

ASIAN GOOD ESD PRACTICE PROJECT

REPORT ON

GREEN HOPE ACTION



BY FRIENDS OF NATURE

BEIJING, CHINA

2007

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[A] EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Green Hope Action program is a project hosted by Friends of Nature, which aims at boosting the Education for Sustainable Development to rural pupils mostly from hope schools. The China Youth Development Foundation, as the impresario of the well-known hope project, assists the project, it provides an access to the hope schools.



80% of the Chinese population are from rural areas, their awareness of environmental protection and sustainable development significantly influence the current and future environmental status. Limited by the economic gap, the Education for Sustainable Development in the rural villages is almost blank. Therefore, the enlighten education to the rural school students as well as teachers are extremely pregnant.

Friends of Nature have dispatched over 150 groups to 1000 elementary schools for education, about 500 volunteers have taken part in the program and most of them were also educated while they implemented the project. The project is still on its way, and more groups are supposed to departure in next 3 months.

After investigating some project schools, they found, that many students not only enjoyed



the fresh education brought by the volunteers, but also actively design or take part in some participatory activities. We are proud to say, the green hope action program deeply influenced quite a lot of students in rural areas. The awareness of

sustainable development was obviously improved in the schools and adjacent

communities where our volunteers have been.

This project provides a direct way that for public to participate in the environmental protection and makes an opportunity for the urban residents to understand the actual situation of the villages and the concepts of ESD. The long-term action implemented by volunteers promotes the rural area achieve the goal of sustainable development consciously.

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[C] PROJECT OVERVIEW

1. Project Title

Green Hope Action

2. Project Overview

Green Hope Action program is a project hosted by Friends of Nature, which aims at boosting the Education for Sustainable Development to rural pupils mostly from hope schools. The China Youth Development Foundation, as the impresario of the well-known hope project, assists the project, it provides an access to the hope schools.



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influenced quite a lot of students in rural areas. The awareness of sustainable development was obviously improved in the schools and adjacent communities where our volunteers have been.

2.1 Background

As the fast development of China's economy, a lot of different aspects of problems appeared in the rural areas, especially on the issue of sustainable development like



desertification, ecological disturbance, species invasion, various kinds of pollution etc. The environmental deterioration becomes more and more severe, and it is threatening the ecological safety of the country while brought terrible influences to the local people.

80% of the Chinese population are from rural areas, their awareness of environmental protection and sustainable development significantly influence the current and future environmental status. Limited by the economic gap, the Education for Sustainable Development in the rural villages is almost blank. Therefore, the enlighten education to the rural school students as well as teachers are extremely pregnant.

By implementing the green hope action program, we select volunteers and train them to be qualified. They would then convey awareness and knowledge of sustainable development to the school students and teachers in rural areas. Through attractive activities or lectures, the

participants can understand the importance of the sustainable development and be alert of any negative actions. In the mean time, careful selected activities and lectures may inspire the local teacher to



improve their traditional teaching habit.

The difference between urban and rural areas is enlarging day by day; an opportunity for the volunteers to realize it through their work in the hope schools can definitely strengthen their social responsibility. As per the feedback, we found, many volunteers of green hope action program paid more attention on the social affairs and became more active on participating projects organized by friends of nature or other NGOs.

2.2 Objectives of the Project

- A. Provide Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) to students and teachers in rural schools, and 3 particular counties would be selected as the focus points of the project, experienced volunteers do a somewhat long periodical Education for Sustainable Development in one county each year.



- B. Enhance the sustainable development awareness and social responsibility of the volunteers through involvement in the project. Actuate them to pay more attention on environmental, social and economical affairs.
- C. Share information taken by the volunteers from rural area with other NGOs to development more projects.

2.3 Target Beneficiaries

- I Volunteers from all walks of life;
- I Educators (act as trainers in the project);
- I Friends of Nature (the implemented organization);
- I China Youth Development Foundation (provide access to rural schools);
- I Hope Schools include teachers and students;
- I MISEREOR (Financial Supporter);

2.4 Resource Inputs and Allocation

A. Active volunteers,

Through practice in the past 7 years, the project owns a lot of zealous volunteers for the green hope action program, quite a few of them registered annually and did a better and better job with their gradually increased experience. In addition, as the public commonly admires the



project, more and more fresh volunteers are absorbed to be in our list, including the schoolteachers from the former project schools. The active participation of a lot of volunteers provides a warranty for successful implementation of the project.

