



China-Program

Nora Sausmikat and Inga Gebauer

Twinning: Partnerships between European and Chinese NGOs

Social & Environmental Justice ·
Climate Change & Low Carbon Development



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Greetings

Stressing the importance of people-to-people dialogue

The new law on managing foreign non-governmental organizations (NGOs), to be implemented on January 01, 2017, has been long in the making and is, in principle, highly welcome. As civil society actors, we support efforts by the state to create a legal framework for NGOs, thereby, in theory, strengthening the rule of law in China. However, what concerns and interests practitioners like us the most is, of course, the question of how it will be implemented: will it support and enhance fruitful cooperation between Chinese and foreign actors or will it curtail their ability to work together? Based on the mere wording of the law, this is as yet difficult to foresee.

“International Civic Cooperation” is one of the key themes of the Robert Bosch Stiftung’s focus area, International Relations. NGOs play a vital role in transformation processes, which can benefit from trust and advice from the outside. Therefore, we highly stress the importance of people-to-people dialogue and collaboration amongst peers. We do so by also bringing together other important stakeholders of society, such as judges, lawyers or journalists and educators from Germany and China.

The overarching goal of Stiftung Mercator in its International Affairs programs is for people to understand one another, learn from one another and jointly overcome global challenges. In practice, this goal is primarily pursued through the “exchange of people and ideas”. In our China program, we work with young people (from high-school students to young professionals) and educators, as well as with decision makers in politics and administration, (civil-) society, science and culture.

Cooperation among NGOs and the professionalization of the non-profit sector is a field which we support in the context of our partnership with the Ministry of Civil Affairs in Beijing, with which Stiftung Mercator has officially registered a Beijing Representative Office.

The Stiftung Asienhaus in Cologne once again had the lead in coordinating all partners involved. We would like to congratulate Nora Sausmikat and her team for a successful year with many varied applications from China and Europe. We would also like to thank the Climate Action Network (CAN-E) in Brussels and the China Association for NGO Cooperation (CANGO) in Beijing for their hard work. In the following pages, you will see for yourself that the interest in an exchange of topics and joint projects is alive and well. The participants’ impressive portfolio ranges from environmental interest litigation, sustainable consumption and preservation of historical buildings, to sexual education, low-carbon household practices and waste management. We are looking forward to the continuing collaboration between our two foundations and all partners involved.

Christian Hänel
Head of Department
International Relations America and Asia
Robert Bosch Stiftung

Marc Bermann
Director
Centre for International Affairs
Stiftung Mercator



Editor's Note

Throughout 2015, we have witnessed turmoil in various places around the world. In the EU, the refugee crisis became the predominant challenge, sparking debate on how best to handle the influx of people and dividing member states. In China, the deadly explosion of a warehouse container storing highly toxic substances in the port of Tianjin cost the lives of more than 100 people. It also created an environmental catastrophe that raised questions about corporate responsibility in the production and storage of chemical substances, the effect of these substances on human health and their ramifications for air, soil and water pollution.

These events and developments occurred on top of lingering issues already impacting our world: environmental degradation, climate change, excessive consumption, social injustice and the rise of populist sentiment.

However, there were also positive developments, such as the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference, which resulted in a long-awaited agreement of the parties to limit global warming to less than 2 degrees Celsius compared to pre-industrial levels. In addition, the United Nations adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Agenda 2030), providing the signatory states with new global targets for development and sustainability.

Long before 2015, citizens began to get involved in confronting these global challenges. Emerging mostly at the local level, civil society initiatives increasingly are taking matters such as sustainable consumption, waste reduction, the integration of marginalized groups and the fight against polluting industries into their own

It has become clear to our entire team that without the Asian countries in general and China in particular, none of the global environmental challenges can be solved. [The exchange] has provided our team with the prospect of working internationally with colleagues in China – an idea formerly unknown to us.

Markus Hurschler, foodwaste.ch

hands. While local citizens' initiatives for greater sustainability are welcome, however, they cannot ignore the global dimension of the issues at stake.

Therefore, most of the NGOs that participated in the 2015 Twinning exchange are already capable of providing expertise to governmental institutions and lobby on a national or regional political level.

However, what has become increasingly clear throughout the past years of the EU-China NGO exchange is that most of the topics NGOs in China and the EU are working on cannot be resolved via actions that take place within one individual country or region alone; it is important to understand the **global intersections inherent in the creation of these problems** and cooperate transnationally.

Let us take the waste problem as an example: People in China and Europe alike are trying to fight marine debris through initiatives such as beach clean-ups, protesting against landfills and creating innovative Zero Waste solutions. At the same time, European industrial states send a significant proportion of their waste to China.

These intersections need to be addressed in order to create positive change. How can global warming ever be tackled, for instance, without the involvement of the world's largest CO₂ emitter? Finally, it became clear this year during the Volkswagen emissions scandal that that no country is immune from the illegal actions of global corporations. Volkswagen's behavior affected consumers and the environment throughout the world and could only be uncovered by an international collaboration of clean air activists.

Encouragingly, the exchange experience has also shown the potential in **sharing "best practice" solutions and ideas**. Be it waste recycling with the aim of a Zero Waste future, emissions trading schemes that have existed within the EU and are now operating in China, citizen participation in pollution monitoring or the societal inclusion of refugees, migrant workers and other marginalized groups – all represent powerful initiatives seeking to create a sustainable future.

Topics 2015

We are also very pleased to see that the Twinning topics have diversified tremendously over the years. Waste was a key issue in the 2015 Twinning, with waste management and policy, marine debris and food waste emerging as focal points. Other topics covered include air pollution, social inclusion and sustainable water consumption. Building on issues addressed in the previous three years, such as bank monitoring, heavy metal pollution, sustainable agriculture, creative inclusion projects and criminal justice projects,¹ the scope of the Twinning continued to increase in 2015.

We are likewise happy to have the EU-China Exchange on Climate Change and Low Carbon Development join the Twinning program, adding five twinning pairs and covering different subtopics in this important field of international cooperation.

Recently, thanks to years of mobilizing against climate change and against the use of fossil fuels, we are realizing how the world is actually a small place and people are united by the same dreams for the future.

Katiuscia Eroe, Legambiente

The relevance of the exchange program becomes especially clear when considering that the topics addressed by our Twinners very much correspond to the **targets named in the United Nations' Agenda 2030**. We believe that civil society should claim its place in the "revitalized Global Partnership for Sustainable Development" that the Agenda calls for.

After four years, the NGO Twinning program has started to change perceptions of civil society in Europe and China, helping to overcome reservations on both sides and igniting a series of joint projects and exchanges. An **alumni network** which assists in further developing the program has been established, continuing the work on EU-China related topics and supporting newcomers in the program. **Policy briefings** help channel to policymakers the lessons learned in each respective field.

We consider expanding the scope of global cooperation among civil societies essential, as well as the need to tackle current and looming global crises in an effective and legitimate manner. The EU-China NGO Twinning has proven an effective means for fulfilling this ambitious aim.

Nora Sausmikat, Inga Gebauer, Cologne July 2016

Endnote

1. Documentation can be downloaded here: <http://www.eu-china-twinning.org/2014/09/full-report-on-2013-first-round-of-eu-china-ngo-exchange-twinning-partnerships-between-chinese-and-european-ngos-green-financing-rights-to-clean-water-human-rights/>

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1. The importance of partnerships between Chinese and European NGOs

塞翁失马，焉知非福。

Who knows if it is bad luck to lose the horse?

NGOs working in China and Europe are currently confronted with shrinking spaces. Dozens of countries have passed laws restricting local NGOs that are supported by Western donors. On April 28, 2016, the Chinese government was one of them, as it passed a new law on the “Management of Foreign Non-Governmental Organizations’ Activities within Mainland China.” The law will come into effect on January 1st, 2017. Other laws like the new Charity Law or the National Security Law further define the contested space in which NGOs operate.

Being in this program is the most amazing experience for me! So THANK YOU very much for making this possible!

Georgeta Mureanu, FCASEC, Twinning 2015

Foreign NGOs with programs and offices in China, as well as Chinese NGOs, especially those with overseas funding and connections, will have to restructure and fundamentally alter the parameters of their cooperation with foreign partners. The NGO-Twinning Program provides fertile ground for the growth of mutual understanding. It strengthens the forces and mechanisms urgently needed for building a peaceful and environmentally sustainable future.

Despite fundamental differences in the development of citizens organizations and civil society in Europe and China, we can observe that during the last 25 years there have been very dynamic developments for all kinds of organized interest groups in China, from sustainable agriculture advocacy groups to environmental protection organizations.

The four years of NGO Twinning have begun to change perceptions of civil society in Europe and China, gradually reducing reservations and igniting a whole series of joint projects and frequent exchanges. Since 2015, the Stiftung Mercator is on board as a new partner. They support the Climate Action Network (CAN-E) and the Chinese Association of NGO Cooperation (CANGO) in organizing another five Twinning pairs that deal specifically with climate change issues. An alumni network, which assists in further developing the program, has been established, continuing the work on EU-China related topics and supporting newcomers to the program. Policy briefings help channel lessons learned in each respective field to policymakers. The Twinning program was invited to the 40th anniversary of EU-China diplomatic relations and to the EU-China High Level People-to-People Dialogue, where it was introduced to an international audience on May 18th, 2015.



NGO Twinning introduced at the EU-China High-Level People-to-People Dialogue, Brussels

Goals of the EU-China NGO Twinning

The exchange program supports the professionalization and internationalization of organizations and enables participants from both regions to develop joint visions for a better future. Specifically, the program seeks to accomplish the following:

Train Ambassadors of Civil Society: Through the exchange, both organizations will gain competent and internationally experienced staff. The exchange fellows will act as ambassadors of participation concepts, spreading knowledge on the most effective ways of getting involved in social, ecological and political developments in both regions.

Build Cross-Regional Networks: This exchange program will strengthen networks and alliances between Chinese and European organizations.

Increase Mutual Understanding: Participants from both regions have the opportunity to look past stereotypes to develop new perspectives on their own country and gain insights into the various working methods of the partner country – the ways in which working styles, project design, public relations, and best practices differ.

Create long-term partnerships: The exchange enables organizations to establish new partnerships or continue and deepen existing collaborative relationships.



Hangzhou Capacity Building Seminar 2015

Strengthen Capacity-building: Chinese and European NGOs will be provided with important information on environmental and social topics in each respective country. The program includes six seminars for capacity building and knowledge transfer. The participants can exchange thoughts on their experience with questions of sustainability, social and ecological justice, good governance, participation, and global debates.

Capacity Building Seminar in Hangzhou: Climate change, Social and Environmental Justice

On September 7th and 8th, the 2015 EU-China NGO Twinning exchange capacity-building seminar kicked-off at the Low Carbon Museum in the city of Hangzhou. This was the first event jointly hosted by *Stiftung Asienhaus* and the *China Association for NGO Cooperation (CANGO)* after merging the Social and Environmental Justice Twinning with the Exchange Program on Climate Change and Low Carbon Development. It was also the first opportunity for all 24 participants to meet as a group.

Providing the participating organizations with information on environmental and social topics in the region of their exchange partner is one of the main goals of the EU-China NGO Twinning Program. After a joint welcome session, the two groups split up for separate input sessions related to their respective topical foci.

Intercultural training: Patterns of perception and behavior in the (far) east and west

Following welcome speeches by the *Stiftung Asienhaus*' China program director Dr. Nora Sausmikat and Mr. Huang Haoming from *CANGO*, the Twinners were given an introduction to intercultural differences by Caspar Welbergen from *Stiftung Mercator*. Presenting the results of a social study by Richard Nisbett, Mr. Welbergen pointed out that differences in perception are culturally informed, as the societies in which we live shape our world view; culturally tinged perceptions influence our thoughts and actions.

The development of Chinese civil society: charities and disaster relief

The topical input session on Social and Environmental Justice began with a presentation by Tom Bannis-

ter from *China Development Brief*, who introduced the historical development of Chinese civil society. Following the rising level of involvement of Chinese NGOs in disaster relief (2008 Sichuan earthquake, 2015 Nepal earthquake), he explained that Chinese NGOs have expanded their technological capabilities and expertise, as well as the scope of their international activities.

Social innovation in a Chinese context

Zhou Xufeng from the *China Social Enterprise and Social Investment Forum* spoke on social enterprises and their contribution to social innovation in the context of China's civil society. In recent years, there have been a large number of social enterprises emerging in China. He presented a number of model cases which had received moral support in the form of an endorsement from Premier Li Keqiang. China has no formal laws or regulations on social enterprises, and no clear definition or categorization of social programs. This has led to prejudices and mismanagement among entrepreneurs, as well as misconceptions in the eyes of the public. His network hopes to boost the development of social enterprises and the social investment industry in China by providing services and training to social entrepreneurs.

Public participation in pollution monitoring

Delving deeper into environmental protection strategies, Xin Hao from the local host organization *Green Zhejiang* explained how Chinese NGOs utilize internet technology to monitor pollution. Most pollution data in China must, by law, be publicly available. However, polluting industries and local environmental protection bureaus are reluctant to follow these rules. Furthermore, the raw data made available is hardly comprehensible to ordinary citizens. In recent years, Chinese NGOs have developed smartphone apps that allow affected netizens to directly report pollution, creating a form of crowdsourced pollution monitoring. NGOs collect and analyze environmental data, making the results available to affected communities and the broader public via web-based tools.

This approach has proven much more efficient than individual citizens reporting directly to the official environmental protection bureaus. Using the Qiantang River in Hangzhou as an example, Xin Hao demonstrated how Chinese bureaucracy has led to an impotent environmental policy: 9 "dragons" (officials) working in a number of government bodies, from the water bureau to the river administration, are in charge of managing the river. Therefore, it is unclear to whom



Board Meeting in Hangzhou 2015

The workshop provided us with deep insights into the situation of the Chinese NGO landscape. Apart from learning about other NGOs in China, the meeting with a broad variety of European NGOs was an unexpected but very interesting and educational experience on European NGO landscape as well.

Dorothee Saar, DUH/Sönke Diesener, NABU

reports should be sent and who has ultimate responsibility for the state of the river.

Food safety monitoring in China

Li Haishi introduced the work of the *Woodpecker Food Safety Center (WFSC)*, the first non-profit organization focusing solely on food safety in China, an issue that has become the second most important source of concern for Chinese citizens, propelled by a series of food safety scandals.

During the past 2 years, the *WFSC* has conducted safety inspections of different foodstuffs, published the results in more than 30 papers and done widespread public education and media work on healthy eating. One way in which they were able to make their findings about badly performing food enterprises available to the public was through a smartphone app. When scanning the QR code of a food product, the app leads consumers to *WFSC*'s website and a ranking of the food safety performance of the producer.

Alumni and peer sharing

Following these presentations by various NGOs on topics relevant to the 2015 Twinning, the twinningers had the opportunity to listen to alumni introduce their work and their plans for building sustainable partnerships. Yu Yin, who organized the seminar, moderated a roundtable on food safety, as well as three peer-sharing sessions on waste management, environmental education, and ocean and air pollution.

The day was completed with a guided tour through the low carbon technology museum, which was also the conference venue. On the third day, all participants visited the Huanghu Nature Garden and were introduced to different environmental and social projects.

Capacity Building Workshop in Brussels

On November 3rd–4th, 2015, the European and Chinese NGOs of the 2015 Twinning Exchange gathered in Brussels. Taking advantage of their location in Brussels, the EU capital, the workshop was aimed at informing the participants about EU-China relations and the institutions of the European Union, as well as major issues currently being discussed in Europe.

Following welcome speeches by Oliver Radkte (Robert Bosch Foundation), Nora Sausmikat (Stiftung Asienhaus) and Maeve McLynn (CAN Europe), the 2015 Twinning participants introduced themselves and the topic of their exchange.



Young leaders from European and Chinese NGOs

Navigating state structures in transnational civil society activism – The political systems of the EU and China

Xin Song (China Policy Advisor at the European Parliament), Sanjeev Kumar (*Change Partnership*) and Lin Jiaqiao (*Rock Environment and Energy Institute*) opened the workshop with a comparative presentation of political structures in the EU and China. This was to ensure that each participant had at least a broad overview of the respective political system.

Having introduced the four main EU institutions and related decision-making processes, Sanjeev Kumar presented different strategies on how to influence decisions at the EU level. Lin Jiaqiao then introduced the participants to the political system in China, covering the National People's Congress, executive authorities and the current Five-Year-Plan. Xin Song concluded with a direct comparison of the Chinese and European political systems.

The current state of EU-China relations

The EU and China have a complex relationship. Duncan Freeman of the *Brussels Institute of Contemporary Chinese Studies* gave an overview of the political and economic relations of the EU and China, informing participants about areas of cooperation and the important actors involved.

In the course of the following discussion, Twinning participants were especially interested in the question of why there is no civil society participation in the official dialogue between the two political bodies. The impact of Chinese exports to the EU and the role of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) was also an important part of the discussion. Finally, some light was shed on the current state of the dialogue on human rights between the EU and China.

European External Action Service (EEAS) and the European Parliament (EP)

Malgorzata Jankowska (*European External Action Service*) and Mathias Eberlen (Assistant to MEP Jo Leinen) introduced their respective institutions, as well as the relationship and levels of cooperation these institutions have with China and with NGOs.



Time journey into a sustainable future in the Low Carbon Museum Hangzhou

After the presentations, the attendees shared their views on the limited involvement of civil society associations in European politics. They pointed out the benefits that including NGOs in discussions and institutionalizing civil society cooperation would have for EU institutions. The participants and experts also discussed the issue of transparency in investment treaties and bilateral trade agreements.

Field reports by 2013/2014 Alumni

Following the first input session, four Twinning alumni from 2013 and 2014 (Cornelia Kirchner/*Organics International*, Wawa Wang/*CEE Bankwatch*, Dave Carey/*Chickenshed*, Ding Peng/*PIDLI Law Institute*) reported on their own experiences during the exchange and how they have continued to develop joint projects.

EU-China climate change relations

In his presentation, Martin Kasper from the Directorate-General for Climate Action (DG Climate) gave a brief overview of the history and negotiation process of the Conference of Parties (COP). He reported on the climate negotiations in Copenhagen 2009, Durban 2011, Warsaw 2013 and Lima 2014, and gave additional information on actors and main goals for Paris 2015. He also explained



Brussels Capacity Workshop, Axel Berger, German Development Institute

China's role in emissions reduction, the China-EU Summit and introduced a number of EU-China related projects (e.g. EU-China Emissions Trading System, City Carbon Partnership, Urbanization Partnership).

Throughout the discussion round, there were many questions related to the issue of fossil fuels and how climate negotiators perceive the newest developments in this area. EU-China agreements were likewise discussed, including the question of how overseas commitments can be integrated into bilateral agreements and which parameters should be used to define successful negotiations.

The European debate on TTIP and the global impact of free trade agreements

Axel Berger from the *German Development Institute* (DIE) shared insights on the European debate on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). He introduced the TTIP agenda, its structure as well as controversial issues surrounding the negotiations, such as the potential impact of TTIP on developing countries.

The discussion that followed revolved chiefly around the ramifications of trade restrictions and sanctions when states do not stick to the requirements of the climate agreement. Afterwards, questions about the implementation of low carbon development goals into trade and the importance of transparency in this regard were answered.

Migration and the refugee crisis – current political concepts and solutions

The final input during the workshop was on the current migration and refugee crisis in Europe. Daniela Gianone, from the North-Rhine Westphalia Representative Office to the European Union, introduced listeners to the political crisis that has arisen alongside the refugee influx, especially the distribution of refugees across the various EU member states.

The participants had several questions concerning the repatriation of refugees and the political struggles the EU is encountering as a result. Many were wondering why the EU had not reacted earlier to the rising refugee numbers and whether or not it is possible to implement a regulation comparable to the Canadian system in the EU. Finally, migration to Europe was compared to internal migration patterns in China.

In recent years thanks to years of mobilizations against climate change and against the use of fossil fuels we are realizing how the world is actually a small one and that people are united by the same dreams for the future.

Katiuscia Eroë, Legambiente

2. EU-China NGO Twinning Participants 2015

In 2015, the Twinning involved following partner organizations and topics:

2015 – “Social and Environmental Justice” Twinners		
<i>Chinese Organization</i>	<i>European Organization</i>	<i>Focus Topic</i>
<i>Mr Dong Jian/Lüling (Green Col- lar) – Tianjin Binhai Environment Advisory Service Center (Guangzhou)</i>	<i>Ms Dorothee Saar/Deutsche Umwelthilfe e. V.(Germany) & Ms Sönke Diesener, Naturschutz- bund (NABU) (Germany)</i>	Air pollution reduction strategies
<i>Ms Lin Youzhu/Friends of Nature (Beijing)</i>	<i>Ms Marta Ferri/Zero Waste Italy (Italy)</i>	Urban solid waste management
<i>Ms Yi Ru/Shanghai Rendu Ocean NPO Development Center (Shanghai)</i>	<i>Dr. Laura Foster/Marine Conserva- tion Society (UK)</i>	Marine debris management
<i>Ms Li Fangfang/Evergreen Center for Sustainable Development (Beijing)</i>	<i>Ms Georgeta Mureanu/Forumul Cetatenesc pentru Actiune Sociala si Educatie Civica (Romania)</i>	Environmental youth projects
<i>Ms Shi Jinwen/Shanghai Green Oasis (Shanghai)</i>	<i>Mr Markus Hurschler/foodwaste.ch (Switzerland)</i>	Food waste
<i>Mr Xu Rui/Eco-Watch Institute (Kunming)</i>	<i>Ms Louisa Kistemaker/A tip: tap e. V. (France/Germany)</i>	Exploring sustainable water con- sumption through Forum theater
<i>Ms Ma Xiaolu/AIFEN (Shanghai)</i>	<i>Ms Isabella di Blasio/Zero Waste France (France)</i>	Waste policy and awareness
2015 – “Climate Change” Twinners		
<i>Chinese Organization</i>	<i>European Organization</i>	<i>Focus Topic</i>
<i>Mr Lin Jiaqiao/Rock Environment and Energy Institute (Beijing)</i>	<i>Mr Sanjeev Kumar/Change Part- nership (Belgium)</i>	Impact of climate policy on indus- trial competitiveness
<i>Ms Dai Chunyan/The Innovative Green Development Program (iGDP) (Beijing)</i>	<i>Mr Thorben Jensen/Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment and Energy (Germany)</i>	Energy efficiency and renewable energy
<i>Ms Zheng Xiaowen/China Youth Climate Action Network (Beijing)</i>	<i>Ms Rebecca Freitag/BUNDjugend Berlin (Germany)</i>	Youth participation in climate change activism
<i>Ms Wang Lin/Green Zhejiang – Hangzhou Eco-Culture Association (Hangzhou)</i>	<i>Ms Katuscia Eroo/Legambiente (Italy)</i>	Energy innovation and waste management
<i>Mr Zhang Di/Beijing Envirofriends (Beijing)</i>	<i>Mr Kjell Kühne/Plant-for-the- Planet Foundation (Germany)</i>	Climate change education

The period of stay for the European exchange fellows in China was set from August until October 2015, the reverse exchange took place from October until end of November 2015.

