

The former DI says...

By Fang Hui, July team 2002

1. What did you do before you came to YID?

I was an IT engineer before I came to YID.

2. Why did you decide to join YID's Development Instructor programme?

At the time I joined YID, I was going through a phase that I wanted something different from life. I wanted to experience life more, not just working in an office. Going to Africa was one of my dreams. So the YID's program suited me well.

3. What was different from other kind of education you have followed in China?

I studied in China until high school and attended a university in Singapore. What was different in YID is that I decide what I want to learn and I learn it through doing it. There is no fixed curriculum or frame that restricts me. I enjoy the freedom.

4. What were the most important things you learned during the first period of 5 months?

I don't remember anything that is concrete I learned. But it was a happy, relaxing experience. It was exactly what I was looking for at that time. I loved the friendly atmosphere, morning singing session, teachers and friends, and my quiet time when I take a walk around town after dinner.

5. What did you do in your project period in China?

I was not attached to a fixed project during my time. I went to several project sites and also assisted in project assessment of a new project.

6. What was the most difficult you met during your time in YID?

Teaching English was difficult for me.

7. How did you deal with these difficulties?

Take it as a challenge and solve it. Life is not always smooth and we don't get to do all the things we like in our life. We need to conquer difficulties and look at the destiny where we want to be.

8. What was the most rewarding you did or learned during your time in YID?

I learned to take things in my own hands and be responsible for myself.



9. What is your advice to people considering to join?

Know what you want and work toward your goal. Don't be slow down or distracted by details that is not important. Enjoy the journey!

10. Why did you choose to go to Africa?

Going to Africa was one of my childhood dreams.

11. What was your position in Zambia?

Development instructor.

12. Please describe your position and the circumstances at your project in Zambia?

I stayed in a village to assist the community development. I was involved in health and hygiene project, educational workshops, youth clubs and etc. I also assisted local project officers whenever some help was needed.

13. Do you feel you have contributed during your 6 months in Zambia? How?

Yes. The projects I was involved in were run by local project officers and local people themselves. Volunteers were extra help. And our participation showed we care and we were fresh air that brought in knowledge, new ideas, and support. Although volunteers' time there is short, we help whatever we can, and most importantly through us, we should the world cares, and there is hope.

14. What should people be ready to face when going abroad to work as an International Development Instructor?

Be open minded, flexible and adaptable. Respect the people and culture. Bring in Empathy, not sympathy. Open your arm and heart, and embrace the once-in-a-life-time experience.

15. What are you doing now?

I am working in Hands On Shanghai, an NGO that promotes volunteerism.

16. Are you using what you have learned during those 17 months? (what are you using and how?)

Be Independent, Responsible, open-minded, empathetic are life-long treasures anyone can have and benefit from.

17. Last remarks....

I totally enjoyed the whole experience and it was one of the best in my life. It's a huge part of my personal development and it made who I am today.