B. Professional environmental trainer

Teacher is a main resource of the volunteers; some of them are professional environmental educators. In addition to act as qualified volunteers, they also undertake the training work for other volunteers. To expect a better result, we are going to strengthen the training work in the next round of green hope action program, and organize the best environmental educators to make the project more professional.

C. Local support



It is China Youth Development Foundation to provide an access to the hope schools, in the past 7 years; none of the schools refused the trained volunteers for the implementation of the green hope action program. Instead, most of them

responded very actively, some county level branches of the foundation asked us to give additional training to the local teachers, and thus promote the proportion of Education for Sustainable Development. In fact, the project enjoyed a wide recognition and well cooperation of the local participants.

D. Close cooperation with other NGOs

As the first environmental NGO in China, Friends of nature has established a long-standing cooperation with NGOs in other field as well as environment protection. In the past implementation of the green hope action program, they used to know some critical issues from out volunteers, such as illegal discharge , poverty, women discrimination etc. As a NGO focuses on the Education for Sustainable Development, Friends of Nature is not capable of solving all the crisis. However, the problem could be solved if we inform the

crisis to other NGOs working in the right field. In the new plan, a network consists of other NGOs concerned with environmental protection, legal assistance, rural development; woman



discrimination is going to be woven. The problems brought by volunteers are thus possible to be solved through mutual involvement. To enlarge the opportunities of finding and solving problems, Staffs from other NGOs are also going to be inspired to take part in the green hope action program,

