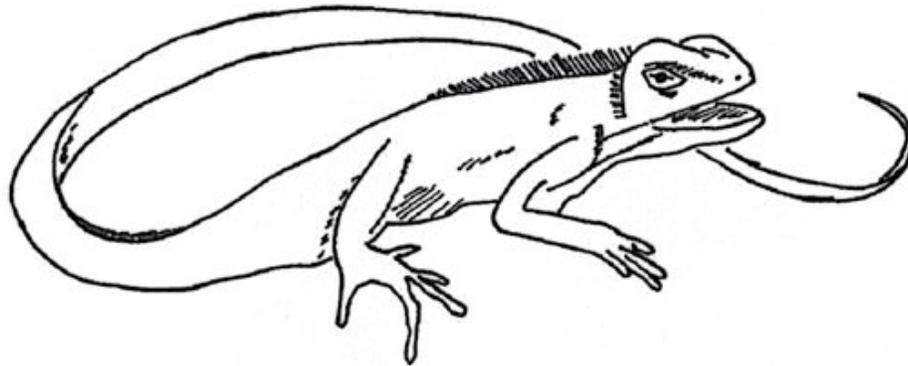


# The Green Exchange



*Newsletter of Green Across the Pacific, Inc., December 2012*

- Green Across the Pacific seeks to improve cultural and environmental awareness and cooperation around the world
- To this end, Green Across the Pacific conducts exchange programs that function to establish an international community of learners



## **2012 in Review**

2012 has been a busy, expansive and exciting year for Green Across the Pacific (GATP). We hosted groups from Tottori Prefecture, Japan, in March and again in October for ten-day programs focused on Food and Food Systems. We ran a three-week program for Chinese and American students in partnership with the Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources (RSENR) at the University of Vermont (UVM) in July. This program was offered with the option of

enrolling for 3.0 credits in Natural Resource through UVM. 15 Chinese students joined 7 American students from Vermont, Massachusetts, New Jersey, North Carolina, and Texas, 2 students from Thailand, and 1 from Bhutan. Educators from China, Thailand and Bhutan joined GATP's Vermont Instructors as well. The inclusion of students and educators from Thailand and Bhutan reflect GATP's efforts to expand our reach this year.

Bhutan is GATP's current focus of expansion. Working with the Center for

International Schooling (C4IVS), New York, NY, and the Ministry of Education, Bhutan, and with exceptional support from the Bay and Paul Foundations, GATP initiated exchange through inclusion of Bhutanese educators during our July program at UVM. With support from GATP, C4IVS introduced a virtual exchange between Sherubling Higher Secondary School, Bhutan, and Burlington High School, Vermont, that addresses Environmental Literacy and Intercultural Competence by integrating history curricula from Sherubling and Burlington. At the time of writing, this exchange is close to completion. We will soon learn of the impact on the 187 participating students in Vermont and Bhutan.

In the end, our participants speak best to the experiences arranged through GATP.



### **Excerpts from Student Work and Participant Comments**

From the Tottori-Vermont Exchange students:

#### **Katie Waterson:**

Cultural exchange happened naturally between the two countries in our group as we each encountered unfamiliar words, sights, and foods. The program kept us all very busy and exposed us to the workings of our local food systems, valuable to the Americans and the Japanese. ...I absolutely loved this opportunity....

*Katie Waterson is a student at Burlington High School, Vermont*

#### **Sakura Okamura:**

My way of seeing nature has been changed! Since my understanding to the nature

has been changed, I wish more people could have benefits from the exchange.

*Sakura Okamura is a student at Aoya High School, Tottori, Japan*



And from the China-US summer exchange students:

#### **Lu Kaiyue:**

Vermont needs a thoughtful and sophisticated plan combining the use of nuclear energy, renewable energy and other clean supply options. The Legislature should take measures helping wean Vermont from its nuclear dependence and encourage more, clean, local energy sources. Also, an agreement about the degree of participation of federal and state government in nuclear power issues should be established. This should take the current policy differences between state and federal governments into account and conjure up a more profound and practical way to work cooperatively.

*Lu Kaiyue is a student at HSFZ*

#### **Meaghan Shaw:**

Land has been claimed in Vermont as early as the 1600s, when Samuel de Champlain ventured into North America on a French mission. Up until then, when Indians were the only humans native to the northern state, the land had been something to respect and cherish (Albers). Over time, land became a symbol of wealth and power and status, something to reap and harvest and then move on with no care as to the sustainable health of the track of earth....

In the end, it is about caring for the one planet we have that is everything we as humans

could need. As Martin Luther said, “For in the true nature of things, if we rightly consider, every green tree is far more glorious than if it were made of gold and silver,” and it is our duty as humans to take care of the beauty that is all around us.

*Meaghan Shaw is a first-year student at Southern Methodist University. She graduated from Lady Bird Johnson High School, San Antonio, Texas in June 2012*

**Katie Fusco, Elizabeth Bushey  
& Wang Shang:**



In the growing world, one challenge that is becoming more and more prominent is energy, and our long-term plan for it. One must look at all parts of the world, as renewable energy is a global issue, not just a local one. For our project, we looked at two cities, Guangzhou, China, and Burlington, Vermont. The two forms of renewable energy that are emerging as the frontrunners in both of these locations are Solar Power and Wind Power, as both can be practical for the climate. But which of these is more practical? To find the answer, we looked at both the positive and negative side of each energy source, as well as data from students....

Our findings were that both Solar and Wind power have equal advantages and disadvantages. For both locations [Guangzhou and Burlington], we find that wind power is more beneficial. By connecting with and looking at other countries, we were able to explore the future of sustainable energy collaboratively while we move forward.

