

Students of German Embassy School Beijing are doing internship in the rainforest of Vietnam

Since two years a project about climate change is running at the German school of Beijing. In small groups the students deal with many different ecological problems. They already dealt with the fundamentals of global warming, the origin and the spreading of the ozone hole and researched alternative Energies. They presented their results on a "Climate Day" and many other events for environmental education at our school. In comparison our host country China brought many interesting aspects, in which environmental problems were looked at from Chinese view. They talked with Greenpeace China, had experts from the GTZ (a organization, which sponsors many environmental projects in China with German funds) and Mr. Landwehr from the DPA (German Press Agency) in Beijing at our school. All the time they bumped problems of environmental protection and causes of energy wasting, so they came up with many ideas to save energy and paper at their school. A running project within the extension of the German school is the creation of a "green lung" with many microbiotops as a school garden, which is going to be built in the middle of skyscrapers in the Chaoyang District. The design is already finished and in late autumn the construction is beginning. Students will work there across-the-board (primary school till grade 12).

The idea for the next project came during a Vacation in Vietnam. Within the Biology class the ecosystem of the tropical rainforest is playing a major role. Since many aspects exceed the regular learning schedule, we don't live far from the tropical zones and many students have had and will have many contact points with the rainforest a high performance group was formed. It analysis the system of the rainforest more than in class and for our "Global Warming Project". What would be closer then experiencing the rainforest ourselves then? So the Biology teacher Mr. Busch held his eyes wide open for an appropriate place ready for his "Explorer group".

140km southwest of Hanoi the Cuc Phuong National park, which he visited is located. It was formed into the first Vietnamese National park 1962 and includes nowadays 223km² of tropical rainforest with an amazing biodiversity. Counting nearly 100 different mammal and reptile species and over 300 different kinds of birds, but it is also known for its large plant diversity. A high significance does the in 1993 founded "Endangered Primate Rescue Center" earn. It is the first and till now only rescue station for endangered monkeys in Asia. It is used for healing, breeding and preparing for the wildlife in the rainforest. You can watch species like gibbons, Loris and >LANGUREN<and see them being returned to the wild. Mr. Busch met there up with the administrators of the National park and the included "Endangered

Primate Rescue Center". This station is a German foundation project with international participation under the direction of Dr. Hagen.

The DSP students want to support the projects running in the National park with many campaigns and so provide a small effort for the saving and sustainment of these unique landscapes. The eight Vietnamese, Chinese and German biologists allow us to broaden our knowledge about this ecosystem during a 10-day internship in March 2009. We will support the workers of the National park In the jungle , help with the releasing of monkeys into the wild, perform social biological studies and experience the botany and zoology of the rainforest. The next term is definitely going to be very interesting for our group!