What follows are the reports on the exchange by the participating organizations and exchange fellows.

2.a Social and Environmental Justice Twinning Reports

Deutsche Umwelthilfe e.V./NABU – Naturschutzbund Deutschland e.V. & Lüling (Green Collar) Tianjin Binhai Environmental Advisory Service Center

The common topic of the exchange was air pollution and air quality improvement measures, using combined activities and the exchange of knowledge and information as central tools.

Exchange Topic – Air pollution

Air pollution is not only a serious issue in China but has an impact on the health of European citizens living in cities, as well. It is essential for stakeholders to get together and discuss strategies to solve air quality problems. The DUH, NABU and TL aimed to take a first step by sharing their first-hand experiences, successes and their strategies for meeting the challenges faced in reducing air pollution.

Infobox

Tianjin harbor explosions

Just two weeks before we arrived in Tianjin, an accident occurred in a warehouse where hazardous goods were handled and stored. A series of explosions killed over 170 people and injured hundreds at a container storage station at the Port of Tianjin on August 12th, 2015. The explosion site was about 50 km from the Tianjin city center where we were staying, but as hazardous water and air pollutants had been released, we questioned the safety of our stay. After some days spent gathering information and negotiating the responsibilities of our exchange, we decided to go, but nevertheless had to skip some meetings with harbour officials.

Infobox

Deutsche Umwelthilfe e. V., Germany

Founded in 1975, DUH is an independent non-profit association which focuses on protecting nature, the environment and consumer rights. Activities of the DUH include coordination, public relations and campaigning as well serving as consultants to policymakers at the national and European level. Since 2009, DUH's traffic department has been coordinating the Pan-European Campaign "Soot Free for the Climate," which consists of 13 European NGOs. It has been part of the EU Life Project "Clean Air" since 2012, where it is working on legal opportunities to fight for the right to clean air.

NABU e. V., Germany

Founded in 1899, the Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union is one of the oldest and largest environmental associations in Germany. The association is

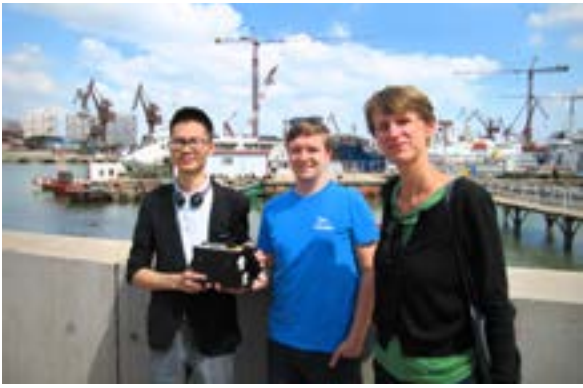
committed to the conservation of threatened habitats, flora and fauna as well as to climate protection and energy policy. A member of the "Sootfree for the Climate Campaign", NABU engages in different campaigns aimed at abandoning the use of heavy fuel oil by cruise and container ships.

Profile Dorothee Saar

Dorothee Saar joined the Deutsche Umwelthilfe (DUH) in 2006. Since 2011, she is head of the traffic and clean air sector coordinating the campaign "Sootfree for the Climate". Ms Saar focuses on technical solutions to improve energy efficiency and emissions reduction in road traffic and from off-road sources. Additionally, she is in charge of several legal cases the DUH is running.

Profile Sönke Diesener

Sönke Diesener has been working at Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union (NABU) Headquarters in Berlin since July 2014. With special attention to air pollution from the maritime industry, he works in the transport policy section of the conservation department.



Twinners Dong Jian, Sönke Diesener, and Dorothee Saar

With a primary focus on air pollution, public participation and communication work regarding this topic took place along with raising awareness concerning the legal and regulatory situation surrounding air pollution prevention and gaining access to information.

A strong focus was placed on the impact of pollution on health, but we also addressed the effects of air pollutants on the environment and climate change.

Tianjin Lüling hosting Dorothee Saar and Sönke Diesener

Our aim was to provide deep and comprehensive insight into the political situation for environmental protection and uncover the working strategies of the exchange partners. In addition, we aimed to identify collaboration opportunities among different actors in China and Germany in order to get a broader understanding as to the basis for future exchange and mutual support.

Within the field of air pollution, we focused on urban ambient air quality, stationary factory emissions and shipping and harbor emissions as topics for further communication. While there was very little overlap within our working methodology, we identified public awareness raising and legal action as the most promising issues for the further sharing of experience.

Activities

Ahead of our cooperation, we developed a working plan that included talks for the exchange of information about our activities and presentations about the structure, topics and approaches taken by our organizations.

Getting to know each other, making and changing plans

After our arrival and initial talks, we decided to make some slight adaptations to our working plan and adjust the schedule to respond to the events that had occurred, as there had been a huge explosion within the port of Tianjin shortly before our arrival. The explosion raised safety questions and forced us to reschedule some of our plans regarding the subject of clean air in ports (See infobox).

At the Tianjin Lüling office – finding common ground for cooperation

Within our first days in the office we presented our work and methodology to each other. Also, we got an introduction into the fields of activity of the staff and volunteers at Green Collar.

The first week was strongly dominated by cultural learning effects and mutual exchange on questions concerning daily life; we experienced an unexpected

Infobox

Tianjin Binhai Environmental Advisory Service Center

Tianjin Lüling (TL) was founded in 2010 and is a civil charity organization based in Tianjin concerned with the environment. TL's members are convinced that overcoming environmental issues requires long-term monitoring and advocacy by the local public. TL cooperates closely with journalists, giving victims and/or experts a platform to present their point of view and drawing public attention to environmental and social problems.

Profile Dong Jian

Dong Jian is the founder of the Tianjin Binhai Environmental Advisory Service Center (Tianjin Lüling – TL) and its director since 2010. He is engaged in various projects throughout China, promoting awareness for environmental problems through environmental education. He has been engaged in giving victims of environmental pollution legal advice as well. Since TL's official registration in 2014, he has concentrated the organization's efforts on air and water pollution.

but very pleasant and gracious combination of living and working. The office of Green Collar turned out to be at the center of most of the staff's everyday routines. Next to our work, we also spent free time in the office, preparing and eating meals there. Some of the employees even slept in the office. We had a very warm welcome within the "family" of Green Collar where everybody tried their best to look after our well-being.

Different approaches to advocacy and media work

Two major differences were our attitudes towards authority bodies and our media work. Authorities in Europe are much easier to access and are often themselves willing to include NGOs in participatory processes. This reality is enforced by the fact that DUH and NABU are very well-established NGOs drawing upon a long history with policy-making implications. Our media work relies on traditional broadcasting methods, via newspapers and television, whereas the use of social media is comparatively less important.

For Green Collar, as a small and very young NGO, social media is the most important platform for the dissemination of their ideas and information; access to official bodies is very limited. The helpful detection of differences led us to concentrate on topics rather than action methods as a field of learning. While our work in Germany and Europe aims to implement and enforce concrete regulation and raise awareness for the detailed problems, our Chinese partners' agenda focuses more on violations by single emitters and assistance for local victims.

Chinese NGOs' working environment and scope of action

At the first stage of learning from each other, we both presented our organizations and the European NGO Campaign "Sootfree for the Climate" to the Green Collar Team.

Right after this general introduction, Dong Jian assigned two staff members from Green Collars to the two topics *legal action* and *clean air in marine industry*. They conducted so-called in-depth expert talks with us to learn about the European situation, solutions and our activi-

ties. They prepared reports in the Chinese language to make the knowledge accessible to the team. These two reports are designated as a roadmap for further action and cooperation in these two fields.

We exchanged a lot about the political, legislative and regulatory environment in which our NGOs work is embedded. Green Collar also presented the organization's history and most recent developments. Furthermore, they described specific embedding they have accomplished inside the local and domestic framework. While they are engaged in nationwide action, they are based in Tianjin where they draw on some patronage by local authorities.

Twinning workshop in Hangzhou

The Twinning workshop provided a broad overview on topics and activities of the NGOs involved in the exchange program. It also gave insight into the work of one specific NGO located in Hangzhou, which focuses on air and water pollution including its own measurements of air and water quality. The NGO collaborates with local authorities, gathering as well as providing information from and to the public.

The workshop provided us with deep insights into the situation of the Chinese NGO landscape. Apart from learning about other NGOs in China, the meeting with a broad variety of European NGOs was an unexpected but very interesting and educational experience on the European NGO landscape as well.

Workshop on Stationary Emission Sources

Just after our return to Tianjin, Green Collar held a workshop in Beijing on the topic of air and water pollution from the iron and steel industry.

The workshop was held in Swanport Coffee in Beijing's Galaxy SOHO building, a vibrant place where activists and followers meet for exchange and discussion. It was a very good experience for us to see the cozy but likewise passionate and dynamic atmosphere, which offered an appealing glance of the Chinese environmental movement.

At first, two of Green Collar's staff held a presentation that illustrated how they conducted measurements of air and water and proved violations via pictures. They



Sönke measuring traffic air pollution

presented how they spoke to residents and asked officials and authorities for information.

The next session was opened by a song performed by a girl from Green Collar who was in charge of moderation. It was an inspiring experience that enriched and eased the workshop.

In the last part of the workshop, we presented the German and EU legal framework for access to environmental information and showed a website that presents all industry emission data.

Extending networks: meeting international organizations

We spend our third week in China meeting with other NGOs and organizations engaged in the field of air quality improvement in China. Due to Green Collar's relatively low level of engagement with policy-making, something which plays a very important role at DUH and NABU, we decided to talk to additional potential allies in China. We invited Green Collar staff to join us on these meetings to get in contact with those players as well.

Along with meetings with other NGOs like NRDC, Clean Air Asia and Energy Foundation we also met with senior experts who have been working in China's environmen-

Learning about China's NGOs and the environmental protection legislation that sometimes exceeds European standards – and in the future perhaps even moreso – gives a good basis for understanding the situation in China but likewise stresses this in the run for improvements in Europe and worldwide.

Dorothee Saar, DUH



PM 2.5 measuring device

tal policy for many years as well as with members of GIZ, the official German institution for international cooperation and development. These meetings provided us with broad insights into ongoing Chinese policy-making towards air pollution as well as information as to how international NGOs work in China.

Conclusion

All three partners learned a lot while working in different cultural environments and learned how to handle difficulties that arise and even turn them into positive outcome. Learning about China's NGOs and the

environmental protection legislation that sometimes exceeds European standards – and in the future perhaps even more so – gives a good basis for understanding the situation in China but likewise stresses this in the run for improvements in Europe and worldwide.

The exchange broadened our horizons and resources, giving us access to more information about environmental topics in European countries.

Dong Jian, Tianjin Lüling

Of course, there were some slight misunderstandings that are inherent within such intercultural exchange situations. While these situations often bear the risk of leading to disharmony, we managed to overcome over most situations by mutual compromise.

We have agreed that we will continue to share information and sooner or later want to jointly release information on air pollution topics via media channels in Europe and China.

DUH and NABU hosting Dong Jian

When I first came across the idea of taking part in Twinning program, I had the desire to learn about the shared challenges of air pollution and climate in China and Europe to see whether any experiences exist in where we could take over from our European colleagues. We agreed to jointly work on how air pollution in conurbations affects people's health and ways that our environment could help to reduce air pollution and adapt measures to local needs. I also wanted to study public participation and communication about air pollution governance in Europe.

Secondly, we wanted to find approaches to improve the air quality building on exchange experiences and best practices, to learn how to attract the general public to participate in our specific programs, and if we can built an international network that calls for more assistance to make sure that our research can be continued.

Activities

Workshops on Emissions in Brussels

Whether in China or in Europe, the communication with my exchange fellows and other organizations provided me with most of the answers to my questions. On October 21, 2015, I took part in the Expert Talk on Shipping Emissions at the office of Keith Richards, a Member of European Parliament, as well as in a Workshop on Emission Control in European SECA (Sulphur Emission Control Areas) at the European Parliament in Brussels. In Europe, there are clear legal standards and demands for emission and air quality, that provide an important premise to air pollution governance.

Shipping emissions in the EU

I also went to visit the harbor in Hamburg with Sönke. He told me that air pollution causes over 420,000 premature deaths throughout the European Union. Of these, 50,000 premature deaths are attributed to shipping in European waters. Ports are hubs of air pollution because many emitters operate there: numerous kinds of transport and port machinery with diesel engines run without exhaust treatment systems or even use a comparatively dirty fuel. Some of these forms of transports and machinery, such as ocean-going vessels, do not fall under the strict(er) land-based regulations, but enjoy emission privileges as allowed by international maritime laws. But even where European or national legal limits for air emissions exist, the standards are not strict enough. Moreover, some are breached without consequences for the emitters. And for some pollutants, such as pure carbon, there are no limits at all.

Although there are already many examples of ports where stakeholders have voluntarily implemented measures to clear the air, these examples and what it takes to implement standards are not well known. This is one of the reasons why NABU has started the project Clean Air in Ports: eight environmental organizations from six European countries are campaigning for better air quality throughout Europe. Over a three-year period, Clean Air in Ports has held six workshops in European port cities. The workshops are not only aimed at bringing together those experts, relevant stakeholders and policymakers that either have an interest in or the possibility to contribute to better air quality in and from ports, but also at informing people about the problem

of air pollution and to present, collect and discuss best practices and examples for clean air in ports.

Observations

Before I came to Europe, I thought European NGOs would be under less pressure because of the functioning governmental system in Europe and the European awareness as concerns environmental protection. But reality showed that they also feel under pressure when working on environmental issues. I also aimed to study the public's role regarding air pollution governance in Europe. But contrary to my expectations, I didn't find a variety of methods of public participation and communication on air pollution. In my opinion, this could be one direction for the European NGO landscape to develop in.

Achievements

From the Clean Air in Ports workshops, I learned that it is important to link different resources. Various methods I learned I have also started using in my work; they helped me a lot after I started working in my organization in China again. Beyond that, during the exchange, I believe that our participating organizations benefited mainly in the following aspects:

1. It broadened our horizons and resources, such as access to more information about environmental topics in European countries;
2. It gave us a chance to learn from the positive experiences of the partner NGO and find something that has never been done in inland areas;
3. The exchange fellows and the institutions they visited established a strong basis for cooperation that could develop into a long-term partnership where they could continue to work on more joint issues.

During this exchange, and on a personal level, I have come to feel a closer connection to other NGOs because we have the same objectives, which is beneficial for the establishment of a long-term partnership.

Future plans for cooperation

At the end of our exchange, we agreed to keep exchanging information especially on regulations and law enforcement. DUH will help Green Collar to obtain more knowledge on the legal situation in Europe and how to transfer this to Chinese policy-making.

Green Collar will eventually widen its focus on harbour and shipping emissions and in this case will get support with information from NABU. NABU already works in cooperation with Clean Air Asia and NRDC China to conduct a joined workshop on marine emissions in China; Green Collar will be invited to contribute to this workshop eventually by presenting measurement data from Tianjin port.

Zero Waste Italy (ZWI) & Friends of Nature (FON)



Twinners Marta Ferri and Lin Youzhu

Through the exchange, ZWI and FON have shared knowledge and practices about technologies and systems related to the management and the treatment of waste and local resources.

Exchange Topic: Waste reduction practices

ZWI and FON have focused on solid waste management in the urban context, the spreading of sustainable strategies (Zero Waste) and practices, business models and environmental education among the population in both the Italian and Chinese context. They have investigated problematic situations and actions toward sustainability, with a focus on sustainable businesses as well as e-waste treatment. Through the exchange, they shared knowledge and practices about technologies and systems related to the management and treatment of waste and local resources, which they see as a way to stop climate change and improve the quality of life in communities, also in terms of collective empowerment.

Infobox

Friends of Nature, Beijing

FON is the oldest environmental NGO in China. Registered in 1994, it has expanded to an organization with over 10,000 volunteers. FON aims to promote awareness of what it considers to be China's most urgent environmental problems: global warming, the extinction of endangered species and waste in cities. FON systematically trains teachers, who are sent out to communities in order to foster understanding of environmental problems and their social implications.

Profile Lin Youzhu

Lin Youzhu joined Friends of Nature in 2010 as a trainee. In her current position as Waste Reduction Assistant Manager, she engages in various projects such as the "Community Garbage Classification Project", the "Zero Waste Household Challenge." She has participated in courses on "Waste and Life".

Infobox

Zero Waste Italy, Lucca

Founded in May 2009, ZWI's main goal is to promote a Zero Waste strategy aimed at improving sustainability on a social, economic and environmental level by providing support to all communities and groups of activists attracted to the concept of Zero Waste.

Profile Marta Ferri

Marta Ferri has worked for Zero Waste Italy since 2012, where she is conducting research as an Anthropologist. Her area of responsibility covers fieldwork as well as connecting local Zero Waste organizations in order to make communities' social, political, economic and cultural systems more sustainable. In addition, she is editor of the cultural column "Zero Waste Rubrica".

FON hosting Marta Ferri in Beijing

Zero Waste Italy has always been interested in understanding Chinese waste issues, practices and related movements and organizations. The focus of my visitation period at FON was urban solid waste management in Beijing, e-waste treatment and FON's communication and working strategies.

Activities

The exchange was divided into two periods, the first being FON's annual international field trip to Taiwan. The second part consisted of activities and field research in the Beijing area, with a focus on analyzing solid waste management and treatment systems and increasing economic and educational platforms for the promotion of "good" practices.

Urban solid waste management in Beijing

China's waste issue is one of the most discussed topics of the last decade. Being one of the greatest industrial powers and the most populated country in the world, with consumption and production habits that generate a high quantity of waste, China has attracted the attention of various organizations working on environmental issues. Meanwhile, Chinese NGOs are working towards the promotion of good practices and alternatives in terms of waste and energy management and trends in consumption and production.

FON's "Urban Solid Waste Management" research department focuses on education about waste separation and management, with an aim of reducing waste generation among average citizens.

Officially, every community in Beijing is served by a daily collection service, which is separated. In every house there are three bins: recyclables, "food waste" and "other" (all the rest, including e-waste).

However, according to FON and my field research, this is not the reality: only central communities have this service and even there, it is not daily. Peripheral communities often only have a bin for "other". The poorest communities often don't have bins at all, creating illegal landfills of varying dimensions, which carry with them risks for the environment and human health.

Visit to a waste incineration plant

I learned that the official system of waste management and treatment faces several difficulties: in fact, according to a new governmental policy which cuts the majority of funding earmarked for recycling and composting platforms, many of the waste treatment centers have closed or moved to other provinces. The new government policy seems to prefer subsidizing waste incineration and landfills. In the name of an impending "waste emergency," the local government approved the construction of five additional incineration plants.

We had the chance to visit the newest incineration plant, which had just opened, in the Lujiashan area. This is meant to be the first part of a so-called "circular economy district," of which the company, Beijing Shougang, wants to build another 11. This incinerator will burn 300 tons per day and, according to our guide, it is so high tech that it doesn't emanate any fumes or emissions, only water vapor.

The modern design, the environmental education exhibits inside the building – meant for schools – show how concepts like "sustainability" and "circular economy" are often used in a twisted way, in what could be called "greenwashing" of polluting industries.

This experience helped both me and Li Youzhu understand how easy it is to influence the public and the political leadership with "green" terminology to cover polluting industries. In order to avoid this, we agreed that being part of an international environmentalist network could help in order to properly access expertise and know-how related to the promotion of sustainability.

The informal waste service

In Beijing, tons of waste is not treated by the government service. All recyclables, food waste and even electronics and high tech devices are collected separately every day from households, businesses, schools and offices by the so-called "small dealers." This is done according to an informal weekly calendar.

All materials collected are then sold to "dealers" in the waste transfer centers, informal spaces in the city center as well as on the periphery. Metals, e-waste, plastics, glass and cans, paper and cardboard are separated and stored in a specific space in the center; for



Worker disassembling objects to recover iron in an irregular waste transfer center, periphery of Beijing

each of them, there is a dealer in charge, who usually lives in the center with his or her family. When a waste transfer center grows to a considerable size, it can then be called a “waste transfer village”.

The local government is clearly following a strict policy against these kinds of centers. According to FON, the official reason is that those kinds of illegal spaces, not regulated by any official law, are dangerous for the environment and for the population, since their activities are based on shadow market agreements. This could also be interpreted in connection to the Beijing government’s interest in improving the capacity of incineration plants: if an informal waste market no longer exists, burning waste would be seen as a proper solution to the tons of waste produced in Beijing municipality.

The informal system of waste management seems to represent an efficient alternative to the governmental one, which poses difficulties.

The informal system with its lower prices and thus more clients is a strong rival for regular businesses and provides a useful public service: without this, Beijing would be covered in waste.

It seems that the strength of the shadow market is based on a kind of governmental tolerance: in fact, waste transfer centers are dismantled only if working against the government’s interests.

The food waste issue

In China’s informal waste system, kitchen waste from restaurants and diners is usually collected daily by small dealers specializing in the trade of food waste. These are usually farmers from the countryside. They process food waste into high quality compost, since the one available from the government is considered sub-standard. Food waste from households on the other hand is not sold to any small dealers because of the small quantities. Reusing coffee grounds for composting and cooking with food waste is becoming fashionable among wealthy people, but is not very popular among the lower income class, which represent the majority of the population in the capital.

The e-waste road

I had the chance to visit several small e-waste villages in Beijing, which survived the government’s reclamation. They are organized in the same way as the waste

transfer centers: every item is disassembled and each material is categorized and stored in a specific place, waiting to be sold and shipped to a recycling center.

UNEP has determined China to be the second largest e-waste producer and the leader in treating e-waste in the world: every day, tons of high tech devices are collected and treated, especially via the informal system. 80% of e-waste worldwide is treated in China. It mainly comes from Europe, North America and Africa. In the e-waste villages, everyone has some kind of informal expertise in disassembling and collecting precious materials. Despite the majority of these activities not being safe for humans and very dangerous for the environment (such as melting hard-drives down to collect gold), many people live and work like this in China today. The lack of interest from policy-makers and the absence of real regulation of the trade and treatment of e-waste contributes the pollution of the Chinese environment and harms people's health.

Good practices in action. Sustainable businesses, environmental education and research in Beijing

The “waste road” in Beijing is not only about shadow markets and incineration. There are several activities and initiatives promoted by citizens and supported by local NGOs (like FON) working towards sustainability.

