

My Service-learning Trip to the Oasis---Fiji

During the summer, I joined a program organized by the College of Business to Fiji, and it was absolutely unforgettable. It was my first time on an international volunteering trip and I tried many new things and had a lot of breakthroughs. I also broadened my horizons and made many friends from all over the world.

Through the teaching and construction project in primary schools, I experienced a totally different educational setting. Compared to China, the kids have less worries and stress and more freedom, and it seems that they are not constrained by any rules. We saw them playing during the breaks, and they would curiously ask questions about China and learn Chinese from us, unlike most children in developed regions of China who never think that foreigners are special. They also had the brightest smiles in the world, free from the distractions of wealth and fame, and it warmed my heart at once, like sunshine against the shadows. It seems that academic knowledge does not predominate in the hearts of the Fijian people. They respect the rights of children to play and use their love of beauty to guide children. For example, the day we left school was their painting day. The children put colorful paint on paper, on the walls, on the ground, and even on each other's faces. The whole school became a colorful ocean.

By chatting with volunteers from all over the world in the frangipani house in the evenings, I learned about their lives in their countries and their experiences doing other volunteering work. For example, my best friend Lisa from Germany took a gap year from her kindergarten job and used her savings to participate in volunteering projects in Cannes, South Africa, and Fiji for three months. Though I respected her experience, I thought I could never do something so cool because of practical factors and lack of courage.

We also exchanged opinions on big international news stories, like the strike in Europe and the Hong Kong march, so I got to view the news from a totally different perspectives, which greatly broadened my horizons and provided me with different modes of thinking.

The service-learning trip to Fiji sparked my interests and opened the gate of international volunteering for me. I will definitely take part in international volunteering again when I have the chance. I may even join Lisa in South Africa and help the animals!

With regards to my career choice, I used to think only of my own welfare and future, but the experience in Fiji made me realize that I need to do something useful for my society and for the world. Becoming a "world saver" sounded really impractical to me a month ago, but it actually only requires a little effort. For instance, I could be environmentally friendly and work for a company that promotes green economic growth.

If you have ever thought about doing international volunteering work or living on an island in the Pacific Ocean for a month, I strongly recommend that you participate in a volunteering

trip to Fiji! It will be a life-changing trip that you will definitely not regret. You can help change the world with your hard work doing construction and teaching primary school students or kindergarten children. You can also make friends with other volunteers from all over the world, build lasting friendships, and broaden your horizons by chatting with them.

What's more, the amazing views in Fiji are something that you should not miss. You will have weekends free from Friday afternoon, and you can fully utilize the time to explore the beautiful country. There are all kinds of resorts for you to relax at, or you can book scuba diving or skydiving and have some excitement. In short, Fiji is a wonderland and the right place for all of us to enjoy and rethink our lives. Don't hesitate, just have a try!



Lisa and our dog friend



Sunrise and the dog friend we met at the beach



Breath-taking scenery on the sea



Dawn at bamboo backpackers' beach



Delicate local handicraft



Teaching sports