

News

- The now fourth MEG generation has settled in very successfully and the students are now finishing their first semester. Among the 21 students are five **DAAD scholars** from Brazil, Ecuador, Kenya and Thailand. Already, the application process for the Winter Semester 2009 is now in full swing. The deadline for DAAD applications has passed; other **applications** are accepted until 15 May 2009.
- Full of new stories and experiences, the MEG '09 class returned from their **internships** in November. Once again, the students visited all corners of the world, working in fields as varied as radio stations, local government, environmental policy and water management. The network of organisations offering internships to MEG students continues to grow, this year involving **FAO and IFAD (Rome); GTZ (Laos, Moçambique, China); ICLEI (Freiburg), WWF (Barcelona)** among many others. The students passed on their experiences to the next generation in a colourful presentation evening in the Forest Café.
- In November the MEG '10 class had the chance to explore their group dynamics and improve their team skills with an **inter-cultural team building work-**



shop held by SPICE consulting. A day full of exercises, discussion and games helped the group to get to know their strengths and interactions, which they can then apply in the MEG course and beyond. As in the previous year, the course was very well received by the students, and it is intended to become a stable part of the MEG Programme.

- Time to say good-bye to the second generation MEGs: The students of the 2006-2008 class have now graduated. They celebrated this happy (and a little sad) occasion at the **graduation ceremony** on 18th November in the Forestry Faculty. Professor Schanz presented each student, recalling memorable moments of the two years in Freiburg and wishing them all the best in the future. The programme also included some words from the graduate classes and international music presentations.



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- At the same time, **Professor Jürgen Bauhus**, a lecturer in the MEG Programme and until recently coordinator of the Forest Ecology and Management Programme, was awarded the "**Professor of the Year**" award by UNICUM, acknowledging his exceptional work in preparing students for their later careers.
- In December, the final two instalments of the **MEG guest lecture series** took place. The theme of both lectures was business and the environment. **Mr Hans-Jochen Banhardt**, Head of the corporate department for Health, Safety, Environmental and Fire Protection at Robert Bosch GmbH, talked on environmental goals from the industry perspective. This was followed by a lecture by **Mr Burkart Knospe**, CEO of Testo AG, developers of measurement technology. He presented the challenges and opportunities environmental standards pose for small and medium enterprises. The guest lecture series gave rise to many new insights and engaging discussions, and the MEG Programme would like to thank all the speakers that came to Freiburg over the years.
- The MEG Online presence is continuing to grow, with the **MEG Online Self Assessment** as the latest addition. In December, a working group on study quality from the rectorat presented this interactive, multimedia online

tool, which was created with the help of MEG students and lecturers. It is intended as an online platform for prospective students to explore the course and learn about typical work and study situations. Potential applicants can get a realistic, first-hand insight into MEG, with clips showing many aspects of the work and life in Freiburg. As a spin-off from this project, the multimedia elements have been collected in a **MEG podcast**, with periodical updates on new developments in the Programme. <http://www.osa.uni-freiburg.de/meg>

- This semester, the MEG Programme was able to offer a special elective module. **Louise Fortmann**, a rural sociologist and Professor of Forestry and Sustainable Development at the University of California at Berkeley, taught a three week course on Science, Society and the Environment. The module focused on questions of truth and knowledge creation, different knowledge systems and participatory research. Students from both current MEG generations enrolled in the module and feedbacks on the discussion-based seminars were extremely positive. The MEG Programme would like to thank Louise for offering this opportunity alongside her commitments as a guest professor at the Institute of Forestry Economics.



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Media Moments: Interning for Deutsche Welle

By Jan Andrew Zubiri,
MEG 2009



I stood on a corner near the Bonn main train station with headphones, a recorder hanging down my neck, and a microphone in one hand. I sized up the people who walked towards the bus station looking for my next impromptu guest. That was my first time to do *vox pops*. *Vox pops* is short for *vox populi*, Latin for "voice of the people". This is the series of TV or radio interviews on the street, where a reporter randomly walks up to people to ask their opinion on a certain topic. That time, I asked passengers on their way to Cologne-Bonn airport of their thoughts on carbon-neutral flying. The experience was unnerving not only for the first time I did it, but also for the succeeding times I went out on assignment.