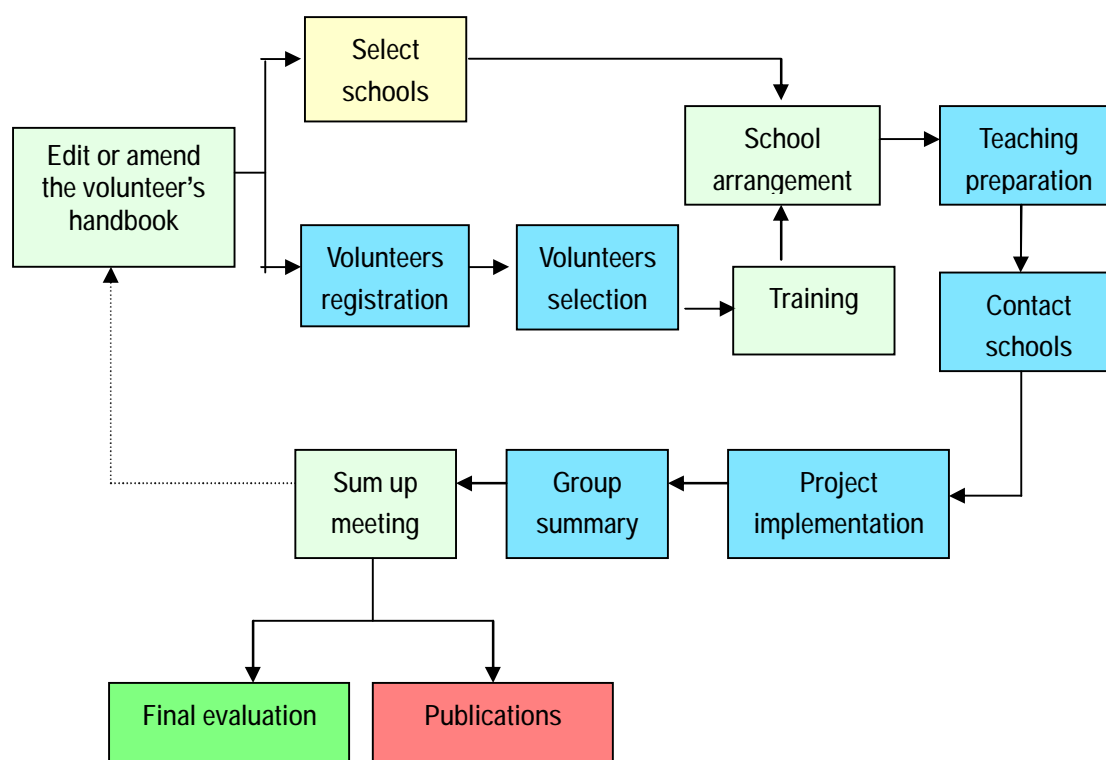
E. Financial Support from MISEREOR

The Total Budget is RMB879120.00

Budget for Execution of Green Hope Action Program (Mar. 2004-Feb. 2007)				
(in RMB)				
No.	Items		Cost	Subtotal
1	Travel expenses (subject to 3 years)			
	Plan 1	Traveling: 1000 x 75 groups x 3p	225000.00	
		Accommodation: 60 x 75 groups x 10d x 3p	135000.00	
	Plan 2	Traveling: 4000 x 3 groups x 4p	48000.00	
		Accommodation: 60 x 3 groups x 35d x 4p	25200.00	
		Sub-total		433200.00
2	Volunteers training			
		Meeting hall renting (1000 x 3 times)	3000.00	
		Cost for trainers (500 x 5p x 3)	7500.00	
		Sub-total		10500.00
3	Sum up meeting			
		Meeting hall renting (1000 x 3 times)	3000.00	
		Travel and accommodation for invited representatives (1500 x 10 p x 3)	45000.00	
		Sub-total		48000.00
4	Salary & Insurance			
		Principal (5000 x 12 x 3)	180000.00	
		Assistant(2000 x 12 x 3)	72000.00	

		Sub-total		252000.00
5	Publications			
		Editing and amending volunteers handbook(500 x 5p x3)	7500.00	
		Publications	15000.00	
		Sub-total		22500.00
6	Final evaluation			
		Experts cost (2000 x 2p)	4000.00	
		Travel for evaluation volunteers (4000 x 5p)	20000.00	
		Accommodation for evaluation volunteers (60 x 30d x 5p)	9000.00	
		Sub-total		33000.00
7	overhead (about 10% of item 1+ 2 + 3 + 4 + 5 + 6)			79920.00
8	Total			879120.00

2.5 Implementation Mechanism



2.6 Implemented Activities

A. Edit or amend volunteers handbook

In March of the first phase of project year (2004), a few experienced environmental educators were convened together to edit the volunteers' handbook. Start from second year, the handbook was amended as per the suggestion collected in the annual summary meeting.

B. Volunteers registration



The volunteers registration work is done at the end of every March in the project years, we accept the volunteers from all walks of life but with an age limit from 20 to 65.

C. Select schools

With the help of China Youth Development Foundation, they select 25~30 schools from the list they provided in advance. To explore the efficiency of the project and the necessity of re-visiting the project schools, 20% of the former project schools should be selected once again.

In addition to the hope schools, they also try to find some other rural schools through local NGOs. The schools in western part of China is in a priority to be selected, especially those located in the areas with weak ecology environmental.

D. Volunteers selection

To assure the smooth implementation, only around 30% registered volunteers can be approved to take part in the green hope action.

E. Training

The volunteers from Beijing, Wuhan are requested to accept a 1 day training for

environmental didactics in their residential city respectively, for financial reason, volunteers from other areas are not obliged to attend the training course, but a volunteers handbook will help them to understand the green hope action and project requirement well.



F. School arrangement

Every 3 of the selected volunteers is allocated in a group, and one project school is going to be assigned to each group.

G. Teaching preparation

Members of each group are required to work together for a good preparation of teaching. Trainers will provide any help they needed in this period.

H. Contact schools

At least one volunteer of each group must contact with the assigned school to confirm the schedule of the green hope action. Friends of nature are always ready to help the volunteers on these regards.



I. Project implementation

As per the schedule, the volunteers travel to the assigned schools and give environmental education through lectures or activities. Minimum 9 teaching period needs to be guaranteed by every group.

J. Group summary

Each group is required to make a summary for their implementation of the project; any kinds of articles are also welcomed. They encourage the volunteers to disclose the crisis they've found as well.

K. Sum up meeting

A sum up meeting is convoked annually. Volunteers, trainers, representatives from project schools (including students), MISEREOR, China Youth Development Foundation, and other NGOs will be invited.



L. Final evaluation

The end of this round of the green hope action program will conduct a final evaluation. One or two experts are going to be invited to supervise the evaluation process. A detailed evaluation report will be publicized and sent to all departments involved.

M. Publications

An collection of excellent summary, articles, pictures made by volunteers, works of the teachers and students of project schools, introduction of green hope action program and any other suitable materials will be published in the last year of the project.

2.7 Timeline

From March, 2004 to March, 2007.

