that is done to keep the youth environmentally aware. It was great to see youth from a developed nation so aware about the damage done to the environment by current governments worldwide and the need for change towards sustainability.

Later, we visited Perlan Museum to see an new exhibition the effects of global warming from an Iceland perspective. The museum which is aimed at locals and

visitors shows the geology and nature of Iceland and has a special exhibition about the impact of the melting glaciers. The museum included a manmade ice cave so visitors could see experiences inside a glacier and understand the importance of glaciers. The museum is very technologically based and therefore they had predictions of what the future will be like if we don't reduce our consumption of fossil fuels. It was predicted that the temperature of the Earth would keep rising over the years until there is basically no more ice. If this were to occur, the Earth would be so hot that it would be impossible to sustain human life. This really put a lot into perspective as coming from small islands, ice is not a part of our immediate reality, but we are directly experiencing the impacts of melting ice with rising sea levels. It was very meaningful for our group from small island states to connect with the glaciers. The exhibition showed how connected we all are on planet Earth and how important it is to reduce our carbon footprint to stop the ice melting.

We finished with a visit to the countryside. It was very beautiful and there were mountains and hot springs. These hot springs are used to power Iceland's geothermal power plants, an alternative to fossil fuel. Some of the hot springs had a pungent odour that I could never forget. I was such a tourist and decided to cross a sign that said no crossing just to get that Instagram photo. However, I was immediately scolded by my colleague from Palau who told me that I would not like if someone came to Barbados and endangered the biodiversity. This was a very pivotal moment for me personally because sometimes we get caught in the moment and don't think thoroughly before we do things and that was the whole point of this programme: to advocate for the awareness and protection of the environment. That is something that will stick with me on my journey and I will remember to think firstly about how my actions will affect my surroundings, just as I hope visitors to my home think about their impact on the surroundings.

Iceland was an amazing place to visit and we met many incredible people, saw beautiful scenery but most of all learnt so much about the global effect of our actions on climate change.

*The programme in Reykjavik was organized in collaboration with Andri Snaer Magnusson, with the Icelandic SDG Youth Council and the Perlan Museum.*



Andri Snaer Magnusson



With members of the Iceland Youth Council for the SDGs.



Inside the purpose built ice cave at Perlan Museum



# Halifax



*By Sherene Tan*

## Engaging with the local community

**T**he boat arrived in Halifax, Canada, on July 10. As we watched the boat pull into the dock in Halifax during breakfast, our excitement mounted. This was the fifth country in the long journey, and we couldn't wait to see what was in store for us.

The immigration process took up the rest of the morning, but our enthusiasm remained unabated. Our short walk to the Halifax Central Library after lunch was filled with laughter and amazement as we took in the sights, marveling at a little bazaar creatively set in recycled shipping containers and the charming architecture of the city. At the library, however, our group fell briefly into silence as we caught up hastily with our friends, family and the digital world with Wifi, sharing what we had learned so far online; we had aimed to reach there early for precisely that reason.

Our first session of the day was set in a simple function room. Our local partners this time were members of the Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) Energy and



Environment team. Alex Macdonald, our amicable host, gave a succinct presentation about what the HRM is doing for climate mitigation and climate adaptation, and I couldn't help but draw parallels between what Halifax and all the other countries we have visited are doing – encouraging corporate involvement, developing green technology and infrastructure, environmental conservation and climate change adaptation. The now so familiar feeling of hope I had felt throughout the voyage surged in me - the solutions to climate change are real and happening, and if they could do it, so can all of us.

Then the discussions began in earnest. The topics ran the gamut from transitioning away from fossil fuels and green tech to youth education. It was an absolutely insightful and engaging afternoon, as we all traded current and new ideas about climate action. The seminar ended on a high note with everyone enthusiastically chatting away and sincerely networking with one another.

