

Service Civil International 



Incoming – Programme 2005



Water – Source of Life?

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1 Introduction: What is the Incoming-Programme?

The „Incoming-Programme“ is a solidarity programme of SCI Germany in co-operation with SCI branches in Asia and SCI partner organisations in Africa, Latin America and the Middle East. Each summer the SCI branches in Europe invite 10 to 15 volunteers from branches and partner organisations of the southern continents to stay for 9 weeks in Europe. In August each of the volunteers takes part in a work camp of a European SCI branch and in September they all meet in Germany to take part in the Incoming-Project. The main focus of the programme is placed on educational work. Thus, in the first part of the project the participants design workshops which they will perform later on in schools in the area of the project location. After the project the volunteers also have the opportunity to take part in the North South Working Group Meeting of SCI.

2 SCI

Service Civil International (SCI) is an international peace organisation with branches and partner organisations in 37 countries worldwide. It was founded in 1920 as a response to the violence and destruction of World War I. At this time young people rebuilt houses and villages that were destroyed during the war. They wanted to show the society and governments that people, regardless of their country, culture and religion, could live and work together peacefully towards one common goal. Today, SCI organises international work camps in more than 80 countries all over the world. In Germany, SCI organises each year 50 to 60 work camps with German and international participants. Through these international work camps SCI promotes peace, international understanding and solidarity, social justice, sustainable development and respect for the environment.

3 Aims of the Incoming-Programme

SCI Germany came up with the idea of the Incoming-Programme because we don't want the exchange between North and South to be a one-way street. Instead of only sending European volunteers to the

South continents this programme makes it possible for committed volunteers from SCI branches and partner organisations in the South to come to Europe and experience our culture. By bringing together people from different nations and cultures the Incoming-Programme wants to contribute to a better understanding between the nations. The Incoming-Programme is sponsored by the „Stiftung Umwelt und Entwicklung“ (environment and development foundation).

4 Participants

In this year's programme we had 13 participants.

Chris – Zambia	Markus – Switzerland
Dela – Togo	Montaser – Palestine
Issa – Uganda	Namil – Sri Lanka
Kaushik – India	Percy – Zimbabwe
Laura – Mexico	Rinjani – Indonesia
Luisa – Guatemala	Solveig – Germany
Mahmoud - Palestine	



5 Incoming 2005

The topic of this year's Incoming-Programme, which took part in September 2005, was „Water – Source of Life?“. The project was divided into several parts. The first 10 days were used to get to know each other and to gain some theoretical background knowledge about the topic. During these training days the participants took part in a theatre workshop and designed the workshops which they were going to perform in schools in the third and fourth week of the project.

5.1 Training Week

5.1.1 Theoretical Input

One important part of the training week was to provide the participants with an overall knowledge about the topic of water. We approached the subject from various angles, such as water as a human right, water as a source of conflict and water and natural catastrophes. Furthermore, the participants gained basic knowledge about the German school system and about methods of how to design their own school workshops.



5.1.2 Forum Theatre

In order to approach the topic from quite a different angle and to encourage the confidence of every participant the training week also included a three days' theatre workshop. The two professional theatre pedagogues who led the workshop used the so called „Forum Theatre“. This type of theatre has its origins in Brazil and includes the spectators as much as the actors. Each scene shows a conflict and the spectators can influence the result of the play by acting themselves whenever they think they found a good way to solve the conflict. This workshop did not only help to bring the group members closer to each other and make them discuss controversial issues but it also provided the individual with the necessary self confidence to talk in front of a class during the school workshops. At the end of Forum Theatre the participants invited people from the neighbourhood to take part in a performance.



5.1.3 Designing the school workshops

At the end of the training weeks the participants designed their own school workshops. They split up into three groups of four to five members each and chose three different topics. One group chose „Water as a human right“, another „Water as a source of conflict“ and the third one chose the topic of „water scarcity“. During the training the participants had learned about useful components of a workshop, such as energisers, role plays or different methods of encouraging a discussion among the workshop participants (i.e. the pupils). The workshops should last two school hours, i.e. 90 minutes. It was planned that the workshops should be created within two days but the participants felt they needed more time so that the following day was not used to rest but to continue working.

Example of a workshop:

Water as a Human Right

- We began our workshop with an introduction of the group members, SCI and the topic „Water as a human right“.
- After this we made a game „role play – yes and no answers“ In this game the students should be in a line all together and each of them have a specific role and nationality to represent. Then we ask them 16 questions related to water and they should make one step forward if the answer is yes and stay in their places if the answer is no. The aim of the game is to realise that there are differences between countries and roles in the world.
- Reflection about the game, also students' opinions
- Short introduction about human rights and why water should be a human right
- Country presentations and water situation in each country (Latin America, Africa, Palestine)
- Energiser
- Conclusions about the workshop
- Evaluation



Example 2:

Water Scarcity

We began our workshop by the introduction of each volunteer and of SCI, led by Issa. Then, Rei led the energiser (warm up game), we played the „rhythm of the rain“ game. Marcus continued to give general facts about water: the amount of salt water and fresh water in the world. He showed the data by writing the answers in percentage on small sheets. We played a game where we asked the students what they think is the biggest consumer of fresh water (industry, agriculture or households). The students chose an answer by standing next to one of three chairs which represented one answer each. After this, the answer sheets were stuck on the blackboard to remind them.

The fourth session was a country presentation. Dela started by telling the students about the water situation in Togo. People in villages generally have difficulty to get fresh water because the infrastructure is limited. So they have to collect rain water.

