IYOUTH

UK university program is a class act for pupils

Students from British college teach and make friends in a primary school in Guizhou province. Yang Feiyue reports.

These little kids had a twinkle in their eyes and their faces were glowing with smiles.

Volunteer student from the University of Huddersfield Shi Zhonghui has already had his first interaction with his little students at the Anqing primary school where these students are living with their grandparents, because their parents have to work in the cities.

“We want college students to do something meaningful in their spare time,” says Qi. “Most of our volunteers are orphans or left-behind children.”

The goal is to enable them to experience a life really different from their own.

“In this way, they can better appreciate life, learn to respect others and be grateful.”

To date, the University of Huddersfield has developed cooperation relations with more than 400 universities and colleges, involving many volunteers from different colleges.

“Every year we would recruit elite students from Huddersfield and our partners to join our volunteer programs,” says Shi.

Students visit children in need and engage in a two-week teaching program at the school.

“Afterward, they will get our volunteer certification, living allowance, and even scholarships,” Qi adds.

Some Chinese students of the domestic colleges who participated in the volunteer programs, opted to study at the University of Huddersfield after joining those philanthropic events, while some students at the university continued to engage in rural teaching even after graduation.

The event has gained popularity in China over the past few years, with this year’s semester attracting 4,100 team members who created 31 public libraries across Shanghai, and those in Jiangsu, Anhui and Zhejiang provinces.

All participants were required to collaborate with their team members to finish the same book in six hours before they had to deliver a book test on what they had read.

In Zhejiang, libraries could organize their observatories by mind mapping using electronic devices.

The event would not be a reading habit, but people the province would read every day, and the culture of reading is an essential part of their lives.

It is a good way to nurture a reading habit and to promote good quality of life.

Last year, the Chinese publishing industry kicked off in New York City.


“The book is a good reference for Chinese students to improve their English,” says Huang Ping, the Chinese consul general in New York, who led Chinese entrepreneurs as traditional and pioneers in China, to attend a joint conference with the most famous publishers during the past year.

The diplomat also adds that the book would help Americans better understand what has been going on in China through the past few decades, aiming for more communication and cooperation between China and the United States.

The book was translated into American English, translated but not yet officially published in simplified Chinese, was How to Find a Habitable Planet written by John Kasting, professor of geosciences at Pennsylvania State University.

Zhang Yongyan, a researcher with the National Astronomical Observatories of China who won the 2016 Carl Sagan Medal, spent two weeks revising his translation after the book’s future publisher informed him that it had been selected for the reading event.

“Searching for a habitable planet like Earth is a topic that interests people,” says Zhang, who also set and studied some of the book’s questions.

The latest national reading report conducted by the Chinese Academy of Press and Publication showed that in 2018, Chinese adults, on average, each read around 4.67 books.

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