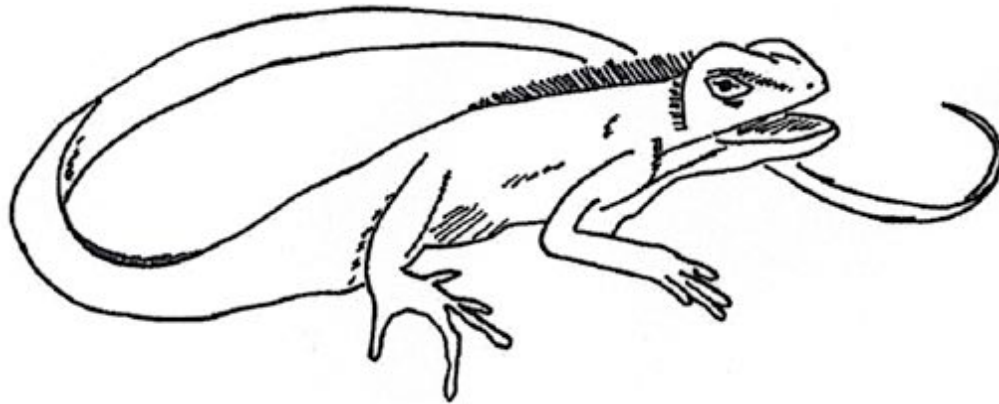


# The Green Exchange



*Newsletter of Green Across the Pacific, Inc., December 2014*



- 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

## **Student Work**

“I thought that this exchange was very exciting and I hope to do it again next year if possible. I have been able to still keep in contact with Nozomi (my Japanese exchange student) and now I have a new friend. I will never forget the short week that the Japanese exchange students and the students from Vermont spent together.”

*Emma V. Shea, Essex High School, VT*

Green Across the Pacific (GATP) carried out three exchange activities during 2014. We collaborated with IVECA International Virtual Schooling which arranged for virtual

environmental and cultural exchange between Sherubling High Secondary School, Trongsa, Bhutan, and Burlington High School, Burlington, Vermont, USA. Tottori Prefectural International Exchange Foundation (TPIEF)



worked with GATP to organize reciprocal exchanges in April (Tottori, Japan) and October (Vermont, USA). GATP hosted students from the Affiliated High School of South China Normal University (Hua Shi Fu Zhong, HSFZ) for our China-America Environmental Exchange program at the Rubenstein School of

Environment & Natural Resources (RSENR) at the University of Vermont (UVM). Two excerpts from student work completed during the summer and virtual exchanges follow:

China-America Exchange Program  
at RSENR  
University of Vermont



“Guangzhou City is now working programs about wasting classification, but the results are not very prominent. Among different kinds of city solid waste, electronic waste (e-waste) is the most dangerous and its amount is increasing rapidly. As we know, America, especially Vermont, has already formed a solid waste recycling industry, with mature and comprehensive methods of e-waste disposal. This project did some researches about the e-waste disposal in VT by field visit and survey. The data shows that the waste disposal system in VT is comprehensive, but the government’s advertisements need to be improved. Based on these problems, we gave some suggestions to both VT and Guangzhou, in order to make the e-waste programs in GZ works well.”

*Liao Minlin, Nie Qianyu, & Zhong Jiabao  
HSFZ, Guangzhou, China*

IVECA Bhutan-Vermont Virtual  
Exchange



“Population growth is a major issue on the Earth. It can cause poverty, starvation, deforestation, epidemic, global warming and much disaster. So to balance the population and the environmental consumption, countries all around the world must have a policy of family planning to control the population growth; create awareness to their citizens regarding the climate change, Global warming and other major environmental issues. We as the younger generation would like urge all the youths around the world to work together in solving the environmental issues at the grass root level and make our Earth safest place to live for us and the future generations.”

*Lachuman Monger, Homraj Ghallay,  
Kinley Dorji, Karma Rinchen,  
Dorji Wangchuck, & Kencho Dema  
Sherubling Higher Secondary School  
Trongsa, Bhutan.*

**New at GATP**

Just last month, educators, students and professionals from Kenya, Bhutan, China, Puerto Rico, Vermont, Nova Scotia and Senegal gathered at the University of Vermont for three days of learning and discussion. We convened to explore developing a Virtual Network of Middle and High Schools for Environmental Study and Cultural Exchange. Descriptions from participants capture the collaborative imperative that emerged:

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We felt a warm welcome and part of the group; to recognize the different cultures and needs for one goal. Together we found unity, power which produces energy, and in our quiet reflection sensed the presence of our Creator among all of us. He will help us; heal humanity and the earth with people of good will.”

