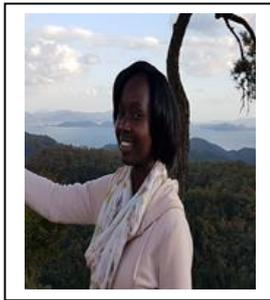


REPORT – 2018 SICOGA CONFERENCE AND GA Servas international

Wednesday 10th – Saturday 20th October 2018 Seoul – South Korea By

Tayezzi Chinthu Banda aged 20yrs - Servas Malawi Youth Representative



The pre-conference youth meeting

The youth volunteers for the SICOGA conference arrived in Korea three days before the conference. In these three days, the team of youth volunteers had the chance of being briefed about how the whole conference will be conducted. Everyone was allocated tasks and were grouped in their subject working groups. This arrangement allowed the youths to get to know each other better and make friends. The team was effectively led by Raffaella, Susana, Penny and Ann.



THE PROGRAM - KEY GOALS

1. To experience the servas Traveler Experience in South Korea, thus gaining an understanding of South Korea People, its culture and history.

The youth volunteering team (the youth team was allocated a few tasks to do during the entire main conference and general assembly) This group was successfully led by two wonderful women: Raffaele and Susana from Italy. They organized, led and controlled the entire youth program together with Ann Greenhough.

CONFERENCE - KEY GOALS.

1. holding elections of new members of the Executive committee
2. Making amendments to the previous motions and bringing in new ones
3. Developing subject working groups for different Servas projects for smooth running of the organization
4. And finally creating an environment to encourage interaction through fun activities, making friends and building

JOBS TO DO - Fast!

- ✓ Get visa via colleague in Zimbabwe.
- ✓ Get some US \$ for travel in Korea.
- ✓ Locate a Servas Malawi t-shirt to take.
- ✓ Make Chitenji Gift Pens with Demelza,
- ✓ x1 Copy of our Peace songs CD. ✓ Visit Malawi Tourism to pick up posters tourist information. ✓ Gifts for hosts. ✓ LOI+stamp?

I knew I had the visa but it actually didn't arrive until the Saturday before I left Malawi. It got me parents a bit nervous, but Demelza and my parents encouraged me and gave me the moral I needed. Leaving at the airport was emotional, my mom and Franka escorted me to the

terminal. I crosschecked that I had everything I needed and said my goodbyes.

Communication: Ann, Demelza Susana and Rafaella

**TRAVEL OFTEN
GETTING LOST WILL
HELP YOU FIND YOURSELF.**

Travel and Arrival:

I flew from Chileka airport – Blantyre to Or Tambo- South Africa, where I connected a flight to Addis Ababa-Ethiopia. Had a final connection to Incheon International Airport in South Korea. I was warmly received by Ann greenhough and her Husband. Using the train, they escorted me to the guest house where the rest of the volunteering youth were to meet. I was greatly honored. That same evening, I made friends, which made my first day in South Korea very welcome and fun Upon every one's arrival, the entire youth group conducted a pre-conference meeting. In this meeting, all individuals were given to explain about their Servas national groups. The team was also briefed about what the main conference will be like and what our roles will be.

SICOGA VOLUTEER YOUTH

✓ACTIVITIES☺

- Typing notes
- Translating conference proceedings from English to Spanish
- Collecting information and producing daily news letters
- Making the speakers list during the general assembly
- Passing the micro-phone during the general assembly
- Helping in the distribution and counting of the voting slips during the elections.
- Making presentations about different country groups and the different working groups.

- Enforcing time management among the delegates to ensure that all activities go according to plan



I believe the conference was a good experience for all. To the extent that departing on the final day really brought a somber atmosphere in the international youth center in Seoul. Motions were passed, others amended, experiences were gained, Friends were made, connections created. It was a gigantic family of different nations that created memories to remember forever



Time	Sat 13 Oct (Arrivals)	14 Sun Oct Day-1	15 Mon Oct Day-2	16 Tues Oct Day-3	17 wed Oct Day-4	18 Thurs Oct Day-5	19 Fri Oct Day-6	20 Sat Oct Day-7
8:30 am		Youth meeting report and official opening introduction	Group presentations	Session mandatory for delegates	Excursion	General Assembly (Elections)	General Assembly (Budget Motions)	General Assembly (finishing Touches)
10:15am		The youth where split to 4 different presentations	Youth development and making connections	General Assembly	The unity Bridge and the .Freedom Bridge	General Assembly (Training)	General Assembly (Budget Motions)	Official closing
12:30pm	The youth team arrived to the international youth center from the guest house.	The youth where split to 4 different presentations	Subject working Groups (swg) Sessions	General Assembly	The third tunnel	General Assembly (Elections)	Discussions	
15:30pm	Registration, meeting and greeting.	The youth where split to 4 different presentations	Subject working Groups (swg) Sessions	General Assembly	The Eurasia Rail line	General Assembly (Budget)	Discussions	
17:19pm	Opening ceremony							
19:00pm	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner			Dinner		

PERSONAL VIEWS AND EXPERIENCES

Challenges & Difficulties

My Experience

Challenges & Difficulties

- applying for a visa in relation to the timeframe of the visa validity and air ticket price
 - Trying to get a reasonable priced and timed air-ticket 2 ½ weeks (last minute)
- travelling alone for the first time was a bit of a challenge. I made it never the less, which was awesome
- the volunteering work was a bit hectic considering I was also involved with writing and editing the newsletters. Which was something I did alongside Boggy and Demelza.
- there were times that three people would allocate me something to do at the same time. I had no problem with the work, just that it sometimes all came at the same time. This made me sleep at late.

Rewards & Joys

Organization: The Korean team, Organizing Team and the EXCO did a tremendous job organizing the entire conference. The whole thing was more than I expected. And I expected so much.

-Hosting: The Servas Korea made the entire conference participants feel at home. They made sure all was in place organized the grand opening ceremony, a perfect Excursion day and a good variety

-sponsorship: I was very, very honored to be sponsored to attend and volunteer at the conference. To this very day I feel so blessed to have been given the chance that comes once in a lifetime.

The conference gave me a good experience, that will carry so much weight in my academic and professional (in the coming future) life.



The Daily News Letter Team

Summary:

I am so so so pleased I came and it has recharged my excitement for peace as I got the true meaning of what Servas is about (I attended the "Bob's Legacy grouping"). It was busy and it was also relaxing and fun. I enjoyed spending time with my new friends. I would most importantly like to express my gratitude to an energetic age rich woman (Demelza Benbow), who has been as good to me as she organized my trip for the conference and also my SYLE program in Korea. Together with Ann and Amir, they have been nothing but patient, guiding and wonderful to me. I am also grateful to General Alliance Limited co. for sponsoring my health and travel insurance which were vital to obtain a visa. My gratitude also extends to Susana and Raffaele, who guided me through what was needed to be done and made me feel accepted in the youth group. The conference has been an eye opener to new and better possibilities as an organization and as individuals. Possibilities to extend peace and create a network of hostmanship. And most importantly, it has made the involvement of youth vibrant, so as to learn and take over responsibility, for the organizations prolonged Zikomo Exco OT and Servas Korea

Zikomo Servas Korea! Brilliant!



"Strangers are just friends waiting to happen"
(Rod McKuen)

