

# Learning to Walk in Their Shoes: The Global Migrant Crisis

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH MEDIA SUMMIT

July 27-August 9, Sydney Australia



## -SUMMARY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS-

*“I came to realize that I am not alone, that there is this huge world full of people with passion and fires raging in their heart to do something, and that together we can do anything. We are powerful when united.” 2018 IYMS delegate*



In 2018, the International Youth Media Summit returned to Sydney, Australia, site of the 2<sup>nd</sup> IYMS in 2007. The Newton Armory at Sydney Olympic Park provided a spectacular setting for this gathering of 61 delegates from 23 countries. Mini-summits were held in Los Angeles, USA and Kathmandu, Nepal during the summer, involving another 30 young people. Even before the Sydney Summit had ended, ambitious plans were in place to continue building bridges across cultures, creating a world-wide family without borders.

The IYMS 2018 theme, **“Learning to Walk in Their Shoes: The Global Migrant Crisis”** was highlighted at our opening ceremony by our keynote speaker, **Alexandra Tselious**, who spoke of the media’s coverage on the migrant crisis and the ability of responsible citizen journalists to cut through the clutter of social media. The power of media to report the truth and open people’s hearts to the suffering of others was brilliantly demonstrated in **Mashhour Mohammad’s film “Transit”** which introduced us to heartbreaking stories of Syrian families seeking shelter in Europe.



*Alexandra Tselious is founder and CEO of The Big Smoke, an online “Capital city” for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.*

## The Seven Issues

**Violence-Poverty-Discrimination-Environment-Health-Women’s Rights-Youth Empowerment**

At the heart of the work of IYMS are seven issues that impact both the daily lives of everyone on the planet, as well as their future. For two weeks, the delegates explored the power and impact of media to transform attitudes, behaviors and lives. They created media projects that confronted global problems and explored solutions around these seven issues.



## IYMS 2018 - Visitors Who Inspired

*“The Summit has motivated me to go out there and make a change... to not fear the obstacles... because if all the amazing guest speakers that have enlightened me could do it, then why can't I?”*

IYMS gathered experts on all seven of our social issues to speak to the assembled delegates. They then met with the individual issue groups. They discussed the challenges they have faced, and the solutions they have found, to help the filmmakers develop story ideas.



*Yatha Jain and Innara Jindan, Poverty Mentors*

**Jill Moran** spoke about her work as a project coordinator at Health Care Consumer Association. **Yatha Jain** and **Innara Jindan** from Australia's NSW Council Of Social Service presented the work they are doing with families living in poverty. **Katie Acheson**, chief executive of Youth Action, talked of ways to support, engage and value youth. **Tina Hsu**, of the Sydney Olympic Park Authority, introduced us to the flora and fauna, as well as the environmental challenges within the Park. **Maria Tran** shared her work as a filmmaker advancing women's rights through media.

**Michal Lazar**, IYMS 2018 advisor, shared the program she has developed for negotiating to diffuse potential violent situations in Israel. **Desh Amila**, founder of the Dreamer's Foundation, spoke about the discrimination he faced when first arriving in Australia. **His Excellency Mr. Lal Wicrematunge**, Consul-General of Sri Lanka in Sydney, spoke about media and diplomacy from his own personal experiences.



*Desh Amila getting the delegates on their feet.*



*Susan Vize of UNESCO Bangkok Office with UNESCO & UNFPA Delegates*

**Tara Taubenschlag**, from The Hands of Rescue shared a moving documentary about Dr Barry Kirby and his work to reduce maternal deaths and improve women's health in New Guinea. **Dr. Susan Vize**, UNESCO Regional Advisor for Social & Human Services for Asia-Pacific was responsible for bringing three UNESCO delegates and four UNFPA delegates to the Summit in Sydney. She spoke movingly about the migrant crisis at the Closing Ceremony.

## IYMS 2018

### A Funny Thing Happens on the Way to Making a Film...

*“The Summit has shown me that filmmaking is such a powerful tool and can be used to create positive change in our society.”*



The delegates spent two weeks together, immersed in their mission; to create powerful short movies on the seven issues, film their declarations for action, and create workshop guides to accompany the films. Ice breakers provided bonding, and then delegates broke into issue groups to share their research projects. Through planning, filming and editing, crews navigated different cultures and artistic sensibilities.

The exciting final products reflected the delegates' dedication to their mission, as well as each other.

*“When you're around these people day in, day out you get to know them, you know their passions, their inspirations, their dreams. It all comes together and it forms this unbreakable bond.”*



*“I knew that everyone came out of that event changed some way or the other, because I was. I felt as if I was reborn. I had this new outlook on life.”*



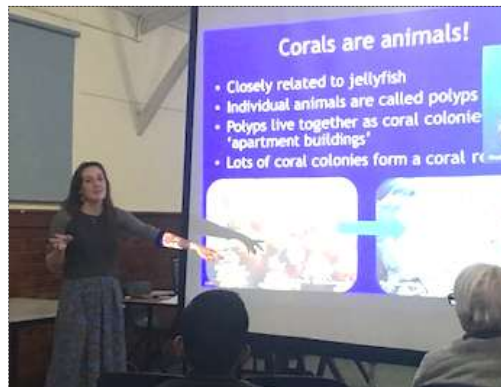
## IYMS 2018: Sharing their Work – Inspiring Others

*“I loved the people, the other delegates, they were all such amazing people and so inspiring with their stories, I've never met better people in my life.”*

At the heart of IYMS is the idea that **passionate and well-crafted media can inspire change in others**. Our delegates produced work at home and brought it to share in Sydney. It was work designed to wake people up, shake them to their core, compel them to put on their walking shoes and take action. And all that happened before the lights came up!