There was a brief rest before our next seminar began – this time a public event hosted in conjunction with Greenpeace Halifax. The founders, who were youths just like us, entered the room with a tripod to stream the session live from a phone to engage a wider audience. I learnt later that Greenpeace Halifax had begun as a group of good friends who wanted to do something impactful for the environment. My admiration for their bravery and purpose soared, and I left the session wondering how I could do the same, deeply inspired to be a change maker just like them.

All kinds of people started coming into the room, and before long, the Ocean and Climate Youth group were up introducing ourselves again and sharing about our islands and experiences. The audience were very eager to hear from us about the reality in the Small Island States and how our communities were being affected.

Later, we broke into small groups for the Talanoa dialogues sessions, where we discussed many different topics related to climate action. For my group in particular, it was especially motivating. Our group was all-female, with two marine biologists from Oceana Canada as well as an activist, giving rise to an empowering conversation about women in environmental activism, our love for the ocean and our perseverance to save it. It was extraordinary how similar we were in our thoughts and conviction. We ended the session feeling so connected and lifted, it was very hard to believe we had all come from different countries.

At the end of the day, I was truly convinced that we all held the ability to deliver the solutions to climate change and ocean degradation. The ingredients were all there, the cake just waiting to be baked. Climate Action is undeniably an opportunity for all, not only as individuals, but also together as an entire human race. It can be done - it is only up to us to seize it the opportunities.

*The programme in Halifax was organized in collaboration with Halifax Regional Municipality and Greenpeace Halifax.*



you very much, your excellenc  
ords. We know you have to go



# New York

## A Promise for the Future



*By Genevieve Jiva*

**O**n July 12, we woke up to warm sunshine and the Manhattan skyline as we approached our final port, New York. Our activities over the past few weeks prepared us for this port, where we were ready to share our message of hope with the world. We spent the day preparing for our first event there, the inaugural Partnership Expo. It was held onboard Peace Boat's ship which was docked in Manhattan as part of the United Nations High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) organized in collaboration with UNDESA and UNOAC. The expo began by giving space to guests to meet and talk about potential partnerships before moving to the formal programme of presentations which was divided into three parts starting with an enthusiastic welcome from Peace Boat's founder and director, Yoshioka Tatsuya.

The Ocean and Climate Youth Ambassadors presented in the second session on Oceans, Climate

and Sustainability. It was both an honor and very intimidating being in the same session as the United Nations Secretary General's Special Envoy for the Oceans, H.E. Mr. Peter Thomson and former NASA Astronaut, Colonel Ron Garan and a video message from renowned oceanographer, Dr. Sylvia Earle. Our presentation began with a short video introduced by Manzel from Palau about our activities and learning experiences from when we began in Stockholm. We then heard a beautiful spoken word piece from Eve from Mauritius, our 'call to action' for all. We concluded with a statement which encompassed the message we wanted to share with the world, a message we had written together and one we expected would show that young leaders everywhere are working towards a better future which leaves no one behind. It was incredibly inspiring to see the support and encouragement from those attending the expo. We ended the night in high spirits, ready to speak the United Nations headquarters the next day.



The second day in New York, we woke up with mixed feelings knowing that when we stepped off Peace Boat that morning, we would not be re-boarding at the end of the day. The Ocean Dream was home for three weeks, an unforgettable experience with friends who became family, a space where we had all grown and learnt lessons we would keep with us forever. The first activity of the day was a Facebook live session with 'Global Goals for Sustainable Development'. Frances from Seychelles, Sage from Barbados and myself volunteered for this session as representatives from the Indian Ocean, Caribbean and Pacific Ocean. The Facebook live, held at the UN Headquarters, focused on the impacts of climate change impacts on our islands, how our governments are responding and how people can get involved. We believe everyone can help to address this issue, whether it's by changing to a more sustainable lifestyle, raising your voice, or supporting local groups working on oceans and climate change.

