

On Dec. 3rd, 2013 Wang Jian, researcher at China Youth Climate Action Network about her 10 week fellowship with the project “Heiße Zeiten” at “Eine-Welt-Netz NRW” in Düsseldorf, Germany.

Last July, making up my mind to protect nature, I joined CYCAN. Through my work I learned about the cause and consequence of climate change, and finally understood the contribution from predecessors in this sphere. Last September, being interested in learning from NGOs abroad, I got the chance to have a two-month internship in German NGO. About Germany, I merely knew their abundant and intriguing history, the culture of invention, the mistake and pain in the war, and their post-war rise. I also knew there were beautiful names like the Rhine, the Black Forest, to name a few. I hoped to get to know all this better. Since I was new at CYCAN I also viewed the exchange as an opportunity as such to enhance my professional ability, and since individuals are a valuable resource for NGOs, each one of us ought to improve ourselves to be more valuable and make real contributions to the organization as well as the natural environment. Thus, learning from the experience of a German NGO on climate change and environment protecting was of great importance, and figuring out a way to put what I learnt into action was even more important. This idea gradually became a mission. I wanted to try to combine Chinese national condition and the current domestic NGO development with what I learnt in Germany, so CYCAN as well as Chinese environmental protection could benefit from the exchange.

I did a lot of preparation work before leaving, I spent two months asking advice from other experienced workers. Official Sun Qingwei from Green Peace recommended me to learn more about the new energy revolution in Germany, which turned out to be a great topic that really enriched my knowledge; Chen Jiliang suggested to visit some NGOs with outstanding contribution in climate changing and contact them for me, thanks to his effort, I visited UFU(Independent Institute for Environmental Issues)’s office in Berlin. And their fascinating project enlightened me profoundly.

During my stay in Germany I learned a lot about the importance of civil society organizations in Germany. For example, I found out that they could get grants from local churches, who gathered the money from taxes of its members’ salary. It means that German NGO are actually able to make own use of resident’s tax payment for activity operations rather independently. Another example was that the German President Merkel invited main directors of NGO every year to discuss how to promote the development of society etc..

I did my internship in the office work with climate change issues of One World Network in Düsseldorf, where their work was in full swing. I worked with the high-efficient, rational but passionate staff every day, promoted the project and attend various activities together with German students who were willing to volunteer in non-profit projects. In this process, I learned how projects were designed, organized, operated, and promoted by NGO workers; I also learnt how volunteers looked on environmental protection, NGO, and non-profit projects and so on. Honestly, I extremely admired their dedication and their habit to always prepare the best routine rationally before taking actions, as well as their sincere and direct communication.

With the help of the staff from the One World Network, I was able to take part in the frame activities and symposiums of a program that invited five workers from the local NGOs in Vietnam and South Africa and so on to Germany. With them I visited offices of German-Watch in Berlin and Bonn. The officials of the project introduced the general situation of GO, some basic knowledge about climate change, and the related work on climate negotiation, education and the law, as well as the advanced concept and experience in this field. In brief, I think highly of the advanced and efficient work of German-Watch, and if I need to design the strategy of developing CYCAN, I will set German-Watch as the example. We also visited the German Parliament and were able to tell each other about the situation of NGOs in our home countries.

During my two-month internship in Germany, I did have a delightful time living with a host family, an extraordinary couple. They had just been back from a trip to India and shared Indian

food with me. They took me to a Jazz show and to the local theatre to watch modern drama, an also to an antique market. Thanks to their recommendation, I had an unforgettable time partying with German young guys on the New Year and the Spring Festival.. The big hug they gave me before my leaving made me feel that they were really kind people.

Reviewing my whole journey in Germany, I believe that my biggest change is that now I have a strong sense of responsibility. As my internship in Germany developed, I gradually realized that it was my obligation to respond to the climate change and to protect the environment. I check the air quality monitor data of China on my cell-phone every day in Germany, and I heard the news that Beijing was seriously polluted in January. I felt distressed that a number of people in my country have to wear a mask on the street, and I couldn't help comparing it with the clean environment in Germany, where even the air in the city was fresh, where an advanced energy saving system was installed in the buildings, where one could enjoy the convenient and well-designed urban facilities and even the traffic in the city made one feel comfortable, where most family had the habit to save the energy.....this very comparison drove me thinking. I did not intend to compare the two countries, after all, they are in a different phase of development, and they all have their own advantages and disadvantages. However, seriously polluted as the developed countries once were, was it possible to help our country earlier get rid of the matter that after the developed country was polluted, China also joint in? I deem that the environmental pollution can be categorized as *Not Too Late* and *Too Late*. For the *Not Too Late* kind, we can still pay lots of efforts to take the nature back; while for the *Too Late* kind, needless to say, we would have to lose the natural environment permanently. And no matter who the responsible country is, there would be nothing we can do to compensate. As a member of an NGO, I have to contribute for the environment protection, for it is not too late—and that, I guess, is the sense of responsibility. Certainly, we should also learn how to make good use of the sense of responsibility.