*Ted & Hermina vanZutphen  
Inverness County Cares, Nova Scotia*

“The Green Across the Pacific Conference in Vermont was a unique experience: a gathering of people who are working to improve their own communities in places as distant as Bhutan, Kenya, Puerto Rico, and Vermont. For a week, we shared our stories, our goals, and our hopes for a sustainable tomorrow. Although our communities and projects are different, I believe that what bonds us together is the notion that our current state of affairs is not sustainable and that we can only change it through new forms of education. That is why we came together: to see the challenges that lie before us, pool together our diverse experiences, and think of concrete alternatives. Here in Puerto Rico we are experiencing a sort of renaissance in agricultural awareness--the need to work our land--and being at the conference affirmed that we are not alone, that it is necessary, and that we need to go even further.”

*Ricardo Barrios, Puerto Rico*



“The conference was very meaningful one as each and every one in the conference hall [was] full of determination, optimism and dedication to move forward to establish the global network to safeguard our natural environment. It was indeed one of the greatest learning experience for me to meet and learn from different people coming from different parts of the world. I could connect with many wonderful people with even greater visions just for three days conference. All these people had moved out of that conference with insightful minds to even connect many more (especially the youths) to work together for the betterment of this world.”

*Tshering Pelden  
Sherubling Higher Secondary  
Trongsa, Bhutan*



“The Conference was very educational, the power of the youth and adults working together for one global goal. There was joy with distant communication and the experience of distant global education of various schools.

The conference would not have been possible without support from the Bay & Paul Foundations and the RSENR at UVM, and the good will and generosity of all participants. John Canning of Physician’s Computer Company arranged for a gathering over dinner. A name for the developing Virtual Network emerged from this meal. Ned Kirsch, Superintendent of Schools, Franklin West

Supervisory Union, Vermont, noted that there were 25 people at dinner. He also noted that today's middle and high school students will enter the job market in before or after 2025. Ned conceived of a network that includes a clearing house feature to give schools access to choices about engaging in cultural exchange, including activity with GATP. Project 25 is underway.

There are two new people at GATP who are working tirelessly behind the scenes to help conceptualize, promote and develop GATP, particularly in the context of Project 25:

### **Dr. Kenneth Hood**

“I served as the Associate Dean of the College of Education and Social Services at UVM for nearly two decades. Along with Dr. Wang, I founded the Asian Study Outreach Program. We established the program based on a belief our schools need to make intercultural understanding a strong component of their curriculum. It is my belief education is at a new juncture where it is possible for all students to build positive relationships and address critical environmental problems with students from other cultures around the globe both via technology and face to face. I look forward to developing Green Across The Pacific's capacity to have a positive global influence.”



Dr. Hood joins us as our Coordinator of Development.

### **Adama Ndiaye**

“I was born and raised in Senegal located on the west coast of Africa. Before making the

journey to the United States of America in 2000 I worked and went to school earning a degree in nursing. I am currently working in the Laboratory department at the University of Vermont Medical Center in Burlington, Vermont, where I meet Dr. Ken Hood who introduced me to Peter Lynch who is the President and Executive Director of Green Across the Pacific.

My deep wish is to bring a love of culture, environment, language and positive exchange to children all over the world.”



Ms. Ndiaye joins us as our International Outreach Coordinator.

### **Looking Forward to 2015**

Students may apply for our summer 2015 Environmental Leadership Program in South China. We will accept twelve motivated American students, including those who participated in the 2014 Vermont summer program, for an expedition to South China.

We are excited to be returning to China. We will spend time for orientation in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region; and a program will be organized for us by HSFZ in Guangdong Province.

Application materials may be found online at [www.gatp.org](http://www.gatp.org). We begin reviewing applications on February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015 and continue to accept applications until the program is full. An option to enroll for 3.0

credits in Natural Resources through the University of Vermont is available.

**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).



Students at Burlington and Essex High Schools in Vermont can anticipate another round of exchanges in April (Tottori, Japan) and October (Vermont, USA) next year.

We will continue to develop our International Virtual Network of Middle and High Schools for Environmental Study and Cultural Exchange.

#### **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. Hard copies will be mailed upon request.

#### **Recognitions**

The following businesses, agencies, institutions and individuals gave of their time, wisdom or through in kind contributions during 2014:

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