*Wang Shang is a student at HSFZ. Katie Fusco studies at Rutland High School, Vermont, and Elizabeth Bushey is a student at Mill River Union High School, Vermont*

**Gao Guoming:**

Nutrients in the soil are not enough for ceaseless tillage. Farmlands need a long period of time like a decade to renew the nutrition inside. On the other hand, most of us do not have enough patience to wait for this process because we earn our living on the crops growing on it. To keep on working the land, human beings have thought of many ways. The first way is using traditional normal compost like what American settlers and ancient Chinese farmers did many years ago. Traditional normal compost has been used for thousands of years and has been proved to be an excellent way especially in the ancient times. The only problem is that it doesn't fit the developing agriculture today anymore because it's not [extensive] enough. That means the use of compost [alone] cannot satisfy the whole cultivated land, so this way needs to be perfected particularly for the modern farming style though it's environmentally friendly. The second way came into people's [insight] in the 19th century as a great invention of that time. Bags of chemical fertilizer were carried to farms and to supply plants with several major elements they need. Though chemical fertilizers caused a series of environmental problems, the great harvest created by them still persuaded people to continue using them.... Because farmers often add too much chemical fertilizer, the excessive nutrient runs into the bodies of water as a result of it, which cause the unwanted growth of algae in the lake. Most importantly, chemical fertilizers are expensive. So, if the effect is not as perfect as the one they expect for, that will be unworthy. Using chemical fertilizers has many problems and it needs improvement too.

*Gao Guoming is a student at HSFZ*

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As part of a larger effort to initiate exchange between Vermont and Bhutan, two Bhutanese Secondary School Science Teachers participated in the summer program at the University of Vermont in July. One educator's comments are included here:

**Karma Phuntsho:**

i m immensely privilaged and honoured to get such an opportunity to take part in environmental exchange program here in burlington, vermont. Infact, i have learned many new knowledge which i am ignorant of. I should tell you that when i came from bhutan, i was just like the larvea stage of the butterfly and now i am going back as a butterfly with full of knowledge that i can share with my students and my colleagues back home. ...on behalf of my country, on behalf my king and the queen, on behalf of ministry of education, bhutan, on behalf of my school, principal, teachers, students, on behalf of the participant here and on my own behalf, i would like to thank, presidents, board of directors, staff, mr. ned, mr. mark, miss lauren of GATP for their incredible work and energy rendered to us during our stay here in vermont.... At the same time we still hope to participate in future program as well with our students, we also would be grateful to the GATP, if such program is conducted in our country our country will benefit a lot. we look forward to such program. [sic]

*Karma Phuntsho teaches Chemistry at Sherubling Higher Secondary Shool, Bhutan*

And a final thought from a Burlington High School student during virtual exchange shared between students from Sherubling HSS and Burlington HS:

“I think the way of life in Bhutan should be thought of in every country, then maybe the world would be somewhat peaceful. I think, from what you all say about your country and looking at the pictures you all post, I am somewhat in love with Bhutan. Romanticized I know, but it all just seems so wonderful. I'm glad there is some hope of happiness left in the world.”

**Exploratory trip to Bhutan**



In March Executive Directors Peter Lynch of GATP and Eunhee Jung of C4IVS visited Thimpu Bhutan to meet with officials from the Ministry of Education, including Aum Sangay Zam, Permanent Secretary of Education, and to learn as much about Bhutanese schools and the region as possible during our brief, but wonderful visit. We are indebted to Wanwipa Rosjan, Founder of Chatrwittaya School in Bangkok, Thailand, for her hospitality and assistance establishing a connection with officials in Bhutan.



**Looking Forward to 2013**

After a season of domestic programs, we are excited about returning to South China next summer.

We are also anticipating our first student delegation to Tottori, Japan, in April. Students from Mt. Abraham Union and Burlington High Schools are working hard to raise funds for this trip.

We will continue virtual programs between Vermont and Bhutan as well. Our aim is to add one new school in each country by autumn and to include an exchange

expedition to Bhutan for Vermont students next summer.

Interested American and Canadian students may apply for our summer 2013 Environmental Leadership Exchange program in South China. We will accept twelve motivated students, including those who participated in the 2012 Vermont summer program. Application materials may be found online at [www.gatp.org](http://www.gatp.org). We will begin reviewing applications on February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013.

**You can help:** Please consider nominating a student for our program. A nomination form is available on our web site, [www.gatp.org](http://www.gatp.org).

### Scholarships

In addition to modest need based scholarship funds built in to budgeting for our summer program, GATP has recently worked with interested parties to create the following scholarship funds:

**Frances R. Borders Scholarship:** to provide assistance to a student with a clear and abiding interest in exploring the boundary between art and science. Students enrolled in our summer program are considered for this scholarship.

**Kida Tottori-Vermont Fund:** to provide assistance to Vermont students engaged in Youth Exchange with Tottori Prefecture, Japan, who would otherwise not be able to participate.

**My Asian Friend:** encourages personal fund raising through limited matching of individual fund raising efforts by Burlington (Vermont) High School students for travel to Asia.



### Recognitions

The following businesses, agencies, institutions and individuals gave of their time, wisdom or through in kind contributions during 2012:

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### **Annual Financial Report**

Our financial year follows the calendar year. We post our annual financial report on our web site in January of each year.

### **Donors**

We are grateful to the following corporations, foundations, and individuals who contributed to Green Across the Pacific during the past twelve months:

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