

Volunteering at the World Expo

At the same time, international students are working actively to understand China better. Some do it by travelling, others by socializing, and still others volunteer. Katherine Lee from Myanmar had her first volunteering experience at the senior center, where she was met with surprise from its residents when she revealed her nationality. Since then she has tutored a child of the disabled throughout his junior high school years. This time, she chose to volunteer at the 2010 World Expo in Shanghai, working at popular Saudi Arabia pavilion. “It has made me more outgoing, more optimistic,” she says. “And I will always treasure these cross-border friendships I made.”

The 25-years-old Hwang Haeyoung from South Korea is an Expo volunteer, as well. However, her story is a lot different from Katherine’s. After graduation, she has worked in Korea for five years before attending SJTU. During that time, she has never stopped volunteering, teaching Korean to foreigners at the Republic of Korea’s Department of Education. During the Expo, she worked at the Best Urban Practice Area. The most memorable part of the Expo, she says, would be the story of how two children threw tantrums at her post because of the long queues. Seeing this, she used her ice cream tickets to purchase two cones for the children, who were slightly embarrassed, but so grateful that they gave her two sticks of bubble gum in return. “To be able to help others is truly a blessing,” Haeyoung says.