In most times, I stayed in the office scouring news wires for articles on the environment and development. I rewrote these news articles to fit in the format and length of the respective programs.

My internship with Deutsche Welle also gave me opportunities to attend a conference on Environment, Migration, and Human Security in our neighboring United Nations Univer-

sity, and sit-in for a couple of days for a summer school on indigenous culture and knowledge at the University of Constance. From my co-intern from Israel, I learned how to phrase questions that would elicit notable answers, and the value of journalistic ethics. You just don't go and fire your questions to people. Be friendly and explain to them the purpose of the interview if asked. I've heard countless times of interns needing to be assertive in performing their tasks. However, it's the same assertiveness that almost gave me trouble for looking for ways to attend an international event.

In addition to my interest in media, I also chose this internship over another offer mainly to gain insights for our student organized event (SOE). Sadly, the SOE will not become a reality anymore for reasons beyond the control of our class. And what is an internship in a radio station without broadcasting my own report? Listen to [Counting Birds with Computers](#), a story that combined birdcalls and high technology.

Reporting for the MEG Newsletter:

Andrew Zubiri



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Theory into Practice - some tips for the internship

By *Tempei Miyaji*,
MEG 2009



Summer 2008, I got an opportunity to do my internship at Centre for Environmental Education (CEE) in Ahmedabad, India for 9 weeks. I would like to share my internship experience with you today.

Ahmedabad is located in North-west part of India, the state called Gujarat, known as the state of Gandhi. Gandhi was born there and also Gujarat is the scene of the famous Gandhi's salt march. The state is also called "Dry State". Dry means not only a dry climate, but also in the fact only vegetarian foods are available and alcohol is prohibited in the state. With these geographical conditions, my first expression of India was "what that chaotic place!" Cows lie down on the street, jammed traffic and full of different ethnic groups of people in the market etc. But at the same time I realized the chaos was somehow co-exist in organized order. I found it society has a great capacity because rich and poor, frontier technology and traditional lifestyle, people and cows all co-exist. I could come to understand what the cultural relativism is about in the context of sustainable issue in the dynamic of globalization.

For those who will go to internship this year, I will strongly recommend that you will choose a place you've never been. You will learn things only not from the task you take at internship place, but also you will learn so many things from people you work with, the atmosphere you are surrounded and the culture as well as the institution you interacts.

The Internship is a very good chance to get out of University setting and experience real world situation. Good opportunity to compare how things are going according to theory or not going according to theory that we have learnt in the classroom. It might not really match to theory or model. It gives you an opportunity to bridge the gaps between theory world and real practice. You will practice application of theory in the really.

The internship experience might break your socially or academically constructed view of environmental issue. It will add you new perspective and might make you more flexible and sustainable. Good luck!



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Highlights of „Global Societal Change“

By *María Cristina Espinosa, MEG 2010*



The 10th of November, 2008, the fourth generation of the Meggies started the module “Global Societal Change”. This course, as the other modules of the MEG program, lasted three weeks and dealt with the theme of the changing social aspects of a globalized world. The module was structured in such a way that we obtained a theoretical conceptualization of globalization, gender, development, democracy, labor markets, and green jobs. We had the good luck to count with amazing lecturers like Ms. Christl Kessler from the Arnold-Bergstraesser-Institut, Prof. Louise Fortmann from Berkeley University of California, Dr. Peter Poschen from the International Labor Organization, and Mr. Till Westermayer and Mr. Siegfried from the Institut für Forstbenutzung und Forstliche Arbeitswissenschaft.



One of the major highlights of this intense and exiting module was the excursion to the headquarters of the GTZ and to KfW in Eschborn and Frankfurt on November 20th and 21st, 2008. The objective of this trip

was to see the practical application of concepts and theories that surround the changing world, especially in the area of development cooperation.