Visiting the “Banana Skin” e-waste center

Despite the local government's tendency to move recycling centers away, in the last year it was decided to finance a platform for disassembling electronic and high technological waste. I had the chance to visit one of these platforms, the Huaxin Environmental Protection Development Co., Ltd., (or “Banana Skin”), as part of a private guided tour organized by FON.

The Banana Skin runs two parallel projects. The first one is about environmental education on sustainability, which cites the promotion of “good practices” in waste categorization as its main aim. They work in schools and communities in the capital.

The second project is in the center itself: in the factory, workers categorize, disassemble and separate the different e-waste materials. These usually come from offices and schools, but private citizens can bring their



Chickens and sellers are both living and working in a regular waste transfer center, periphery of Beijing

own old electronic devices here, too. Although Banana Skin usually receives e-waste directly, sometimes they also interact with trusted small dealers. All the procedures that bring e-waste to Banana Skin and from there to recycling centers are as transparent as possible: in fact, this platform wants to demonstrate that it is possible to manage waste in an efficient, scientific and safe way, competing with the informal market, also in terms of prices.

FEPA, the Fashion Environmental Protection Alliance

At the shop and organization FEPA (Fashion Environmental Protection Alliance), private citizens can bring in their kitchen waste for discounts and get fresh vegetables in exchange. The collected kitchen waste is then sent at no cost to a network of farmers living close to Beijing: they use the organics to make high quality compost for their fields. These are the same farmers producing some of the goods sold in the FEPA shop.

The idea became so popular and works so well that the local government offered a small amount of funding to the shop's owners, asking them to open more shops of the same kind.

[...] not only is China deeply involved in our waste management – through the international trade of waste, often illegal – but there are several competent and motivated NGOs working towards our joint mission: Meeting so many NGO workers with the same passion was very motivating.

Marta Ferri, ZWI

Aurora International Academy

The Aurora International Academy is a multilingual private institute that includes a kindergarten and a primary school. Its main aim is to promote an academic and social education connected to the promotion of sustainable daily life practices. In every room of the school, there are four bins for the separate collection of waste, but the main aim of the teachers is to teach children how to reduce the quantity of materials used and to reuse them: art class is often about artistic reuse. The kitchen also uses organic waste to create their own compost and uses it for the garden in the courtyard. Other types of waste are sent to certified platforms, like the Banana Skin center.

Another purpose of the Aurora International Academy is to promote sustainable practices as something closely related to the Chinese tradition, re-discovered through history class and connected to all the other subjects. I found this school to be a noticeable example of a structured education towards sustainability in the Beijing context.

Lecture in Sanlitun

As part of the exchange activities, Lin Youzhu and I decided to organize a public lecture about sustainable strategies in urban living and waste management, focused on the Zero Waste strategy and Zero Waste Europe's and Zero Waste Italy's experience.

The lecture was helpful for the ongoing establishment of the Zero Waste China Alliance, seen as a bridge to connecting the Chinese organizations operating in the field of waste and community management with a wider international network.

Secondly, it has been a good opportunity to create a public debate about Beijing waste and resources. This

public lecture also has been meaningful creating a space for meeting and networking among private individuals and professionals with similar ideas and perspectives.

Networking with other NGOs

During my stay in Beijing, I had the opportunity to have a meeting with Mao Da and other activists from Nature University (Nature University participated in the Twinning program in 2014). This meeting helped me to better understand the environmental situation in Beijing (and China in general) in terms of legal and grassroots actions against incineration, landfills and efforts towards better governance with regard to environmental problems. Moreover, Mao Da highlighted a system of "active protest" that involves both citizens and experts in fighting pollution in a territory.

FON, together with the Nature University and other Chinese organizations, are collaborating with GAIA and the Zero Waste International Alliance in order to activate the Zero Waste China Alliance network. The main aim of this network is the promotion of best practices towards the creation of sustainable systems in an urban context as well as rural areas, and trying to involve the political class, industrialists and entrepreneurs in this project. At the same time, there is an increasing effort by many organizations engage in dialogue with industries about the use of excessive packaging: the main aim is to find a solution that can contribute to decreasing the use of plastics and cardboard.

The Zero Waste China Alliance is also attempting to change some aspects of current local and national legislation about the management of natural resources, waste, industrial production and monitoring of environmental pollution.

Achievements

Through the collaboration with FON and the fundamental figure of Lin Youzhu as my Twinner, I could conduct field research, interviews and document analysis in an attempt to have the clearest possible perspective of the solid waste management and treatment in the context of urban Beijing. In particular, fieldwork was an important phase of the exchange, helping me and FON to understand the "shadow-side" of waste management in the capital.

This is important for Zero Waste Italy's mission, because we consider China an interesting context in which to promote sustainable alternatives related to waste management, industrial development and people education and awareness of these themes.

For ZWI, this was the opportunity to widen our network in the Asia-Pacific region, often perceived as far away and not relevant to Italian matters. With this exchange, Zero Waste Italy could demonstrate the contrary: not only is China deeply involved in our waste management – through the international trade of waste, often illegal – but there are several competent and motivated NGOs working towards our joint mission. Meeting so many NGO workers with the same passion was very motivating. Plus, this exchange provided additional ideas, especially with regard to sustainable business activities, which is also a developing topic in Italy and in Europe in general.

Zero Waste Italy hosting Lin Youzhu in Lucca

The objectives of my stay with ZWI were mainly to conduct research and collaboration on the management of solid waste in urban communities.

We conducted investigations into problematic situations and discussed actions towards sustainability with a focus on e-waste, recyclables, food waste and best practices.

Activities

Zero Waste Italy enabled me to visit numerous recycling sites, projects and startups that they are supporting. One of the meetings that impressed me most was with the Zero Waste research center's team and some startups with which they collaborate, such as Hacking Club and the Soap Lab. It was a great chance to learn what they do as I have never heard of people doing similar things in China. Their working methods, achievements and efficiency are valuable things for Chinese people to familiarize themselves with.

Visit at recycling sites and sustainable enterprises

I had the chance to visit the startup enterprise "Fungi Espresso" that recycles coffee grounds to grow nutri-

We are very much inspired by many of the practices; with these good examples, we are changing and developing our working methods in communities and schools.

Lin Youzhu, FON

tious mushrooms in households. I found this to be such an impressive visit, as it broadened my mind and is a project that is always interesting to share with the public.

Moreover, I visited three re-use centers of the association "Daccapo" and their "eco-islands". With these visits, I finally understood the secret to a "zero waste community", its well organized operation and complementary parts. I am currently including these Italian Zero Waste practice cases in textbooks and lecture materials and also in policy suggestions for use in the Chinese context.

I also held a presentation on the Chinese movement against waste incineration in Florence at "Mamme no inceneritore". I found these activists to be an incredible example of a self-organized social group and learned more than I shared with them. We would like to organize a joint event against waste incineration in the future.

There were other visits that equipped me with more knowledge of what European countries are doing and which examples China could possibly follow. Among these were a visit to the startup shop "Effecorta", selling *kmo* products (short chain production) and its zero waste restaurant, the zero waste hotel Conca Park, and zero packaging stores in Munich and Berlin.

I also visited Milan, an excellent example in terms of composting practices and door-to-door separate collection, investigated Munich's waste and E-waste recycling system and met with the municipal administration in order to better understand the waste management system.

Meeting with the mayor of the first Zero Waste community in Italy

I learned a lot about the efforts a government has to make in achieving Zero Waste best practice and how they managed to do it, their plans, difficulties and so

on. I also established a good relationship with Capannori's minister of waste management, who plans to exchange more experiences with China.

Achievements

First of all, many of FON's projects benefitted from the exchange: best practice stories I have brought back are put into our lecture materials; case studies are enriching a coursebook that we are compiling; EU and European countries' policies that I learned about are also conveyed and written into our policy suggestions on the 13th five-year-plan and the two sessions (NPC & CPPCC). The investigation into e-waste that we conducted together in China was likewise very fruitful. We were very inspired by many of the practices; with these good examples we are changing and developing our working methods in communities and schools.

The networking effects of the exchange were also great. During my time in Europe, I got in contact with more than 20 NGOs from Italy, Germany, France and Belgium. We continued to keep in touch my return to China and exchange what we are doing and learning from each other.

Conclusion

I personally benefited greatly from the exchange. I broadened my mind and established friendships, but also attained greater self reliance and self management skills. It's a great chance to catch up with what European countries are doing, showing me different sides of waste management in Europe. I also found that the different administrative and social systems have led to great differences in the methods of Chinese and European NGOs. Carefully comparing these differences in terms of legislation, public awareness and waste management systems will be a good foundation for making policy suggestions. These can help to

gradually make the Chinese government aware of the core principles and practices of Zero Waste as a key strategy towards a better waste system and a more sustainable society.

Plans for future collaboration

FON and Zero Waste Italy will continue to share each other's experiences, work plans and ideas; we will also arrange meetings and invite Italian activists to share ideas and experiences in the near future.

In October, 2016, FON will invite Dr. Paul Connet and another guest from Europe (very likely Matteo Francesconi, Capannori's minister of waste management) to speak on zero-waste strategies.

ZWI plans to build a long-term partnership with Friends of Nature and Nature University, which will also be intensified by their involvement in establishing the Zero Waste China Alliance. China's participation in the international Zero Waste network is understood as an important step towards finding a global answer to climate change and the environmental problems affecting local and global communities.

ZWI believes the relationships with these organizations are very valuable. We would like to improve our network by adding more joint projects on waste management and civil society. In fact, an interesting future joint project could be promoting a connection between sustainable businesses working on reducing or managing waste in Italy and Beijing, drawing on FON's network. This could be important in order to improve and exchange knowledge and expertise on increasing awareness, promoting sustainability in daily life and attempting to change consumption-production habits in both the Italian and Chinese contexts.

Marine Conservation Society & Shanghai Rendu Ocean NPO Development Center

The Marine Conservation Society, UK and the Shanghai Rendu Ocean NPO Development Center exchanged knowledge on how to manage marine debris effectively, with a focus on plastics from land based sources.



Twinnings Dr. Laura Foster and Yi Ru

Exchange Topic – Marine debris management

With China currently the biggest contributor to marine plastic in the oceans and a lot of UK waste being sent to China, the exchange partners wanted to obtain a better understanding of the challenges that NGOs in China and the UK are facing.

Shanghai Rendu Ocean NPO Development Center hosting Laura in Shanghai

The aim of my exchange to China was to learn about the challenges of marine litter and its reduction, especially as China was recently cited as the number one contributor to marine litter globally.

Infobox

Marine Conservation Society, UK

The Marine Conservation Society (MCS) is the only charity in the UK working exclusively to protect our seas and marine life. MCS campaigns for clean seas and beaches, sustainable fisheries, protection of marine life, and sensitive use of marine resources. They promote solutions by informing, involving and influencing those that have a responsibility for the marine environment. They also provide NGO representation at the EU level for a number of issues including fisheries, bathing waters and marine litter.

Profile Laura Foster

Dr. Laura Foster is currently Pollution Program Manager at the Marine Conservation Society. She has technical expertise across both pollution and the wider realm of conservation and is familiar with a number of EU policies, including extensive work on the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) and revised Bathing Water Directive. She currently leads the Marine Litter Action Network, an initiative to tackle the problem of marine litter and to deliver on the ground changes.

Infobox

Shanghai Rendu Ocean NPO Development Center

Founded in 2007, Shanghai Rendu focuses on marine environmental protection. As the Ocean Conservancy's chief coordinator in mainland China, they organize local volunteers to clean up beaches and assist coastal NGOs in clean-ups. They also teach marine education courses in primary schools. Their programs include research on China's marine debris management system, creating China's marine debris data report, operating river observation posts and offering beach eco-tourism. Shanghai Rendu represents Chinese NGOs at the annual UNEP meetings.

Profile Yi Ru

Yi Ru works as a project manager for Shanghai Rendu and is responsible for the Center's media communication and government relations. Her area of expertise is coastal clean-ups. She holds a Master's degree in English and German and worked for various companies before joining Shanghai Rendu.



Laura and the Shanghai Rendu beach cleanup team

Specifically I wanted to

- learn about the challenges faced within China;
- learn what China is doing to reduce marine litter and better understand the monitoring program;
- discover how much waste from abroad, and specifically from Europe, is ending up in China;
- find out how such foreign waste is dealt with, and if there are any changes recently within China on this;
- develop a marine litter monitoring program in China, and how we, with over 20 years experience as an organization, can advise on this;
- learn about Chinese culture, society and governance.

At Shanghai Rendu

Rendu is a small NGO charity based in Shanghai. During the exchange program, I learned about the disposal of waste from within Shanghai. A number of colleagues at Rendu explained the challenges of working within China and setting up an internationally-affiliated litter monitoring program. I was able to share with them our experience of running marine litter monitoring and coordination of volunteers for over 20 years. Interestingly, a large number of their

volunteers are students, with coordination done via electronic communication.

Visits to affiliated NGOs and Waste Industry

A number of visits to other NGOs were organized to discuss their projects aimed at increasing recycling within Shanghai. These included Futian ENGO and Taiwan Thuji ENGO which were small organisations looking at how to make sure that items from the disposal society were recycled. Interestingly, Futian said that a large percentage of his supporters were from the expat community, which he said reflected the longstanding culture of recycling within Europe and elsewhere. There was also a visit to a factory that produced water filtration systems, highlighting the challenges of water pollution within China.

We also visited Shanghai Life Solid Waste Containers Transshipment Service and Shanghai LaoGang Waste Disposal Company, which were responsible for the transport and disposal of 50% of all the rubbish in Shanghai. They showed the scale of the challenge of reducing the amount of rubbish produced. The Water Environment Cleaning Service showed the cleaning of the waterside along the Bund, with much of the litter coming very locally, i.e., from visitors to the Bund.

Beach clean-ups

Rendu organized two beach clean-ups while I was visiting our organization's corporate partners in the city. These allowed me to see firsthand the difference in the types of marine litter found in China, and to see how an NGO engaged with the corporate sector. I was also able to see how Chinese school children learned about the oceans, and it was interesting to compare and contrast this to our work in the UK on getting school children to value the oceans.

Regional Marine Litter Conference

At the end of my stay, I attended the Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP), Yantai. This two-day conference covered the challenges faced by countries within the Northwest Pacific Ocean area, including, among others, Japan, Korea, Thailand as well as China. There were a number of interesting talks including one on how the Japanese had been reducing the impact of commercial fishing buoys, impacts of litter on wildlife and specific campaigns on particular items, innovative ways to monitor and assess marine litter, as well as talking about the impact the 2011 tsunami in Japan had on marine litter and clean-ups. There was also an organised beach clean-up with the local university, with the all the members of NOWPAP. The data collected used an ocean conservancy data form.

Networking

The exchange allowed me to build a wide scope of contacts within China and the additional NOWPAP conference allowed me to make contacts across Asia. Contacts beyond Rendu were really interesting, and I hope that I will remain in touch to look at potential further collaborations. In addition, on a personal level, these contacts gave me new and different insights into Chinese society both on the challenges faced with marine litter, but also within a wider scope. I greatly appreciated the time and effort people in the program and beyond made to help me have a fulfilling exchange experience.

Achievements

One of the key things was that many of the colleagues at Rendu were keen to learn from the longstanding experience MCS has within the monitoring of marine

litter, and also how to engage with volunteers. Furthermore, since MCS provide technical input to European work on marine litter, I was able to provide them with information on not only what was happening within the UK and our organisation, but also across Europe. They provided a lot of positive feedback about this, saying that they greatly valued the exchange program and the opportunity to learn. I also have firsthand experience of the challenges that China and its NGOs are facing as they tackle the problem of marine litter.

I now have firsthand experience of the challenges that China and its NGOs face in tackling the problem of marine litter.

Laura Foster, MCS

In addition, there are a number of people and organizations that I met during the exchange which will help me to understand the impact of China on the global environment, and how this is changing and developing over time.

The Marine Conservation Society hosting Yi Ru in the UK

Our purpose was to learn different practices regarding marine protection, especially considering that China's plastic pollution has been cited as one of the world's largest contributors to marine litter. We also wanted to get the public more involved. Also, the UK is recognized as one of the most developed civil societies in the world, as the birthplace of the first Charity Law.

At the MCS Office

I was introduced to different departments at MCS, such as the pollution program, biodiversity & fisheries program, sea champions program, senior policy, marketing, communication, fund raising, accounts, HR & Facilities, as well as IT & Data. Marketing is responsible for attracting individual members, while the fundraising department is responsible for corporate membership. I was surprised to find the degree of interactivity among volunteers and to see how they are involved in almost every aspect: from membership recruitment and fundraising to campaigns, warehouse counting and more.

Campaigns against marine litter

MCS's campaigns are designed and clearly targeted at specific objectives. For example, the campaign "Don't let Go" explores the fact that many people like to release balloon lanterns into the sky. However, the lanterns end up on the beach, causing problems for marine animals. The campaign aims to draw the attention of local authorities, as they can have a bigger impact. This lantern flying is believed to have originated in China and is still popular, as is the release during festivals of lanterns that float along the water. People believe these lanterns will bring blessings. This is where new projects can be copied or designed in China.

In addition, I noticed that charity shops are very often seen in the UK, such as Oxfam, British Heart Foundation, YMCA and others, all of them very well organized.

I've absorbed many innovative practices, ideas, and impulses, which surely will generate a lot of sparks. Shanghai Rendu is already making use of the exchange inspiration by designing campaigns dealing with lanterns, river lamps and firecrackers.

Yi Ru, Shanghai Rendu

SEAS AT RISK

After several days with MCS, I went to visit Seas At Risk (SAR) in Brussels, Belgium. Seas At Risk is the umbrella NGO of Marine Conservation organizations, working to help drive European and international marine and maritime policies in a sustainable direction. Located in Brussels, their team of policy officers works together with the growing membership of environmental NGOs and represent the millions of EU citizens that care about the oceans.

SAR also cares about maritime planning, deep-water mining, and other issues, which is something that is currently receiving less attention from Chinese NGOs. I learned more about this topic, such as the fact that each country needs to get an approval for deep water exploring, also known as the Marine Strategy Framework.

During my visit, I learned that while the EU's legislative process is complicated, new laws are usually a

success once they come into force. Also, I visited the European Parliament, where there was a morning press conference in which the spokespersons for various MPs offered updates on their topics.

Bathing water workshop at Edinburgh, Scotland, UK

The workshop is a joint effort by the local government, water companies, NGOs and university scholars. During the two-day conference, we investigated many issues through different interesting aspects and viewpoints. Throughout this conference, I learned that bathing water quality has long been a concern in European countries and that many related parties gradually realized they need to take action jointly.



Coastal cleanup in Scotland

Visiting MCS's Scottish Office

At MCS's offices in Scotland, I was introduced to beach clean-ups and campaigns as well as Scotland's important role regarding Marine Protected Areas. We went to a beach clean-up with a local primary school. Most of the litter found there was ceramics and glass. On the way back, we went to another beach where most litter

was tissues and wet wipes. I was told that different types of litter affect different beaches. Some are filled with plastic bottles while others are not. The possible reason for this phenomenon is connected with the industries nearby.

Visiting Fauna & Flora in Cambridge

Fauna & Flora International is a conservation innovator that continues to have a lasting impact on global biodiversity. Therefore, it tends to work in relatively new areas. Regarding marine conservation they have two projects: plastic pellets and micro-beads. I introduced a few lab resources to test the pellets.

Visiting Residus I Consum in Barcelona

Bin autopsy: During this innovative awareness raising method, volunteers put on surgeon's clothes, cover long tables with white plastic films (table cloth), collect mixed litter from nearby bins and sort it into different categories, such as "need to redesign", "organic", and so on.

I found it to be a good way to educate the public and I think we can also do a bin autopsy with marine litter found on beaches by bringing it back to the city center and carrying out an autopsy with the public.

Observations

I found I was very warmly welcomed in Europe, where citizens seemed very willing to help others in need.

Most European NGOs I visited are able to reach at least their local authorities to impact policy making. On the contrary, in China, it is different when it comes to policy making, in light of the country's single party rule.

However, during my exchange, I learned to think more from the political and economic perspective: if economic growth is what most people care about, then we need to work from this angle. I've absorbed many innovative practices, ideas, and impulses, which surely will generate a lot of sparks.

Future plans for cooperation

A discussion is ongoing about an exchange of schools in China and Scotland, and getting Chinese and Scottish students to write about their respective life experiences, with regard to the environment and beyond.

Shanghai Rendu is already making use of inspiration drawn from the exchange by designing campaigns on lanterns, river lamps and firecrackers. They are also thinking about plastic bags and bottle recycling systems.

Forumul Cetatenesc pentru Actiune Sociala si Educatie Civica (FCASEC) & Evergreen Center for Sustainable Development

FCASEC and the Evergreen Center exchanged ideas and methods on how to integrate socially disadvantaged young people into society through environmental projects.



Twinners Georgeta Mureanu and Li Fangfang

Exchange Topic – Social inclusion through environmental activities

The discrimination of the Roma ethnic group, who are widely perceived as somehow being unable to integrate into Romanian society, is a huge problem in Romania. Children, especially, suffer from unequal educational opportunities or, as young adults, experience inequality when entering the workplace. Similarly, a large number of children in China whose parents are rural migrant workers do not enjoy the same opportunities as their peers from an urban background in Chinese cities. FCASEC and the Evergreen Center therefore exchanged ideas and methods concerning how to best integrate socially disadvantaged young people into society through environmental projects.

Infobox

Forumul Cetatenesc pentru Actiune Sociala si Educatie Civica, Romania

FCASEC was established in 2003 and is a social, non-political and non-profit organization acting at both the regional and the international level, as partner to youth organizations throughout Europe, South America, Africa and Asia. In the past four years, FCASEC has implemented six voluntary projects financed by the European Commission. Its main concerns are environmental protection, environmental education and social inclusion, in particular for socially disadvantaged children.

Profile Georgeta Mureanu

Georgeta Mureanu joined FCASEC in 2009 while studying Politics, European Integration, Management and European Law and Human Resources Management. At FCASEC, she is responsible for teaching Romanian to foreign students, mentoring adolescents and coordinating and managing projects.

Infobox

Evergreen Center for Sustainable Development, Beijing

Evergreen is a non-profit youth organization founded in Beijing in 2012. Its main areas of work include promoting children's ecological and moral awareness, helping disadvantaged children in cities integrate into society and finding constructive ways of building a foundation for sustainable development. Evergreen Center has been actively participating in international exchange activities and has become a partner to several EU civil society organizations. The Evergreen Center aims to build a platform for international civil society exchange.

