

A Fellow Tourist

I was with a group of Chinese tourists to Beijing and surrounds. The historic photo in Red Square (*below*) shows me next to a young girl aged 14, dressed in blue. Her mother encouraged her to talk to me regularly throughout the tour as part of her training in English. After the tour was over, we kept in contact by occasional letters. Here are some extracts from a letter which I received when I returned to Sydney.



"I was really delighted to receive your letter which is from Austria and I expressed thanks to you for your photo. It was really beautiful. the environment was great, I can't see any garbage to float in the sea, and the Sydney Opera House is fantastic. I can think everybody in your country makes their contribution to protecting the environment. The moral character is lacked by many Chinese people.

All of us enjoyed ourselves during the social activities, though it was really hard. The hardest thing was gardening. Fuzhou is very hot, especially the afternoon [written in August]. But we must plant. How tired we were! When we finished it, we can have a rest, and then we had supper. We must finish the supply quickly or we can't seize the bath room. If I was late to go to the bath room, I must stand for about twenty minutes to wait for them. And when I had finished the bath, I must quickly to seize a sink to wash my clothes, if somebody was slowly, he or she must wait! How busy we were! But we also had many interesting things. For example, the instructor brought us to see real pig and sheep. The boys helped pig take a bath, the girls fed grasses to the sheep. Finally, our teacher help the animals and us take a photo. Very interesting. But the photo [?] didn't give me, it only belonged to my teacher. The photo which I sent with this letter was taken at my first social activities. Can you recognise who is me?

Oh! I nearly forgot to tell you my mailbox [withheld for sake of privacy]. In a subsequent letter, came this: Just now I called on my teacher and knew that my chemistry mark was the best in my class. Oh!! How great I am! 100

Now I'm full of happies. I used smile to keep success and the hardest days became the most beautiful memory. This holiday I will buy some books and teach myself the knowledge of internet and learn to sing ten English songs. If I have time, I will go swimming to keep healthy. When I finish my university life, maybe I will go to Austria, though some old friends of mine are in the USA. I don't like America, I think it is the rule of might. Well, it is 23:30. I will go to sleep. Good night."

Kate