Activities in Year 1		2004										2005		
		3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	
GHA	Edit the volunteer's handbook													
	Volunteers registration													
	Select schools													

	Volunteers selection	■	■													
	Training		■													
	School arrangement		■													
	Teaching preparation		■													
	Contact schools		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	
	Project implementation		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	
	Group summary		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	
	Sum up meeting														■	
Activities in Year 2		2005											2006			
		3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2			
GHA	Amend the volunteer's handbook	■														
	Volunteers registration	■														
	Select schools	■														
	Volunteers selection	■	■													
	Training		■													
	School arrangement		■													
	Teaching preparation		■													
	Contact schools		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	
	Project implementation		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	
	Group summary		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	
	Sum up meeting															■
	Activities in Year 3		2006											2007		
3			4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2			
GHA	Amend the volunteer's handbook	■														
	Volunteers registration	■														
	Select schools	■														

Volunteers selection																				
Training																				
School arrangement																				
Teaching preparation																				
Contact schools																				
Project implementation																				
Group summary																				
Final evaluation																				
Publications																				
Final sum up meeting																				

[D] PROJECT REVIEW

1. Social Relevance and Cultural Appropriateness

After seven years of the development, Green hope action has made a considerable impact on society. From the breadth of the GHA, volunteers come from the different aspects of the community, there is no restrictions of expertise and background. In the process, volunteers not only participate in projects through their own action for rural schools to bring along the concept of sustainable development, but also enhance the understanding of the problems that faced by the rural areas of China.

GHA not only for the schools, builds a link between cities and villages, a bridge makes schools that locate in the rural places and that lack the resources of Education for Sustainable Development to open a channel that can absorb more information about the relevant, but also for the people that live in the cities, offers a method to walk into villages and understands the actual situation of China's rural places. From the depth, GHA concerned about the environmental problems around, through a number of investigations of the rural schools to gain more material, thus, can help us to make a more in-depth analysis of the reasons behind the environmental problems.

Eventually, volunteers share the information that received from their activities with FON and the other organizations, so that environmental problems can not only be found in time, but also be responded to a certain range.

2. Degree of Satisfaction of Stakeholders & Target Beneficiaries



The volunteers, the students and the teachers in primary schools are the main beneficiary of this project; these three parties also interact initiatives. Volunteers hope to communicate with the primary schools' children and teachers, many teachers participated in the project after the project has also become a volunteer; the students through such courses further understand their love of their homeland.

Among these activities, many students so have a profound emotion with the volunteers that are not willing to leave the volunteers that expressed their feelings in various forms. Some of these kids used words express their feelings, some depicted the natural in their hearts, some children and volunteers established long-term contacts. Especially in some poor families, children also received donations from the volunteers to ensure that they can continue to receive education.

This project reflects the values of ESD and pays attention to foster children respect for nature, respect for the values of the other people. Especially, after-school children can be acquired knowledge into practice to contribute to their communities.

Here quoted some feelings and paintings from the volunteers and students to show the impact brought by the project.

Some of the students believed that as follows:

Yanqiong Luo: I hope to protect the nature with you—my teachers.

Ludang Xu: Teachers, thank you! Green is our hope.

Chunzhu Liu: In the past two days, I seem to change an environment, such as walk into the nature when You give us classes...

Xiaoling Zhang: I would like to become a volunteer like you for the community, you told me abundant knowledge here...

Shanshan Xu: Today on the course, I felt deeply about the beauty and secrets of nature. Today is the happiest time in my life, I hope that one day more so ah!

Jing Ma: Teacher, I used more green particularly in this painting, because I have a hope of green, I want to make China a better development with this hope.



Volunteers also wrote these sentences in their summary:

Bei Wu: The meaning of the GHA is beyond the purely environmental education that the GHA not only sown the seeds of the green, but also spread the love that the city is dedicated to the village on children.

Yibo Wang: In just a few days' GHA, when we teach kids, we also had very profound education. When the spirit from the fresh in our hearts was tread out, you will find these days are the baptism of life, the sublimation of the soul.

Bingxue Song: On the return road, I opened the small slip from the children. I felt this slip is full of love that dedicated to us from the children, pure, such as glistening glass, and

selfless, without qualification.

3. Social Impacts

GHA encourages the use of participatory teaching methods. In training, volunteers will be request to make a participatory strategy based on the actual situation of the hope schools. The theme of plans in these lessons is very broad and includes almost all and sustainable development-related issues.

