

**CEI 2014 Nature, Culture and Future
6-12 July 2014
Yilan, Taiwan**

Reflections

Delegation from Sekolah Bogor Raya School, Indonesia

CEI 2014 in Yilan, Taiwan was our first CEI Conference. Its great success motivates us to keep being Caretakers and to join upcoming conferences. We are greatly thankful to the Board, Committee, the CEI alumni, volunteers and helpers, who made CEI 2014 happen. ..Our faith in ourselves and in others has greatly intensified, because when you take a step back and see what we can do, as a collection of small groups of people from all over the world, it really is amazing. We are all one as Caretakers and we can work together to save the environment in spite of our differences in culture, race, or nationality.

Antoni Salamon

Group leader, Szramek High School, Katowice Poland

Culture evening gave us a chance to see and to hear what is important for teenagers from different countries, in their culture nowadays and in the past. The event "World Food and Fun Market", first time organized on CEI conference, was really funny too.

My most important discovery in Taiwan are the Taiwanese people! Friendly, pleasant and kind, ready to help every time. I have met them everywhere, on airport, in hotel, at Huey-Deng school (staff and students - conference helpers!!!), on the streets of crowded but well organized Taipei. I am thanking for this experience.

Judith Steinwiddler,

Student, BG BRG Judenburg, Austria

Learning more about our environment and how to live in an eco-friendly way was one part of the conference. I quite enjoyed listening to others and extending my knowledge. Even though some presentations were difficult to understand, there were a lot of useful hints, which we can use to improve our local environment. During the conference it seemed like we live in an eco-friendly way back home in Austria...

My personal highlight during this week was the river trekking. I enjoyed being out in nature and watching animals. On this trip we for example climbed up a waterfall and jumped down again, which we would have never done in Austria. We learnt that we sometimes can achieve more in a group and that it's important to trust and help each other.

Zainab Muhammad

Student, Chicago chapter, USA

In Taiwan I learned something new every day. I learned how to talk to others I don't talk to, to make new friends, learned about different cultures, and different ways to keep our environment together, and also how to treat your body well to stay healthy. These things were very helpful to learn because I can use it in my everyday life.

(Post-conference tour) liked Yong'an Community the most because we were outside most of the time and it was like being out in the nature! It was really fascinating when we saw crabs in the water because I have never seen a baby crab in real life.

Gail and Wayne Schimpff

Educators, Chicago chapter, USA

(Post-conference tour) The unique natural highlights were equalled by the wide variety of activities we had in experiencing the local indigenous cultures. Nancy, Hsien-Tang and Peter, kept a lot of surprises that unfolded as the trip progressed. The way Lilly opened up her home, her community, and her heart was one of the highlights of the trip. Gail and I will never forget this trip. It could never be duplicated as the post conference tour expanded and deepened our cultural and natural resource experiences that were introduced during the CEI conference.

Lam Yik Hang

Student, Po Leung Kuk Laws Foundation College, Hong Kong

Tracing back to my first conference (CEI2012 Maastricht) to this year's conference, from an 'apprentice' to the leader, I think my leadership skills, communication strategies and the understandings of foreign culture have been strengthened. These knowledge and skills are not taught in school so I grasped every moment in the conference for these.

Kevin, Yu-Wen Wu

Student, Huey-Deng High School, Yilan, Taiwan

This year, I got the privilege of attending CEI2014 held in Yilan, Taiwan. During the event, there were so many fun and exciting activities, such as ice breaking, culture night, fun market, field trip, eco-catwalk, and farewell party... Organised by the alumni team, Eco-catwalk was interesting and wonderful. We used a lot of eco-friendly and recyclable materials to make a beautiful dress for our within 45 minutes. During the whole process, all of us worked hard and cooperate closely. On the catwalk, each team presented their dresses and had a wonderful show.

Pen-Yuan Hsing

Volunteer, Taiwan

I feel CEI 2014 was in many ways like the frog's eye-opening experience. We heard presentations about "duck rice farming" and students turning their classroom into a garden; We saw posters describing the work students from across the world have done to re-think their relationship with the Earth; We visited Taiwanese aboriginal tribes and cleaned up a beach. Through these activities we learned from others and got ideas which we can incorporate into our own environmental efforts. It is also important to remember that we were exposed to new ideas, perspectives, and stimulation not just through the academic activities, but also from the mingling of so many different cultures.