We arrived to the GTZ headquarters in Eschborn at 11:00 and from the start it was clear that this agency was an attractive option for our future working perspectives. We got the opportunity to learn about practical examples of Environmental Governance and understood clearly the area of application of the knowledge that we are acquiring through the MEG program. After an intense session of presentations from some of GTZ’s junior officers and questions that we posed them, we visited the GTZ’s information point. Here, some of us felt like children in a toy store: gathering all the publications and posters we could, after all they were free!!

In the afternoon we went to our Hostel in Frankfurt, just in the shore of river Main. Although the weather was horrible, Frankfurt’s Sky-scrappers appeared stunningly in the middle of the fog. A short walk in the rain brought to “Oma Rink’s Stern-taler” restaurant. Here we were delighted with a house-made cider and some typical German dishes. After a delicious meal, some of us decided to go to a karaoke-bar... not only to sing but to do “dwarf fighting” as well.

The next morning we had the freedom to explore Frankfurt. Some of us decided to do a self-guided city tour and went up to

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one of the sky scrapers. From the terrace of this building we got to see how the old part of Frankfurt melts into the modern sky scrapers. We also saw that a nuclear power plant is closer to the city than what it would be expected. Other Meggies visited the museum of Natural Science, a wise option considering that it was raining cats and dogs!



The meeting point to continue with the academic activities of the excursion was the KfW's headquarters. Some of us faced some orientation problems...yet after asking many people and walking as fast as we could, we managed to be at 1 pm in KfW's main building. Here we were received enthusiastically by the KfW's executives. Our classmates Catherine Mungai and Phillip Nagel introduced our group to our hosts. Subsequently, the KfW's experts proceeded to explain the vision of their organization and their functioning in the development area. Once again, many of us were inspired by some of the presented projects and eager to finish the MEG program and work in such an organization. Nevertheless, that didn't mean that we didn't ask some uncomfortable questions to satisfy our curiosity....

In the bus, as we headed back to Freiburg, I was really pleased with our trip. I guess all of us were pleased since this activity was an outstanding opportunity for us, students,

to hear and interact with experts of the development field, and to establish valuable contacts for our internships, master's

thesis, or future work. Additionally, we got the opportunity to get to know a little better our classmates, with whom we spent so much time together! The constructive outcomes of this

excursion would not have been possible without the guidance and coordination of Ms. Reinecke and Mr. Pokorny, thus, on behalf of MEG class 2008-2010, our most sincere thanks to both of them.

Group creativity and difficult decisions: Our experience with the SOE

By Jana Wendler, MEG 2009



It is difficult to take a decision that will mark the end of a project. It is even more difficult to do this if 23 students have invested many hours of discussion, research and creativity into it. But sometimes it is a decision that has to be taken. This is something the MEG '09 class experienced last November, when we decided not to go ahead in realising the Student Organised Event (SOE) as the next Freiburg Forum on Environmental Governance.

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At first glance the SOE is just another module, one in which the students are required to design a scientific event on a current environmental topic. But there is more to it than that. It is also a unique experience, one that may not be visible from the outside. It means bringing together the entire diverse MEG class to create a proposal for an event, completely from scratch and with very little outside help, all against the time limitations that a MEG semester provides.

With a combination of individual proposals, smaller group work and class discussion we managed to find a topic, designed a conference with panel discussions and workshops and put it all together in a final presentation to a board of Professors. It is difficult to relate all the ups and downs, emotional moments and hard work this process involved. But what I realised is how creative such a diverse group can be. Using even a small part of this creative energy can lead to great outcomes – as well as many four-hour meetings.

It was also a valuable training in facilitation. We as a group decided against fixed discussion leaders; instead new people would prepare and facilitate each meeting. This brought new dynamics each time, as well as giving facilitation practice to all of us. The flip charts and diagrams that came out of these sessions still cover the walls of our classroom now.

So why then did we have to make this difficult decision of not turning our work into a real event? Sometimes,

group creativity is simply not enough. Our proposal needed some serious reworking to be realisable under the given setting. We tried hard, but with the omnipresent time constraints and both a lack of staff and money to support the project, it was simply not realistic.

