

FINAL REPORT OF THE EU-CHINA EXCHANGE PROGRAM

Berlin – Beijing

2015



Rebecca Freitag | BUNDjugend Berlin

2nd September - 2nd October in Beijing

Echo Zheng Xiaowen | CYCAN

27th October~13th December in Berlin and Paris

1. Exchange Partner Information



Based on youth ability development on climate change and energy innovation, Rebecca and Zheng Xiaowen, representing BUNDjugend and CYCAN, shared their methods, experiences and ideas through this program.

Rebecca Freitag

Volunteer of BUNDjugend Berlin, member of the Mobility Group; exchanged with Echo Zheng from 2nd September - 2nd October in Beijing.

Echo Zheng Xiaowen

Low carbon campus project officer from China Youth Climate Action Network (CYCAN), exchanged with Rebecca from BUNDjugend Berlin from 27th October ~ 27th November, and participated in COP21 in Paris.
The whole exchange period is from 27th October~13th December.

2. Main Activities We Participated in or Organized During the Exchange Period

Chinese Partner: Zheng Xiaowen

Activities Observed

To me, this exchange program is a excellent chance to see and understand how BUNDjugend Berlin is doing on youth development topic on climate change. I attended some of their activities as an observer like clothes exchange party (in German it is called Kleider Tausch Party). It's a program about clothes recycling for all the BUNDjugend members especially those who are new. The comfortable environment is perfect for people to get to know each other, and pass on sustainable idea at the same time.



Clothes Exchange Party&Monthly Introduction Meeting

I also had chance to join one Energy Program public parliament discussion hold by German Parliament. There were more than 100 citizens joined this discussion and 60% of them were business man, known from the reception desk. Besides, there were also lawyers/ scientists/ local governors, etc. This discussion shows the importance of citizens' participation in environment related decisions.



Berlin Energy Program | Public Discussion-People standing up to show their opinion

Participated Activities

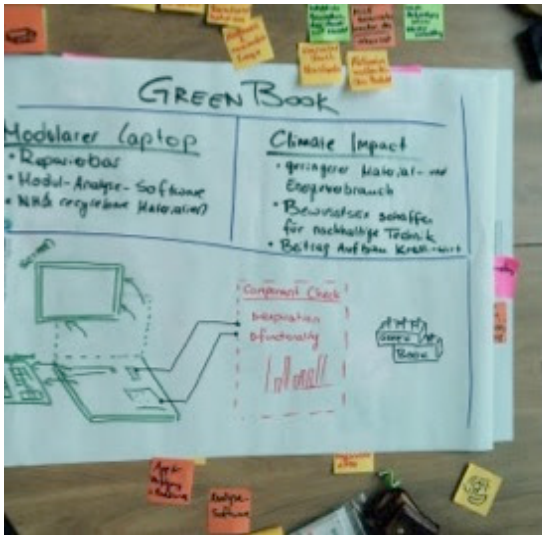
When I was in Berlin, it was one month before COP21. The climate team in BUNDjugend is focusing on fossil fuel and energy issue mainly. They prepared posters and board for the Parliament Energy Programme Public Discussion and Climate March on 29th November. It was also my first time doing banner painting and witness a march preparation.



Photoshooting at a train station about fossile fuel free

One of the most impressive experiences for me is the climate action workshop hold by Impact Academy Climate (an NGO focusing on climate innovation action). This workshop aims to combine climate action with business model and guide young people thinking actively.

I got to know the first step to illustrate your idea would be problem mapping which shows you to target your goal, then use idea dashboard to present all the ideas you have in your mind and focus on one of them to start planning. At last, try to use business model canvas to bring your idea into a business example. This idea illustration method is perfect for workshop organizing and inspiring for youth action.



Ideation Workshop & Business Model Canvas

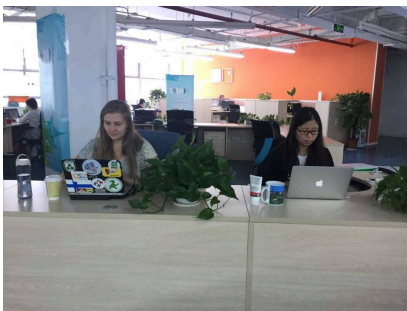
Organised Activities

To deeply understand the energy strategy from China and Germany, we organized a panel discussion on China climate & energy policy — “Is the Dragon turning Green?-China’s recent action to climate change an insight into the current policy situation and youth action”. With two guest speakers, Ling Jiaqiao from Rock Environment Institute in China (he was also our twining partner in this program) and Jost Wübbeke from Mercator Institute for China Studies, the panel discussion talked about Chinese climate policy and energy transition. In the end, I also shared some experiences from civil society perspective, especially youth participation. This discussion created a good chance for us two organizations to know each other better and is the first step for our deeper cooperation.

Besides, this exchange program provides us opportunity to expand our resource network. In Berlin, I visited student environment from Humboldt University and Freie University, and the campus operation department on sustainability and energy management in Freie University. I got to know these student groups’ working structure and challenges we are facing together. With the help of BUNDjugend, I had chance to meet the project officer from Netzwerk-N in Berlin who is working on youth participation on climate issue and similar with CYCAN. With different social environment but similar mission, we see the difference of our working methods and the strengths we could learn from each other.

