



SCI Incoming-Programme 2010

“One World - One Climate”

02/09 – 01/10 in Cologne and Bonn



What are the effects of climate change in the countries of the international volunteers?

What does climate change have to do with poverty?

What is climate justice and what would a globally fair climate policy look like?

Editorial Information

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Tel: +49-228-212086

www.sci-d.de

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Lisa Monhoff (Lisa.Monhoff@sci-d.de)

Author: Eugen Ott

Editorial Assistance: Valeriya Ilyina

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1. Introduction

Climate change, one of the most controversially discussed issues on the international level and one of the biggest challenges of the 21st century was the topic of the annual North-South Incoming Programme of SCI Germany. In order to discuss about this problem and to try to find solutions, participants from nine different countries (Botswana, Brazil, Germany, Ghana, India, Israel, Morocco, Thailand, Vietnam) with different backgrounds met in Cologne, Germany. For four weeks they lived and worked together in the rooms of the SSM (Sozialistische Selbsthilfe Köln-Mülheim) and developed workshops which they presented afterwards at schools in Cologne and Bonn.

SCI and its partner organisations aim to create awareness for the consequences of climate change in the global South and to encourage people to think about how they can contribute to a solution. For this reason, the main part of the Incoming Programme consists of school workshops where the participants discuss the topic with the pupils and try to find solutions collectively. The workshops took place in eight schools in the region of Cologne and Bonn with pupils at the age of 14-17 years. Although the issue of climate change is strongly presented in German media, for most people, especially teenagers, it is very abstract. The participants, however, succeeded in finding a clear and appropriate access to this topic. This was reached by unconventional teaching methods, which the participants had acquired in a training beforehand and which included the use of games and images related to the topic. During the workshops, the participants focused on the concept of climate justice. In the end, the young students had the opportunity to learn about the consequences of climate change from first hand and to complete their picture by personal reports.

2. The Incoming Programme and its participants

The group consisted of 20 participants from nine different countries with a huge variety of cultural and religious backgrounds. Nevertheless, the group managed to solve any communication problem and after a short time there was an intense group feeling and the workcamp participants became real friends.

The participants

Amir Zureik from Israel

Baboloki Otisitswe from Botswana

Badr Yahmani from Morocco

Devindrappa S.A. Ambulge from India

Gifty Amwabanina Seidu from Ghana

Jefferson Felipe Silva de Lima from Brazil

Piyachat Damrad from Thailand

Thanh Mai Nguyen from Vietnam

Eugen Ott, Isabelle Unger, Katharina Merz, Lisa Wevelsiep, Max Supplieith, Samuel Rogers, Shari Rothvoß from Germany



The campleaders

Anna Keuchen, Julia Porcas



The trainers

Christina Kleinbach, Kathrin Fuchs, Steffi Koch

Theatre trainer

Melanie Schmelcher

The local group

Andreas Joppich, Antje Leichsenring, Jenny Mayer, Kathrin Wünnemann, Leonhard Müller, Ricarda Brecher, Sabine Joó



Project coordinator

Lisa Monhoff



3. The Incoming Programme and its course

The participants, the trainers and all the people involved in the Incoming Programme had a lot of work to do so the schedule was pretty full. It consisted of two big parts: the training and the school workshops and of course some free time activities in order to discover Germany and its people.

3.1. The training

The participants spent the first ten days thinking and discussing about climate change and its effects in their countries under the assistance of three trainers who helped them to find a common access to this difficult topic. But not only mental work was on the schedule, it also contained physical activities which helped the participants to gain some energy and create a group feeling.



Energiser in the morning

2/9: Arrival in Germany: welcome dinner and getting to know each other.

3/9: On the first day of the programme getting-to-know activities continued. The participants played games in order to break the ice and create a pleasant atmosphere for the further work. They talked about the programme and their expectations towards it, as well as about their fears. In the evening the whole group travelled to the SCI office in Bonn for a welcome party organised by the local group.



Welcome party at SCI office

4/9: The “real” training started with an introduction to the topic provided by the trainers. It was very important to collect the background information of each country of the participants and to create a common basis on which the actual work could start. A “reality check” was also provided by the trainers where they introduced the work of international organisations working on climate change, such as UNFCC and IPCC. The second half of the day was spent working on the topic of climate justice, where the participants first approached the general concept of justice and afterwards linked it with climate change.



The “varieties” of justice

5/9: On the next day the thematic discussion on climate change issues continued with collecting the reasons and causes of climate change and their effects in the respective countries which were presented by the participants.



