

Begrüßungsrede in Longyou am 09.09.2019 (PT)

Dear Mr Director Yie, Dear Principal Mr Wu, dear Mr Secretary Yu, Dear Director Mister Xu, Dear colleagues,

How time flies!

Started in 2013 it is now the fourth time we come together in great friendship – the students, teachers and parents of the Longyou Middle School and of the Theodor-Storm-Schule Husum.

This friendship has deepened very much in the past years and a rising number of German and Chinese students has experienced the adventure of getting in touch with their different cultures.

They have learned that different cultures, different languages and long distances are of course no obstacle to make friends but a great gift to strengthen their multi-cultural understanding.

Nowadays we meet more and more “veterans” of our exchange program, families and teachers in our school and our city talking about fascinating experiences with their Chinese friends, with the Chinese culture and in your stunning country.

So we could say the hope of gaining more cross-cultural understanding between China and Germany has become truth over the past 6 years. We both, the German and Chinese colleagues could now proudly say:

The lesson we have prepared has been learned by – let me say - the most important part of both our societies – the youth.

This lesson contains the fact that the foundation for peace between peoples in the world is the mutual understanding for each other.

Let us together be proud of our exchange program. It was worth every effort we have made so far on getting our youth together.

So again, it was a great pleasure to welcome your students and colleagues in the city of Husum, to show them our culture, our way of life and to see the open eyes of the Chinese students from Longyou in our province Schleswig-Holstein in the northern Germany.

They might have learned that we have good horses, good cows, good sheeps, very fresh but colder air between two oceans, beautiful decorated old churches with high towers, that hospitality is a basic character for the Germans and - hopefully a lot more of our culture, but most important for all our students – the Chinese and the Germans – they finally should have learned that the knowledge about different cultures is a great opportunity to widen their own horizons.

They will realise that people all over the world have some basic wishes like living in peace and being loved and respected as a linking element which should never be forgotten.

We therefore value the linking character of our exchange - and it's therefore a great honour for us to be at the fourth time your guests here in Longyou in the beautiful Peoples Republic of China and the Zhejiang province.

We're very thankful for your hospitality and we could say we're again overwhelmed by the warm welcome yesterday and today here in your school.

For us – my colleague Sünje Petersen and especially for me as it is already the third time it's a great pleasure to return to Longyou meeting well known and new colleagues and friends so far away from our hometown and again bringing students together.

TSS Husum
China-Austausch 2019

The city of Husum and our school the Theodor-Storm-Schule Husum is very proud of having this exchange. We were asked to send best regards and wishes on behalf of the Major of Husum Mr. Schmitz and our principal of the Theodor-Storm-Schule Mrs. Karschin.

The group has learned a lot about your beautiful country and about overwhelming sights in Beijing and Suzhou during our roundtrip through eastern China the last days. Now we're looking forward to spending the coming days here in Longyou getting closer together by learning and getting in touch with your culture and way of life here in Longyou and the Zhejiang province.

Thank you for the invitation and all the preparations that you've done so far.

Let the German and Chinese students lend their hands together again and let them enjoy their time in the coming week.

Thank you!