

A Research Across Continents

German School Kuala Lumpur (DSKL) Cooperates with Realschule am Buchenberg, Borghorst (Steinfurt) in Climate Analysis Project

The German School Kuala Lumpur (Deutsche Schule Kuala Lumpur DSKL) in cooperation with its project partner Realschule (Secondary School) am Buchenberg, Borghorst (Steinfurt) in Germany has - for more than a year now - embarked on an ambitious project to include several German Schools worldwide in a climate data collection and analysis project.



Weather station placed at DSKL to measure temperatures, wind force and precipitation

Themed "A Research Together Across Continents" (*Miteinander forschen über Kontinente hinweg*), the project initiated by Stefan Kruse, Geography and Mathematics teacher of Realschule am Buchenberg, Borghorst (Steinfurt); and Jörg Beyer, Geography and Mathematics teacher, and Albert Lehmenkühler, Geography, Commerce and Sports teacher - both of DSKL, aims at highlighting the urgency of the topic 'climate change' and the fundamentals of climatology to students. This knowledge acquired should enable them to understand climate phenomena and recognize their future impacts on the environment and the economy.

In an interview with MGCC, Lehmenkühler says that apart from obtaining data and information on the climate through this project, the students will learn about the consequences of climate change, the catastrophic results climate change may lead to, and also how to identify options for action. "It's a modern and more practical way of teaching," he states.

"Even the German economy is in many ways affected by climate change," he adds. "However, the effects may not only consist of risks but also of opportunities. Climate change calls for technological innovations which could find numerous customers in markets all over the world."

Head of the Hamburg WeltWirtschaftsinstitut (HWWI) Thomas Straubhaar was quoted in *Focus Online - Wirtschafts-News of 8.10.2007* that billions of Euros would be invested in new technologies, prevention, adaptation and protection to prevent negative effects of climate change and that this would be an excellent invitation to creative and curious inventors, smart investors and bold entrepreneurs.

In the collaboration project of DSKL and Realschule am Buchenberg, Borghorst (Steinfurt), students from the age of 11 to 18 from both schools use their own modern weather stations to observe and obtain various data, e.g. daily outside temperatures, wind force and volume of precipitation. Results are then discussed in class and analyzed in group projects, so as to enable the students to compare their data with those from other parts of the world and to develop a deeper understanding of the climate based on this knowledge.

As a communication platform and central database, the website www.klimadaten-online.com has been established. Here, the data accumulated by these two schools - and hopefully in future by many other participating schools - are collected, displayed, archived and can be retrieved whenever needed.



Partners and initiators of the project: Mr. Jörg Beyer (l.) and Mr. Albert Lehmenkühler, Teachers of DSKL, commenced the research across continents with partner Stefan Kruse, Teacher at Realschule am Buchenberg, Borghorst (Steinfurt)

The forums and chat functions provided on this website offer an optimal possibility to discuss experience and knowledge worldwide. This platform offers the students not only the opportunity to exchange technical information with young people in other parts of the world but to learn more about other cultures and lifestyles in other countries.

Geography and Maths teacher Jörg Beyer comments that the cooperation of the German School Kuala Lumpur with Realschule am Buchenberg, Borghorst (Steinfurt) can be viewed as the beginning of a global "climate network" of various schools. "It is an interconnection of schools on different continents and in different climatic zones. We are approaching the German Schools worldwide to join this project and it is our target to have at least 30 schools participate."

At the regional meeting of German foreign schools (Asia and Australia) held from 13 - 15 March this year in Singapore, this project was successfully presented by Dr. Wolfgang Munzinger, Headmaster of DSKL, to all present. This led to other German Schools, e.g. in Singapore, Tokyo, Beijing, New Delhi, and Sydney, expressing their interest in being part of this network. The German Schools in Singapore and New Delhi have meanwhile confirmed their participation. ▼