

Student Experience

I would like to thank CERCA for providing me with this amazing opportunity. During my two weeks stay at Tsinghua I got to learn about various environmental issues in China and what is being done by Chinese government to resolve these issues. Apart from that the program made me aware about the urgent need of innovative solutions to various environmental problems being currently faced.

Primary takeaway of the program was the extreme need for action for the environment for survival. Beijing as a city had developed very fast but unsustainably. Hence the Chinese government was putting every possible effort to restore the balance. During the summer school, we had academic lectures of Professors from Tsinghua University, Michigan University, Imperial College London who had been experts and most renowned in their work. Each one of them covered different aspects of environment such as soil contamination, climate action, wastewater management etc. To add a practical experience to the visit, we visited the Huaifang Recycling water treatment plant, Asia's biggest water recycling center. They had built multiple layers of wastewater treatment at one single place. We also visited the World Horticulture Exposition where various kinds of horticulture and their variations across the countries could be observed over hundreds of acres. Inside the University, we visited the I-Centre for promoting entrepreneurship and Fundamental Industry Training Center.

Also, we were taken to some famous Chinese tourist destination like Great wall of China and Beijing Yeyahu National Wetland Park and Tsinghua Art Museum which gave us an exposure about Chinese history, culture and customs.

During this whole time, we worked in teams on one of the most pressing problem we choose on environment. We worked on the problem of garbage classification. Language was a barrier whilst working in a multinational team but it also brought some interesting insights based on the different mental models. I have attached our work on garbage classification primarily comparing the different models of Swiss, Japan and Hong Kong and how we can use them in the context of Beijing. The report will also be useful to study and understand how we can implement these solutions in the Indian context.