After this session, we joined the rest of the group to visit the offices of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) which is the headquarters for Ocean Action Hub to learn about their work in advocating for a healthy ocean. We agreed to sign up as volunteers on the Ocean Action Hub and so can you! Later, we returned to the UN to meet with the UN Youth Delegates from Europe including representatives from Belgium, Finland, Sweden, Ireland, Denmark and the Netherlands. The UN Youth Delegate Program aims to bridge the gap between the UN and youth, and advocate for greater youth participation at the UN. It was such an interesting exchange that we lost track of time and had to rush back to the Peace Boat office to get ready for the HLPF side event on Global Partnerships for Education, Youth Engagement and Sustainable Development.

This side event was organized by the Permanent Mission of Palau to the UN and Peace Boat, and focused on the role of youth, education and sustainable tourism in order to achieve the SDGs. We were fortunate to share

this platform with the founder and director of Peace Boat; the Permanent Representatives of Palau, H.E. Ms. Ngedikes Olai Uludong, of Fiji, H.E. Dr. Satyendra Prasad, of Trinidad & Tobago, H.E. Ms. Penelope Beckles and Seychelles, H.E. Mr. Ronny Jumeau; as well as representatives from the SDG Action Campaign and Kantar Public who all gave their perspectives on the topic. As a Fijian, I was pleased to hear Ambassador Prasad explicitly say that he had come to listen and learn from us. The Ocean and Climate Youth Ambassadors began by showcasing the video of our journey so far from Stockholm; then we had a chance to speak about different aspects of the programme, with each ambassador highlighting the importance of partnerships in achieving our goals. We spoke about the value of this opportunity, the connections we made, awareness through education, giving a voice to young people, the benefits of sustainable tourism, sharing knowledge in networks, and fighting for a better world. Our mandate was to inspire and we aim to do that not just through our words but more importantly, through our actions.

To us, New York was the end of the beginning. The beginning of a powerful journey of seven Blue Warriors on a mission for a more sustainable future. We will take the experiences from Peace Boat and turn them into actions as we begin a new chapter of our Ocean and Climate story. We hope you will join us in this fight.

*The programme in New York was organized in collaboration with the Permanent Mission of Palau to the UN, UNDP, SDG Action Campaign, the EU Youth delegates.*





# An onboard classroom

By Sherene Tan

**S**ailing from port to port, the excitement of our journey never ceased. We were thoroughly immersed in cross-cultural activities and destination experiences such as different festivals, all whilst making new friends with the passengers from so many different countries and backgrounds onboard the ship. We also had the opportunity to connect with the musicians from Small Island Big Song, an ensemble which specialized in captivating indigenous music from small islands. It was a truly unique and unforgettable experience. Of course, we had our own share of engagements as well. In a series of closed seminar sessions, we sat down and discussed many ideas. We were honoured to be joined by Adriana Valenzuela, Focal Point for Climate Education and Youth in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). She shared with us the history behind the UNFCCC. She also highlighted the connections between the SDGs to show us how the world had slowly pioneered the protection of the environment, and why the key to climate action was not confined to environmental conservation, but socio-economic and

political factors as well. As aspiring change makers, her lessons empowered us. Her words made us brave, her encouragement fortifying.

Later, as we sailed across the Arctic Ocean on choppy waves, we were further privileged with guest educators such as Nakayama Yumi, a seasoned field journalist who had been attached to multiple Arctic research expeditions, and Scott Ludman, an anti-nuclear activist, renewable energy advocate and former Senator in the Australian parliament. We also had a meaningful opportunity to meet the Hibakusha, (atomic bomb survivors), onboard Peace Boat. We also met and shared ideas with Kawasaki Akira, one of the steering group members of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), an organisation which was instrumental in the adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons at the UN last year for which they were awarded with the Nobel Peace Prize in 2017. The movement is an inspiring example of the power of campaigning and civil society action.





These closed sessions were always insightful, but above all, the seven of us shared and learnt most from one another in our self-hosted sessions. We were each different in terms of our background, but we all had an important perspective to bring to the table. Our cumulative knowledge demonstrated that climate change was not just an environmental issue, but a multi-faceted one, just as Adriana had taught us. And while the issues were numerous, we never lingered on them but delved instead into the solutions. We were arming each other with the most powerful “weapons”: the relevant knowledge and skills that would help drive climate action into a groundswell topic.