CYCAN and BUNDjugend are also planning a common project called” China-Germany Youth Exchange Program”. We are still developing our idea and planning to launch it in August 2016 or February 2017. This program would focus on young student initiatives working on environment protection and climate change. We hope this program would provide more opportunity for young people and inspire them to protect our planet actively.

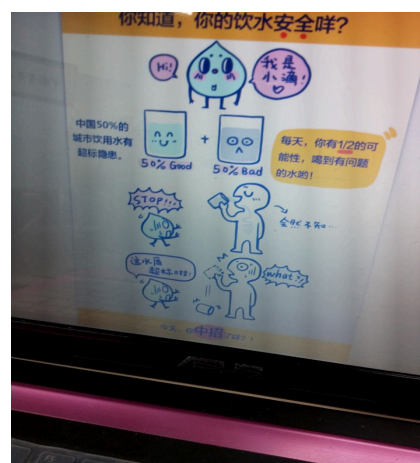
German Partner: Rebecca Freitag



Most work is done in the office of CYCAN

Getting to Know Each Other

Echo and myself, we were introducing and presenting each other’s organization. We learned about the organizational structure and concepts, but also about the different current projects. For example, I got to know about the water project “My H2O” which aims at raising awareness about the poor tap water quality. Another interesting project was the waste data collection. In cooperation with WWF, CYCAN collects data on food waste. I could productively contribute with my experiences about food waste projects in Germany.



Water quality tests for “My H2O” project

Low-Carbon Campus Workshop

As Echo was responsible for the low-carbon campus project she had to hold some workshops during the time I was in Beijing. She therefore had to go to different universities in China and teach the students about collecting data of carbon emissions on campus. I was joining her and helped her organizing these workshops. For a workshop in Nanjing, I also prepared some ice-breaking activities and team building activities. Furthermore, I prepared a presentation about energy saving and sustainability projects on German universities. I gave general suggestions about how to save energy on campus and also introduced some successful (best-practice) projects done at Berlin universities.



Group activities and presentations in Nanjing University

COP 21 – Communication with French Universities

CYCAN prepared activities and some side-events for the climate change conference COP21 in Paris later this year. The idea was to also connect with other youth ENGOs who are doing similar work as the low-carbon campus project. I had the task to work on that idea. I researched organizations and associations working on sustainability, renewable energy, low-carbon development and climate change in universities in Paris. I was mainly responsible to contact these associations, inform them about CYCAN, their interest in sharing experiences with them and coordinating meetings.

Networking

During my time in Beijing I was able to network with other NGOs and stakeholders which helped me to gain more knowledge about the current situation of civil society in China, Chinese environmental politics and the recent development of Chinese environmental NGOs. I visited a couple of side events, such as:

- *Beijing Automotive Roundtable -Sustainable Transport in Beijing (Autoköpfe, EU Chamber)*
- *German Energy Transition (CANGO, Rosa Luxemburg Foundation, Speaker: Daniel Häfner (FFU))*
- *EU and China Carbon Market (REEI, Change Partnership)*
- *China Development Brief*



Talk about Carbon Market



China Development Brief

3. Personal Experiences and Benefits for the Twinning Organization

Zheng Xiaowen from CYCAN

The exchange program connect us two organization together and provide us space to know each other. It's good to develop stable relationship for us and have opportunity for further cooperation.

Acutally, we are planning a project togther already.

Get to know the working environment and behavior inspire me to understand sustaibility deeper. I reliazed that environment protection is not only a job, but also our life and should be the way we live.

The different activities broaden my view and mind about climate action. It would be useful for activity organizing.

For both of us focusing on youth climate action, I observed the daily operation and work strategy of BUND juggged and began to rethink about CYCAN itself.

Rebecca Freitag from BUNDjugend

I enjoyed a lot the cross-cultural experiences. Thanks to this exchange I learned about Chinese' culture and how to adapt to it.

As a student of political science, one major interesting fact was the opportunity to learn a lot about China's political system and the role of NGOs in China, which is of high interest for my studies.

Experiencing the different working philosophy of my twinning organization was definitely very fruitful for my work in Germany where we could learn something too. Like team trips or having an extensive online platform for exchanges.

The benefits for BUNDjugend was to find a new partner in China with CYCAN. Hopefully we can start a youth exchange in the future.

4. Comments or Suggestions to the Program

Zheng Xiaowen

- Wonderful exchange idea for cooperation and experience sharing
- More project guiding in the beginning would be better for exchange partners to arrange their plan
- Kick-off meeting & training session could be more related to exchange fellow's work and topic, which would provide more space for discussion and exchanging

Rebecca Freitag

- The exchange was overall well organized. It is a great idea to connect NGOs globally.
- I enjoyed the opportunity to get in touch with other European and Chinese NGOs and share experiences.
- I am happy to have found a new partner in China with whom we have already started a common project.
- The kick-off meeting could have been a bit longer, so we would have more time for networking with other NGOs.
- It would have been nice, if we had a preparation meeting in Europe before going to China (organizational issues, general information about NGO work in China, relationship to the government etc).



CYCANers meeting and team trip