Profile Li Fangfang

Li Fangfang has been working for the Evergreen Center for Sustainable Development since 2014. She manages projects that help children of migrant workers. Before joining Evergreen Center, Li Fangfang was involved in a wide range of research projects dealing with topics such as climate change and soil erosion.

Evergreen Center hosting Georgeta Mureanu in Beijing

The main purpose of the exchange was to share good practices for using environmental education methods to promote the social inclusion of people with fewer opportunities, such as disadvantaged migrant or ethnic groups. The focus was on informal education methods and methods specific to the environmental field.

Training of Trainers

As the main topic of my twinning exchange focused on the use of informal education methods, specifically environmental education, for the social inclusion of marginalized groups, I proposed to Evergreen, my host organization, to deliver a training on how these methods can be applied to the migrants groups with which the organization works in community centers.

I presented two methods to ten staff members from Evergreen. The photo voice method and the forum theater method were introduced and we considered how they can be applied and what their expected outcomes are. After becoming familiar with the methods, everybody agreed that it would be best to use this method with a group of beneficiaries from the community center, kids whose ages ranged from 10 to 12 and who would create a photo voice exhibition about the environmental problems they faced in their community.

The second part of the day was dedicated to forum theatre. The overall concept was introduced, the characters were chosen who would be represented in the forum theater scene and we worked on scenario building. Split into teams, the trainees had to prepare two forum theater plays about the indifference of citizens to environmental problems.

Forum Theater in the Community Center

After the training of trainers with Evergreen staff, we designed a play which was to be performed in front of kids and parents from the community of the hutong Xibeisiantiao.

The theater play that was prepared had as its subject the presence of litter everywhere and peoples' indif-

ference to it as an issue. The audience was made up mainly of children enrolled in activities at the center but also some parents and members of the community. In front of that wonderful audience, it was not easy keeping our emotions under control, especially as it was my first experience playing the joker at a forum theater performance conducted in Chinese. But thanks to Evergreen's wonderful staff, the language barrier was overcome as one person from Evergreen served as my interpreter.



Forum theater at the Hutong community center

At the beginning, my biggest fear was that the public would not be active enough. When starting the forum part, however, I was surprised to see that all the kids wanted to present a solution. We adapted the method to their age and the results were beyond my expectations.

As a youth worker, these kinds of activities are part of what I do. I have participated in forum theatre many times, with different groups of actors, different topics and different audiences, but this play in Beijing brought me the greatest satisfaction!

The exposure through joint public activities made both organizations better known on the local, national and international level and more reliable to both potential companies and institutions which might finance their activities but also for the members of the communities who are now more interested in getting involved in the organization's activities.

Georgeta Mureanu, FCASEC

Theater in the park

On September 18th, 2016, we continued our training on the use of informal environmental education methods to enhance the social inclusion of marginalized groups. We continued our forum theater training, but this time took it to a public park. Thus, the park's visitors could see us rehearsing. Sometimes the visitors of the park stopped to see what we were doing and even waited to witness how our play would end!

Achievements

Apart from the transfer of methods and knowledge, this fellowship exchange created a plethora of publicity for the organizations involved. Our organizations became better known on the local, national and international level and was seen as more reliable both to potential companies and institutions which might finance their activities but also to members of the communities who are now more interested in being involved in the organization's activities.

Another plus for the organizations consisted of the transfer of methods and good practices and thus the expansion of the two organizations' area of action.

FCASEC hosting Li Fangfang in Bucharest

I visited the Forumul Cetatenesc pentru Actiune Sociala si Educatie Civica in Romania and afterwards also went to Germany in order to visit the NGOs DUH (Deutsche Umwelthilfe) and NABU (Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union).

Main activities of the exchange

In Romania, we organized several activities with migrant children and volunteers related to environmental protection. In Germany, I visited and worked with environmental NGOs to learn how they conduct environmental education with children.

Activities with kids in Romania

We started our exchange activities in Romania with a visit to local day care centers, known as kindergartens, where the FCASEC staff showed me different meth-

ods they use to communicate with little kids: playing games, drawing pictures, coloring, singing songs. They also showed me how to connect with the kids even though they speak a different language. It was a good experience for me, and I realized that the more you show your sincerity and enthusiasm, the greater the mutual understanding – especially when we communicate with children.

Activities on environmental protection with migrant children

The schools FCASEC cooperates with hold weekly lessons about environmental protection work for migrant people. I worked with them mainly on the topic of recycling. They designed a game that teaches children how to separate garbage. Then they held a small competition to examine whether they remembered what they had learned. The children were very interested in this topic. In my eyes, it is a good way to cooperate with schools regarding environmental protection work.

Volunteer training and intercultural evening

The FCASEC is participating in another European Union program known as EVS (European Voluntary Service). As a result of the program, they host a large number of volunteers from around the world every year. In order to help them adapt to life and volunteer work in Romania, volunteer trainings for the youngsters are held. This workshop focuses on the EVS project and the roles of the volunteers using games and storytelling. All of the activities were designed in an interactive way. It made the volunteers think about the intention of the EVS, about what they should do in their projects, the potential problems they will face in the future and what responsibilities they have. This will help them come together as a team and gain a deeper understanding of the volunteer program.



Presentation of the twinning program in the community of Valcea

Through a cultural evening they were also able to introduce their respective country of origin to their peers. Each volunteer held a short presentation about their home country, including national emblems, famous people, history, traditional clothing and dishes. Then we shared food that we had cooked together; this was a wonderful way to promote the integration of volunteers from different countries.

Working with volunteers

During my stay in Romania, I spent a lot of time with the volunteers. I took part in the preparation of the final report with the volunteers and they introduced me to their team. I also went to the village museum with them and found out how they cooperate with the local museum. It was the first time I had seen a village museum. It turned out to be a good means of cooperating with other organizations to share volunteers' manpower, resources and activities.

In Germany

After my stay in Romania, I went to Germany to visit the projects of the NGOs DUH and NABU.

River otter protection activity

In Erfurt, I prepared a river otter protection activity with DUH in which we introduced the river otter to primary school students. What are the main problems with the river otter? What do we have to do to protect them?

We used plasticine to model river otters, and furnished shoeboxes into an otter "habitat." The students used the plasticine and collected branches to create a habitat suitable to the river otter according to what they had learned during a trip to the zoological museum. They were able to discuss otter habitats while working with their hands.

DUH also cooperates with communities and companies to improve the otters' lives. Research shows that otters often die from car accidents because they avoid swimming under bridges, but instead will cross the street when they meet a bridge. To improve this situation, animal activists have built a little bridge especially for the river otters, and they have found evidence that otters are indeed using these little bridges. It seemed very use-

It was a very good opportunity for me and my organization to take part in this exchange program. I have seen a lot of working examples from different areas of different organizations and I have learned a lot from them.

Li Fangfang, Evergreen Center

ful work to me. This work not only protects river otters from being run over by cars but also brings the concept of protection to the attention of ordinary people.

Visit to NABU and NAJU

NABU is the largest environmental NGO in Germany. This exchange was a good opportunity to visit their office. Their work includes many different topics, such as bird protection, mammal protection and air pollution. In all of these topics they rely on ecological education for children. Likewise, I visited the offices of NAJU, the youth branch of the NABU. I found their activities and guidebooks for teachers on topics such as forest, wetland, desert or grassland protection to be well designed, very attractive and kid friendly.

Conclusion

It was a very good opportunity for me and my organization to take part in this exchange program. I have seen a lot of working examples from different areas of different organizations and I have learned a lot from them.

Outlook on future cooperation

We think there will be more opportunities for cooperation between Chinese and European NGOs in the future. The exchange program is laying the groundwork for future joint projects as it allows you to first get to know potential cooperation partners on a personal level.

FCASEC is also interested in establishing new partnerships with more NGOs working on similar subjects. In the future, FCASEC is interested in expanding their activities to the environmental field in partnership with the European Voluntary Service and to network with NGOs from other continents as well.

foodwaste.ch & Shanghai Green Oasis

Foodwaste.ch and Shanghai Green Oasis entered into this exchange in order to compare the challenges regarding food waste and other food-related issues in their respective countries, Switzerland and China.

Exchange Topic – Food waste/food banks

The unnecessary waste of food is a great challenge for both China and Switzerland. While alone in Shanghai an estimated 1,200 tons of food are destroyed every day, around 2.3m tons are thrown away in Switzerland every year along the entire food value chain. Wasting food is not only a waste of resources but bears many ethical questions, given that nearly a billion people in China and Europe suffer from under- or malnourishment.

While foodwaste.ch has ample experience in developing food banks in Switzerland, Shanghai Green Oasis runs the comparatively young “Green Food Bank” project, aimed at building a bridge to connect leftover



Twinners Markus Hurschler and Shi Jinwen

food to those in great need. From 2014, they have collected in total, 30 tons of food and redistributed it to over 2,000 families in one year.

Green Oasis hosting Markus Hurschler in Shanghai

I came to Shanghai with the following objectives for my exchange time:

foodwaste.ch, Switzerland

Infobox

Foodwaste.ch and its affiliated organizations aim to reduce waste by working along the principles of waste hierarchy (reduce, reuse, recycle). They target private households as well as the home food industry and foodstuffs’ packaging waste with events and campaigns surrounding the prevention and reduction of food waste. In addition, they provide consulting services to the Swiss government in designing food waste reduction projects and measures.

Profile Markus Hurschler

Markus Hurschler actively engaged in addressing the food waste problems of private households in Switzerland by co-founding foodwaste.ch in 2012 and co-founding United Against Waste, an initiative aimed at reducing waste in the out-of-home food industry, in 2013. He is co-founder of Foodways Consulting, which aims to support civil society initiatives.

Shanghai Green Oasis

Infobox

Founded in 2004, Shanghai Green Oasis is the first officially registered grassroots NGO in Shanghai specializing in environmental protection. Next to its aim of providing Chinese cities with more green areas, Shanghai Green is currently focusing on China’s first Food Bank Project, a cooperation with the Global Food Banking Network that deals with methods for reducing food waste, a cooperation for which it has received support and praise from the government.

Profile Shi Jinwen

Shi Jinwen has gathered practical experience in environmental education in teaching science and environmental protection at high schools. In 2012, she started working on the food sharing programs of Shanghai Green Oasis. In 2013, she also worked as an assistant consultant on sustainability in the Zhengjiang subsidiary of China Grain Reserves Corporation.

- To personally learn about the Chinese food system in general and about the approaches to dealing with food waste in particular;
- To support the Green Food Bank with experience, contacts and best practices from Swiss food banks to further develop the food bank in Shanghai;
- To strengthen foodwaste.ch with international contacts and experiences in order to further our approaches towards the topic in Switzerland.

These areas were particularly of interest to my exchange:

- Knowledge & data exchange (studies, sources, organizations), and the comparison of the challenges in the respective countries to gain greater understanding;
- Exchange ways to address the topic as a civil society organization;
- Exchange knowledge on different areas of action: out-of home consumption, private households, food industry, agriculture;
- Exchange knowledge on regulations and management of waste/resource streams;
- Exchange regarding the influence of consumer behavior and the ways civil society organizations influence sustainable consumption patterns.

Activities

My arrival coincided with the China-side workshop for the entire exchange group, which was a great start to the program.

The following week we dedicated to field trips, getting to know the operations of Green Food Bank as well as to network with other organizations. We then managed to find time with the entire team of Green Oasis to commonly work on developing the Green Food Bank and exchange food banking experiences in Switzerland and Shanghai. The exchange concluded with a series of meetings.

Knowledge sharing

Food waste as a topic is difficult to grasp, as much of it happens behind the stage of the food value chain and private households. I spent a lot of time with my Twinning partner visiting sites, local markets etc. in order to share knowledge and cultural challenges on this topic

and hence understand how the topic is dealt with or is not dealt with in China.

We got involved in the logistics of the food bank by actually picking up food from their partners in the food industry and delivering food to the outlets. I hence gained an understanding of the size and development of the food bank as well as their main challenges.

Team workshop

We managed to hold a common workshop with the Green Oasis team on the development of food banks based on best practices from Switzerland. We initially identified the major challenges of the Green Food Bank project and I then prepared a workshop and some content, which I drew from my contacts in Switzerland (the CEOs of *Tischlein deck dich* and *Schweizer Tafeln*).



Introduction to foodwaste.ch's work at Shanghai Green Oasis

Major elements were fundraising strategies for food banks, how to enlarge food donations from food companies (establish contact to *Tesco UK* in order to get through to *Tesco China*) and software to make food transactions more efficient for food donors (based on a current project of *Schweizer Tafeln* in Switzerland)

Networking

The Twinning exchange was rich in networking with other organizations and relevant stakeholders and individuals.

Among the most important meetings was the opportunity to hold a presentation on food waste to a *Toast-masters* group of around 25 people in Wuxi and discuss the topic with the attendees on an individual and professional basis (many people professionally worked in the food industry or governmental offices related to sustainable development).

I have personally grown much more aware of China as an international actor on the stage of environmental and social challenges as well as the role China's civil society will have to play in addressing these.

Markus Hurschler, foodwaste.ch

Meetings with the *China Youth Climate Action Network* in Beijing enabled me to better understand how food waste in the out-of-home sector is being dealt with. At the same time I provided them with insights into European studies on this topic in order to help them establish a new study among students on a university campus (mandated by WWF China).

A broader exchange could be arranged with a representative from *JUCCCE*. I gained very detailed insight into the intersections of sustainability and health in Chinese diets – particularly as it concerns children.

Other meetings included site visits to NGO clusters in Shanghai, informal visits by volunteers and, on another occasion, attendance in a roundtable on the participation of NGOs in the One Belt, One Road project.

Impact

I have personally grown much more aware of China as an international actor on the stage of environmental and social challenges as well as the role China's civil society will have to play in addressing these. I have learned a great number of things about this otherwise very distant – geographically and culturally – country. The program has hence produced an ambassador for Chinese civil society, something that also spilled over to my team during the time Shi Jinwen visited us in Switzerland.

The exchange has opened the doors to information, contacts and knowledge as to how any future project in or with Chinese civil society actors will have to be designed. It has provided our team with the prospect

of working internationally with colleagues in China – an idea formerly unknown to us.

I am personally extremely satisfied with the exchange and the way this project enriched our organization, it has been beneficial for us in many ways.

First and foremost it has become clear to our entire team that without the Asian countries in general and China in particular, none of the global environmental challenges can be solved.

Another major benefit of this exchange has been the great amount of informal time spent with my Twinner. Such opportunities are rare and bear the potential to gain great insight into a topic, country and culture. I was lucky enough to have a Twinner with enough time to dedicate to me for which I am very thankful.

foodwaste.ch hosting Shi Jinwen in Switzerland

My objective was to introduce the first Food Bank in China to a well-established food NGO in Europe, exchange different ideas as to how to set up and operate this organization and bring this kind of precious knowledge back to China.

Workshop on climate change, social and environmental justice in Brussels, Belgium

I started my exchange period with the Twinning workshop in Brussels. It was my first time in Europe, which was very exciting. Despite all the new impressions and the jetlag, the workshop that followed my arrival was very interesting: presentation after presentation covered the European debate on TTIP and global impacts of free trade agreements as well as on the migration and refugee crisis, which gave us a good chance to think on a more global level (instead of just one's own country).

We also had the chance to talk about the benefits and challenges of the exchange project.

At the foodwaste.ch office in Bern

It was really a wonderful time working with the whole foodwaste.ch team and living in Switzerland. My stay

commenced with a team meeting where we first introduced the processes and results of the work completed over the week gone by and planned for the upcoming week. Secondly, we made a plan for my activities and tasks while in Europe, which included attending the Food Industry Exhibition to learn more about the food system in Switzerland and visiting the Food Bank in Winterthur.

Visiting the biggest Food Bank in Switzerland, Winterthur

Tischlein Deck Dich is the largest Swiss Food Bank. I had the opportunity to meet its CEO, Alex, who showed me around the offices in the building, the warehouse and told me about their fundraising methods:

Best practice example 1: For some companies, which are not specific to the food industry, there are different ways to participate. For example, a big truck company lent the Food Bank trucks to help them redistribute food to the logistic centers. The Food Bank printed their logo on the trucks to show they are ethical companies, and they are also allowed to mention this activity in their annual reports to enhance their reputation. This case has worked very well until today.

Best practice example 2: Food packaging in Switzerland is not free; it costs one Swiss Franc, a price which is regarded as a symbolic gesture that shows, the food is *valuable* instead of free, and which will bring awareness to people about the value of the Food Bank. What is very interesting is in the end the amount of the symbolic money collected altogether is not insignificant.

Food industry exhibition, Basel, Switzerland

At the Food Industry exhibition, foodwaste.ch had an information desk where they introduced their idea of food sustainability, inviting more members to join us. I felt that in Switzerland many people in the food industry have a strong aversion to food waste since many people came to our desk and asked to become members.

It was a great opportunity to learn how the food system works in Switzerland; from the different workshops both in China and Europe, I learned different ideas about the relationship between food production and climate as well as social research

Shi Jinwen, Shanghai Green Oasis

Impact

It was a great experience to work together with foodwaste.ch. Communicating with the CEO of one of the biggest Food Banks in Switzerland was also an amazing opportunity.

It was likewise a great opportunity to learn how the food system works in Switzerland; from the workshops both in China and Europe, I learned different ideas about the relationship between food production and climate as well as social research.

Plans for future cooperation

The first future follow-up has already been implemented, as we organized a half-day event around food system challenges in Switzerland with around 40 attendees. A Chinese visiting scientist at a Swiss university presented on the challenges around crop production and pesticide use in China and an industry representative presented the use of fortified rice in rural China as one strategy against malnutrition in China. Food waste was a side topic during discussion rounds.

We can also very well imagine a continued cooperation, or designing an international project around our topic with the extensive network of other Twinning organizations, as well as other non-Twinning related stakeholders.

We are also currently looking at international frameworks that could enable us to set up a project idea. As always, such a project requires sufficient financing and hence financing partners.

a tip.tap e.V. & Eco-Watch Institute

The joint project examined the issue of sustainable water consumption. Through the method of forum theater, participants were involved in the sharing of knowledge and co-construction of processes concerning water consumption in both the European and Chinese context.

Exchange Topic – Sustainable water consumption/forum theater

Water shortages have become a global topic. In China, the problems of scarce water resources have been increasing year by year. Floods and droughts occur frequently. The main reason for these droughts is the destruction of the environment, an increase in water demand due to industry and agriculture, and the waste



Twinners Xu Rui and Louisa Kistemaker

of water resources. The joint project examined the subject of sustainable water consumption. The links between ethnic minority Yi cultures, climate change and drought, irrigation and livelihood strategies were examined during the Chinese part of the project's to improve the condition of rural water use and establish a relationship between indigenous cultures and water awareness. Through the method of forum theatre, participants became involved in an exchange of knowledge as concerns processes and water consumption in both the European and Chinese context, creating an intimate, interactive personal experience inspired by everyday stories. The multiple perspectives, local

Infobox

a tip: tap e.V., Germany

Established in 2010 in Berlin, a tip: tap e.V.'s interdisciplinary team has promoted sustainable (tap) water consumption, which they see as healthy, delicious, cheap, and environmentally-friendly. It is one of the best-controlled foodstuffs in Germany and France. It promotes public fountains, organizes campaigns to improve the image of tap water, consults and awards companies or any other interested parties who desire to switch from bottled to tap water consumption. In 2015, the association started its work in France and has expanded its repertoire by including the participatory drama form forum theater.

Profile Louisa Kistemaker

With an academic background in International Relations and Sustainable Development and Management of the Tropics and Subtropics, Louisa Kistemaker has conducted intense research on environmental issues all over the world but also knows about the structure of development institutions from first-hand experience. She is co-founder of a tip: tap as an initiative that came about in the EU program Youth in Action, and was awarded with the Werkstatt N-label in 2012, 2013 and 2015 by the German Council for Sustainable Development.

Infobox

Eco-Watch Institute, Kunming

EWI is a non-profit organization, aiming to undertake activities on energy, environment and ecology issues in China's rural areas to help the poor and improve the quality of the environment and the agricultural-ecological system, and ultimately realize sustainable socio-economic development in rural areas. After its foundation in 2006, EWI is now administered by a group of scientists and entrepreneurs working to implement scientific knowledge in practice. The working areas of EWI have expanded into rural energy, climate change adaptation, water management, energy policy, ecological agriculture, solar energy utilization and environmental education.

narratives and mind maps thus created will hopefully contribute to local sustainability transitions.

Ecowatch Institute hosting Louisa Kistemaker in Kunming

The Twinning aimed at utilizing forum theatre to improve the condition of rural water use and establishing a relationship between indigenous cultures and the protection of water for saving and cherishing, while also attracting more attention on water utilization and protection in the Yunnanese countryside. Forum theater is a participatory drama form invented by Augusto Boal in the 1960s in Brazil. As a form of interactive theater, it elicits differing assumptions and visions of a problem and its manifold interpretations that also determine the choice of responses to solve this given problem. The audience moves on stage to become part of the actors and to test propositions as to how to change a conflict displayed in a performance.

Training of Trainers in Kunming

As a preparation for the exchange activities, Louisa offered a workshop on Forum theater for researchers, other NGO participants, a representative from a student union, PhD students and a representative from a local environmental government agency in Kunming before the activities in the rural areas.

The participants expressed their views on given topics and methods at home and abroad and analyzed the current challenges in China. The design of scenes was aimed at addressing the serious drought in Yunnan, and how people can actually utilize the culture and traditions of the ethnic Yi minority to work against the drought. They developed and acted out scenes that showed the conflict between drought resistance, a water diversion project and rural beliefs.

Field trips to Yi villages

After the stay in Kunming Ecowatch took Louisa to several Yi minority villages in the Yunnan countryside, where they put on the designed forum theater scenes as a play.

To find out more about the origins of the drought and related problems and Yi culture as a potential source



Discussing Forum Theater scenes with different stakeholders

of solutions, Louisa and the Ecowatch research team interviewed local residents to know about measures the stakeholders had previously taken to solve droughts, and whether they had utilized traditional culture to resist natural disasters in the past. The Forum theater scenes were enriched with everyday stories. In interviews and a feedback loop, diagrams, narratives, and mental maps were collected.

Applying forum theater

The forum theater scenes were put into practice during a field trip to the two villages affected by drought, Xiao He and Xing Chu in the Yunnan countryside. These villages are not only facing drought but also a loss of biodiversity, rural exodus and several socio-cultural transitions such as the homogenization of a society where a lot of cultural and religious rituals are no longer practiced. People in these villages mostly lack an awareness of water conservation methods. With the widespread use of pesticides and chemical fertilizers, the phenomenon of water pollution has likewise become increasingly serious. Co-constructing knowledge about the main transitions and ambiguities involved serves to address both relational, implicit and content specific aspects of knowledge while eliciting perspectives of all stakeholders who have been identified as key actors including the interdisciplinary research team, Han and Yi farmers, village committee members, a private water company representative, a Bimo (priest and intellectual in the Yi culture) and a regional agricultural agency. Thanks to the project's different perspectives on ongo-

The forum theater method has also helped to fill the gap of previous post-drought development policy by highlighting the value of traditional wisdom and ecological agriculture.

