

## Students from Germany and China present theatre play on climate change at the EXPO 2010 in Shanghai

Shanghai, September 17, 2010 – 40 participants of the Sino-German student environment exchange project "Thinking ahead" will present the results of their one-year cooperation in the German Pavilion at the EXPO in Shanghai. On September 18 between 6.30 pm and 9 pm the teenagers will stage a theatre play titled „Butterfly Dream" and a video documentation. With their presentation, the students want to call attention to questions around environment and climate protection.

How does waste management work in China? How is water and air kept clean? How are these things dealt with in Germany? What role does climate change play in both countries? And what is my contribution? These are the central questions that school students from China and Germany have been focusing on since the 2009/2010 school year in their "Thinking ahead" project. The objective of the project is to raise awareness among Chinese and German students concerning key questions on environmental and climate protection, to draw the attention of the students to the different national approaches and to promote intercultural knowledge transfer in this area. Stiftung Mercator realizes the project in cooperation with the Goethe Institute.

Altogether, about 130 students from four schools in China (in the cities of Wuhan, Qingdao, Jinan, Taiyuan) and four schools in Germany (in the cities of Duisburg, Regensburg, Gadebusch and Munich) have been taking part in the project. During the year, the 15 to 17-year old students have looked into topics around environment and climate protection in intensive project work. Travelling to China respectively Germany, they experienced at first hand what people think and do about a variety of climate-related and environmental issues. Now the students will present the results of their international cooperation work at the EXPO 2010 in Shanghai.

In the German Pavilion at the EXPO in Shanghai, students from Gadebusch High School and Jinan Foreign Language School will stage the theatre play „Butterfly Dream". It features a girl living in a big, polluted city who dreams of experiencing nature. In her dream she sees beautiful landscapes and encounters animals and humans that show her how to responsibly live with nature. After awaking, the girl starts to hope for a green

future in reality. On stage, the play is enacted with gestures and facial expressions only.

Afterwards, the audience will have the opportunity to watch a video installation, which was realized by students from St. Anna High School in Munich and Taiyuan Foreign Language School under the guidance of the German director Hannes Stromberg. The movie is asking whether with our environmental behavior today, we will still be able to look into each other's eyes in ten years time. Protagonists are the students themselves, but also Chinese and German artists. Their personal statements were filmed in a studio to be subsequently integrated in the video installation.

The theatre play and the movie reflect upon the issues of environment and climate protection in an artistic and emphatic way, in order to convey them to the Chinese and German audience.

More information about the project:

<http://www.stiftung-mercator.de/en/thematic-clusters/climate-change/thinking-ahead.html>

Stiftung Mercator

Stiftung Mercator is one of Germany's largest foundations. It initiates and funds projects that promote better educational opportunities in schools and universities. In the spirit of Gerhard Mercator, it supports initiatives that embody the idea of open-mindedness and tolerance through intercultural encounters, encouraging the sharing of knowledge and culture. The foundation provides a platform for new ideas to enable people-regardless of their national, cultural or social background-to develop their personality, become involved in society and make the most of the opportunities available to them. In this way it wants to let ideas take flight. Stiftung Mercator takes an entrepreneurial, international and professional approach to its work.