EEPC - North-SouthForum Report on 2016 EU-China NGO Twinning Program

Firmian von Peez, "North-South-Forum" in Bremerhaven, Germany Meng Deliang, "The Environmental Education Promotion Centre" (EEPC), in Ji'nan, P.R. China.

During the last three decades China has undergone significant changes which caused over-urbanization, and above all **environmental degradation** in the rural areas. In order to stem against the rural exodus, above all, the livelihood in the villages has to be improved.

The China-EU NGO Exchange program helped us to analyse the existing environmental problems in rural areas and the education methods in raising environmental awareness in Germany and Shandong Province/China.

On behalf of these goals we visited in rural areas villages in the Shandong/ Lower Saxony countryside and paid visits to elementary schools and universities in our home towns in Ji'nan and Bremerhaven.

Firmian von Peez, "North-South-Forum" in Bremerhaven, Germany

Jinan, EEPC, 3rd of August – 1st of September

Objectives and expectations

Our main goals therefore are:

- to conduct a knowledge transfer about fair trade and environmental education to our local communities
- improve our methods of teacher's and student's training
- developing learning materials for students and the rural population
- enhancing our knowledge in drinking water safety/ water purification management.
- establishing and maintaining collaboration networks

Challenges

I didn't have to face many challenges in China because I speak Chinese and know Chinese culture. The first problem that I did encounter were time constraints and red tape as it always takes some time to get introduced to the people in charge and making arrangements to visit the projects. The second one was that August is the hottest month in China.

Activities

 Ji'nan elementary school No. 2 Middle School attached to Shandong Normal University (Shangdong Jianzhu Uni Campus). I conducted various interviews with the teacher's staff learning more about their teaching methods and current eviromental education projects.

- Meng Village in Shandong Province. We paid a visit to several households. More than 300 toilets underwent reconstruction in this particular rural area.
- Hu Village in Shandong Province. We inspected several households and a drinking water plant.

Outcome and Impact

Through our exchange we achieved many accomplishments:

Our exchange kicked off a cooperation between Bremerhaven and Ji'an Jianzhu University. Both universities try to implement new approaches concerning sustainable sanitation in large cities and rural areas; Areas that have no or not sufficient sewage systems and/ or suffer from water shortages.

In addition to water conservation and recycling, the recovery of plant nutrients as well as the decentralized use of the energy content of waste and wastewater also plays a role. Of course, hygienic aspects and the health safety of new processes have top priority.



Future Plans and Sustainability of the Partnership

We entered negotiations with the P.R. China Ministry for the Environment and Nature Protection in order to support future environmental education and fairtrade projects.

Our local newspaper ("Nordsee Zeitung") published an article about the EU-China NGO Exchange program. The largest newspaper in town and the North Sea Coast with more than 53. 931 readers.

The Hu village authorities





The functioning of a waste water pipe is shown by Prof. Meng at Hu village

Meng Deliang ,"The Environmental Education Promotion Centre" (EEPC), Ji'nan, P.R. China.

Bremerhaven, North-South Forum Bremerhaven, 10 of October – 18th of November

Activities

In the company of Von Peez and Professor Mattiesen, Meng was present at the activity China Day held at the Confucius Institute at Bremen. During the activity, Meng met with the head and professors of the Environment School and they warmly invite him to visit their university. On Oct.13th, with the company of Mr. Von Peez, Meng visited KLIMAHAUS BREMERHAVEN. This climate science and technology museum shows the changes of weather and environment from north to south at the angle of a reporter. Standing in this exhibition, the visitors would feel everything is true and could also get to know the forming and changes of the earth in each period and rich popular science knowledge. Each visitor could print out his or her list on which is the mount of his or her carbon emission, which reminds everybody of reducing his or her carbon emission. It is very valuable practice base for kid education. The science and technology museum not only attracts children, but also adults.

During a visit at Bremerhaven University Meng met with the company of Prof. Mattiesen and Prof. LOMPE of the Environment School. They exchanged their ideas about founding a partnership between Bremerhaven University and Shandong Jianzhu University. Both sides agreed to start the coordination by exchanging Master-Degree students who major in

Environment Protection, then teacher exchanging will follow.



Accompanied by Johchen, the head of NSF, and Firmian, Meng was small-sized shown sewage treatment facility. In some German villages where there are no public sewage treatment facilities, the villagers have to build their own sewage treatment facilities to treat from sewage their buildings. They were shown two small sized facilities. One is a 3 cubic meters sized underground facility

for one family. The other, built for a welfare house, takes about 10 cubic meters. Both the facilities work in the way of processing technology of SBR. All the waste recirculation in the pond is raised through an air pump, thus no water pump is needed and a small sized compressor brings in air. The facility in 3 cubic meters is worth 6000 Euro and its running expense per year is 300 Euro. Thus the works cost is lower than that needed for connecting to a sewage. The cleaning and checking of the underground facility is left to a special company in a way of remote mornitoring.



Meng was present at a class of Environmental Protection in a primary school. The local Education Bureau was carrying out a campaign on water- saving at VEELNSCHULE. The trainers are teachers employed by the local Education Bureau. They go to each school to urge the Environmental Protection activities, which is necessary for any school. German people have strong consciousness on environmental protection, and the citizens are very active on it. Garbage classification, water saving, energy and heating energy saving, all have been kept

in Germans' hearts, which benefits from the environmental education started from their childhood. The targets of this Environmental Protection activity were some students in Grade 4. It is a small class with only about 20 pupils. The process of this activity: First, trainers gave some introduction on water resources, water pollution and water saving. Then the pupils were divided into groups to observe the models. One model showed the difference of water consumption between the common tap and the water-saving tap. Then they compared the difference between water consumptions for urine and stools. With the marks on the models, the pupils could analyze the compositions of daily-used water consumption per capita.

Accompanied by Mr. VON PEEZ, Sheng Bo and Meng visited the BREMERHAVEN Urban-planning Bureau. The head of the Bureau, a lady received us warmly and gave us a nice introduction on the changes and planning of BREMERHAVEN. One of the segments of planning caught our interests. The fact is that some kids were invited to imagine and plan out the future cities in their minds and the planners would take in some ideas from the kids.

The other fruits of this trip are that during my visiting, NSF has set up the long-term communicating and cooperating relationship with EEPC, and I also have successfully helped bring about the cooperation between BREMERHAVEN University and Shandong Jianzhu University. I can say this trip has brought me quite a lot.