

What I felt more was the challenge, surprise, happiness, fullness and fun that YID brought to me

By Mei in March team 2008

How time flies! The past five-month time was my first period in YID. It comes to an end before I have got ready to face it. I still remember that on the first day I came here, I wanted it to end as soon as possible. However now, I hope it wouldn't have an end and I find it so hard to say goodbye.

This short five-month time has given me lots of special experiences. I felt nervous and tired almost everyday, I felt upset and hesitant sometimes, I felt unhappy and depressed also, and I even thought of giving up and escape. Despite this negative feeling, what I felt more was the challenge, surprise, happiness, fullness and fun that YID brought me.



Here, YID provides me with such an environment where I can do what I want to do but I haven't done.

I could never image that one day, I would be sending promotion leaflets on the street, I would be doing a social survey, I would go and dig earthworms which I was so afraid of before, I would go to visit the poor, I would give a presentation on the stage, I would be a teacher, I would hold a club, I would write so many

reports and do the proofreading job, I would be able to speak so much English, I would be the host of a welcome party, I would host foreign friends, I would go to the ballroom to communicate with the prostitutes and I would be acting in a play.

Today, I am so proud to say that I have experienced all this!

Here, YID provides me with such an environment where I equip myself with all kinds of skills that our society needs. From here, we got to know about the present problems at home and abroad, the world economy and institutions such as the World Bank and FMI, free trade and fair trade, the organization and functions of the United Nations, NGOs and volunteers, social development work, the Millennium Development Goals, the present situation of Africa, the situation of children in the world, child development and aid, the situation of women in China and India, development aid, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, sustainable development, environment protection, society and economy, knowledge about HIV/AIDS, zoonosis, organic farming, health and malnutrition, how to do an assessment, how to do promotion and how to organize, how to be a good leader, how to do a budget, how to run fundraising actions, how to make a poster, how to hold a club and how to hold an Open Arrangement.

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All this is knowledge that I have not even heard about it before. This made me expect so much of each lecture. I found every lecture and activity so exciting and practical; they have benefited me very much. That is why I was able to bear misunderstanding, loneliness and illness and insisted joining every lecture and every activity that was challengeable and interesting. That is why I was able to keep on till a beautiful end.

Here, YID also provides me with a good English-study chance. I can never forget what Natacha said: "I still remember the first day I met you: you looked so tiny with a suitcase and a big backpack, and you just sat in a corner, silent. You never talked too much and even when answering the questions, you gave very short answers. You could hardly understand English at that time. But now, you can understand it and you can even communicate freely with me in English!" This is true. Natacha is the teacher of our team. It is the first time for her to come to China and she cannot speak Chinese. I can image her desperation when she came to YID at the beginning seeing my poor situation. In fact, many activities were not suitable for my characteristics. But I always tried my best to enjoy them and from them, I found another side of myself.



From YID, I've got to know many friends from home and abroad. And I also learnt how to be a good team member, how to cooperate and communicate with others. In the project field, I often felt that I was needed and respected by others. People there were so kind, so positive and so enthusiastic which made them so different from people in the modern society who are so cold and mean. I was often moved by them (...).