

CASE STUDY



BACKGROUND

In 2014 CAFIU leaders introduced Rotary Hutt Valley delegates to Party Leaders and the Education Department in Miyun District – an area with around 500,000 people that specialises in IT innovation and horticulture approx 70 kms north east of Beijing.

In mid-2015, following an invitation by Rotary Hutt Valley, a very successful pilot visit of 4 teachers from Miyun District to Hutt Valley schools was held. This resulted in plans to establish regular reciprocal exchanges between the two countries.

In 2017 four New Zealand teachers from the Hutt Valley visited Miyun District at the invitation of the Miyun District Education Committee.

AIMS

- To enable classroom teachers to gain new skills, experiences and professional understandings by visiting different schools and co-teaching with fellow professionals in a different cultural setting.
- To share new pedagogical practices, experiences and resources which encourage 'deeper learning' in students.
- To observe the use and integration of technology in learning and teaching programmes.
- To enhance the English/Mandarin skills of exchange teachers.
- To foster goodwill and cross cultural understandings – fellowship, co-operation and cultural understanding between Chinese teachers/educationalists and New Zealand teachers/educationalists.
- To encourage students in partner schools to develop their future focus and awareness of China/NZ relations in an expanding global economy

HOME HOSTING

Teachers from the hosting schools home hosted the visiting NZ teachers. This incredible experience immersed our teachers in the home life of their Chinese colleagues. Teachers were made very welcome, and relationships moved from a professional level to friendship level – not just with the teacher but with their families as well.

OUTCOMES

Some of the outcomes from this visit:

- The opportunity to be immersed in a different professional and cultural setting was beneficial to all NZ teachers. The visit had a positive impact both personally and professionally on all the team.
- One of the four NZ teachers made a concerted effort to learn phrases and words and was successful in increasing her ability.
- It was obvious teachers share common goals, common school / class structures and routines, and a common technical language and training that crosses across language barriers.
- There were several opportunities to speak with students at the secondary school on the topic of future awareness of China/NZ relations in an expanding global economy



PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM

The teachers were hosted by two schools - Miyun Number Two Primary School and Miyun High School Affiliated to Capital Normal School, spending a week in each. Teachers were immersed in the daily programmes of both schools - speaking to school leaders, visiting classrooms, observing teacher practice, teaching several classes of students, and participating in both traditional subject areas and extra curricular activities.

Highlights were participating in traditional subject areas – calligraphy (both brush and seal or stamp), painting fans and pottery, plus observing the many extra curricular activities being offered, participating in a sports day, and teaching several classes (introduction to New Zealand and making poi)

CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL

As well as touring the immediate area and environs of Miyun, teachers visited the world famous sites

- Tiananmen Square
- The Forbidden City (the Palace Museum)
- The Great Wall of China (Simatai section)
- Gubei Water Town