Xu Rui, Ecowatch Institute

ing transitions and the nexus of traditional knowledge, biodiversity and culture conservation of minorities in Yunnan and adaptation to drought have been elicited by the key actors as identified by the interview partners.

sition research context. The use of forum theater in research, informal education and in a Chinese context is an innovative approach that we would like to explore in future activities.

Achievements

The forum theater project has built a platform for enabling key stakeholders to recognize the value of traditional Yi culture as well as ecological agriculture practices that help in coping with drought and other climate change risks through participatory research and a dissemination workshop. It has also helped to fill the gap of previous post-drought development policy by highlighting the value of traditional wisdom and ecological agriculture.

Conclusion

The exchange enabled the twinning team to work and test forum theater in different cultural contexts and discuss the challenges that are involved in each context. While forum theater aims at displaying perspectives on a given problem or conflict in our experience, in Yunnan, forum theater was rather striving for reinforcing harmony. We appreciated the discussions with workshop participants on how to solve this paradox in a Chinese context.



Identifying key actors and major challenges

Creating networks

The workshops in Hangzhou and Brussels were crucial for the creation of a network with other NGOs in Europe and China working on similar issues. In future activities, a collaboration with NGOs that use informal education methods is envisaged, as well as a joint publication on forum theater during the exchange activities in China. The project was presented in a webinar within a tran-

Plans for future cooperation

In future activities, we would like to spend more time in the villages and to better understand the rich cultural diversity in Yunnan. In a future cooperation, we will try to include local traditions in the forum theater scene, such as the left leg dance, a traditional Yi dance and more arts-based methods. Moreover, other NGOs have manifested their interest in collaboration and were particularly interested in forum theater. We are exploring possibilities and the potential of a platform for forum theater in Kunming.

Zero Waste France (ZWF) & AIFEN, Shanghai

The exchange between ZWF and AIFEN focused on the comparison of different systems of waste management and waste policies.

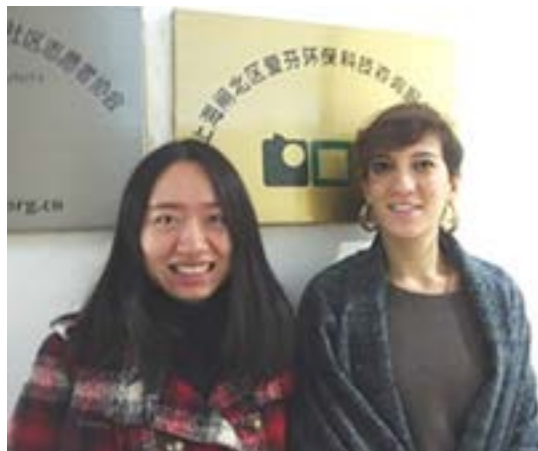
Exchange Topic – Waste management

The exchange focused on the comparison of different systems of waste management and waste policies. It was hoped that this comparison would enable both organizations to promote better solutions at the local or national levels and strengthen their public awareness campaigns.

Since both NGOs work with local communities, there was also the possibility of increasing cooperation related to “on the ground” projects.

AIFEN hosting Isabella di Blasio in Shanghai

The main purpose of the exchange was to learn about differences and commonalities in waste management in France and Shanghai. AIFEN works mainly on kitchen waste and waste classification. Consequently,



Twinnings Ma Xiaolu and Isabella di Blasio

the focus of my visit in Shanghai at AIFEN was kitchen waste management and to witness AIFEN’s work within communities.

Specifically, I was interested in:

- learning about China’s waste management, in particular kitchen waste;

Infobox

Zero Waste France

ZWF is an environmental NGO focused mainly on household waste reduction. They are also a member of GAIA and Zero Waste Europe. They provide access to independent information and analyze, explain, and throw light on environmental issues and health risks connected to waste management. ZWF advocates more ambitious regulation in all fields related to resources and waste management. As a member of the national council for waste issues, they provide local governments with training and knowledge regarding Zero Waste strategies.

Profile Isabella di Blasio

Isabella di Blasio is the Legal Issues Officer at Zero Waste France, providing the organization with legal advice on waste-related issues. She started working for ZWF in 2014 as a trainee. Isabella holds a university degree in law.

Infobox

AIFEN, Shanghai

The AIFEN Environment Organization was established in 2012 with a focus on community waste management and waste reduction. It aims to promote waste reduction and forms of recycling in Chinese communities and to build a Zero Waste society by promoting community practices, training and consultation, community education and public advocacy. AIFEN has so far successfully launched and completed 45 projects in communities and trained 60,000 citizens in the proper handling of waste.

Profile Ma Xiaolu

Ma Xiaolu is Project Supervisor at Aifen, where she has worked since 2012. She has been in charge of several garbage classification projects in Zhabei and Jingan District in Shanghai, where she has managed training programs and lectured about environmental protection. She designs training programs and is responsible for public relations.

- understanding waste policies and laws in China;
- sharing information and data about French and European waste policies and management;
- exchanging ways of addressing the topic as a civil society organization;
- strengthening Zero Waste France with international contacts and experiences.

Activities

My exchange was divided into two major periods: the first one in Shanghai where I participated in AIFEN's daily work and the second one in Beijing where I met with different NGOs.

Weekly meeting with AIFEN Team

My arrival at AIFEN in Shanghai fell on a Monday morning, just in time for the team meeting. I had the opportunity to introduce myself and my work in France and get to know the AIFEN team. During my entire time in Shanghai, I attended weekly meetings with the AIFEN team to discuss my work at Zero Waste France and to ask them any questions I had. My main goals and interests were analyzed and discussed with my exchange partner, Ma Xiaolu and her organization. I observed a genuine interest at AIFEN about my work and a real predisposition for sharing and discussion.

Networking with experts and Twinning alumni

AIFEN works with communities and other NGOs in Shanghai. During my stay, I had several meetings with the different NGOs, communities and professionals with which AIFEN works.

In addition to all the meetings, I had the great opportunity of meeting Professor Marie Holder and to exchange with her regarding the role of NGOs in China working on waste and waste classification. This meeting enabled me to better understand the work AIFEN does with local communities.

I also had the chance to meet Twinning alumni Ding Peng from Wuhan University Public Interest and Development Law Institute. This gave me insight into the political and environmental legal situation. This meeting was particularly relevant for me considering some important legal reforms and law projects in China.

Moreover, I had three important meetings with Friends of Nature (FON), Greenpeace Asia and the Center for Legal Assistance for Pollution Victims (CLAPV – CLAPV participated in the Twinning exchange in 2014 with Sandbag, UK, as a partner organization

The meeting with Greenpeace allowed me to share experiences, knowledge and to network with one of the most important international NGOs working on environmental matters. I was able to compare Green-

I am extremely satisfied with this exchange experience. First of all, I was able to better understand the importance of China in the environmental challenges we face. Working in a totally different context made me aware of the limits and the benefits of the European NGO system.

Isabella di Blasio, Zero Waste France

peace's working methods in Western countries with those it uses in China.

Friends of Nature is the most influential organization in Beijing working on urban solid waste. The meeting with Lin Youzhu, a fellow 2015 Twinning, from the "Urban solid waste management system" section permitted me to share my experiences in Shanghai with her and to compare the situations faced in these two very large and different cities.

Meeting CLAPV was a really important meeting for my work as a lawyer and I was able to hold a deep and important conversation with a lawyer from this NGO.

These meetings helped me to gain a better understanding of the environmental situation in Shanghai, Beijing and in China in general in terms of legal and grassroots actions against incineration and landfills and towards increasing participatory governance when it comes to environmental matters.

Workshop and interventions

During the exchange period in Shanghai, AIFEN organized a workshop and several interventions.

The workshop included a presentation about the Twinning exchange program between Europe and China.

I was encouraged to talk about my work in France and about the situation in Europe while my partner Xiaolu Ma held a presentation on the month that she had spent in Paris. Fellow Twiner Yi Ru from the Shanghai Rendu Ocean NPO Development Center was also present to share her experience in the UK with the public.

AIFEN regularly meets with the communities with which they work. I participated in all the meetings during my stay in Shanghai, and was thus able to inform all their partners about my work in France.

Every intervention was different and adapted to each audience. In general, the audience was really interested and often, after my interventions, I was asked numerous questions.

Impact

I am extremely satisfied with this exchange experience. First of all, I was able to better understand the importance of China in confronting the environmental challenges we face. Working in a totally different context made me aware of the limitations of the European NGO system as well as its benefits.

Another important benefit of this exchange has been the opportunity to spend a lot of time, both formally and informally, with my Twiner, Ma Xiaolu. Furthermore, the AIFEN team integrated me into their daily work and daily life, which made my experience unique. I experienced this as a very positive intercultural achievement of our Twinning team.

Zero Waste France hosting Ma Xiaolu in Paris

During my exchange, I took part in and obtained a thorough understanding of the work of Zero Waste France. In addition, I visited Zero Waste Europe and Zero Waste Italy. I took part in the 2015 Climate Conference in Paris (COP21), the GAIA (Global Anti Incinerator Alliance) annual conference and went to several cities in the Netherlands, Switzerland, Italy and Spain to learn about their garbage classification systems.

Origin and development of Zero Waste in Europe

China is now facing the challenge of how best to dispose of an increasing amount of garbage, a problem

similarly faced in Europe. While China is promoting waste classification, it is also building incinerators at the same time. However, in Europe, a Zero Waste movement is developing. The difference lies in that while China is now researching how to deal with the current garbage challenge, the European movement has shifted to advocate for a reduction in waste production and the creation of a circular economy so that garbage can be reused as raw material. The Zero Waste movement was initiated in a small town in Italy, where the landfills were overflowing with garbage. When the government announced it would incinerate waste, local citizens founded the anti-incineration movement. From then on, the movement spread into more cities and countries. Today, more than 300 regions and cities have joined the movement to push forward Zero Waste.

Via exchange and learning, I obtained a deeper comprehension of the significance and value of the Zero Waste movement and the available cases and solutions.

Ma Xiaolu, AIFEN

The literal meaning of Zero Waste is “almost no waste produced”. However, it will cost a lot, and perhaps even require a sort of social revolution, to realize this goal. As a parallel development, we have witnessed the efforts by governments, entrepreneurs, NGOs, scholars and individuals in Europe to commit to Zero Waste, and there have been a number of successful cases. I was hoping to bring valuable information and experiences for promoting Zero Waste with me to China.

Zero Waste France

I spent most of my visit comprehending the local movement and its work. In France, most of the garbage is still incinerated. Residents have been complaining about the dangers caused by incineration. Zero Waste France views their main tasks as spreading independent information, advocacy, as well as working with entrepreneurs, local associations and local governments. During the exchange, I gained a deep understanding of the current projects and operations of Zero Waste France. I took part in anti-incineration campaigns supported by the local government, a conference organized by Zero Waste France as side event to the COP21, and project discussion workshops.

Different approaches to waste management

Throughout my visit, I have found that public interest organizations in Europe and in China vary greatly because of differences in policies and national conditions. In particular, European organizations put emphasis on their independence from governments and companies. Their operation capital is provided mainly by citizen donations that support their actions.

In promoting Zero Waste, AIFEN has differed in that they focus more on practical community work, whereas the French have made great efforts in advocacy, making use of relevant policies and laws. They then hand in reports and suggestions to the appropriate government departments. They have created an anti-incineration network, provided legal support, case studies, and expert support, thus building a stronghold for anti-incineration. They have also created the Zero Waste entrepreneur action network to integrate resources of all kinds for the promotion of projects and policies. I was deeply impressed by the working style of their action network. Creating links would not only enable the exchange of resources, but also combine those separate powers, which is essential to public interest organizations.

Zero Waste Italy

As the country of origin for Zero Waste movements, it was a great opportunity to visit Italy. In the small town of Kappa, the classification rate of garbage has reached more than 90%. Garbage classification is no longer a problem for local citizens. They call for entrepreneurs to visit people's houses to collect garbage and supervise the classification outcomes. In Shanghai, the solution is difficult to carry out since residents live in densely populated compounds. Without home visits, there is no supervision. What impressed me most was that Zero Waste Italy had built Zero Waste research centers, recycling centers and short-chain shops. I found inspiration for garbage disposal solutions other than simply garbage classification.

Zero Waste Europe

Zero Waste Europe is located in Brussels and is the European Zero Waste umbrella organization. They mainly pay attention to climate change, waste and

energy problems. Each local government that is willing to join them can apply. They draw up learning materials and constitute training workshops to exchange information from different regions and countries. At the same time, they provide policy advocacy to the EU. They present outstanding cases to the government to show that better solutions than garbage incineration exist.

2015 Climate Conference in Paris (COP21)

I very much appreciated the chance to take part in the COP21 as well as in many waste management side conferences. The conference gathered people from all over the world who care about climate change. In the conference venue itself, they even displayed various techniques and products relating to environmental protection, such as the "pedaling phone chargers" or "pedal-charged juicers". The conference organized by Zero Waste Europe, France, Italy and GAIA covered various topics including successful Zero Waste practice cases, garbage junkmen, composting techniques, composting situations and other topics.

GAIA Global Annual Conference

GAIA is a global network for Zero Waste actions. AIFEN has cooperated with GAIA several times already. Their annual conference gathers GAIA members from all over the world. During five days of heated discussion, we reached a thorough understanding of the tactics and achievements NGOs had made in garbage-related topics as well as discussed the common problems and difficulties each faced. I reckon that AIFEN will benefit a lot from these findings.

The current situation of garbage classification in other cities in Europe

During the exchange, I visited Spain, the Netherlands, Belgium and Italy, and I also observed the garbage classification system and how it is carried out in different countries and cities. In different countries, even in different cities, the execution schedule varied greatly. For instance, Naples in Italy used a frequency similar to that of most cities in China. Although the city is now facing a crisis with an increasing amount of garbage, most citizens have not realized it is such a serious issue. This is why people are not highly motivated when the government asks them to sort their trash.

Benefits and effects of the exchange

Via exchange and learning, I obtained a deeper comprehension of the significance and value of the Zero Waste movement and the available cases and solutions. These expanded the visions and methods I can use for my own work and brought about more thinking and guidance for AIFEN. The lessons learned about Europe's experience and accomplishments in garbage disposal may prove to be greatly beneficial to AIFEN's development.

I have gained a lot of knowledge on the working methodology and ideology of the European NGOs. Particularly, they have built an action network that not only shares available resources, but has also creates synergy. The different operation styles between European NGOs and Chinese NGOs also offered us great inspiration.

Through the exchange, we have built connections with Zero Waste France, Italy, Europe and GAIA. We will intensify our exchanges and cooperation in the future.

Future cooperation

During Isabella's stay in Shanghai, AIFEN decided to collaborate with a Chinese company to create a new Zero Waste event. Zero Waste France already has some experience in this field: they have already organized three large Zero Waste events in France. After consultations with the ZWF bureau in Paris, we decided to start a collaboration. ZWF invited Ma Xiaolu to come to Paris at the end of June to participate in the first Zero Waste Festival and we will have regular Skype meetings with AIFEN to continue helping each other and collaborate.

2.b Climate Change Twinning Reports

Change Partnership & Rock Environment and Energy Institute

REEI and Change Partnership collaborated on a project outlining the impact of climate and energy measures on industrial policy in China and Europe, in particular, focusing on how cities and regions manage the transition to low-carbon models.

Rock Environment and Energy Institute, Beijing

REEI was established in Beijing in 2012. REEI has strived to become an influential non-governmental think tank, conducting in-depth research on climate change, energy policy, air pollution mitigation, low-carbon development, municipal waste treatment and much more. REEI aims to facilitate a more effective discussion of environmental and energy policies on the basis of justice and sustainability.

Exchange Topic – Impact of energy and climate measures on industrial competitiveness/ transition models for high-carbon regions

Change Partnership and the Rock Environment and Energy Institute (REEI) have collaborated on research about the use of carbon markets and carbon finance to direct low-carbon investment and rebuild sustainable regional economic growth.



Twinners Lin Jiaqiao and Sanjeev Kumar attend the COP21 in Paris

The ultimate purpose of the exchange was to establish dialogues among different stakeholders within China and Europe, such as regional governments, trade unions and industries, in order to open up a discussion on cooperation opportunities that would aid in a quicker transition to a low-carbon economy. The EU and China face similar hurdles, such as politically sensitive regions dominated by a single or only a few carbon-intensive industries, which are often the main

Change Partnership, Belgium

Change Partnership is an action-orientated institution with a strong belief in the power of creative thought. It focuses on solving the problems of climate change and operates through the identification and securing of key solutions which foster transformative change in public policy, technology development and society.

Rock Environment and Energy Institute, Beijing

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- non-governmental think tank, conducting in-depth research on climate change,
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- environmental and energy policies on the basis of justice and sustainability.

source of local wealth and employment. Failure to adequately address their concerns could significantly undermine the pace at which climate and energy policy delivers the required transformative change.

REEI hosting Sanjeev Kumar in Beijing

Activities

REEI arranged various activities during this period of time including workshops and interviews, to make Sanjeev Kumar familiar with their proposed work in the Chinese context and also to deepen knowledge through an exchange of ideas with the relevant experts in the field of climate change and energy in China.



REEI and Change Partnership hosted a carbon market seminar in Beijing

Seminar on Carbon Markets

Together with Change Partnership, REEI organized a seminar that focused on comparisons and the sharing of experiences between the EU-ETS and CN-ETS in Beijing, with a strong team of guest speakers. We also invited an officer from the EU Delegation, Ms. Vicky Pollard, and Mr. Chen Zhibin, from the leading carbon consultancy SinoCarbon. The participants came from a wide spectrum of backgrounds and ranged from NGOs, think tanks, academia, and media, to industry players such as energy companies.

Through presentations and discussions, people were able to obtain a better understanding of what is required for establishing a unified domestic carbon market in China by drawing lessons from the EU-ETS, learn what the potential consequences of these

market mechanisms for industry might be, and see what is needed for a just transition to a low-carbon economy.

Interviews

A series of interviews were scheduled during the period of Sanjeev Kumar's stay in China. The main target groups were people working in carbon markets and the electric vehicle industry, including battery companies, professors and NGOs.

Carbon Market

We visited the research team of China Beijing Environmental Exchange (CBEX) and exchanged ideas on the development of China's ETS, especially the Beijing ETS pilot program. CBEX was also interested in learning about the experience from the EU ETS, about which Sanjeev Kumar shared his knowledge.

We also met a representative from the Shanghai Environment and Energy Exchange (SEEE), who introduced their work and clarified its progress while also providing an introduction to China's future national ETS.

Moreover, we interviewed the Shanghai Zhixin Carbon project development team and learned a lot regarding the current and future use and trading of carbon offsets (CCER). They shared their ideas on the national ETS, as well.

Counselor on Environment and Climate Change at the EU Delegation to China and Mongolia, Vicky Pollard, introduced her work and gave us some ideas on the high-level policy regarding climate change in China.

Electric Vehicles

In an interesting conversation with the Zhejiang regional manager of Narada Battery Power, one of the biggest battery manufacturers in China, he introduced the company and shared his views on the future market for power storage and the developing trend toward electric vehicles in China and overseas. They showed particular interest in the European market.

We also visited Professor Wu Xiaoyuan from the School of Automobiles at Tongji University, who specialized in new energy vehicle policy research at the research

institution in Shanghai. She gave us a sound update on the policy side of EV development in China and also elaborated on the situation of electric vehicles in the EU, from both policy and industry angles.

Moreover, the transport policy advisor from the Energy Foundation China met with us, giving us a better idea of the transport policy as a whole in China.

During his time in China, Sanjeev Kumar likewise visited several embassy staff who work in the area of energy and climate change.

Paper Drafting

We are in the process of completing a paper for Europeans that addresses the electrification of transport in China and its implications for the EU, providing a summary analysis of the current development of the EV industry in China and recommending that the EU should aim for more effective cooperation. Apart from EV, electric bikes are also discussed in the paper, since they are designated to be part of the transport electrification in China, which started over a decade ago.

Change Partnership hosting Lin Jiaqiao in Brussels

I was lucky to have the exchange in Brussels and thus the opportunity to attend several high-level meetings and exchange ideas with local and umbrella NGOs. In Brussels, I witnessed a style of cooperative working among different stakeholders and also got a real sense of how the industry lobbies there to get their specific interests represented, as well as a look at how most of the time, EU policy is the result of a compromise that balances the interests of different parties.

Conferences and workshops

Since Brussels is the headquarters of the top EU administration and executive bodies, there are numerous high-level events that are open to civil society. I chose to attend several related to carbon market and industrial policy.

Through these events, I gained insight into how EU institutions operate and the general litigation process

Through presentations and discussions, people working on ETS were able to obtain a better understanding of what is required for the establishment of a unified domestic carbon market in China by drawing lessons from the EU-ETS, learn what the potential consequences of this market mechanisms for industry might be, and what is needed for a just transition to a low-carbon economy.

Lin Jiaqiao, Sanjeev Kumar

in the EU. This knowledge is especially useful, as Chinese NGOs have recently been given the ability to challenge in local judiciaries the pollution by corporations.

Paris COP21

While at the Paris COP21, I had the chance to attend several events related to my work on carbon market and energy issues that were organized by various prestigious institutions. It was also a good occasion to meet potential partner organizations and foundations.

Interviews

Apart from the workshops in Brussels, I conducted several interviews whilst in Europe, taking advantage of my proximity to the institutions which I wanted to talk to, by visiting London, Germany and France.

London: Accompanied by Sanjeev Kumar, I visited UK DECC (Department of Energy and Climate Change) and had a discussion with the EU-ETS team regarding the ETS reform. Also, I spoke with Mr. James Thornton, CEO of Client Earth, and introduced our work in Beijing; he showed particular interest in our energy and air pollution initiative.

Germany: During a very productive trip to Berlin, I met researchers from Agora Energiewende, the leading think tank working on issues concerning the transformation of energy sources away from fossil fuels to renewable energy. I had an in-depth discussion at the office of German Watch, focusing especially on the role of NGOs in Germany's so-called *energiewende*, or energy transformation. I also met those working on China at The International Carbon Action Partnership (ICAP) and exchanged ideas regarding the CN-ETS.

Last but not least, I was invited to the Heinrich Böll Stiftung headquarters, where I had a meeting with their project manager for China and Pakistan and the department head for Ecology and Sustainable Development.

