
Profiles of Participants

Ocean and Climate Youth Ambassador Programme

September 21– October 16 2017
onboard Peace Boat's 95th Global Voyage for Peace and Sustainability

Pacific Ocean

Kya Lal (25) - Fiji

Kya has spent the last decade working as a climate change advocate, activist and academic. Academically, Kya holds a bachelor's degree in Pacific studies, and both a bachelor's and master's degree in environmental law. Her master's research focused on the legal impacts and implications of climate change in the Pacific. For the last five years she has used academic conferences and writing as a means to raise awareness of the impacts of climate change in the Pacific. As an advocate and activist, Kya's interest in climate change law has seen her taking part in COP20, COP21 and COP22, and she is setting her sights on Bonn for COP23. Kya spends her days as a barrister in Fiji and has previously worked on climate issues with the Aotearoa Youth Leadership Institute, the New Zealand Youth Delegation, the New Zealand Centre for Environmental Law, the Low Carbon Research Project and as a writer for the The Verb.



Selina Leem (19) - Marshall Islands

Until she was 16 and moved to Germany to school at UWC Robert Bosch College where she recently graduated from, Selina spent her entire life on her home atoll, Majuro. Representing the Marshall Islands, Selina was the youngest delegate at the COP21 in Paris. During the closing remarks, then Marshall Islands Foreign Minister Tony deBrum gave her the opportunity to give the final statement, she said the Paris agreement, "should be the turning point in our story; a turning point for all of us." Last year, she shared the stage at the Skoll World Forum in Oxford, England with former US Vice-President Al Gore and former President of Ireland, Mary Robinson. Selina has given interviews, written articles, poems, and given spoken word performances about the situation in her country. She is personally connected to climate change and has made it her duty to be an advocate and hopes to continue to grow as an advocate.



Matea Nauto (23) - Kiribati

Matea is an Assistant Secretary at the Kiribati Ministry of Foreign Affairs and an active member of the Kiribati Climate Action Network. His first formal engagement with youth and environmental advocacy work was in 2013, when he attended the UN-SIDS youth preparatory meeting held in Nadi, Fiji as Kiribati's youth representative. He has participated in a number of regional and international youth and environmental summits and conferences, and is a member of the Pacific Youth Environment Network and an Ambassador of One Young World, after having attended the 2013 Summit in Johannesburg, South Africa. Matea obtained his bachelors in aviation management in New Zealand. He enjoys reading non-fiction and writing poems and is looking forward to meeting new people.



Indian Ocean

Ashwa Faheem (26) - Maldives

Ashwa is a photojournalist and travel photographer from the Maldives, the lowest lying country in the world, and so one of the first communities-among several other island nations likely to relocate because of sea level rise. Raised in Male' city, she studied photography at Segi College in Malaysia before going on to acquire her Master's degree at De Montfort in Leicester, United Kingdom. During her diverse seven-year career she has travelled to more than 30 islands in the Maldives to document the impact of climate change and ocean degradation in the Maldives. She believes that photography can act as a tool to expose the consequences that communities are already facing today because of climate change. She was the recipient of the national 'WOB Distinction and Award For Best Young Woman Professional in 2016'. She is currently on assignment with UNDP to document communities living in the island nation.



Shafira Charlette (21) - Seychelles

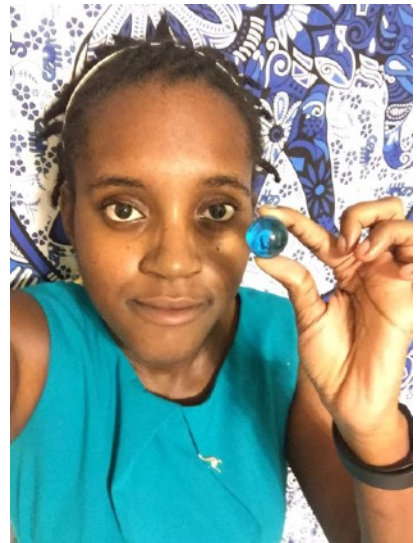
Shafira is an environmental activist with a big passion for the environment, oceans and animal welfare. She enjoys volunteerism and is a member of numerous non-governmental organizations in her country, encouraging young people to engage in environmental and youth activities. She is the Treasurer of SIDS Youth AIMS Hub (SYAH-Seychelles), the Seychelles Chapter of a regional network of young people on SIDS promoting and advancing youth-led sustainable development projects. She has successfully campaigned and lobbied for the "Seychelles Free from Plastic Bag Campaign" and taken part in 'Academy by the Sea" Programme project of Marine Conservation Society Seychelles (MCSS). Shafira currently works as an Accounts Supervisor and is studying for her accounting degree on a self-study basis. She has her own Graphics Design and Photography start-up business, Simple Creativity and uses her skills to make brochures, posters, flyers for climate and ocean advocacy.



Caribbean

La Tisha Parkinson (22) - Trinidad & Tobago

La Tisha, from Trinidad and Tobago, is a recent graduate in with a major in Biology and minor in Environmental Natural Resource Management from the University of the West Indies, St Augustine. The Caribbean Youth Environment Network Trinidad and Tobago Chapter lit the fire of advocacy in her heart three years ago and it has been burning ever since. As a member of the World Oceans Day Youth Advisory Council, she took part in the United Nations Ocean Conference as well as the Sea Youth Rise Up Mixer, and the Ocean Festival in New York earlier this year. She has been writing poetry for over a decade, both non-fiction and fiction prose, and contributes to various blogs on ocean health. La Tisha's volunteer activities allow her to combine her passions for the oceans, research, writing, and communicating with the public.



Zana Kristen Wade (22) - Belize

Zana is a Belizean whose passion lies primarily in communications with emphasis on the SDGs. Graduating from the University of Belize, her background is in Natural Resource Management. In 2016 she was the first to represent her country at the World Merit's Merit360 program. She and 22 other change makers from around the world created The Climate Express, an initiative to help vulnerable communities across the world fight the growing pressures of Climate Change. It was presented to the United Nations in New York in September 2016. Zana now works as a communications consultant under the Biodiversity Finance Initiative - BIOFIN which is managed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in partnership with the European Union and the governments of Germany and Switzerland. She has her own business Meraki MAD Agency and seeks to contribute towards the growth of a community for job satisfaction and sustainable development.