Apart from those fruitful sessions, we also held a series of presentations for the Peace Boat participants who were travelling onboard for the three month voyage. During these times, not only did we recount our personal experiences with environmental change but also regaled the audience with stories of our homes and cultures. We were also delighted to meet and engage with different groups of students travelling

on the ship, whose eagerness to know more about the world were infectious. The support and interest in our rally for change were overwhelming, and it demonstrated a keen public interest in the environment and the fight against climate change. Our activities culminated with a final event, whereby we summarised our thoughts and experiences gained from the voyage.

Those of us who are familiar with environmental degradation and climate issues frequently find our messages reverberating around the same echo chambers. But do the rest of the world know? With empowering initiatives such as this programme, I see the world becoming more and more acquainted with what is happening out there. I see the concern for our planet as theories and hypothesis prove to be reality, and the determination to learn how to reverse this change, in big and small ways. I see that resisting climate change isn't an incisive fight, but a slow but sure battle. And, perhaps most significantly, I see clearly now that we do have a chance to win.





# Songs from Small Islands

**F**our years ago, Australian music producer and filmmaker Tim Cole and Taiwanese travel-blogger Bao Bao Chen came up with an ambitious dream: a music project tracing the 5000-year-old roots of the indigenous Taiwanese seafarers who spread out through the waters around them. This project became known as “Small Island Big Song”, a collaborative music endeavour aimed at uniting musicians throughout the Pacific and Indian Oceans through a love of the sea, islands, and traditional cultures.

Peace Boat’s 98th Global Voyage was the second-time Cole and Chen brought their unique music onboard the Ocean Dream, Peace Boat’s vessel. On the 93rd Global Voyage, Peace Boat assisted them in their quest to recruit more musicians throughout the Pacific and Indian Oceans into their fledgling project. The ship carried them to Madagascar, where they connected them with more local musicians.

Cole and Chen have collaborated with dozens of artists for Small Island Big Song, five of which join them onboard the 98th voyage: Yoyo Tuki from Rapa Nui, Alena Ose Murang from Borneo, Sammy Andriamalalaharijaona from Madagascar, Charles Maimarosia from the Solomon Islands, and Ado Kaliting Pacidal from Taiwan. All of them are committed to preserving their cultural heritage by training in traditional instruments and styles of singing from their home regions. Other musicians

they have collaborated with also appeared at their live concert onboard, projected on screen as the group performed.

With many musicians arriving from small islands, there were many connections that were established with the Ocean and Climate Youth Ambassadors. During the voyage, the group shared different sessions about the problems that their different islands face. Sharing the musical and cultural heritage as part of the discussion about these issues highlights what potentially can be lost through climate change; whole civilizations rich in culture, history and knowledge on the small islands at risk. The musicians of Small Island Big Song also participated in some of the events that were organized in the ports as a part of the Peace Boat’s programme. In Bergen, the group shared their songs in an event organized at the local university. In Reykjavik, the group traveled with the youth ambassadors to participate and share their music in a session that was co-organized with the Icelandic writer Andri Snær Magnason.

After this performance in Iceland, the youth ambassadors and the musicians said goodbye as the musicians had to continue their tour in Europe while the ship began to sail towards North America. After a few intense days and many good shared moments, it became clear once again all the similarities that unite and equal us in the fight against climate change.

# Voices from the sea

## A voyage that changed my life

By Ryan Carl

**T**he stories of the Ocean and Climate Youth Ambassadors are among the most important in the world. When I boarded Peace Boat for the Ocean and Climate Youth Ambassadors Programme, I had very little knowledge about the effect climate change was having on Small Island Developing States around the world. For this reason, I knew it would be one of the most important stories of my career to capture and share. I, like many of my peers, have heard climate change is happening, but didn't know how to relate with the issue having never experienced it personally.

As a filmmaker who makes sense of the world through people and stories, I knew the only way I would ever learn about climate change and fully care to the extent of dedicating intentional action against its harmful effects, would be to know the stories of people who are experiencing it. I underestimated the extent to which that would become true and I am now forever changed.

