

World Heritage Volunteers 2015

Project Description

Title	World Heritage Volunteers China meets Hallstatt
Site	Hallstatt-Dachstein / Salzkammergut Cultural Landscape
Status	Cultural site inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1997
Project location	Hallstatt, Austria, Europe
Project dates	19 July 2015 to 01 August 2015
Site description	Human activity in the magnificent natural landscape of the Salzkammergut began in prehistoric times, with the salt deposits being exploited as early as the 2nd millennium BC. This resource formed the basis of the area's prosperity up to the middle of the 20th century, a prosperity that is reflected in the fine architecture of the town of Hallstatt.
Project objectives	In the city of Huizhou in the province of Guangdong in China an estate company and investment group rebuilt the Austrian alpine village of Hallstatt World Heritage Site. This project had aroused an intensive discussion about the value and uniqueness of historic buildings and sites in Austria. "China meets Hallstatt" focuses on two key aspects. Through the international youth exchange Chinese volunteers got the chance to get to know the real Hallstatt. They will have the possibility to learn about day-to-day business of this unique alpine village and about the duties and challenges to preserve the village. The volunteers aren't going to see Hallstatt as a touristic scenery but as a vivid, active and prosperous world heritage site and work and live together with Austrian volunteers. "China meets Hallstatt" is also an instrument to promote tourism and peace and to develop new friendly relations between Austrian and Chinese youth organisations. 2015 it will be the second year of "China meets Hallstatt".
Project activities	The volunteers will help to maintain the avalanche protection and the protection forest. They will get a deep knowledge and understanding of the significance how alpine villages struggle with natural disasters in the past, present and in the future. In addition the project fosters the intercultural understanding among the Austrian and Chinese Volunteers about living and working in a World Heritage Site in the Alps. There will be a strong intercultural exchange between the Chinese and Austrian volunteers and the local youth.
Organisation	Marktgemeinde Hallstatt
Partners	Austrian Youth Alpine Association; Austrian Service for Torrent and Avalanche Control; Austria Federal Forests; Catholic Church Club of Hallstatt
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