



In July, I went to Australia for a study tour, and I had a few discoveries. First and foremost, having read the information provided on the notice boards in a high school I visited, I realize that the Australian government emphasizes very much on the conservation of environment. She has an ambition, that is: Within five years, there shall be no more rubbish in Australia. What

is it meant by 'no rubbish'? It means that everything is recyclable and thus less waste will be produced. In order to accomplish the aim, the government tries to reduce the waste in many different ways. Additionally, she appeals the public to concern the importance of having a good environment and to protect the planet we are living in. In contrast, is the advertisement and education on conservation of environment enough in Hong Kong? I staunchly doubt it.

Besides this, I was taught the key message in Australia: Refuse, Reuse and Recycle. For instance, when my host family and I went shopping in a large supermarket, they refused to take the plastic bags. Instead, my host mother brought along our own reusable bags, as she understood that plastic bags cannot be recycled. My host mother said that the Australian government encourages recycling and refunds if a citizen recycles them. The refund signs can be found at the bottom of many packed drinks, bottles and cans. Usually, 5¢ is refunded for each bottle. In my opinion, this is a scintillatingly brilliant method to attract people to recycle, which can eventually lessen waste produced.



One day, the school teachers brought us to the Eumundi Market. When I bought souvenirs, the sellers gave me some used plastic bags to hold the products. Even if the plastic bags cannot be recycled, reusing them is a good method to conserve our resources. Although the outlook of the products may not be good, it does help to reduce waste. In Hong Kong, even if I buy a little gift for my friends, the sellers may give me the present with lots of wrapping materials. Occasionally, the wrapping materials can even be larger than the products! It's simply unacceptable!

While I was staying with my host family, to my surprise, I realized that there were no air-conditioners in their house. I asked them why and they told me that the world is now facing a great difficulty - Greenhouse Effect. Man-made

industrial chemicals are used as coolants in the air-conditioners and the gas released traps heat from the Earth, leading to global warming. Moreover, the climate in Australia is cool most of the time, even in summer. Therefore, they thought air-conditioners were unnecessary in the house. I sympathize with their view points. It was summer-time when I visited Australia. I felt really cool in the morning and evening, and just a bit hot in the afternoon. Thus, I agree that air-conditioners should not be installed in their home. Apart from this, my host mother informed me that most of their neighbors did not have air-conditioners installed in their houses also. This fact impressed me a lot indeed!

Furthermore, a myriad of trees and other plants can easily be found in Australia, even in some urban districts. Therefore, fresh air abounds there and people are usually healthier. Undoubtedly, I felt really comfortable in Australia. Unlike Hong Kong, there aren't enough plants and the air quality is poor. As a result, quite a large number of people in Hong Kong have got asthma - a disease which leads to the inability of breathing properly. Besides this, beaches are wonderful in Australia, the vast majority of visitors go surfing there. The water is extremely clear and we are able to see distinctly what is under the water. However, the beach water in Hong Kong is seriously polluted and there is a lot of rubbish in the sea. When I once went to a beach in Hong Kong, I was simply in a state of shock: Was it really a recreational place for us to enjoy? That is why many of us don't like to go swimming in Hong Kong's beaches.



A Beautiful Beach in Australia

The above observations may be just some trivial matters which only a few may notice. However, if everyone observes these little things and learns from the Australians, all of us can put effort in helping our precious world. Gradually, when all people know the importance of cherishing our valuable resources, the problems of global warming must abate, and a better living environment is bound to emerge in the near future!



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