



Official Newsletter of Project Abroad China July issue 2013

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Hello everyone! Welcome to our newsletter July issue 2013! Well, as we move into August numbers are set to ascend to the highest amount of volunteers we will have here all year. At the time of writing we have more than 60 people in China, and this number is set to increase to up to 80!

Of the more than 60 volunteers present in China some had it worse than others. Conditions varying from 'I didn't know I could sweat from there?!' to 'can someone in the office please turn the air-conditioner down; I shouldn't be wearing my jacket when it's 38 degrees outside!' Still, I'm sure many have settled the desire for a tropical climate at least to some extent. I know you might think twice before complaining about your hometown's temperate summers again (but then go ahead and complain anyway).

In this July issue, we are going to share three great volunteer stories: one is from Kim Teigland – Norwegian volunteer, who participated in the Sport Project in Shanghai, and the other two are from Sebastiaan Bogaards and Gilles Krantz – both of them are from the Netherlands, they going to share their working and living experience in Shanghai via their stories.

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

Bring it on August!

Suzie Li

Information Manager

VOLUNTEERS' STORY

Kim Teigland tar med keeperdrakta og jobber frivillig på fotballprosjekt i Kina



Kim Teigland with his student

Før Kim Teigland planlegger å begynne studier ved universitetet ønsket han og både jobbe og reise litt i friåret sitt. Han bestemte seg for å kombinere reise og jobb ved å jobbe frivillig i Shanghai med Projects Abroad. - Jeg liker forskjellige land, og fremmede kulturer fascinerer meg. Og Projects Abroad tilbød et interessant sportsprosjekt, sier Kim.

Kim jobbet i en sportsklubb for ungdom. Sammen med kollegene sine reiste han rundt til internasjonale skoler i Shanghai og tilbød fotballtrening som del av skolefritidsordningen. – Vi hadde varierte arbeidsdager, og jeg jobbet fra mandag til fredag, og noen ganger også i helgene.

På skolene så jobbet Kim vanligvis

som keepertrener. - Før jeg jobbet som frivillig så var det ingen som hadde jobbet spesifikt som keepertrener, men jeg hadde keepererfaring fra fotballklubben hjemme. Med den erfaringen så var det enkelt å organisere keepertrening for de barna som var interessert. Jeg jobbet også som trenerassistent for hovedtrenerne. Jeg hjalp til med å gjøre klart utstyr, holde styr på ungene og å sørge for at treningen var interessant, ellers så mistet barna lett interessen sier Kim smilende.

Kim var fornøyd med oppgavene han fikk som keepertrener. – Hvis du var ekstra engasjert fikk du mer ansvar. Hovedtrenerne hadde ansvaret, mens vi de frivillige var assistenter. Siden jeg drev med keepertrening fikk jeg



på egen hånd ansvar for treningen til noen av barna. Kim hadde en-til-en keepertrening med 14-årige elever, og han deltok i gruppetreninger med 10-20 barn. - Jeg hadde aldri vært fotballtrener før, og for barna var det helt nytt med keepertrening. Jeg så at barna hadde framgang. Det var veldig tilfredsstillende å se at min innsats var til hjelp. Sportsklubben Kim jobbet for var også strålende fornøyd med Kims innsats.

Kim syntes Shanghai var en flott by å bo i. Han fikk mange nye venner blant de andre frivillige, og de delte sine opplevelser med hverandre. -Byen, vennene og det frivillige arbeidet gjorde oppholdet i Shanghai til en fantastisk opplevelse, sier Kim



Preparing equipments for the training

VOLUNTEERS' STORY

Volunteer Story - Sebastiaan Bogaards (Dutch Volunteer, Business)



Sebastiaan Bogaards (middle)

During my stay in Shanghai I worked for a company called Build Shanghai. Build is a property development company. Build looks very old and fallen apart buildings and then talks to the landlord about totally renovating and refurbishing the building. They design in a very modern way but they keep old authentic parts of the building in their design. After they have finished the building they will rent it out to multiple companies that need office spacing and manage the entire building. They get a percentage of the rent these companies pay.

My job at Build was to rent out four vacant office spaces. Brent Beisher, the owner of Build, told me to figure it out myself. I didn't have set times to work which was very nice so I could show up whenever I wanted and leave when I wanted to leave. On my first week at work I even went to a park to throw Frisbee with Brent and some friends of his. The downside of not having any guidance whatsoever was that I had no idea what to do. As weeks passed I learned more and more and came into contact with all kind of people. I contacted real-estate agencies and would post ads on Craig list every day. I had people that were interested and I even rented out one space through my Craigslist listing which makes about makes Build about 144000 RMB/year (18000

euro). I also had to hire a girl that would do some marketing/sales work after I would leave.

I liked working for Build and I have learned a lot. It was a good experience. I was a bit bored at times because I was in an office by myself the entire time. This had its pro's and cons of course but I would've liked some company. I would've also liked to have a bit more to do because this work only took me 1-2 hours/day. But my overall feeling of the work is very positive.

My overall experience of living in Shanghai is amazing. When I first arrived here I had the feeling these 3 months were going to take forever. I had never been away from home that long. The first 2 weeks did go a bit slow but after this time flew. I went out for supper every night and I haven't cooked in three months which is awesome! The food is great in Shanghai but I did have a bit of trouble adjusting to it.

I loved how all the volunteers formed a very close group during my stay here. We have gone out for supper almost every night with at least a couple other volunteers. I also believe I have met people here that I will see in the near future, outside of China. We went clubbing every weekend with a big group. I found the nightlife in Shanghai very cool. Lots of clubs love having foreigners in their club because it attracts Chinese people. At one club one of the managers gave me around 20 VIP cards which granted free entrance and free drinks all night.

I loved Shanghai and I can't wait to come back someday.

VOLUNTEER STORY

Volunteer Story - Gilles Krantz (Dutch Volunteer, Business)



My first weeks consisted of uploading materials in the online database (Gigabase), by this I learned how the product worked and what the company actually sold to their customers.

The task was mostly about searching as much details about the material as I could, for example dimensions, safety ratings, product options and green building certificates. Then me and my team started to work on the site, I helped by giving my opinion on a lot of features on the site, then we speculated with each other to see if we agreed on our opinions, after that we told our decisions to the IT team and they changed it in the database.

After 5 weeks my boss sent me to work with the sales and marketing team. My new assignment was about calling architecture/interior design companies to see if they were interested in a (free) green building training we give, I joined a couple of these trainings myself and learned that it was a marketing product too, because in the

end they also talked about our product, and we mostly work with green materials. Aside from this I also made a newsletter that we had to send to a lot of contacts to explain our product to them.

My overall opinion is positive, when I had the idea to come to Shanghai it was mostly because I wanted to get some experience from my vacation, and that's exactly what I did. I would only recommend this job for the people who want to work hard, because compared to other placements this is a tough one. The thing I liked most was that when I look back I know that I helped building this firm, and that's a great feeling.



PHOTO PAGE



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