It was difficult to say goodbye on the day we decided. But I can't say that I am sad. Instead, I remember how we managed the challenge. And the new MEG generation is already working hard on their proposal. So expect much from the SOE 2010!

(us)Air: The people we met between Boston and Seattle

By Mari Roald Bern, MEG 2008



The interesting thing about good ideas is that they seem to develop their own life as one sets them into practice. The short movie about the people that we met between Boston and Seattle started out as an idea about making a road-movie. We knew that we wanted to take the Greyhound bus from east to west coast of this vast country. And we knew that we would probably meet a lot of different people. Thus, the question soon appeared: What do we want to talk to this people about? We decided on air. Air because it is necessary for human life, because it smells, because it is invisible, because it is political and poetic, because it is used for energy and a carrier of communication such as radiowaves or music.

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Thus, it seemed to us as if air would be a suitable topic for a film about the US, this huge country unknown to us, but faintly familiar from the screens in the movie theatre or television. We – Nico Daniel Schlösser who is a literature student and myself – took a camera, an external microphone and bought a 5-weeks pass for the Greyhound. If we ever believed that we would be able to grasp this country, we soon realized that our attempts would fail. It is too contradictory. So we changed focus, and decided to make a film about these people that we encountered on the way. We talked to people that we met randomly on the streets, and set up appointments with others, amongst others a fisherman, a professor in sustainable energy, a musician, a radio host and a make-up artist. Common for them all were their friendliness and openness towards our project and willingness to contribute. The camera enabled us to enter into sincere conversations with people who were interested in reflecting upon their lives in the US. The idea of a film gave us courage to approach the people around us and enriched us with one of the most marvellous travels we have ever made.

Editing the film back in Freiburg, we got technical support from the staff at the New Media Center, and we had to reduce 30 hours of raw-film into something worthwhile watching with music and subtitles. In total we have spent three and a half year on the project. Time well spent – we lived an idea and saw how the idea took its own part in our lives.

Malt, Hops and Yeast: The Happiness Agents in Freiburg

By Wansiri (Topsi) Ron-grongmuang, MEG 2010



July 2008 – At a regular social session in Bangkok one evening. "What? You are going to study in Germany?" "Congratulations! You will definitely be getting fat." ... Oh yeah? I was in doubt. Not a fan of bread and cheese, I was very sure of myself. How dare this friend come up with that statement?

September 2008 – My second month in Freiburg. "Bierbauch" is unconsciously registered in my dictionary and in myself. My friend was right and he really knows me. I have become bigger, especially at the belly. Not because of the food but the BEER!

Beer is the world's oldest and most widely consumed alcoholic beverage and the third most popular drink after water and tea. It is also one of my and most, if not everyone's, favorite drink. And even more so among the Germans!

In Freiburg city alone, there are 3 breweries; the industrial privately owned Ganter and 2 lively brewpubs (Martin's Bräu and Hausbrauerei Feierling). There are also plenty of great beer places around town, ranging from beer gardens to beer halls and beer pubs. My favorite one is a beer garden by the river called Dreisam Ufercafe. But since the summer time ended, I have changed my strategy from sitting at

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one place to hopping around and enjoying tasting beers at different bars.

Apart from vast varieties of places to find beer, Germany in general has different types of tasty beers. Starting from clear golden Pilsner to turbid unfiltered Hefeweizen, and half-beer half-lemonade Radler to a number of dark beers and alcohol free ones.

The biggest Ganter Brewery, located next to Dreisam River very close to the city center, produces all the kinds of beers mentioned above using their own brand, Ganter. They also produce local specialties, Freiburger Pilsner with a catchy slogan: Ich bin Freiburger. Du auch? (I am a Freiburger. You too?) Attached to this brand, they sell other souvenirs and gimmicks to Freiburg's tourists as well.