*Adama Lee (The Gambia)*

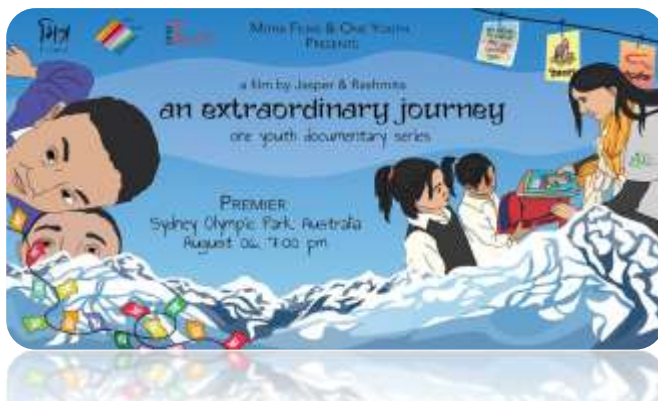


*Natalie Isaac (Australia)*



*AJ (Myanmar) & Manisakhone (Laos)*

The 2018 Summit saw the premiere of the documentary, **“An Extraordinary Journey”**, about the efforts of One Youth in Nepal to bring computers and books to remote classrooms in the Himalyas. Since presenting the work of One Youth at the 2017 Summit, founders Rashmita and Jasper have found tremendous support from the IYMS community.



### **Presentations included films on the following subjects:**

➤ Sri Lanka Unites: initiatives for Youth Empowerment programs in post-war **Sri Lanka** (Joseph – above right) ➤ The conservation of indigenous culture in **Taiwan** ➤ Practices in **Nepal** of isolating menstruating women ➤ The **Rohingya** Crisis ➤ The effects of the civil war in **Myanmar** on the family of a rebel ➤ The right to work ➤ Honor killings in **Pakistan** ➤ Environment & discrimination – attitudes of young **Italians** ➤ Threats facing the **Great Barrier Reef** ➤ The practice of female genital mutilation, and what is being done about it ➤ The realities of human trafficking in **Laos** ➤ The treatment of **Afghan refugees in Sweden** ➤ Sexual education in **Mongolia** ➤ A future training center for IYMS in **Italy** ➤ The negative effect of technology on individuals in our society ➤ The **Los Angeles** satellite Summit ➤ A Day in the Life – IYMS 2017-18 “Between the Summits” Project.

## IYMS 2018: Launching Transformative Projects

*“The Summit inspired me to bring the IYMS spirit of change and improvement into my everyday life. I am eager to see how strong, how powerful, how beautiful IYMS will be.”*

### **The IYMS (Audacious, Ambitious, Courageous) Goals for the Next Five Years:**

- Putting cameras in the hands of more young people, especially in the developing world, and train them to be effective storytellers whose voices cannot be denied.
- Set up at least one Regional Center in every continent to generate year-round activities.
- Hire more young adults to run these Centers and travel within the region, give workshops and host mini-Summits.
- Within five years, reach 10,000 people annually.

### **IYMS Will Achieve This By:**

- Continuing our work with UNESCO, UNFPA and other UN Agencies
- Finding sponsors and benefactors who will donate annually
- Bringing the IYMS summer event to new continents, new countries.
- Developing high quality longer films that will give “legs” to the IYMS brand.

### **Hitting the ground running:**

The combined energy of so many visionary people at IYMS 2018 in Sydney led to an ever-expanding feast of creative thought. Before planes even left the ground carrying delegates home, these plans were in place:

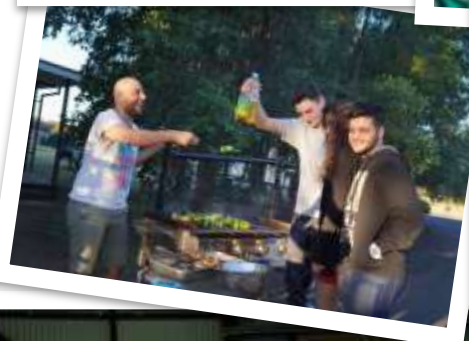
- Establish the IYMS Asian Regional Center in Kathmandu, Nepal
- Hire Sapan Hamal as IYMS’s first Executive Director
- Establish an IYMS-Nepal NGO as a subsidiary of IYMS
- Host the 2019 IYMS in Pokhara, Nepal
- Develop an African Regional Center with three connecting points; Egypt, The Gambia, Zambia
- Dr. Susan Vize met with UNESCO executives at HQ in Paris and received positive encouragement to expand UNESCO’s involvement with IYMS in the coming years
- A mini-Summit in Myanmar from October 1-7, 2018, led by 2018 delegate Aye Nilar Kyaw and IYMS E.D. Sapan Hamal.



## Passion ~ Joy ~ Friendships

*"It's more than friends. It's family." 2018 IYMS delegate*

Sharing inspiring, meaningful work that will transform society is only half of the mission of IYMS. Equally important is the creation of an international family, bound together by love and friendship. That is why fun was an essential part of IYMS 2018!



## LINKS TO IYMS 2018

For the IYMS 2018 Movies, visit our IYMS YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1x3TxN4pcSjYKRPwz3JXRg/videos>

IYMS Website: [www.iyms.org](http://www.iyms.org)

IYMS Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/iyms.org/>

### AND FINALLY...

*“This Summit truly is magical and an absolute blessing. Keep bringing all these amazing people together and enlightening them with so much inspiration and knowledge – it will seriously change the world!”*



Thank you for sharing in that magic!

### THE IYMS FAMILY