



Official Newsletter of Project Abroad China May issue 2013

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Editor's Note

Well, the month rolled around quickly, summer is officially here. It's time to turn the air conditioners on, get the mosquito repellent out, and put the bamboo mats down. Okay, so the last bit didn't seem to make any sense, but it would be if you were Chinese though! Chinese people, particularly the older generation, will lay bamboo mats down on their beds in order to keep themselves cool at night. It really works!

Meanwhile, summer is our busiest days! Within these months, we are going to welcome dozens of new comers to join our volunteer community! I am sure we will enjoy this wonderful Chinese summer together with you guys.

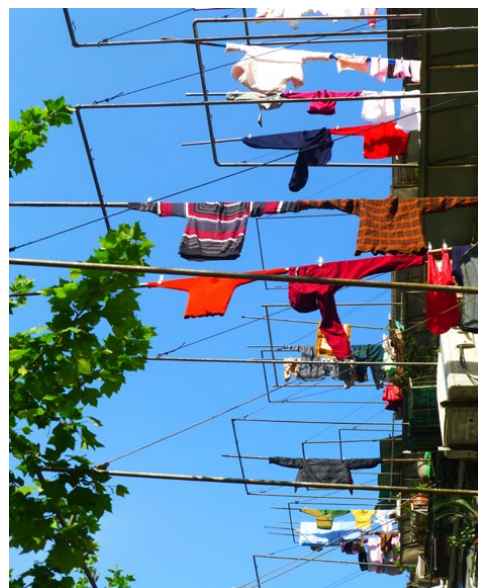


Photo from Raphaela Ring

In this May issue, first of all, I would like to welcome our new staff members: Jessie, the new desk officer based in Shanghai. And Ling, the new regional manager based in Chengdu. Moreover, as usual, we are going to share two great volunteer stories: one is from Lisa Andreasen – Danish volunteer who participated in Care Project in Shanghai, and another one is the story from Sit-Ling Tull – Australian volunteer, recounts her experience at her Teaching Project. As for fresh information from Chengdu, there is a new project update on Business Project – Hygeia Organic Farm.

We hope their experiences will provide you with a bit of the variety of projects available here in China, and we sincerely hope these stories will encourage people to join us here too! Meanwhile, if you are interested in what's going on here, you can always check out our Facebook Group, 'Projects Abroad Shanghai, China – The Official Group' or 'Projects Abroad Chengdu, China - Official Group' for more photos or stories; or email any queries and comments to china@projects-abroad.org

If you would love to share your story and experience in China, you can also get in touch with me at suzieli@projects-abroad.org

Hope you have a great month and enjoy your time in China!

Suzie Li
Information Manager

Volunteer Story

Our Time at an Experimental School in Chengdu (Sit-ling Tull and Geik Lan Toh)



Following our retirement last year, my friend Carol and I decided we would like to do some volunteer work in China. Projects Abroad seemed like a good way to go as it offers a selection of placements, accommodation and support. We decided to come to Chengdu as we have never been to Sichuan before and also we thought we would get away from mega metropolises like Shanghai. How wrong we were!

The Placement

Our placement was at the Jitou Experimental School, which has a student population of around 2800 from kindergarten to Year nine. At our request, Projects Abroad arranged classes for us from Tuesdays to Thursdays which gave us the long weekends to explore, travel and experience the various places around Chengdu and also other provinces. We taught classes ranging from Years five to eight. We were given the freedom to teach what we deemed suitable. We did our research on the internet for topics and resources we needed and created our lessons using Power Point. Our topics included “Food and Taste”

where we introduced food from our countries and also taught students how to describe the various tastes of food. Another topic was using Smiley to teach “Emotions” which was a great success with the students. The story of “The Giving Tree” by Shel Silverstein was particularly interesting for the students as they have read the Chinese translation. This was the first time they had the chance to read the original English version.

We taught in tandem which worked very well for us. We exploited our skills and experiences in different areas in the planning and delivery of the lessons. Once the Year eight class had the ‘privilege’ of having four of us taking a lesson when our husbands visited the school. We hope it was an experience they would not forget!