In different locations to develop different activities are apt to the local conditions. The project also built long-term active group in Xinjiang, Sichuan and Chongqing. A long-term group of volunteers has the opportunity to deliver the related knowledge detailed, and truly understand the needs of local people. These activities make the GHA not only a task in the external activities of volunteers, but also a work in the internal that local people should more pay attention to.

Since the project was started, a number of domestic and foreign news agencies carried a report, such as the TV station of Hubei province also produced a special program of GHA. The project was broadcasted in a large scope and won great reputation by the media.

4. Project Sustainability

After seven years' operation, the project has created a relatively stable executive team and financing resources, making the China Youth Development Foundation, many hope schools and volunteers are very clear understanding The project to convert the goals and basic output, a large number of volunteers and has been recognized by a large number of volunteers who look forward to attend this project to contribute their times and energies.

In 2008, Missouri Foundation of Germany will continue to support the project's operation; this support makes us believe that the project will have a more long-term development

[E] ESD IMPLICATION

1. Implication as Sustainable Issues

GHA has always been concerned about the relevant issues on ESD, at the same time, integrated the concepts of ESD into their curriculum with the local situation and promoted students to practice ESD in their daily life.

In the process of implementation, the volunteers discuss the local issues on sustainable development with students to share the different opinions among each other and try to find the various methods to solve the problems. They will think what they can do now and how they can improve the situation with appropriate ways when the problems cannot be completely solved.

Volunteers who became clearer understanding of the current threat to China's sustainable development and the real reasons behind the challenges independently design the plans of teaching based on the local situation. For example, the volunteers who go to Inner Mongolia will choose the topics on desertification as the main elements of teaching, and they will also analyze the reasons in the causes of desertification with students, after the discussion, they make a list of the consequences directly caused by desertification like Over-grazing, soil erosion, the improper usage of pesticides (led to land-Stalinization), over-exploitation of coal mines etc. The volunteers ultimate encourage local students to find their own solutions and implement these activities.

Similarly, most of volunteers will focus on the other issues like water pollution, electronic waste, garbage recycling etc when they go to the Hope schools located in the South of China.

2. Implication as Effective Communication and Decision Making

GHA does particularly good work on the effectiveness of communication, either between the project partners and the implementation organization, or between the implementation organization and supporter.

It is a fundamental that promote public participation in decision-making. Citizens have the right to equal participation in the process of decision-making (policy-makers need to listen to a wide range of public opinions, on the other hand, the public should also be responsible for participating in decision-making). GHA is fully manifested to this point that all volunteers need to collect the information on the target area at the beginning, then explore teaching plans according to the actual situation on local issues based on the discussion. In such a process, each volunteer has equal opportunities to express their own opinions so that the whole group ultimately determines the specific contents of teaching plans, methods and the division of enforcement through communication and exchanges.

The volunteers develop the teaching plans through the meticulous observation on the specific situation as well as communication with local teachers when they reach the target area. The Volunteers have been given certain rights and obligations since they participated in the project. They ultimately promote practical actions to solve the problem through an appropriate democratic way. It demonstrates that a good mechanism of democratic decision-making not only is important for the understanding of different opinions from the group, but also provides a guarantee for the effectiveness.

3. Implication as Transformative Education

GHA conducted a deliberate attempt for the reform of the education system. To analyze the feedback from the schools visited by GHA, they found that there are few of schools know "environmental education program in primary and secondary schools" launched by the Chinese Ministry of Education and lack of thinking on such concept of education. The schools which are supported by the projects in the long-term have been successful published the local textbooks in light of the actual local situation integrated with ESD concepts under the effort of teachers and volunteers so as to achieve progressively the purpose of improving the function of education system. For example, the local textbook "I love the mother lake" wrote by volunteers and teachers which are welcomed by the

teachers and students has been included to a compulsory subject in primary schools in Hubei province.

4. Implication as Institutional and Civil Capacity Development

This project provides a direct way that for public to participate in the environmental protection and makes an opportunity for the urban residents to understand the actual situation of the villages and the concepts of ESD.

The capacity-building of the citizens should begin in-depth understanding of issues related to sustainable development, in the process of understanding, public are involved into this project to practice the concept of ESD. The long-term action implemented by volunteers promotes the rural area achieve the goal of sustainable development consciously.