Justice

Injustice

6/9-8/9: For the next three days the general topic of the training was theatre. For some participants it sounded very strange at first, but turned out to be a very good experience for the group and brought it much closer together. The theatre coach

Melanie used different techniques and methods to break the ice in the group and after a short time the participants talked in fantasy languages, designed sound machines, images and little sketches on a variety of topics linked to climate change and climate justice. During the further evaluation of the programme the theatre workshop was rated very well by the participants, especially as a preparation for the school workshops: *“The theatre workshop was very interactive. It brings people together”*, one of the participants wrote in the evaluation.

8/9: The first half of the day was spent on a workshop held by a speaker from “Germanwatch”, a German NGO working in the field of climate change. This workshop enriched the programme not only by its theoretical background, but also by very interesting movies which the participants used afterwards in the school workshops. The short movie “The Bill” came to be an integral part of the school workshops. This movie illustrated in a very interesting and appropriate way the burden sharing of the consequences of climate change at the expense of the developing countries. During the second half of the day the theatre workshop continued.

9/9: After a long and exhausting training the participants needed time to relax and have some free time.

10/9: The transport association Rhein-Sieg (VRS) held a presentation on the topic: “Climate change and mobility”. The second half of the day was spent in Cologne.

11/9-12/9: These two days were used to prepare and design the actual school workshops. The participants divided themselves in three groups and each group prepared its own workshop using methods from the training. They developed workshops lasting four hours with a mix of conventional teaching methods such as brainstorming or group discussion but also methods the pupils are usually not confronted with in their daily school life like games, images and sketches. A small introduction was also given into the German school system in order to prepare the participants for their new tasks.



Working in small groups

3.2. School workshops

After more than one week of hard working and training the main part of the Incoming Programme, the school workshops, finally started. For the next three weeks eight schools were on the schedule. That meant that the usual day looked like: waking up at 6 a.m., having a little breakfast, travelling sometimes to the other side of the city, presenting the workshop, sometimes having lunch at school, travelling back home... Fortunately there wasn't a school workshop every day, so there was also enough time to relax and collect some energy.



The "Ice-Melting" game

13/9 Lessing Gymnasium Köln-Porz: The first workshop was held at the Lessing Gymnasium in Cologne. After a short presentation of SCI and the project the three groups conducted workshops with approximately 25 pupils each, aged between 14 and 16 years. The school had bilingual education (German/English) in biology, geography and social sciences, so there were no communication problems between the students and the participants. The workshops started with a small introduction of the participants and the pupils. After that the participants collected information and questions concerning climate change. The first part of the workshop was dealing with the topic of climate change, its causes, its scientific background, e.g. the greenhouse effect, and its effects in the respective countries. Also here interactive games helped to break the ice between the pupils and the participants and to bring the pupils closer to the topic. The so-called "Ice Melting" game, where the pupils needed to share space on chairs the number of which was being constantly reduced, was taken very positively. By this game they learned how a common problem can be solved through

communication and cooperation. After a short explanation this game could be linked to climate change.



Group discussion

The second part of the workshop dealt with the topic of climate justice and how everybody can contribute in preventing climate change. Here, the short movie made by “Germanwatch” was very helpful. Also another interactive activity was used to deal with this difficult topic. The so-called “Space Sharing” game explained how developed countries have become richer by polluting the atmosphere and showed the nowadays situation, where the developing countries are catching up and pollute the atmosphere as well.

At the end of the workshop the pupils were divided in three small groups where they had to think about how they can contribute to prevent climate change as individuals, what the government can do and what is being done at the moment already.

The participants were positively surprised by the active participation of the pupils, so that this first workshop was a success for both sides.

14/9 Ernst-Moritz-Arndt Gymnasium Bonn: The second school the group visited was in Bonn. Here, there were also three groups with 25 pupils each, aged 15-17. The workshops had the same structure as the day before. At the end of the workshop there was a press conference at school with two international participants, some pupils, the school's headmaster, a speaker from the regional ministry of environment and the project coordinator from the SCI office. The result of this conference was an article published in the local newspaper a few days later.

After the workshop the whole group was invited to the SCI office again. On this occasion the national secretary of SCI Germany gave an overview about SCI and its structure.

The evening of the day was spent at "Pützchens Markt", a fair in Bonn.

15/9 Deutsche Welle: On this day a visit to "Deutsche Welle", Germany's international broadcaster, was on the programme. On a guided tour the participants learned about the history and the tasks of the radio channel which is broadcasting its program in over 45 languages in the whole world. They visited studios and were able to see a live show. After the tour some participants gave an interview about the Incoming Programme.

In connection to the visit to "Deutsche Welle" the group went on a tour to the center of Bonn.

16/9 Max-Ernst-Gesamtschule Köln: The third school workshop took place in Cologne. Also here the participants conducted three workshops with pupils aged 15-17. After the workshops they were invited for lunch at the school canteen.