Martin's Bräu, the first and most famous brewpub located at Matinstor, serves Pils (Pilsner) and Dunkels Export (dark beer). Their exceptional large mug of 1.5 liters provides you and your friends the opportunity to enjoy their beer at lower price. Their menu shows big ranges of typical German dishes which are price worthy. You can also see the copper brewing vessels displayed inside. It is great to escape the cold and take pleasure of incomparable beers, in this well decorated and cozy pub.

The other brewpub Hausbrauerei Feierling has both a beer garden (of course, closed in winter) and indoor seats. They serve the unique Inselhopf (Pilsner), Inselhopf Radler and

Brunhilde (Dark Lager) brewed in their own backyard. They also offer choices of food that go well with beer. The welcoming atmosphere always makes me want to go back there. It is a good place to mingle with friends, have a good chat or even watch soccer on the big screen.

Well, Freiburg to me is a great place not only to study but also to live and to learn how to enjoy living. There are plenty of places to explore and lots of chances to meet new people and to enjoy the very worldwide famous beers. You just have to come out and you will find that it is not only music that connects people, but also beers. Are you ready? ... Chon! (Cheers in Thai)

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beer>
<http://www.ganter-brauereiausschank.de>
<http://www.mbfr.de>
<http://www.feierling.de>

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Sharing a little bit of my

NEW MEGGIE WISDOM



BY MARCARMEN RIVERO

EVERYBODY IS SO EAGER TO SHARE WISDOM WITH THE NEW MEGGIES. ALTHOUGH IT IS, INDEED, GREATLY APPRECIATED, I WOULD LIKE TO SHARE NOW MY "NEW MEGGIE WISDOM" WITH EVERYONE. ONE SEMESTER AND I ALREADY HAVE MUCH TO SAY!

SO YES, AT THE BEGINNING OF THE SEMESTER EVERYBODY SEEMS TO WANT TO GIVE YOU ADVICE...

"...take advantage of the FEM students"



"I don't know what to expect of the program anymore"



AND OF COURSE...



(Very cool! Thanks)

SUBSEQUENTLY, AFTER ALL THE COMMENTS AND ADVICE, ONE CANNOT BUT POSE ONE BIG QUESTION TO THE UNIVERSE:

(What am I doing here?)



NEVER THE LESS, THE SEMESTER BEGINS, AND EVENTUALLY EVERYTHING STARTS MAKING SENSE. BY NOW I HAVE PLAYED SO MANY ROLES AS A MEG STUDENT, THAT I FEEL SO FULL OF WISDOM MYSELF... I HAVE BEEN...

NATURAL SCIENTIST	SOCIAL SCIENTIST	TOURIST GUIDE	FORESTER	AND EVEN A SCAVENGER!
<p>so the NH3 is released in to the atmosphere and...</p> <p>NTU NO!</p> 	<p>Let's do chain work in the Fordist manner...</p> 	<p>"The European Parliament was built in the year of bla bla"</p> <p>MAP OF STRASBOURG</p> 	<p>What an interesting Douglas fir specimen</p> 	<p>Happy after taking cookies & juice "for the road" after GTZ meeting</p> <p>Juice</p> <p>cookies</p> 

I HAVE AS WELL DEVELOPPED THE PERFECT "MEG FINGERS" TECHNIQUE

...so the countries coming from the "global south"...

quoting unquoting MEG fingers = MEG FINGERS!



I AM ACTUALLY VERY PROUD OF MY TECHNIQUE OF LOOKING AT PEOPLE IN A SUBTLE WAY WHEN SOMEONE TALKS ABOUT THEIR COUNTRY...

American girl blushing


so since Mr. Bush wouldn't sign the Kyoto protocols



ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT THINGS THAT I HAVE LEARNED IN THIS FIRST MEG SEMESTER IS TO QUESTION EVERYTHING!...

Global Warming?!

-10°C



AND OF COURSE, I COULD NOT HAVE MADE IT THIS FAR WITHOUT ALMOST BECOMING BEST FRIENDS WITH THE BAKERY LADY...

Hallo! Ein Milchkaffee und eine Brezel Bitte!

11:00 am

zu nehmen?



