

# Ms. Anne Sushmita Parayil



I was born in Hong Kong, where my father was working as a professor, but shortly after I was born my family and I moved to Singapore. After spending 4 years there, we moved to Oslo, Norway, which, obviously was a big change from living in a tropical city-state. Thereafter, another 4 years my dad got a job in Tokyo, Japan where we spent 6 years. Thus identifying where exactly I am "from" is quite difficult to explain. My mother is from the Philippines and my father is from India; however, I can't speak my parent's languages. Other than visiting India and the Philippines, I haven't lived in either country. I have been lucky enough to have lived in five different countries, however this makes it hard to pin point one specific place that can I call "home."

Having lived in so many places, I've been very fortunate to have met so many people from different places and cultures around the world. In addition, I have been introduced to speaking new languages like Norwegian, Japanese and French. In my 6 years in Japan, one of my most memorable experiences was bearing witness to the March 11 Tohoku earthquake and tsunami. I attended a British School, but we had a good cultural program that I was able to admire elements of Japanese society and culture.

Recently, in 2014 my family and I have embarked on a new journey in Southern California. As a youth ambassador, my goal is to gain more of an understanding of the world and to be able to apply my knowledge to help benefit our society.