17/9 Haus der Geschichte: The programme continued with a visit of „Haus der Geschichte“, a museum of German history after the Second World War.

18/9-19/9: Free weekend to discover Cologne and Germany.



Sightseeing in Cologne

20/9 *Freie Waldorfschule Köln*: The workshop at this school in Cologne was held with one small group of 15 pupils aged 17-18.

21/9 *Lise-Meitner-Gesamtschule*: The workshop was held with two groups (30 pupils each) aged 15-16. After the workshop the participants enjoyed lunch with some teachers from the school.

22/9 *Deutzer Gymnasium*: School workshop in Cologne with three groups of pupils of mixed ages: some were 16-17 and the others only 11-12 years old. This combination made the participants first a little nervous, but nevertheless they succeeded to manage this challenge and the workshop became very productive, especially due to the active participation of the younger pupils.



Pupils and participants at the Deutzer Gymnasium

After the workshop the group went on an excursion on the topic of ecological mobility guided by two speakers of the transport association Rhein-Sieg. They visited a bicycle station close to the main train station in Cologne where people can either store their own bikes or rent them to drive through the city with zero CO₂-emission.

23/9: *Gesamtschule Brühl*: The last workshop of this week took place in Brühl, a town between Cologne and Bonn. At this school again only one workshop was conducted by all participants with a group of 25 pupils aged 16-17.



Workshop in action

After the workshop the group visited the famous castle in Brühl.

24/9 Project party: In order to celebrate the project and make the results known to a larger public, a party took place in the rooms of the SSM. The students, their teachers and parents, friends of SCI and people from the local group were invited to this event. They spent a very pleasant time with music, dances and food from all over the world.

25/9 Rallye in Cologne: After having spent almost three weeks in Cologne it was time to discover the city more closely. For this purpose the local group prepared a rallye during which the participants had to answer questions related to Cologne and its history by walking through the old part of the city.

26/9 Dragon Rock: One of the most famous sights of the region around Cologne and Bonn is the Dragon Rock, an old castle from the Middle Ages on a hill, located south of Bonn. So the group boarded a boat in Bonn and floated along down the Rhine to this place. The path to the castle is very steep but this was not a problem as everybody was happy about the physical exercise.

After this exhausting excursion the group drove to Sabine, a member of the local group, to enjoy her self-made pumpkin soup and traditional German wine.



The lovely Rhine river



Pumpkin soup

27/9: This day was full with free time activities like driving cable railway across the Rhine and eating ice cream.

28/9 *Albert-Schweitzer Gymnasium Hürth*: The last workshop took place at a school in Hürth, a town close to Cologne. For this workshop there were three groups with 20 pupils each, aged 15-17. After the workshops all three groups met together to present the results of their work.



Presentation of the results

29/9: Some participants went for indoor climbing in Cologne. For most of them it was the first climbing experience and they had a lot of fun. In the evening there was a farewell party in the SSM.

3.3. Evaluation and Farewell

The Incoming Programme was almost over, so it was time to reflect on the project in order to learn for the future. Each participant evaluated the programme on an evaluation paper individually and there were evaluation activities in the plenary. There was also time for follow-up workshops in small groups in which the participants came up with project proposals for new activities, e.g. in their own countries. After this there was time to clean the rooms and pack up for the further journey, because most of the participants went to the “Herbstfest”, an annual meeting of SCI Germany. For those who went home it was time to say goodbye to Germany and Cologne.

3.4. Feedback

The feedback of the programme was mostly very positive. All participants were satisfied with its content and course. Especially the school workshops were considered to be very successful. Some points which can be improved in the future are: a more clearly structured schedule and more information about the schools (number of groups, age of pupils) in advance, so that the participants can prepare themselves even better.

“In my opinion this project was very interesting. And I especially liked the games. They showed us in an easy, playful way what climate change means. I also liked how you all presented the consequences of climate change in your countries. So we can imagine what climate change also means to you. All in all it was very well done and interesting. I liked it!”

(quote by a student who participated in the workshop)



4. SCI

Service Civil International (SCI) is one of the world's largest international volunteering movement with more than ninety years of experience in coordinating international voluntary projects. Through these projects SCI aims to break down barriers and prejudices between people of different social, cultural and national backgrounds and promotes a culture of peace.

The roots of Service Civil International lie in very practical peace projects. In 1920 a group of volunteers gathered to reconstruct a war-torn village near the French Verdun.

This very same idea still lies in the heart of all activities of Service Civil International. International voluntary projects are used as a tool for creating intercultural understanding and solidarity between people of different backgrounds. SCI volunteers are now active all over the world in projects of reconstruction, ecology, social inclusion, North-South solidarity and many others. Every year thousands of volunteers experience the dream of peace becoming a reality!