France: Mr. Dong Yue from the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Energy and I met to exchange ideas about the EU-ETS, during which he explained the carbon leakage list in detail.

Presentations and Talks

I was invited to speak on several occasions while in Europe, mainly about energy and climate change issues and REEI's research analysis in regards to both.

At the exchange workshop held in Brussels, I spoke briefly about the Chinese political system and gave the European audience an extensive overview of the policy-making process in China, using charts, diagrams and case studies. Participants on the European side were particularly interested in this topic and inquired further on the development of China's new Environmental Protection Law and its implications.

In Berlin, I spoke at the BUNDjugend's evening discussion event and gave the German audience a quick review of China's energy and climate change policy, which sparked some interesting discussions. In the follow-up talks, some students were interested in our work and asked for opinions on their dissertation.

Also, at the China-EU NGO Dialogue organized by Greenovation Hub at the COP21, both Sanjeev Kumar and I were invited to speak and share our ideas on ETS and climate policy.

I was lucky to have the exchange in Brussels and thus had the opportunity to attend several high-level meetings and exchange ideas with local and umbrella NGOs.

Lin Jiaqiao, REEI



Lin presented China's energy and climate change issues at BUNDjugend

Achievements

First of all, I gained two workmates and friends in Brussels, Sanjeev Kumar and his colleague Anna Dubowik, whose support for me during the exchange period was immense; I'd like to thank them for all their efforts.

Through the activities planned during the exchange period in Europe, I was engaged in diverse activities and got to know stakeholders such as NGOs, governmental organs, industry, media and academia. It was a unique experience and I have gotten precious input for my future work and life. Regarding the people I interviewed in Europe – real experts who were very modest and easy to get along with – I benefited a lot from both their knowledge and from observing their way of doing things.

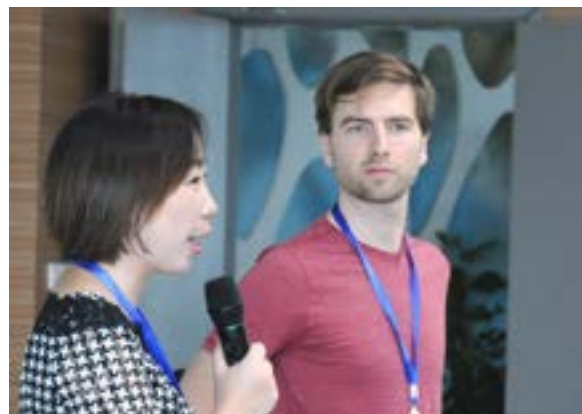
I likewise had the pleasure of meeting other twinnings in the exchange program and we've already shared knowledge and activities. I believe there will be more opportunities to work together in the future. The alumni network is growing, which means more connections will be made available. Via the WeChat group account, we were updated with all the latest information about the twinnings and the exchange program itself.

Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment and Energy & Innovative Green Development Program

iGDP and the Wuppertal Institute focused on the quantitative modeling of designs for policies that support low-carbon development, energy efficiency in the construction sector and the use of renewable energy.

Exchange Topic – Low-carbon development policies

The focus of the exchange has been on designing policies for low-carbon development. Aspects tackled have included energy efficiency in the built environment and the utilization of renewable energy. Of particular interest was the assessment of policies that support achieving these aims, as well as their design through the use of quantitative modeling. Both organizations are



Twinners Dai Chunyan and Thorben Jensen

actively working on these topics and thus have profited from this exchange. The twinning exchange has already triggered cooperation in a joint contribution to a side event at COP 21. Starting from there, we will continue working towards carrying out joint projects.

Infobox

Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment and Energy, Germany

The Wuppertal Institute designs transitions towards sustainable development. It aims to generate practical and actor-oriented solutions on the local as well as global level and is organized into four research groups: Future Energy and Mobility Structures; Energy, Transport and Climate Policy; Material Flows and Resource Management; Sustainable Production and Consumption. Clients of the Wuppertal Institute come from governments, the business and industry sector as well as civil society.

Profile Thorben Jensen

Thorben Jensen is a Research Fellow at Wuppertal Institute. He is also a PhD candidate at Delft University of Technology (Netherlands). His work focuses on energy-saving innovations and policies, building energy efficiency, the effects of feedback devices (e.g. Smart Meters) on energy consumption, and simulation modeling.

Infobox

Innovative Green Development Program, Beijing

The Innovative Green Development Program (iGDP) was initiated by Energy Foundation China's Low-Carbon Development Path Program in August 2012. iGDP aims to promote knowledge sharing among research institutions and practitioners on green growth economics, policy research, and industrial best practices. iGDP currently operates at the Green & Low-Carbon Development Think Tank Partnership's Beijing Secretariat Office.

Profile Dai Chunyan

Dai Chunyan is a member of the Innovative Green Development Program (iGDP). She is an associate professor at the Institute of Management, Chongqing Technology and Business University. Her research interests are low-carbon development, renewable energy policy, project management, and investment decision-making.

iGDP hosting Thorben Jensen in Beijing

My motivation for participating in the exchange program was the following: (1) opportunities for joint policy design on energy efficiency in buildings, (2) exchange on the use of quantitative modeling to assist policy decisions, (3) the possibility to add the Chinese building stock to the perspective of my personal work and (4) to learn about activities undertaken by the Chinese twinning organization in our joint field of work.

During my stay in China, I was mostly based at the iGDP office in Beijing. From there, I took journeys to twinning activities in other cities (i. e. Tianjin, Nanjing, Hangzhou and Chongqing). Most important for me, was getting to know the low-carbon policy network, which is facilitated by iGDP. Particularly during my visits to Tianjin and Chongqing, I could strengthen my ties with this network. The variety of these interactions allowed me to get a good overview on how low-carbon challenges are tackled by the planning of the energy system and urban development in China.

Stay at iGDP in Beijing

iGDP is working on low carbon development, the energy economy, carbon trading, green taxation, green investment and financing and other hot issues. It represents the *Green & Low-Carbon Development Think Tank Partnership (GDTP)* in Beijing, which was initiated on June 10th, 2014 by ten Chinese think tanks that focus on low carbon development. GDTP combines research with the promotion of domestic and overseas policies and practices of green low carbon development. It thus aims to contribute to China's low carbon development.

An important part of my visit was presenting my work to the iGDP group. Members of the Energy Foundation Beijing attended my initial talk. The Chinese partners were especially interested in my research on low-carbon solutions for post-industrial regions in Germany. Lessons from Germany are becoming valuable for China on its path to a low-carbon economy. One method from my German team that was particularly interesting to the Chinese partners is the use of so-called *living labs*, in which the energy-consumption behavior of residents in buildings is observed. It can for instance be used to provide evidence of the effectiveness of interventions that promote conservation behavior.

Overall, it was very valuable to get to know Chinese groups that work in the same field, particularly on advising policies in low-carbon urban environments and energy planning.

Thorben Jensen, Wuppertal Institute

Carbon emission peaking workshop in Tianjin

Together with the iGDP team, I joined a workshop on the anticipated peaking of carbon emissions in China. Chinese low-carbon pilot regions are obliged to forecast the peaking of their carbon emissions. This task is commonly taken on through the use of simulation models. The workshop thus had the aim of identifying best-practice approaches to this.

This workshop was personally valuable for networking, the sharing of modeling experiences, and the exchange of specific model types:

It provided a good setting for getting to know important actors in the Chinese community of low-carbon planning on the national level. I later met some of the attendees again during my exchange stay, e.g. in Chongqing.

Experiences in the use of simulation modeling were valuable both on the conceptual and on the specific level. On the conceptual level, there was, for instance, the mutual agreement that modeling is not an end in itself but a means to solving real-world problems. [This agreement was expressed in statements such as "Modeling is a tool, but curing a disease still depends on a doctor. And modeling is just a device that helps the doctor" or "modeling is a sword, but more important is to have wrongful (i. e. inner capabilities)".]

Specifically, an interesting feature of the simulation models used by the Chinese presenters was the inclusion of macro-indicators (e.g. GDP growth and fine dust emissions). These indicators are less emphasized in European energy models.

A type of simulation modeling for energy planning that is of particular interest to me is *agent-based modeling*. It is a relatively new approach that was used by both Chinese attendees to the workshop as well as the Wuppertal Institute. The workshop was used to start a discussion on how experiences with this approach can be further exchanged.

Attending the Learning Cities project in Nanjing

In Nanjing, I visited the Learning Cities project, which is carried out by (among others) the Wuppertal Institute. It brings together Chinese municipalities and urban planners to exchange on planning solutions for low-carbon cities. The project engaged students from Europe and China in designing integrated cross-sector solutions for the city of Changzhou (Jiangsu province).

During my visit to the project studio, I learned about the students' project proposals. In return, I provided input on their work by presenting an urban low-carbon case from Germany.

Keynote lecture at conference in Chongqing

In Chongqing, I gave a keynote lecture at the conference 'New Urbanization and Low-Carbon Development'. At this opportunity, I presented the work produced by my team and me at the Wuppertal Institute. With important scholars from the field of low-carbon development being present, this was an ideal setting to discuss possible applications of our work in China. At the same time, I learned about software tools that could be integrated for supporting European municipalities in low-carbon planning.

During the week after the conference, I had the opportunity to visit the Chongqing Technology & Business University, where my twinning partner holds a teaching position.

Visit to the site of ETS implementation in Chongqing

Together with my twinning partner and other members of the GDTP community, I visited the site of implementation of the Chongqing carbon emission trading system. We were able to get firsthand insights into the mechanisms implemented. The trading system managers were so kind as to provide the carbon emissions data they manage as an input to the discussion.

Achievements

Overall, it was very valuable to get to know Chinese groups that work in the same field, particularly on advising policies in low-carbon urban and energy planning. One concrete output of our exchange in Beijing was a joint contribution to a side event at the COP21. Currently, I am still in contact with the iGDP team on a weekly basis.

The Wuppertal Institute hosting Dai Chunyan in Wuppertal

My main reasons for participating in the exchange were to deepen the cooperation between Chinese and European civil society organizations and to establish a long-term partnership for jointly designing projects in the fields of energy-efficiency in buildings and low-carbon development.



Participants of the New Urbanization and Low-Carbon Development conference in Chongqing

Activities

During my stay in Germany, I was mostly at the Wuppertal Institute. From there, I traveled to twinning activities in many other cities: Essen, Dortmund, Bonn, Würzburg, Münster, Brussels, Delft, and Paris.

Stay at Wuppertal Institute

The Wuppertal Institute has the mission of designing transitions to sustainable development. It conducts research for politics, economy and society. It thus acts as an intermediary and transfers knowledge.

An important part of my visit was reading books and reports in the library, and to discuss research problems and methods with the staff. I also had the opportunity to attend meetings and reunions held at the institute. This revealed to me the key problems that low-carbon research in Germany is concerned with. I further got to know some key projects of the Wuppertal Institute. Experience and lessons from Germany are becoming valuable for China on its path to low-carbon development. It will thus be helpful to cooperate more in the future.

Meeting Prof. Andreas Löschel

Prof. Andreas Löschel is a leading ETS economist at Münster University. He is also a Research Associate at the Center for Economic Research (ZEW). His research areas include energy economics and policy, environmental economics, climate change, technological progress, applications of microeconomics, and general equilibrium modeling.

Thorben Jensen and I met with him in Münster. We discussed Prof. Löschel's research projects on emissions trading systems. For instance, in 2009, he started an annual survey among companies under the EU ETS in Germany. We also talked about the main ideas in the two last reports from 2013 and 2014. He also provided me with more materials on his work, e.g. from a special issue on ETS in China, EU, China, Korea and Australia (2014 EP Editorial, 2014 EP China 2030, 2013 EnePol Hübler & Löschel). I further invited him to visit me in Chongqing next year to continue the cooperation on ETS questions.

Attending the Learning Cities Project in Essen and Dortmund

Together with researchers from the Wuppertal Institute, I attended the Learning Cities Program in Essen and Dortmund. This program is part of the "Low Carbon Future Cities" project, which addresses mitigation potential in an integrated and participatory approach. It brings together the concepts of low-carbon, circular economy and adaptation to climate change. Combining different approaches for tackling climate change, the Low Carbon Future Cities project is a first-of-its-kind activity and highly innovative. The project lead is at Wuppertal Institute, in close co-operation with stakeholders in two cities: Changzhou and Essen. The project is sponsored by Stiftung Mercator.

I attended the best-practice tour of this project to learn about the case of post-industrial low-carbon development in Germany's Ruhr region. Topics of the tour were *"The City of Essen: Structural Change and Challenges from a Planning Perspective"*, *"Objectives, Challenges and Opportunities of Regional Planning in the Ruhr Region"*, *"Challenges and opportunities deriving from the structural change in the Ruhr Region"*, *"The Transformation of the Ruhr Region and its Planning Dimension Input"* and others. We also visited hotspots of urban transformation in the cities of Essen, Bottrop, and Dortmund, and the World Cultural Heritage "Zeche Zollverein" in Essen. Lessons from these locations could be a good reference to guiding the low-carbon transformation of Chongqing.

Joint visit to Delft University of Technology

Thorben Jensen and I visited his working group *Energy and Industry* of the faculty of Technology, Policy and Management at Delft University of Technology. During the visit, we attended the lecture "Engineering Social Technologies for a Responsible Digital Future", given by Prof. Dirk Helbing. We also attended a working group meeting on the application of agent-based modeling in the energy system. What impressed me most, were the discussions with Prof. Émile Chappin and the PhD candidate Li Ying. They analyzed energy systems by using methods such as agent-based modeling, systems analysis and serious gaming. Agent-based modeling may be a good tool for simulating the effects of low-carbon policies in China.

ASC Conference at Würzburg University, Germany

I attended the Joint International Conference “Research Network ‘Governance in China’ and Association for Social Science Research on China (ASC)” November 20th–21st, 2015. The conference was organized by Prof. Doris Fischer, who works at the China Business and Economics Institute at Würzburg University. About 50 researchers from different countries attended the conference. It had five tracks:

1. Urbanizing for Modernity: Framing China’s Next Rural Transformation
2. Political Consequences of Social Stratification in Contemporary China
3. Green Industrial Policies and Standards
4. Changing State-Society Relations I: Environmental Protection
5. Changing State-Society Relations II: Social Protection

I mostly attended the session on Rural Transformation and Environmental Protection. It was very useful to be able to communicate my research in the session. Prof. Fischer and her co-worker, Dr. Bu, spent nearly an entire day discussing my work plans for the coming year with me. We agreed that I will serve as a visiting scholar at Würzburg University from February 12th, 2016 to August 31st, 2016, where I will work on low-carbon urban and energy planning.

Attending the COP21 in Paris

I attended the COP21 from November 30th, 2015 to December 12th, 2015 as an observer. I feel fortunate to have witnessed the negotiations. My personal conclusions on the COP21 are the following:

First, the main issue that the Paris accord will solve is how to carry out the international cooperation in accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. The final outcome shows that developed countries should continue to take the lead. Developing countries should gradually take responsibility, too. The core elements of the Paris Accord are mitigation efforts, transparency, and funding. These are mainly based on the recent China-US, China-France and China-EU joint declaration series.

Second, the Paris Accord needed to be accepted by all parties, which required making compromises. Because human survival depends upon the protection of the environment and sustainable development, protecting the environment also means protecting ourselves.

Third, the USA, EU and China made great efforts towards this accord. Whether it’s good or bad for the different countries in the future depends upon how effectively the countries work together.

Fourth, the support from China not only comes from international pressure, but also from the need for an economic transition in China to low carbon development. That is the main reason that China is supporting the win-win cooperation to face the challenge of the climate change.

Fifth, it cannot be ignored that the timeframe of the Paris Accord is long-term transformation. Investors and researchers in the respective fields should monitor the performance and dynamics of this transformation.

Finally, information technology has significant potential to promote low-carbon development and environmental protection.

Achievements

Through studying, observation and discussions, I have deepened my understanding of the low-carbon transformation of post-industrial regions in Germany. I have also deepened my understanding on how working groups in Germany do their research.

Plans for future cooperation

One concrete output of our exchange in Beijing was a joint contribution to a side event at the COP21. Currently, Wuppertal Institute is still in contact with the iGDP team on a weekly basis.

During the program, an opportunity emerged for Dai Chunyan to continue her work in Europe for about one year and to research low-carbon development in more detail. Overall, the mutual visits have laid the foundation for future cooperation in the field of energy savings in buildings and low-carbon development.

BUNDjugend & China Youth Climate Action Network

CYCAN and BUNDjugend Berlin shared methods and tools for creating awareness among young people to expand their participation in climate change issues. The goal was to motivate young people to live a more sustainable life and spread the message of climate change

Exchange Topic – Developing youths’ ability to address climate change and energy innovation issues

Both China Youth Climate Action Network and BUNDjugend Berlin supervise projects at universities where students are brought together to discuss environmental problems (with a focus on climate change), share their ideas on how to best address these problems and motivate others to join them in their actions. In addition, CYCAN and BUNDjugend Berlin jointly organized activities and workshops for young people during the COP21 in Paris to raise awareness and promote public discussion about climate change.



Twinners Zheng Xiaowen and Rebecca Freitag

CYCAN hosting Rebecca Freitag in Beijing

At CYCAN’s office

My stay at CYCAN began with me and Xiaowen introducing our respective organizations. We learned about the organizational structure and concepts, but also about the different ongoing projects. For example, I learned about the water project “My H2O” which aims to raise awareness about poor tap water quality. Another interesting project was the waste data collection, where, in

Infobox

China Youth Climate Action Network

CYCAN was established in August 2007 by seven youth organizations. As the first Chinese non-profit organization focusing on youth development and climate change, CYCAN aims to inspire and guide young people to become a new force in the achievement of global sustainable development. CYCAN’s activities focus on international communication and cooperation, local climate actions and youth campaigns. CYCAN currently runs five major projects, including the „Low Carbon Campus Project,“ „International Youth Summit on Energy and Climate Change,“ and „My H2O Project“.

Profile Zheng Xiaowen

Zheng Xiaowen currently holds the position of project officer for CYCAN’s Low Carbon Campus Project.

Infobox

BUNDjugend Berlin

BUNDjugend Berlin is a subsidiary of Friends of the Earth Berlin that addresses people under 27 years of age. Their emphasis is on the subjects of food, agriculture, climate change, and consumption. BUNDjugend Berlin believes in a peer-to-peer concept in which active young people inform other young people about environmental problems and motivate them to act.

Profile Rebecca Freitag

Rebecca works as a volunteer at BUNDjugend Berlin and is a member of the Mobility Group

cooperation with WWF, CYCAN collects data on food waste. I could share my experience with food waste projects in Germany.



Low Carbon Campus information poster

Low-Carbon Campus Workshop

As the person in charge for the low-carbon campus project, Xiaowen organized several workshops to take place during the time I was in Beijing. She therefore had to go to different universities in China to teach students about collecting carbon emissions data on campus. I joined her and helped her organize these workshops. For a workshop in Nanjing, I also prepared some ice-breaking and team-building activities. Furthermore, I prepared a presentation about energy saving and sustainability projects at German universities. I gave general suggestions about how to save energy on campus and also introduced some successful best-practice projects from universities in Berlin.

COP 21 – Communication with French Universities

CYCAN prepared activities and side-events for the climate change conference COP21 in Paris in December

2015. The idea was to connect with other youth ENGOS who are doing work similar to the low-carbon campus project. I was tasked with implementing that and, in doing so, researched organizations and associations in universities around Paris that work on sustainability, renewable energy, low-carbon development and climate change. I contacted these associations to inform them about CYCAN and coordinate meetings that allowed for an exchange of experiences.

I enjoyed the opportunity to get in touch with other European and Chinese NGOs and share experiences.

Rebecca Freitag, BUNDjugend

Networking

During my time in Beijing, I was able to network with other NGOs and stakeholders, which helped me 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)

Achievements

Thanks to this exchange, I learned about Chinese culture and how to adapt to it. As a student of political science, I was interested in China's political system and the role of NGOs in China, something which is also of high interest for my studies.

Gaining first-hand experience in China and experiencing the different working philosophy of my twinning organization was definitely very fruitful for my work in Germany. We can learn a lot from each other and can continue the partnership in a variety of mutually beneficial ways, like team trips or having an extensive online platform for exchanges. The major benefit for BUNDjugend was to find a new partner in China with CYCAN.

BUNDjugend hosting Zheng Xiaowen in Berlin

Activities

This exchange program was an excellent chance to see and understand how BUNDjugend Berlin is working on the topic of youth development with regard to climate change activism.

Clothing exchange party

I attended several of their activities like the clothing exchange party (in German it is called Kleidertausch Party), which is a program for all the BUNDjugend members in which clothing is recycled. The familiar environment of the party was perfect for people to get to know each other and pass on sustainable ideas at the same time.

Parliament discussion on the Energy Program

I also had the chance to join a public parliament discussion on the Energy Program at the German Parliament. There were more than 100 citizens taking part in the discussion: 60% were representatives from business, as we learned from the reception desk. There were also lawyers, scientists, and local governors involved in the discussion, which showed the importance placed on citizen participation in making environment-related decisions

The exchange program is good for developing stable relationships and opened up the opportunity for further cooperation. Actually, we are planning a project together already.

Zheng Xiaowen, CYCAN

COP21 preparations

My stay in Berlin took place one month before COP21. The climate team in BUNDjugend mainly focused on fossil fuel and energy issues. They prepared posters and signs for the public parliament discussion on the Energy Program and the Climate March on November 29th, 2015. It was also my first time doing banner paint-



Protests against fossil fuels: "Fossils are Dinosaurs"

ing and witnessing the work that goes in to preparing for a march.

Idea Workshop & Business Model Canvas

One of the most impressive experiences for me was the climate action workshop held by the Impact Academy Climate (an NGO focusing on climate innovation action). This workshop aimed to combine climate action with business models and guide young people's thinking on the topic.

The first step in their method was to illustrate your idea by problem mapping. People identify their goals, then use the idea dashboard to present all the ideas they have in their mind and focus on one of them to start planning. At last, you try to use a business model canvas to model your idea into a business case. This idea illustration method is perfect for workshop organizing and inspiring for youth action.

Panel discussion on climate change

To thoroughly understand the energy strategies of China and Germany, we organized a panel discussion on China's climate & energy policy, titled "Is the Dragon turning Green? – China's recent action on climate change. An insight into the current policy situation and youth action". With two guest speakers, Lin Jiaqiao from Rock Environment Institute in China (he was also a participant in the Twinning program) and Jost Wübbeke from Mercator Institute for China Studies, the panel discussion was about Chinese climate policy

and energy transition. In the end, I also shared some experiences from the civil society perspective, especially on youth participation. This discussion was a good chance for our two organizations to become more familiar with each other and was the first step toward our deeper cooperation.