In Uganda the situation is similar. Issa explained that the water is like a political instrument. The government builds pools in some spot areas to meet the villagers needs. It's the kids' task to get the water. They have to get up very early in the morning and stand in long queues. So they are often late to go to school.

Rei explained that in Indonesia the main problem is that a very big population is concentrated on some small islands only (like Java, Bali or Madura). Other problems are the lack of infrastructure and pollution.

The rivers in Java are polluted by household garbage and industrial waste which makes the quality of the water very bad. The infrastructure to purify the water is very limited so it's difficult to get fresh water. People are told that they should buy drinking water from the public company.

At last, Marcus told about the facts in Europe, especially Switzerland. There is no problem of supply in these countries, but maybe floods will become an environmental issue in the near future.

After the country presentations Dela led the yes/no game to find out about the opinions of the students. We closed our workshop with an evaluation by handing out sheets with three evaluation questions, and then Marcus led the last game.



5.2 Exhibition

Besides the school workshops the other main outcome of the Incoming-Programme was an exhibition on the topic of water.

5.2.1 Setting up the exhibition

Directly after the participants had finished creating their school workshops the group started to set up an exhibition on the topic of „Water – Source of Life“ in the Allerweltshaus (One-World-House) in Cologne. This institution is a meeting place for people from all over the world who live in Cologne. One part of the exhibition, which was in German and dealt with general facts about water use, had been ordered

already before the start of the project. The other part was to be done by the international volunteers. For that purpose many of them had brought some material from home to represent their countries. For three days the participants developed creative ideas how to present interesting and thought-provoking facts about water and how to represent their countries best.



5.2.2 The well

Within the context of the water topic and the exhibition the Allerweltshaus had also installed a „water point“ (or, as we used to call it, a well). This is a system which treats the tap water in such a way that it is completely pure after the treatment. The participants helped the people from the Allerweltshaus to make the well look pretty by creating a mosaic to cover the well.



5.2.3 Opening of the exhibition

After three days of working on the exhibition we celebrated its opening. With the help of the participants the Allerweltshaus had prepared some delicious food so that we could welcome the guests to our exhibition with a nice brunch. During the morning the participants decided spontaneously to perform Forum Theatre once more. It was interesting to see that the „spectators“ came up with similar solutions to the conflict situation like last time even though it was a different audience.

5.3 Workshops in Schools

5.3.1 Schools visited

One of the main focuses of the Incoming-Programme lies on educational work. During the third and fourth week of the project the participants visited school classes in the area of Cologne and Bonn. Altogether they performed their workshops with 16 classes in 7 schools. Since the workshops were realised in English only pupils from the age of 15 or 16 could participate.

5.3.2 Feedback of the pupils

In most of the classes the workshops were a great success. However, the degree of participation of the pupils depended strongly on their abilities and confidence to speak English. Therefore, in some classes there was only little communication between the workshop leaders and the students. But the feedback these pupils gave in the evaluation sheets was nevertheless very good. Most of them said that they found the country presentations very interesting. In classes with more talkative pupils the volunteers had a better opportunity to engage with the students. There were many interesting discussions, some of which were even continued during lunch break at school.

5.4 Info-Evening

Since three of our volunteers came from regions that had been affected by the Tsunami in December 2004 and since SCI organises work camps there we arranged an Information Evening on the work that has been done in the Tsunami affected regions so far. Our three volunteers from India, Indonesia and Sri Lanka had brought information material and pictures from their home countries which they used to set up a presentation. For the visitors of this evening it was very interesting to hear about the personal experiences our participants had made with the Tsunami and especially during the time after it, when the infrastructure had to be rebuilt.



5.5 Farewell-Party

After having spent almost four weeks together we approached the end of the project. Before everyone would go back to their countries we organised a big farewell party. We invited all the people we have been involved with during the time of the project, such as students and teachers, the people from the Allerweltshaus, the different workshop leaders from the training week, etc. The participants prepared many delicacies from their home countries and came also up with a programme for the day, such as juggling, the writing of names in different languages and scripts or a dance competition. Everyone was very happy that so many people came; especially the students who had taken part in the workshops were most welcome.



6 Study Part

In our free time (at the weekend or in the afternoon when we didn't do any school workshops) we went on a few trips to get to know the area of Cologne/Bonn better. Two of the trips were directly linked to the water topic:

6.1 Water-Info-Centre

We visited a so called water-info-centre in the Eifel, the region where parts of the city of Cologne get their tap water from. Here the volunteers

had an insight into the different methods of water treatment. We also had the opportunity to go for a walk around a nearby lake where we could visit a water tower.



6.2 Waterworks

We also took part in a guided tour of the waterworks in Cologne. The participants found this visit highly interesting because they could see and learn more about the mechanisms of water preparation in Germany.

7 Evaluation

We have been evaluating the Incoming-Programme all along the implementation. After each important module (for example the training week, the school workshops, etc.) the participants had some time to reflect and to make suggestions for improvement. All in all the comments were very positive. The participants felt that they themselves had learned a lot by meeting people from so many different countries and that they had also passed something on to the pupils during the workshops. However, there were a few issues that should be improved in the future. Almost all the volunteers felt that the schedule was too tight. There was sometimes not enough time for the individual modules

and also not enough time to relax in between. Also, they sometimes felt that the communication to the students didn't work well, because the pupils' level of English was often not very high. On the other hand, all participants agreed that the whole experience gave them confidence to talk in front of a group of people they don't know.

8 Future Plans

8.1 Film

The whole project has been filmed by a final year student in cutting. The final version of the film will be finished in spring 2006.

8.2 Continuation

We want to continue the Incoming-Programme next year. The topic will probably be „Colonial Legacy and Global Responsibility“.





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