Climate change is no longer just a term to me; it is nature's assault on the homelands of my island family. It is the evacuation of islands to sea level rise, the bleaching of corals, and the loss of wildlife to temperature increase and acidification. It's personal now. Now that I've heard the stories of these ambassadors, seen them grow, and heard them bravely give their speeches at the United Nations, I can't stand to see their islands disappear without a fight, and I hope the same will be true for you.



*Ryan Carl is a social impact filmmaker based in New York City. His focus is on creating films that educate and raise awareness about the Sustainable Development Goals. Ryan is passionate about using visual media as a tool to communicate important stories in the hopes of increasing understanding, empathy, and action from people around the world.*

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## Empowering for Climate Action

By Adriana Valenzuela

**C**limate change is a development issue which requires collective leadership and common responses. It represents one of the biggest challenges for humanity, but at the same time it opens up a unique opportunity for transformational change. The transition towards green, low-emissions and climate-resilient development requires a cultural change that promotes sustainable values, behaviours and lifestyles.

Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE) -the new name of Article 6 of the Climate Change Convention and Article 12 of the Paris Agreement- highlights the key role that education, training, public awareness, public access to information, public participation and international cooperation play to mobilize climate solutions.

Young people are central to the implementation of the Paris Climate Change Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals not only because they represent a significant part of the world's population, but especially because they are agents of change. Youth need to be aware about the causes and consequences of climate change and how they can be part of the solution in their communities. I believe if young people are empowered, they can lead transformational change in their communities.

Training programmes which promote peer to peer education and experiential learning are crucial for enabling youth to develop knowledge, skills and competences needed for sustainable development. It has been an honour to be a trainer for the Ocean and Climate Youth Ambassadors Programme in 2018. During the trip, youth leaders from small island states learnt, exchanged and become empowered to take climate action. I was inspired by Jenny, Matt, Jake, Eve, Sherene, Frances and Sage. Their ideas, energy and passion have demonstrated that youth are not the leaders of tomorrow, but the leaders of today! Thank you, Peace Boat and its team for creating this unique multicultural learning platform!



*Adriana Valenzuela is the Focal Point for Education and Youth at the United Nations Climate Change secretariat in Bonn, Germany. Within the Global Climate Action (GCA), she leads Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE) team. Adriana has extensive experience in working with the UN system, government agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and youth organizations on education, sustainable development and climate change issues. She was born in Bogotá, Colombia. She received a bachelor's degree in social communication, and also has taken MSc studies in sustainable development and climate change.*

# The power of partnerships

The Ocean and Climate Youth Ambassador Programme culminated in a side event at the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) organized by the Permanent Mission of Palau to the United Nations. It was part of the Partnership Exchange which focused on Goal 17 of the SDGs: “Partnerships for the Goals”. A programme like the Ocean and Climate Youth Ambassadors, is only possible through the collaboration and support of many partners around the world. All the youth ambassadors were able to join the programme thanks to the support of different entities, networks and organizations, whether through institutional support including for visas and logistics or financial support. At the same time, the programmes, activities and events which took place in the ports visited were all co-organized with local partners with a shared commitment to SDG 13 and 14.

This program would not have been possible without the support of: UN Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Palau National Government, the Permanent Mission of Palau to the United Nations, the Palau National Marine Sanctuary, the Palau Pledge, the Embassy of Timor Leste to Indonesia, Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change in the Seychelles,



Top photo: Frode Eriksen from DNV GL  
Bottom photo: The Global Challenge Foundation Team



Joachim Christensen from Sustainia



European UN Youth Delegates

the Permanent Mission of the Seychelles to the United Nations, Climates in Australia, UNDP Timor-Leste, ANPRAS in Mauritius, Global Challenges Foundation, Stockholm Resilience Center and Race for the Baltic in Sweden, Sustainia, DNV-GL, State of Green, Mundelgrunden Cooperative, United Nations Association of Norway, University of Bergen, Regional Municipality of Halifax, Greenpeace Halifax, Ocean Action Hub, the UN Youth Delegates and the Global Goals SDG Action Studio.