Meeting environmental student associations

Beyond this, the exchange program has provided us with the opportunity to expand our resource network. In Berlin, I visited environmental science students from Humboldt University and Free University, and the campus operation department on sustainability and energy management at Free University.

With the help of BUNDjugend, I had the chance to meet the project officer from Netwerk-N in Berlin who is working on youth participation on climate issues, similar to CYCAN. With different social environments but similar missions, we realized the differences and relative strengths of our working methods and the things we could learn from each other.

Achievements

The exchange program connected our two organizations and helped us to get to know each other. This became the basis for the development of stable relationships and opened the opportunity for further cooperation. I realized that environment protection is not only a job, but also our life and should be the way we live. The different activities broadened my views and my mind about climate action.

Plans for future cooperation

CYCAN and BUNDjugend are 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 environmental protection and climate change. We hope this program would provide more opportunity for young people and inspire them to protect our planet actively.

Legambiente, Italy & Hangzhou Eco-Culture Association (Green Zhejiang), Hangzhou

The topics of this exchange were waste management, national and international strategies for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, the development of renewable energy sources, as well as storage and energy innovation.

Exchange Topics — Waste management and renewable energy issues

Legambiente and Hangzhou Eco-Culture Association exchanged on waste management and renewable energy. The participants not only wished to promote a joint solution for global issues like waste management and renewable energy through this exchange, they also aimed to build communication and cooperation systems for Italy and China with the purpose of sharing experiences.

Hangzhou Eco-Culture Association hosting Katuscia Eroe in Hangzhou

I aimed to explore different realities in China and Europe to share and pursue new global goals. Also, I wanted to get to know the initiatives of an association like Green Zhejiang and learn and acquire new methods for things such as getting citizens more involved, as well as transferring skills.

Activities

My exchange period started with the two-day Twinning workshop that allowed me not only to get to know all the other exchange participants, but also to orient myself bettering the new environment. I also gained deeper insight into Chinese environmental and climate policies in the context of a country with uses and customs very different from Italy.

At Green Zhejiang

My working day was spent mainly in the Charity Shop, where I had the opportunity to participate in some



Twinnings Wang Ling and Katuscia Eroe

activities on the topic of recycling and reuse. There were initiatives with a large number of children and adults participating in the shop's reuse labs. They also put on fashion shows with clothes from recycled waste.

Even the monitoring campaigns of rivers and air pollution put the focus on citizen participation. Equipped with an application to report excessive air pollution and a kit for monitoring chemical and physical pollution in rivers, the citizens of Hangzhou collaborated actively in the environmental monitoring of their area.

Particularly interesting was the Museum on Climate Change. An innovative place for knowledge transfer, it is a place where the issues of energy and climate change are displayed very attractively for young and old alike.

Achievements

This exchange gave me the opportunity to get to know a world seemingly distant and different from the one I live in, but with the same dreams of change and with the same objectives.

Living in Hangzhou with Green Zhejiang gave me the opportunity to discover that there are a lot of similari-

Hangzhou Eco-Culture Association

HZECA, also known as Green Zhejiang, was founded in 2000 and is currently the largest environmental NGO in Zhejiang Province. It works on environmental monitoring, ecological community development and environmental education as well mobilizing and encouraging the public to participate in different environmental protection activities. Green Zhejiang is the first 5A level environmental NGO in China evaluated by the Ministry of Civil Affairs. It is a full member of the Waterkeeper Alliance, NGO partner of GFF, a member of the China Civil Climate Action Network and has been supported by the UNEP and other international and domestic funders.

Profile Wang Ling

Wang Ling has been working for Hangzhou Eco-culture Association for more than two years. Currently, she holds the position of the head of Eco-community division and operation manager of waste management program. Her work mainly focuses on waste issues, eco-community building and social enterprise development.

ties in Legambiente's and Green Zhejiang's campaign development.

But there were also many things to learn and share, e.g. the mode of public participation in the more technical aspects of monitoring the air and rivers.

Hence, the desire developed to be able to organize projects together, projects that include perhaps the transfer of skills and the sharing of events and initiatives. It was no coincidence that the Feast of the Tree, Legambiente's international campaign, is dedicated this year to the theme of climate change, with the participation also of Green Zhejiang, the first Asian partner.

One of the most interesting findings of my exchange with Green Zhejiang was the possibility of involving citizens in the technical and scientific monitoring of air and river pollution. Although based on different quality parameters, the involvement of citizens in the protection of air and rivers was highly effective in building a network of control, and made it possible to monitor a good portion of the territory.

Legambiente, Italy

Founded in 1980, the mission of the non-profit association is to make environmental culture the center of a new kind of development and well-being. Important values for the association are the improvement of environmental quality, the fight against all forms of pollution, a wise use of natural resources, and the creation of a more balanced relationship between human beings and nature.

Profile Katuscia Eroe

Katuscia Eroe has worked for Legambiente Onlus since 2003. She is an expert on the issues of renewable and fossil energy, as well as energy efficiency and saving. She is responsible for the realization of Legambiente's annual report about energy from renewable sources in Italy, has coordinated teams of experts during an awareness campaign on sea pollution, and managed several EU funded projects (IEE and Horizon) on the theme of energy efficiency for Legambiente.

One of the most interesting findings from my exchange with Green Zhejiang was the possibility to involve citizens in the technical and scientific monitoring of air and river pollution.

Katuscia Eroe, Legambiente

The exchange was also an opportunity to discuss policies linked to air pollution, mobility and noise.

Legambiente hosting Wang Ling in Rome

Thanks to a former colleague, who is from Italy, I learned about Legambiente, which is the most widespread environment association in Italy. I found it is a very organized and professional NGO with special expertise in the environmental fields that I, too, work on. So I viewed the exchange as a good opportunity to learn how Legambiente works, and how waste management programs are run in Italy, and also how to engage people in waste sorting in communities.

I also wanted to obtain a good understanding of the day-to-day working model and atmosphere at Italian NGOs and aimed to establish direct liaisons with Italian environment NGOs to cooperate on programs.

Activities

During my stay in Europe, there were five guided tours to Rome, Milan, Turin, Brescia and Grosseto, including renewable energy plants, a waste treatment center and the center for Renewable Source of Legambiente. Also I got involved in the Legambiente Global Climate March against climate change.

At the Legambiente office in Rome

During my stay in the Rome offices, I enjoyed the talk with Legambiente staff from different departments like marketing, campaigns, programs, energy and climate, volunteer coordination, Eco-mafia, and the social media office. This gave me a general understanding of Legambiente and I got to know the very different structures between Legambiente and my own organization.

Environmental protests

Supervised by the responsible person of the Energy and Climate office, I had some specific tasks and participated in awareness campaigns. On November 10th, 2015, I was outside the Ministry of Economic Development in Rome with Legambiente, where around 80 people protested oil-drilling projects in the Adriatic Sea. Despite the protest, at the end of the demonstration, the government still approved the Ombrina project. I was touched by a woman who cried about the result, but my associate in the Energy and Climate office told me that they would spare no effort to stop the oil-drilling project to protect the ocean and marine life.

Climate march

What impressed me most was the climate march on November 29th, 2015, which I helped prepare. This climate march had more than 30,000 people participating and more than 20 environmental NGOs as it went up the main street near the Roman Colosseum. During the march, there were performances with people singing and dancing, followed by the environmental NGOs holding banners with slogans like “lower the temperature,” “stop fossil fuels” and so on. It was so splendid

that most passers-by and citizens came to join the march and speak their minds.

Getting to know the waste sorting system in Rome

In Rome, I learned about the waste sorting system by collecting information from my landlady, my office colleagues and the website of AMA ROMA, which is responsible for Rome’s waste sorting. Once, I asked my landlady to show me how to recycle an instant noodle cup. She recycled every part of the cup: the Aluminum lid went to the metal container, the outside paper package to the paper container, the rest of the cup to the plastic container. Rome has a law on waste stating that every house should sort their waste into kitchen waste, glass, plastic, metal, paper, and unrecyclable sorts. So the five waste sorting bins can be found in every street as well as a yellow bin for recycling clothes. In addition, people can leave their bulky waste such as furniture at specific times and places or they can make an appointment to deal with these, as well as with hazardous waste. Usually, people have to pay high fees to the collection company based on a household’s waste volume. Hangzhou and Rome have quite a different situation in

The Twinning program had shown me different sides of waste management in Italy including waste sorting, organic composting plants, greenhouses and environmental education.

Wang Ling, Green Zhejiang

terms of recycling. Hangzhou only has four waste bins to collect kitchen waste, recyclable waste, hazardous waste and unrecyclable waste. People don’t have to pay high waste fees, instead, these are covered by the government. It turns out that Hangzhou can’t make full use of the recyclable waste when it is mixed with other waste. But the one thing we can and should learn from this system, is that with specific paper, metal, plastic, and glass bins, it would really help if people did the right sorting and recycle companies collect these.

At Acea Pinerolese Industriale in Turin

I visited API, which is the first multifunctional composting enterprise using anaerobic and aerobic techniques,

mixing organic waste to produce fertilizers for sale and biogas which can be used for heating. Their next step is to use biogas in cars as a renewable fuel.

Food and medical waste management at CAUTO cooperation

In Milan, I visited the regional offices of the Foundation Legambiente. I was also invited to a social enterprise called CAUTO, which was set up in 1995. After 20 years' of development, it provides garbage collection, transportation, management, processing and services to the city of Brescia. In their "No Organic Waste" project, CAUTO collects vegetables and food which look bad or are close to their expiration date from local supermarkets. Then they are divided into food, which can still be eaten by humans, food, which can be eaten by animals and that, which can't be eaten at all. The first category will be sent to charities to help the needy, animal food is sent to farms and the non-edibles are composted. This way, 1,500 tons of food waste can be recycled and donated to local charities each year. On medical waste, CAUTO has a special cooperation with Legambiente. Dumped medical equipment is

checked and repaired by professional technicians, and the fixed equipment will be sent to local charities. Since its start in 2014, this medical waste recycling and reusing project has managed to avoid at least 100 tons of medical waste.

The stay in Grosseto

In the Grosseto headquarter of Legambiente, I visited the branch of Legambiente called "Festambiente" and the Fluxinos company which produces solar water pumps and which directly turns solar energy to electric energy. The energy is used to pump water from deep wells, rivers and ground water. Also, in the headquarters, I learned about Legambiente's international environmental festival, which is held every year. Many famous singers, stars and artists support the educational festival

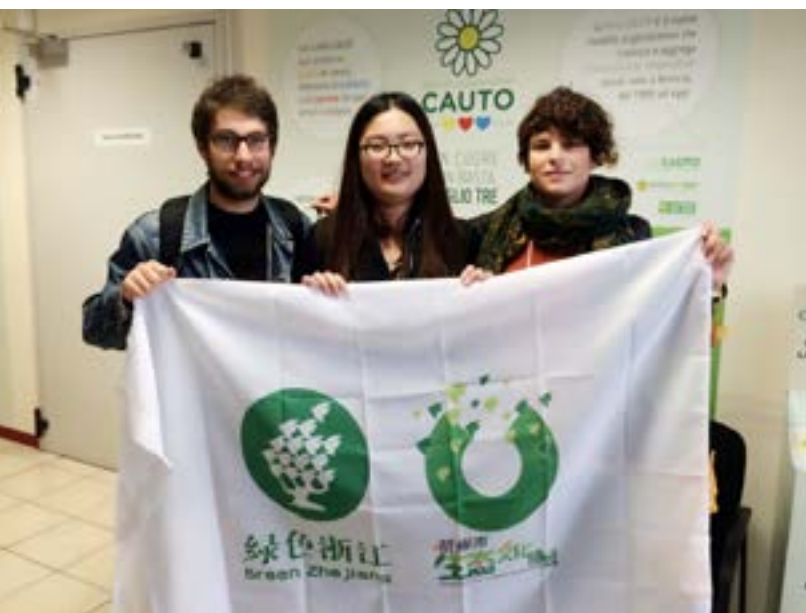
Achievements

The stay in Italy with Legambiente exceeded my expectations. The most important lesson I learned from the exchange to Italy is the waste management practices in Roma, Turin, Milan and Brescia. I gained an overall understanding of Legambiente's good practices in water conservation, awareness campaigns, waste management and environmental education.

During my stay in Italy, I wrote 10 articles about my Twinning with Legambiente on the subjects of waste management, renewable energies and environmental education, which were published on Green Zhejiang's social media, receiving a lot of attention.

Future plans

The twinning exchange is planned to be the start of a long-term cooperation. We are going to find a potential donor to support the joint Italy-China programs, and explore the possibilities for sustainable energy through the development of innovative models for the management of waste energy.



Wang Ling visited Cauto

Plant-for-the-Planet & Beijing Envirofriends

EnviroFriends and Plant-for-the-Planet focused on climate change education during their exchange.

Exchange Topic – Climate change education

EnviroFriends and Plant-for-the-Planet aimed to empower primary and second school students to become Climate Justice Ambassadors. As such, the students promise to initiate and conduct one action for climate justice every month – e.g. planting a tree.

Beijing Envirofriends hosting Kjell Kühne in Beijing

Activities

My stay in China began the morning after my arrival when I attended a national meeting on climate education that was organized by, among others, Envirofriends, my partner organization.



Twinnings Kjell Kühne and Zhang Di

Organizing Climate Strike

During the two months that I stayed in Beijing, I focused mainly on an initiative born at a Youth Summit organized by Plant-for-the-Planet, but that has now outgrown Plant-for-the-Planet, strictly speaking: Climate Strike. Since this initiative is global in nature, much of my time was spent in front of the computer emailing, Skyping and chatting with friends and colleagues all around the world, preparing for Climate Strike on November 30th, 2015.

Infobox

EnviroFriends Environmental Institute of Science and Technology, Beijing

EnviroFriends is a non-governmental organization working on environmental science, technology research and public environmental education. EnviroFriends aims to raise citizens' awareness of environmental issues and motivate them to actively engage in the promotion of sustainable development in China. Main working areas include assistance and support for the government or companies in carrying out environmental protection and sustainable development research, implementing environmental education as well as promoting exchange and cooperation between non-governmental organizations.

Infobox

Plant-for-the-Planet, Germany

The idea for Plant-for-the-Planet came from a nine-year-old boy's homework. In 2007, inspired by Wangari Maathai who has planted over 30 million trees within 30 years in Africa, Felix Finkbeiner had a vision: children in each country of the world would plant a million trees and thus effectively do something against climate change, while adults continue talking without much action. His vision evolved into a children's movement with children from more than 100 countries participating so far. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) supports Plant-for-the-Planet and has handed its Billion Tree Campaign over to the children.

Networking

We were able to promote Plant-for-the-planet's concept to partners at three international conferences. More than 50 environmental protection NGOs from around the country were introduced to the project and now partners in five cities (Hangzhou, Jilin, Xi'an, Tianjin and Beijing) are planning to cover hundreds of acres of woodland with trees.

At the same time, I was able to make good use of the opportunities provided by being in Beijing, by interacting with local NGOs and other institutions. Over the course of the two months, I visited and/or held meetings with the following organizations:

China Coal Cap Project, Greenovation Hub, Youthink Center, China Youth Climate Action Network (CYCAN), International Rivers, Greenpeace, Centre for Sustainable Consumption and Production, Asia Infrastructure Investment Bank, China Carbon Forum, 350.org, the German Embassy, Central and Eastern Europe Bankwatch and a Plant-for-the-Planet Program Coordinator from Lanzhou.

organized by the World Resources Institute, an event on carbon trading set up by Change Partnership and Rock Environment and Energy Institute, an event on the energy transition in Germany organized by CANGO and the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation, an event on the energy transition in China organized by the Canadian International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), two events by the Beijing Energy Network on particulate matter and air quality and on the use of recycled cooking oil for transportation, an event of the Automotive Roundtable on sustainable transport, a two-day East Asia (China-Korea-Japan) Climate Network Conference in Tianjin, an informal meeting and exchange between Chinese environmental NGOs, a conference on the recycling of lamps, and a staff meeting at the NGO Nature University.

In most of these events I had an opportunity to give a brief presentation or ask questions.

I was also invited to give a presentation on the UN climate negotiations at the CYCAN COP21 preparation workshop and held a webinar on zero emissions for a Latin American audience.



Zhang Di and Kjell Kühne organizing Climate Strike activities during the COP21 in Paris

Events and Conferences

The following events filled the rest of my time: a kick-off workshop of the NGO exchange in Hangzhou, a workshop on "Greening Chinese Overseas Finance"



A poster with a very important concept in China these days: "War on pollution"

Plant-for-the-Planet hosting Zhang Di in Germany

Twinning Workshop and networking in Brussels

The European part of the exchange started out with the NGO exchange workshop in Brussels where we got to know a bit more about European policy-making. We used the opportunity to visit the Young Friends of the Earth Europe, the Federation of Young European Greens, a colleague working on coal projects, a lawyer at Frank Bold who is a pioneer in climate litigation, and the Norwegian NGO Bellona.

Paris events

The first event was the Conference of Youth (COY11), a youth climate conference that has been held on the weekend before the COP for the last eleven years. COY11 in Paris was a huge event that provided ample opportunities for networking and finding more supporters for this year's and next year's Climate Strike. There was also a workshop on Climate Strike and we took lots of pictures and some videos of people supporting the initiative.

Beginning that Sunday, we started a Weibo Campaign for Climate Strike in China (where Climate Strike became known as Climate Action Day), which acquired a readership of a few thousand people.

Through the sharing of resources in this exchange, both Chinese and EU partners have made huge gains. At the same time, through this platform, both sides got to know information, organizations and communication channels for possible further international cooperation on environmental protection.

Zhang Di, Envirofriends

Climate Action Day

November 30th, 2015 was the global Climate Strike Day which saw actions in a dozen countries around the world. In Paris, we held a central event with guests from around the world and organized a full day's pro-

gram, focusing on how to strengthen the push back against fossil fuel extraction.

Compared to other social issues, pollution and climate change are still not considered sufficiently urgent and important in many developing countries due to their unique characteristics.

In order to echo the climate change negotiations in Paris and call for more people to actively participate in tackling climate change action, we decided to run a "Day of Action" campaign through social media. We created a photo in accordance with the topic, where people were asked to write "countering climate change" on their hands. We then invited people to upload them as profile pictures on Wechat. We received a positive response, partnering with more than a dozen NGOs to forward the call to action, we reached more than 40,000 users.



Photo used in our Weibo campaign for Climate Strike Day in China

COP21

I had the chance to attend the COP21 in Paris where Plant-for-the-Planet had a permanent booth. I participated in the second week of the conference. The main tasks included organizing a side event on tackling climate change. The subjects included introducing Mexican actions on climate change and a spontaneous call by an African farmer for people to engage in tree planting to combat climate change. I also participated in a solar power experience sharing session with participants from around the world that was led by an Indian solar power expert. There was a meeting with Chinese organizations involved in climate change policy including "Beijing haze" performance art and other activities to share information and ideas.

We also distributed a total of nine tons or 90,000 chocolate bars to COP21 participants to call on delegates to participate more actively in addressing climate change. We also called on dozens of volunteers from around the world to take our project home to share.

Achievements

We were able to have access to very cooperative spaces, giving EU cooperation projects, such as Plant-for-the-Planet, the chance to expand in China. We got more material and resources for our climate change education. At the same time, in terms of raising awareness,

by using China's media platforms with vast audiences, our communication activities made great progress. Through the sharing of resources in this exchange, both Chinese and EU partners have made huge gains. At the same time, through this platform, both sides got to know information, organizations and communication channels for possible further international cooperation on environmental protection. In terms of the climate change negotiations, the cooperation also increased the influence of our NGOs on our respective national governments, which puts us in a position to continue to advocate in favor of the implementation of climate change actions and strategies.

3. Sustainable Partnerships

Since the very first twinning in 2012, we have taken the opportunity to evaluate the sustainability of the links between organizations and activists from Europe and China. In our former documentations (2013/14), we already described the twinning pairs which continued or deepened their collaboration after the exchange. In 2013 and 2014, four out of the five twinning pairs from the previous year were engaged in on-going collaborations, in 2015, it was five out seven.

Not only have previous participants kept us updated on their joint activities and projects, but the alumni have likewise participated in our seminars in 2015 and enthusiastically shared their experiences. As of now, we

already know of several collaboration initiatives undertaken by the 2015 Twinners, and also of joint projects by the organizations participating in 2013 and 2014. They, too, were invited to meet this year's exchange participants and to help establish a Sino-European civil society network.

To foster future joint cooperation, the Robert Bosch Foundation will kindly support specific follow-up projects (for the twinners of the "Environmental and Social Justice" part of the program), chosen from alumni applications. Another lasting effect of the exchange that we have noticed, is networking during the Twinning seminars, which has frequently led to additional smaller collaborations or visits to the other organizations in the exchange region.



New EU-China NGO Twinning Policy Briefings

In order to enhance the accessibility of insights on NGO topics that concern societies in Europe and China alike, we have launched the **policy paper series “EU-China NGO Twinning Policy Briefings.”** Thus far, one paper on pollution victims and another on small-holder organic farming have been published. A third paper will be published on the monitoring of Chinese investments in Eastern Europe.

With our Twinning Policy Briefings we aim to provide civil society perspectives on Chinese developments as well as on European and Chinese collaborations. The briefings serve to inform readers about initiatives and issues on which Chinese and European NGOs have begun collaborating. Moreover, these briefings provide recommendations for political reforms which have to be undertaken as necessary steps towards achieving the goal of a healthy, fair, and sustainable future. Therefore, the target groups are not only German and EU parliamentarians and NGOs, but also institutions which finance and influence development projects, such as local state and city governments in Germany, the Asian Development Bank, and the European Union.



EU-China NGO Twinning Policy Briefings

What follows is an account of the joint activities of the 2014 Twinners as well as a planned collaboration between alumni organizations and new contacts made during the exchange.

Social and Environmental Justice Twinners:

Zero Waste Italy, Friends of Nature: Urban solid waste policy: A comparison between Capannori and Beijing

This project is a direct follow-up to the 2015 Twinning exchange. Based on community-level fieldwork and sample data analysis, the project will consist of four stages: analyzing Italian and Chinese residents' waste production and management, comparing the waste collection practices of municipal services in Capannori and of governmental and informal collectors in Beijing, researching the organization and management of waste on waste platforms like Eco Islands and Beijing's multiple transfer centers, and analyzing recycling companies' waste treatment practices, as well as their relationship with civil society and government. The final product of this project will be a conclusive report on waste management strategies at the communal level in China and Italy. The report will highlight strengths and weaknesses on both sides, contribute to improving the strategies of both organizations and promote Chinese-European cooperation.