Our time at the school had given us a better understanding of the education system in China, the work required of the teachers and the conditions under which they work. We also gained insight into the students’ lives in China, not just at the school we taught, but also at the university level when we



visited a university on one of our long weekends. We also experienced at first hand the journey to and from work on Chengdu's excellent metro and bus services that working people take each day.

The Accommodation

We requested to be accommodated together and also for an apartment with a lift as we felt at our age we could no longer sprint up to the fifth floor of the apartment every day. Projects Abroad very kindly granted our request and we were given a spacious room to share. The lift was a god-send whenever we came home with the week's shopping or at the end of a weary teaching day and a one-and-a-half-hour journey from school.

We had very nice flat mates from different countries so despite our age differences we had a great time together. Besides exchanging ideas on teaching and on the delivery of our lessons, we also shared information on where to eat, shop and the interesting places to visit.

In conclusion, we would like to thank Projects Abroad for the interesting experience we had in

Chengdu. It has always been our wish to live and work in China and Projects Abroad helped make this possible for us. We felt we were well taken care of and most of our questions and requests were swiftly answered and dealt with in an efficient and professional manner. In return we hope that we added some value to the education of our students.

The completion of this placement was another tick on our bucket list!

Volunteer Story

Lise arbejder med handicappede børn i Shanghai



Lise er 22 år og kommer fra Ry i Jylland. Efter hun blev student fra Silkeborg Gymnasium besluttede hun sig for at holde to sabbatår inden hun skulle læse antropologi på universitet. Lise ville gerne lave noget meningsfuldt i sit sabbatår, og med Projects Abroad fik hun mulighed for at arbejde som ulandsfrivillig i Kina.

I januar 2013 rejste Lise derfor til Shanghai hvor hun i tre måneder arbejdede med handicappede børn i alderen 2-14 år. Lise havde i forvejen erfaring i at arbejde med børn idet hun i Danmark havde arbejdet som vikar for en specialklasse på en skole i halvandet år efter sin studentereksamen.

Børnene i Shanghai havde handicap såsom spastisk lammelse. Andre børn var autister eller havde svære adfærdsvanskeligheder. Lise elskede at arbejde med børnene. Hun arbejdede typisk med 4-5 børn ad gangen men indimellem havde hun dem også på tomandshånd.

I begyndelsen var sprogbarrieren en stor udfordring for Lise. "I den første uge gik jeg en dag rundt i tre kvarter i frokostpausen for at finde en restaurant med et engelsk menukort," siger Lise.

"Projects Abroad hjalp mig meget. En af de lokale medarbejdere var med mig på arbejde en dag og fungerede som en tolk så jeg kunne få løst et par kommunikationsproblemer med det faste personale på centret."

Lise faldt hurtigt til rette i Shanghai. På en almindelig dag var hun sammen med børnene på en række forskellige aktiviteter som for eksempel boldspil, puslespil og tegne og male. Lise arrangerede også en "free-style" musikundervisning for børnene på centret. "I stedet for et fastlagt skema for musikundervisning spillede vi musik hver gang vi kunne komme til det. Jeg tog styringen og børnene sang og spillede med mig på forskellige instrumenter. Jeg synes at "free-style" virker bedre fordi børn har bedre at høre musik ofte i løbet af i stedet for 20-25 planlagte minutter".

Lise blev rost af sine kinesiske kollegaer for sin positive tilgang til børnene og for at være god til at give dem sin fulde opmærksomhed. "Fra min egen kultur er jeg vant til at give en masse omsorg og opmuntring til børnene ved at give dem kram og ros. Jeg prøver altid på at gøre børnene glade og sørge for at de morer sig. Jeg har forklaret mine kinesiske kollegaer at der er flere tilgange til læring," siger Lise.