An example of this type of collaboration was the role that the UNDP Timor-Leste had in the participation of Jake Lassi, funding his travel expenses from from Dili to Stockholm and from New York back to Timor-Leste. Their support was key to Jake obtaining all the necessary visas to participate in the programme.

Collaboration and partnerships of different organizations is key when the youth ambassadors return to their countries. Local governments and organisations reported on the programme including in newspapers and organizing events. For example in the case of Jake Lasi of Timor Leste, UNDP organized an event where the young Peace Boat ambassador could share his experience with other youth in his country. The following is an article featured on the UNDP Timor Leste website about that event.

# Promoting peace through biodiversity conservation

**O**n August 2018, SDG Ambassador for Climate Change and Ocean Jake Lasi presented an inspirational talk 'Promoting Peace through Biodiversity Conservation in Timor-Leste'. The talk followed Jake's participation in the Peace Boat Ocean and Climate Youth Ambassador Programme, ending in New York in July 2018 during the High-Level Political Forum. Jake was selected as one of two representatives from Southeast Asia to represent Timor-Leste in this programme.

National Director for Biodiversity of the Secretary of State for Environment Mr. Rui Pires in his opening remarks congratulated Jake for his passion to support biodiversity conservation in Timor-Leste. He highlighted that Jake is embarking upon a critical role of being a leader for change at a critical time. Director Rui also underlined the importance of all Timorese citizens, particularly the youth, to take a lead in protecting and conserving the environment.

Meanwhile, UN Resident Coordinator a.i, Mr Ronny Lindstrom reinforced the potential for partnerships to encourage and strengthen climate action. He said "It is important to hear Jake's story and to reinforce to the world Timor-Leste's current action for sustainable development. It is equally important for the youth to be at the forefront of achieving the SDGs, and vital for them to go overseas and be able to share their experiences.

Jake's talk highlighted the importance of collaborative action for climate change. In his speech, Jake explained the various locations that he visited during the 17-day voyage. He described the critical relationship between ocean and climate and reinforced the necessity of Government policy, international agencies and the broader public to address climate change and promote sustainability.

At the High-Level Political Forum for Sustainable Development in New York, Jake learnt that Timor-Leste has a unique and beautiful nature which must be quickly protected and conserved as it has potential for tourism. "I felt like I am left behind", Jake said when he arrived in New York. He added that "Youth should take more roles in advocacy to promote and protect biodiversity – both land and sea life."

During question and answers, Jake responded to questions relating to his plans for environmental conservation in Timor-Leste. "My dream is to have a Turtle Island in Timor-Leste and establish a Sea Scout organization to protect marine lives", he said. Jake also highlighted that ocean policy is crucial for countries to share responsibilities for conservation. Jake's responses reinforce the Government's plan to reduce plastic waste to zero in Timor-Leste.

Mr. Samuel Soares, Policy Officer and representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation also congratulated Jake, describing him as a 'model and inspiration for all youth.' 'We are proud to support the process to send Jake Lasi to talk about Timorese aspirations at global forums, as through these forums we can learn what youth in other countries are doing to develop their communities."

In closing remarks, Mr. Pires noted that Timor-Leste has been performing well and is becoming a leading country for many global initiatives and forums. However, more still needs to be done. The Government of Timor-Leste, through the Secretary of State for Environment is keen to support youth programs related to environment, climate change and ocean, including Jake's plan. Jake's inspirational talk reinforces the potential for youth development and the importance of promoting climate change action in Timor-Leste.



# The future of the programme



**T**he Ocean and Climate Youth Ambassadors Programme is part of Peace Boat's work towards the SDGs. The programme was established in 2017 and has taken place twice to date. Peace Boat will continue and expand the programme to raise awareness of the issues and to provide capacity building to youth from AOSIS countries and other nations. Peace Boat is seeking further partnerships for the programme, including partners in ports committed to the SDGs and action for the climate and oceans.