Marine Conservation Society (UK), Shanghai Rendu Ocean Development Center: International Coastal Cleanups

MCS and Shanghai Rendu both focus on reducing the increasing pollution in our oceans. Continuing their cooperation in this area, the organizations will arrange several beach clean-ups, both in the UK and China. The clean-ups will be publicized online and through flyers. Instructors specializing in international coastal cleanup methods will accompany volunteers, record the results of the actions and encourage networking. They will also use social media to share their experiences, the results of the clean-ups and the impact pollution has on beaches and marine wildlife.

a tip tap e.V. (Berlin), FCA SEC (Romania), Evergreen Centre (Beijing): Non-Formal education theater festival and exhibition 2016

This year, we witness a remarkable outcome of the networking after our capacity building seminars where they all met for the first time: a cooperation between **three** 2015 twinning partners on the use of forum theater as a method for environmental education.

During the Twinning exchange 2015 they have encountered a vivid and active community of NGOs using non-formal education tools to work on a broad range of environmental and social issues. They work with communities to conserve cultural and agricultural practices

in mountain villages in Yunnan, on the improvement of living conditions of working migrants in the cities or on women suffering from domestic violence in Kunming and Beijing, just to provide a few examples. Throughout the discussions, the three NGOs became curious about the diversity of groups and their approaches. They have made promising contacts to theatre groups, researchers of various disciplines, anthropologists, and student union leaders. The idea of a Chinese Festival on non-formal education and arts-based research methods came up.

The three NGOs started to plan a three day festival in Beijing. During the planning, a fourth research institution joined, the University of Sheffield. They work on a cross-national research project about intergenerational justice, specifically looking at the issues of climate change, consumption and sustainability, in the UK, China and Uganda (www.sheffield.ac.uk/intersection). The researchers are now informally linked to the twinning group and their activities.

The festival aims at contributing to the coproduction of knowledge and mutual learning. It hopes to foster new coalitions between NGOs, researchers, students, artists and practitioners. The festival will take place from 20. to 22. of October 2016 in Beijing. The festival will also include a photo voice exhibition which was prepared during the twinning exchange 2015 by Evergreen and FCASEC. Key decision makers are invited to participate at the exhibition.



Zero Waste Festival in France

Zero Waste France, AIFEN Shanghai: Zero Waste Festival in France

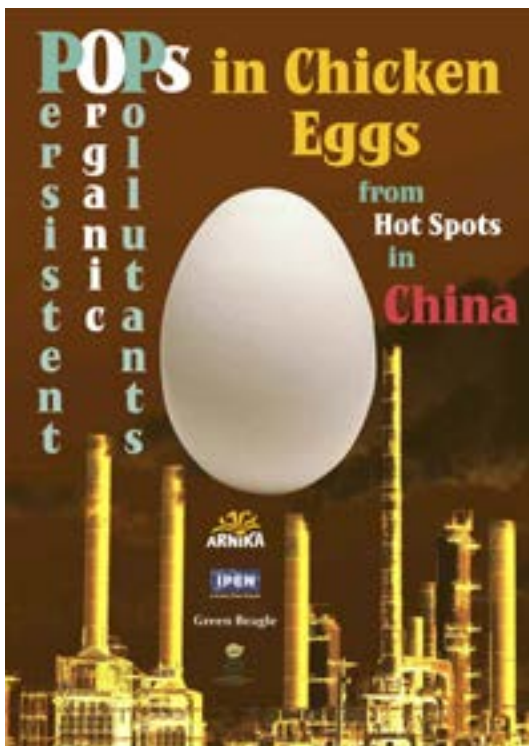
Zero Waste France is organizing a Zero Waste Festival, a music festival that will raise awareness of waste production through its Zero Waste agenda. AIFEN will take part in all stages of the festival, from organization to implementation. There will be a special part of this festival dedicated to international partnerships during which Twinning partners will share their experience with and strategies for international cooperation and the propagation of the Zero Waste movement.

Save our Seeds, Pesticide Eco-Alternatives Center (PEAC): Transitioning from high to low pesticide-use in a Heinigou farming community

Within the framework of the international 2000 m2 Project established by the Foundation on Future Farming (FFF) and following the 2015 Twinning exchange, PEAC joined the initiative to assist the village of Heinigou in reducing its pesticide use. The follow-up project will continue to support this development by organizing training sessions and exchanges among farmers, as well as by promoting the development of organic farmers' cooperatives to support the market for eco-products. FFF and PEAC are working on three reports with accompanying photo material to monitor the changes resulting from low-pesticide farming procedures. The reports will be published in English and Chinese and accompanied by a short video statement given by one of the participating farmers. The video will be posted as a teaser for the project on the organizations' websites.

Arnika (Czech Republic), Nature University (China): Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) in chicken eggs from pollution hotspots in China

Following the 2015 Twinning exchange, Arnika and Nature University collected samples from chicken eggs at several pollution hotspots in China. Chicken eggs have been found to be sensitive indicators of POP contamination in the soil and in dust, and are an important exposure pathway from soil pollution to humans. The samples were analyzed in Czech laboratories and the results summarized in a report. The results found the eggs to be contaminated with dangerous and toxic pollutants, such as dioxins. The follow-up action will be to translate this report into Chinese and visually enhance the material for publication. It will then be disseminated to the general public and media. Additionally, further samples from a hotspot in Likeng will be acquired and used to substantiate the report's findings.



China Egg Report by Arnika and Nature University

Climate Twinners

Rock Environment and Energy Institute (REEI, Beijing), Change Partnership (UK)

REEI and Change Partnership have kept in touch after the exchange by collaborating on writing a joint paper

on transport electrification. Also, they exchanged ideas on the impact of Brexit on the UK's environmental and energy policies, contributing to a paper series analyzing the Brexit issue. The participants see the exchange as marking the beginning of long-term communication and cooperation between the two Twinning fellows and their respective organizations. They are currently in close contact about new developments and expect to continue to do so in the future.

Innovative Green Development Program (Beijing), Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment and Energy

After the exchange program, the participating organizations began to cooperate on a "Chongqing pilot project for developing a low carbon campus evaluation index". As a starting point, this study will clarify key points in controlling greenhouse gas emissions in order to build a low carbon campus construction and evaluation system. In addition to the necessary hardware for a Low Carbon Campus, society will also play a key role in the low carbon transformation. On campus, providing low carbon education can help students integrate their life and work into the low carbon system and enhance their overall low carbon literacy. Ultimately, this will help control on-campus greenhouse gas emissions, enhance low carbon awareness and literacy among citizens and promote the goal of creating synergies between universities and society as a whole to achieve a low carbon transformation. The research results of the project will provide a decision-making basis and reference for creating local level planning regulations and technical guidelines in Chongqing. The transnational nature of this research project will help foster innovation.

CYCAN (Beijing) / BUNDjugend Berlin

CYCAN & BUNDjugend Berlin see this twinning program as the beginning of further cooperation. CYCAN is building a domestic and an international youth network on climate change, a project BUNDjugend will also be involved in. After the exchange, their team in Berlin became very interested in China's development and its environmental policies, becoming more open-minded. The two organizations are also planning to do a youth exchange between Berlin and Beijing for young environmental activists. Planning for this project began during the NGO exchange.

4. Achievements and Highlights of the 2015 Twinning

It is astounding, even to us, to witness both how broadly the EU-China NGO networks have been spun, as well as how strong these bonds have been, during the exchange and beyond. The capacity-building workshop for all participating fellows held at the initiation of the program served not only to provide a strong foundation for the exchange but also as a real networking hub that provided extensive cross-fertilization. Contacts were made, topical networks and expertise readily shared.

Often, twinning partners agreed to meet again during the visiting period or at conferences in order to establish even closer collaborative relationships. The Twinning alumni network is also a growing source for specific background information and new collaborations.

Cross fertilizing expanding networks

- Marta Ferri (Zero Waste Italy) was able to meet the 2014 Twinning alumni Mao Da (Nature University) and other activists from the organization Nature University, helping her better understand the environmental situation in Beijing and China as a whole in terms of legal action and grassroots activities.
- Isabella Di Blasio (Zero Waste France) met the 2013 Twinning alumni Ding Peng from Wuhan University Public Interest and Development Law Institut as well as representatives from the Center for Legal Assistance to Pollution Victims (CLAPV), a participating organization from 2014, which provided a legal perspective on political and environmental developments in China.
- Dorothee Saar and Sönke Diesener (DUH/NABU) had meetings with the Natural Resources Defense



Networking at the Capacity Building Workshops

Council (NRDC), a board member of the Twinning program, and Clean Air Asia. They were thus able to gain insights into ongoing Chinese policy-making on air pollution as well as the situation of international NGOs working in China.

- Markus Hurschler (Foodwaste.ch) gained a better understanding of how food waste in the out-of-home sector is being dealt with in China through meetings with the China Youth Climate Action Network (CYCAN) in Beijing. At the same time, he was able to provide insights into European studies on food waste, helping CYCAN set up a new field study among university students.
- In Europe, Li Fangfang (Evergreen Center) also visited environmental education projects run by DUH and NABU, which broadened her view of environmental education and offered opportunities for cooperation. Both Chinese Twinners working on waste related topics had the chance to get to know various Zero Waste organizations throughout Europe.

Moreover, each year we can witness the creation of new projects between different twinning pairs. This



High media attention after the Tianjin explosion – German ARD interviewing Tianjin Lüling expert

year, one is especially remarkable: a cooperation between **three** 2015 twinningers on the use of forum theater as a method for environmental education (see chapter 3 sustainability). Here are further highlights from the 2015 Twinning:

Deutsche Umwelthilfe e.V. / NABU Naturschutzbund Deutschland e.V. & Lüling (Green Collar) Tianjin Binhai Environmental Advisory Service Center

Based on in-depth expert talks with Dorothee Saar and Sönke Diesener on legal action, as well as on clean air in the maritime industry, Green Collar **prepared Chinese-language reports** for their team. These two reports will also be the basis for the two organizations

We learned a lot on Chinas NGOs and on the environmental protection legislation which sometimes – and in the future even more – exceeds the European standards. This provides a good starting point to understand the Chinese situation. It stresses the necessity in the run for improvements in Europe and worldwide.

Dorothee Saar, DUH/Sönke Diesener, NABU

Our projects have benefitted a lot from the exchange, e.g. through stories of best practices I have brought back, which are put into our lecture materials; case studies are enriching the course book that we are compiling; EU and European countries' policies that I learned about are also conveyed and written into our policy suggestions on the 13th five-year-plan and the two sessions [of China's parliament].

Lin Youzhu, FON

to collaborate in these fields in the future. In addition, Ms Saar and Mr Diesener discovered **how Green Collar conducts measurements of air and water**, proves violations via imagery and interacts with residents and officials.

Dong Jian took part in an **expert talk on shipping emissions** and a **workshop on emissions control** at the European Parliament, providing him with insights into the legal framework governing emissions and air quality in Europe.



Marta Ferri had the chance to take part in FON's annual field trip to Taiwanese partner organizations

Zero Waste Italy (ZWI) & Friends of Nature (FON)

Marta Ferri conducted **field research, interviews and document analysis** to gain a thorough understanding of solid waste management and treatment in Beijing. She visited an incineration plant (part of a "circular economy district"), informal waste transfer centers,

e-waste villages, as well as kitchen waste recycling schemes.

Moreover, FON took her along on their **annual international field trip** to Taiwan, where she was directly involved in team-building activities, as well as in strengthening FON's work with partner NGOs, supporting them in capacity-building and developing their international networks.

Lin Youzhu had the opportunity to meet the minister of waste management in the town of Capannori, Italy's first Zero Waste locality. They spoke about the steps that local governments need to take to make Zero Waste a reality and discussed the possibility of further exchanges with China.

With these visits, she familiarized herself with the various aspects of a "zero waste community". She is now **putting these examples and knowledge to use in the Chinese context, by creating textbooks and lecture materials**, but also by making policy suggestions.

Marine Conservation Society & Shanghai Rendu Ocean NPO Development Center

Laura Foster took part in two **beach clean-ups** while visiting Shanghai Rendu. These allowed her to see the differences in the types of marine litter found in China and to observe how an NGO engages with the corporate sector.

I have participated in forum theater many times, with different groups of actors, different topics and a different public, but this play in the Chinese community gave me the biggest satisfaction!

Georgeta Mureanu, FCASEC

Moreover, she was able to provide Shanghai Rendu with **information and technical input on the monitoring of marine litter** as well as with insights on how to engage with volunteers, drawing on the Marine Conservation Society's (MCS) longstanding experience in the EU.

Ms Foster also participated in the **Northwest Pacific Action Plan conference**, where representatives from

countries in the Northwestern Pacific discussed and shared ideas on the problem of marine litter.

Yi Ru likewise learned about the composition of marine litter and local challenges in the UK by participating in beach clean-ups. Moreover, she will bring new **project ideas and methods** back to China. She also gained insights into the **advocacy work** of Seas at Risk, an international umbrella organization.

FCASEC & Evergreen Center for Sustainable Development

Georgeta Mureanu gave a **train-the-trainer course** for ten members of the Evergreen staff, thereby introducing the interactive educational methods of forum theater and photo voice to the Beijing organization. This new knowledge was directly applied: together with children and parents from a Beijing community, they prepared and performed a forum theater play on the widespread problem of garbage and public indifference towards it.

Both organizations gained significant exposure through multiple joint public activities. They were thus able **to raise their profile on a local, national and international level**, making them more attractive to potential partners.

Li Fangfang acquired knowledge of various methods that can be used to integrate migrant children and international volunteers into a project. She also learned about children's environmental education projects and teaching material design at German environmental NGOs.

foodwaste.ch & Shanghai Green Oasis

Markus Hurschler gained an understanding of the development and challenges of the newly established **Shanghai food bank** by collecting food from their partners in the food industry and delivering it to the outlets. He took part in a **joint workshop** with the Green Oasis team on the development of food banks based on best practices in Switzerland.

Moreover, he had the chance to hold a **presentation on food waste to a Toastmasters' group** in Wuxi and discuss the topic with those active in the food industry, both in business and government. Jinwen had the



An interview with Markus Hurschler after his Twinning exchange

opportunity to learn about the specific operation of **Switzerland's largest food bank**, first-hand. She also gained insight into important **best-practice examples** related to food banks and food waste, such as transportation sponsors and pay-for-package schemes.

I am personally extremely satisfied with the exchange and the way this project enriched our organization, it has been beneficial for us in many ways.

Markus Hurschler, foodwaste.ch

a tip: tap e.V. & Ecowatch Institute

Louisa Kistemaker was able to hold a **train-the-trainers workshop** on forum theater for other NGO participants, students, and representatives from a local government environmental agency.

The exchange enabled the twinning team to work and test forum theater in different cultural contexts and discuss the challenges that are involved in each context.

Louisa Kistemaker, a tip: tap e.V.

In a Yunnanese village, they had the chance to **directly apply forum theater** to the topics of drought, loss of biodiversity, rural exodus and socio-cultural transitions. This proved to be a valuable method for eliciting a variety of responses from all stakeholders, namely, the interdisciplinary research team, Han and Yi minority farmers, village committee members, a private water company representative, a local religious leader and a regional agricultural agency.



Louisa Kistemaker leading a train-the-trainers workshop on forum theater in Kunming

Zero Waste France & AIFEN

Isabella di Blasio had the chance to learn about the **legal framework** surrounding waste from experts in academia and law. This is closely related to her work as Legal Issues Officer at Zero Waste France. In this regard, she was also able to draw on the alumni network of the EU-China NGO Twinning. Moreover, she was able to take part in several **workshops on the topic of waste**, where she presented her own work and provided details on the situation in Europe to an interested public.

Ma Xiaolu had the chance to visit the **first-of-its-kind Zero Waste organization** in Italy, thereby gaining an understanding of the origins of this movement and finding inspiration for garbage disposal solutions that

What impressed me most was that Zero Waste Italy had built Zero Waste research centers, recycling centers and short-chain shops. There are garbage disposal solutions other than simply garbage classification. This has provided me with inspiration.

Ma Xiaolu, AIFEN

move past garbage classification and recycling systems.

At Zero Waste Europe, she gained an understanding of how this **umbrella organization** lobbies and consults on waste-related issues at the EU level and how they design their educational materials.

The highlight of the exchange in terms of international issues and topics was the fieldtrip to the **COP21 Climate Change conference** in Paris. Moreover, she had the chance to participate in the **annual conference of the GAIA global Zero Waste network**.

Rock Environment & Energy Institute & Change Partnership

Apart from engaging in collaborative work on low carbon policy, REEI and Change Partnership conducted several air pollution monitorings in different cities in Europe, including Brussels, London, Paris, Berlin and Madrid, to test and compare the air quality in the



REEI post on air pollution results in European and Chinese metro lines

subways. The results were published on the Twitter accounts of REEI and Change Partnership, as well as on REEI's website and WeChat account, gaining lots of attention from the public. They were also partly published in the magazine 'Encyclopedic Knowledge'.

Before the Paris COP 21, both organizations joined the campaign to appeal for cleaner energy. Due to security issues, they participated in a hand-holding action instead of the 'Climate March,' to show that more cooperation is needed and that climate targets should be ambitious.

Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment and Energy & Innovative Green Development Program (iGDP)

The exchange program helped the participants get a better understanding of German and Chinese groups that work in the same field, particularly in making policy suggestions on low-carbon urban and energy planning. The mutual visits were an explorative search for possible future collaborations. During the exchange, they attended many research conferences. One of the most exciting conferences was the "International Forum on New Urbanization & Low-Carbon Development," held by Chongqing Technology and Business University.

The *Learning Cities Program* is part of the "Low Carbon Future Cities" project, which addresses mitigation potential in an integrated and participatory approach and is sponsored by Stiftung Mercator. The project conducted by the Wuppertal Institute was carried out in close cooperation with stakeholders in two cities: Changzhou and Essen. The project engaged students from Europe and China in designing integrated cross-sector solutions for the city of Changzhou (Jiangsu province). Thorben Jensen and Dai Chunyan visited the project office in Nanjing. The twinning partners attended the best practice tour of this project to learn about the case of post-industrial low-carbon development of the German Ruhr Area.



Best-practice tour of the Learning Cities program

About the Authors

Nora Sausmikat

Dr Nora Sausmikat is the head of the China program at Stiftung Asienhaus, and is currently also responsible for the EU-China NGO Twinning program. Nora Sausmikat holds a post-PhD degree in sinology. She studied sinology, political science, anthropology, Tibetan language and drama at Sichuan University in Chengdu/China and at Free University in Berlin.

She works as a university lecturer for contemporary China, author and consultant for civil society projects, as well as China-related media reports and programs. In her research, she specializes in the topics of political reform and political memory, as well as civil society developments in China.

Inga Gebauer

Inga Gebauer worked as Project Assistant of the Stiftung Asienhaus' China Program from 2013 to May 2016. Her role involved supporting the implementation of the EU-China NGO Twinning as well as managing the project's communications. Inga holds a Master degree in Chinese Area Studies and Political Science from the University of Cologne, Germany and wrote her thesis on Chinese women's political participation.

Stiftung Asienhaus China Program

The China program of Stiftung Asienhaus focuses on civil society initiatives in China and Europe as well as on analysis and background information on China. Our impressions of China are as conflicting and contradictory as the developments in China itself. The future of our world will depend on how the relations between Europe and China will develop. Therefore, proficient complex information, political dialogues and personal encounters can contribute to social and ecological justice.

Since 2008 the China Program engages in several exchange projects and dialogues. In 2010, the blog project "Voices from China" (SAC, www.stimmen-of-china.de) was launched. It translates Chinese online debates and blog posts for the German public. The latest projects are the "EU-China NGO Twinning Program" and the "EU-China Civil Society Portal". The twinning project offers NGOs the opportunity of several weeks of job-shadowing in Europe and China. The Civil Society Portal (eu-china.net) provides expertise on China for European NGOs.

Furthermore, the China program organizes workshops, publications, study tours for Chinese and European NGOs and foundations, exhibitions, lectures, and open forums.

eu-china-twinning.org
www.asienhaus.de/china

German-Chinese relations at the Robert Bosch Stiftung

In 2006 German-Chinese relations were established as a funding area at the Robert Bosch Stiftung. The foundation is focusing its funding on the fields of media, good governance/civil society, education, and culture. The exchange program for journalists “Media Ambassadors China – Germany”, for example, is organized in cooperation with the International Media Center Hamburg and Tsinghua University in Beijing. Every year, sixteen fellows spend three months abroad. With its “German-Chinese Judge Exchange Program” the foundation wants to aid China in its judicial reform process, to promote legal certainty and to foster the German-Chinese (legal) dialogue. With its Lectureship Program the foundation sends German university graduates to Chinese universities for one to two years. With “Grenzgänger China – Deutschland” the foundation is also offering literary research fellowships for German- and Chinese-speaking authors and film makers. Since January 1st 2012, the only official Chinese social media account of a German foundation is online at www.weibo.com/robertboschstiftung with more than 10.000 followers.

<http://www.bosch-stiftung.de>

China Program at Stiftung Mercator

At Stiftung Mercator, China plays a key role. It is a country of significant global standing with which Germany can and must cooperate for the benefit of both countries and with a view to resolving global issues. Nonetheless, misperceptions and prejudices often play a major role, and Stiftung Mercator believes that deeper mutual understanding is the key to successful cooperation.

One central element of the China activities is “Mercator Exchange”, which serves as the umbrella organization for all exchange programmes. The idea behind this is that international relations can only be forged through personal encounters. The aim is to give young people in particular the opportunity to acquire international experience and thereby to enhance their intercultural skills.

Our guiding philosophy in this context is for people to understand one another, learn from one another and jointly overcome international challenges.

<https://www.stiftung-mercator.de>

About Robert Bosch Stiftung

The Robert Bosch Stiftung is one of the major German foundations associated with a private company and has managed the philanthropic bequest of company founder Robert Bosch for 50 years. Indeed it was his entrepreneurial vision, political farsightedness, moral fortitude and charitable initiatives that set the standards for the work of the Robert Bosch Stiftung.

About

Retail entrepreneur Karl Schmidt and his family from Duisburg established Stiftung Mercator in 1996, naming it after Gerhard Mercator, a cartographer and humanist. It is committed to equal rights and opportunities, to social cohesion, respect, tolerance and openness to the world, and to the protection of nature and the environment.

人本 Humane

公正 Socially just

环保 Environmentally sound



About Stiftung Asienhaus

Stiftung Asienhaus is committed to the implementation of human rights, the strengthening of social and political participation, as well as the protection of social justice and the environment.

The organization was founded in 1992 under the name “Asienstiftung”. Its founder, Prof. Dr. Günter Freudenberg, and several other associations working on Asia joined together in 1995 in Essen and founded the Asia House. In October 2012, the Asia House moved its headquarters to Cologne.