"Jeg har selvfølgelig en masse skønne minder fra Shanghai, men en af de bedste oplevelser var på en helt almindelig dag, hvor jeg var på vej hjem fra arbejde efter en skøn arbejdsdag. Børnene havde været skønne og vi havde alle moret os. Vejret var pragtfuldt og jeg havde en sjov aften forude med middagsplaner sammen med en flok skønne mennesker. Jeg husker, at jeg så mig omkring og tænkte: jeg føler mig virkelig hjemme i Shanghai og hvor er jeg glad for at være her!" smiler Lise.

Efter gradvist at have tilpasset sig kulturen i Shanghai er Lise meget stolt af sig selv. "Fra at have startproblemer i begyndelsen af mit ophold til fuldstændig at falde til og føle mig tryk og nyde livet i Shanghai har været en stor personlig sejr for mig."

Lise håber at inspirere andre til at rejse ud som ulandsfrivillige. "Jeg har opnået en kulturforståelse som man ikke kan få på anden måde. Til andre som overvejer at rejse ud, siger jeg bare: Kom afsted!"

Staff Member Introduction

Ling – Regional Manager – Chengdu



Hello everyone, this is Ling from Chengdu, Sichuan, China, where the good looking panda lives. Studied art design in Sichuan University for four years but barely used it. Born and raised in Chengdu but barely worked here. I've been working in tourism industry, magazines and galleries. My major interests are travel, art, movies and reading, swimming (not necessary to be good though) and walking. Desserts are my necessity.

I returned home this Chinese new year from my travels, and started working for Projects Abroad at beginning of this May, quite exciting to start a new life in my hometown, that's actually one of the reason I chose projects abroad here. Chengdu has changed a lot since I left, more challenging and more international, it will be great to pop in again. Another reason which made me excited about this job is I'm a big culture lover; it's a great pleasure to introduce people to my country and my hometown city. I've been working in tourism for three years, now I just find another way to share my passion and knowledge about this country with our volunteers!

Really I can't believe I wrote more than 200 words about myself, at last, I will say it's my pleasure to have this job, and I really hope we could have great time working together in the future, looking forward to it

Jessie - Desk Officer

Hello! I am Jessie, the new Desk Officer based in Shanghai, China. I am a fresh graduate of East China University of Political Science and Law and I majored in Legal English. I was born and brought up in Shanghai, the city enjoying reputation of "Paris of East."

I am an open-minded, friendly, warm-hearted person. I am good at personal communicating and dealing public relation. The motivation of becoming a part of a volunteer organization roots from my AIESEC internship in Warsaw, Poland. I worked with the other five interns from different countries, conducting workshops related to our culture, politics, geography, education system, etc. in local high schools. During those six weeks, what I've got is not only the deep friendship with the interns, the students, the teachers, the Polish AIESECers who took good care of us, but also the profound understanding of volunteer work abroad. It maybe a process of making slight or even not-might-be-seen contribution to the world but for long-term it will be beneficial. For our personal development, it will help us cultivate positive attitude and value towards life.

In my spare time, I like watching movies or entertaining myself by playing "pipa", a traditional Chinese instrument. I've played it since I was seven. It's a joy to appreciate Chinese traditional music.

I'm quite excited about my new life in Projects Abroad, where I have plenty of opportunities to meet diverse volunteers via mails, calls or even face-to-face, where I can make my tiny contribution to the world development, where I can share my value with like-minded individuals. I am ready to give my best service to all of you. Please feel free to contact me if any inquiry. Welcome to China!



New Project Update

Hyeia organic farm:

Projects Abroad China has recently formed links with Hyeia organic farm, an organic fruit and vegetable production enterprise to offer placements to future Business volunteers in Chengdu. Volunteers can get involved in to filed of event management, public relation marketing research etc.



Photo Page



Social Calendar



Date	Time	Place
Thursday 9th May 2013 Enjoy some Yun Nan cuisines!	7:30 pm	Lotus Eatery
Friday 24th May 2013 Hot pot is suitable for summer as well	7:30 pm	Top Spicy hot pot House
Saturday 1st June 2013 Dirty Day for wall printing at school!	10:00 am	Zi Luo Lan School

Holidays

Dragon Boat Festival:
10th June to 12th June