Peace Boat's long-term commitment to ocean and climate action is further expressed in its undertaking to build Ecoship, the world's most sustainable cruise ship, as a flagship for the SDGs and climate action. Ecoship is a transformative solution to protect the oceans, promote higher engagement and trigger creative actions through sustainable tourism and education. It will sail four times around the world yearly, visiting communities on the front line of climate change and ocean degradation, and provide a platform for partnership between civil society, the scientific community, the private sector and governments, including cities and regions. The ship will lead the way in sustainable maritime transport, mitigating climate-change related impacts on the ocean, including ocean acidification, through a 40% CO2 reduction and a zero-emission target in ports. This will be achieved through a combination of energy efficiency in propulsion and accommodation and maximizing the use of renewable energies through its solar and wind power installations. Ecoship will be the future platform for the Ocean and Climate Youth Ambassadors Programme.

Ecoship is the result of cross-sector multi-stakeholder partnerships. The key partners are Peace Boat, an NGO with Consultative Status with UN ECOSOC, in partnership with the UN SDG Action Campaign and affiliated with the UNDP; and Japan Grace, the travel agency which coordinates Peace Boat's current global and regional voyages through a social business model. A global group of distinguished experts from fields including climate action, sustainability and renewable energy are providing advice to the Ecoship as official supporters, including Dr. Sylvia Earle, National Geographic Explorer in Residence and Founder of Mission Blue, Ms. Christiana Figueres, UNFCCC Executive during the Paris Agreement and Mission2020 Convenor and Dr. Amory Lovins, co-founder and Chief Scientist, Rocky Mountain Institute.

## SUPPORTERS



*"Peace Boat is addressing the biggest problem of all: the lack of awareness of why the ocean matters"*

**Sylvia Earle**  
National Geographic Explorer in Residence and founder of Mission Blue



*"Delighted to see the progress of the Ecoship, a visionary project for the advancement of maritime transportation."*

**Christiana Figueres**  
Mission2020 Convenor



*"An exciting vision of a ship that fits the needs, and inspires the people, of the planet it travels."*

**Amory Lovins**  
Co-founder and Chief Scientist, Rocky Mountain Institute

# Ocean and Climate Youth Ambassadors' Message to the World

**O**n June 25th, 7 young people from 7 different large ocean states met in Stockholm to embark on a journey in search for a sustainable world.

We searched through the narrow streets of Stockholm, at wind turbines in Copenhagen, at a whale museum in Bergen, through the fjords of Norway, at the geothermal hot springs of Reykjavik, on the rough seas of the Arctic Circle, at the library at Halifax, through Talanoa Dialogues, guest speakers, presentations, song and dance. We searched through celebrations of culture, diversity, language and identity and we have found cause for sadness and cause for hope.

There are those who ask why we continuously talk about impacts, why we use confrontational language. Shouldn't we only focus on solutions? Are we counterproductive?

There are many things in this world which are counterproductive:

-Suppressing and ignoring climate science is counterproductive

-Promoting your country as climate friendly while exporting coal and oil is counterproductive

-Burning fossil fuels while renewable energy is available and increasingly cost effective is counterproductive

And we will hold those who are responsible to account.

But us, standing here, raising our voices, sharing our stories is not counterproductive. We are not just faces, we are building a better future. But we believe that you cannot look to the future without learning from the past. And we have much to learn. We are learning everyday as we research, clean up, march, advocate, write, share, paint, plant, and we will win this fight.

But not alone. We need warriors ready to fight with us, ready to fight for those who will come after. We need champions like Peace Boat who have given us this platform to share our realities with the world. They are giving a voice to young people and that is where the transition to a more sustainable world begins. Where do you stand? Will you be a warrior or a spectator?

We are warriors, and this is our goal: we see a world powered by renewable energy, we see expanses of forests, and thriving corals. We see our islands surrounded by a healthy ocean, we see all countries benefiting from clean air and gentle sun. We hope you see it too.



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Watch a short film about the programme in *vimeo*

