

# Sustainable Tourism Development in Khövsgöl-aimag

## Glen final report



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Association of Huvsgul Tourism and Information (AHTI)

## Summary

The internship took place in Mörön, Khövsgöl-Aimag, in the North of Mongolia. Mörön is the fifth biggest town in Mongolia and the capital of Khövsgöl-Aimag. In the summer 2009, the political situation in the region was stable. After the elections in 2008, the regional government for the next four years was established and now follows a four year development plan, in which the development of tourism is included. The main part of the economy in this town and its surroundings is based on small businesses, animal husbandry and agriculture, but in the summer tourism is also important. The GLEN partner organization "Khövsgöl ayalal medeelel kholboo" (Association of Huvsgul Tourism and Information, AHTI) aims at developing a sustainable tourism vision for Mörön and the surrounding areas. This is supposed to help protect the local environment, strengthen the local economy, and support the local people in keeping and creating their own cultural lifestyle. The Tourist Information Center is the central instrument to achieve the aims of the NGO. Its main idea is to bundle and channel information for people being involved in tourism as well as for tourists. In the summer 2009, the two GLEN-participants mainly worked in the tourist information center supplying tourists with information about the town, surrounding areas, public transport, accommodation, and activities for their trips. They also created and updated material, products and activities which are supposed to promote sustainable tourism in the region. The results of the project were a good exchange of thoughts and ideas about sustainable tourism between the participants and the partner organization. The interns raised money and developed ideas on how to earn money from tourism products sustainably.

Das Praktikum fand im Khövsgöl-Aimag, in der Stadt Mörön statt, die im Norden der Mongolei liegt. Mörön ist die fünftgrößte Stadt in der Mongolei und die Hauptstadt des Khövsgöl-Aimag. Im Sommer 2009 war die politische Situation in der Region stabil. Nach den Wahlen im Jahre 2008 wurde die Regionalregierung für die folgenden vier Jahre aufgestellt und folgt nun einem vierjährigen Entwicklungsplan, in dem die Entwicklung von Tourismus enthalten ist. Der Hauptteil der Wirtschaft in der Stadt und der Umgebung baut auf kleinen Unternehmen, Viehwirtschaft und Landwirtschaft auf, im Sommer spielt aber auch Tourismus eine Rolle. Die GLEN Partnerorganisation "Khövsgöl ayalal medeelel kholboo" (Association of Huvsgul Tourism and Information, AHTI) strebt die Entwicklung einer Vision von Nachhaltigem Tourismus für Mörön und die Umgebung an. Dies soll helfen die heimische Umwelt zu schützen, die lokale Wirtschaft zu stärken und die Ortsansässigen in der Fortführung und Gestaltung ihrer eigenen kulturellen Lebensführung zu unterstützen. Das Touristeninformationszentrum ist das zentrale Instrument für die Erreichung der Ziele der NGO. Die Hauptidee dabei ist, Informationen zu bündeln und zu kanalisieren, sowohl für Menschen die im Tourismusbereich arbeiten als auch für Touristen. Im Sommer 2009 arbeiteten die beiden GLEN-Teilnehmerinnen hauptsächlich im Touristeninformationszentrum um die Touristen dort mit Informationen über die Stadt, die Umgebung, öffentlichen Verkehr, Unterkunft und Aktivitäten bei ihrer Reiseplanung zu unterstützen. Sie entwarfen und erneuerten auch Materialien, Produkte und Aktivitäten, die nachhaltigen Tourismus in der Region fördern sollen. Die Resultate des Projekts waren ein guter Gedanken-, und Ideenaustausch über Nachhaltigen Tourismus zwischen den Teilnehmerinnen und der Partnerorganisation. Die Praktikantinnen beschafften Finanzmittel und entwickelten Ideen, wie man durch Tourismusprodukte nachhaltig Geld verdienen könnte.

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# 1. Introduction

In my ecological studies I have realized that many environmental and social problems can only be understood and solved on a global basis with an additional knowledge in economy, politics and an insight in other cultures. In my master I am now connecting my knowledge in ecology to the knowledge of the Central Asian culture, especially Mongolia. Glen has offered me the possibility to further apply this knowledge in practice. As I have enjoyed living with people from Poland and Russia I was especially fond of sharing this experience with my tandem partner Jana from the Czech Republic. Due to globalization we are living in a highly interdependent world. Global education can help people understand these interdependencies and the effects of their activities, to reflect the causes of problematic situations and to become active. I see global education as a continuous and active learning process in which all countries of the world learn from each other as partners how to become responsible actors in an equal and sustainable global society in the present and future.

As the Khövsgöl area with its fascinating culture and landscape is attracting more and more tourists it is important to develop a form of tourism that will achieve satisfying experiences for visitors, have a low impact on the natural environment and local culture while helping to generate income and employment for locals. During a research project about pastoral utilization patterns in Mongolia in 2005 I got acquainted to the Mongolian way of life. For the GLEN-internship, I hoped that my ability to communicate with a better command of Mongolian could open up a new horizon of understanding and sharing experiences. I was motivated to support the “AHTI” in being a motor in the preservation and development of the Khövsgöl area which I had already visited during my stay in Mongolia in 2005.

The topic of the internship was “Sustainable tourism development”.

The most established definition of sustainability was published by the United Nations World Commission on Environment and Development in the Brundtland Report (or “Our Common Future”) in 1987. It says: “*Sustainable development is development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.*”

That implies intra-, and intergenerational justice. All people living in the present or at least as many people possible should be able to satisfy their needs. But they should take care that they the people being born after them can satisfy their needs in the same way. The three pillar model is often used to explain this claim further. It demands a balance between requirements of the three pillars environment, economy and social aspects. This model is not without controversy. While in reality social and economical demands are bounded by environmental conditions very often the model is rhetorically and practically reduced to satisfying economical needs. In this case, the equivalence of the three pillars is challenged and the term “sustainability” becomes a mere catchword to include whatever the beholder wants. The publication of the Brundtland Report was the foundation for the convention of the World Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 and the adoption of the Agenda 21. On this convention, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the concept of sustainable development was discussed further. Subsequently, the World Tourism Organization (WTO) developed a definition for “sustainable tourism”. This definition is the most broadly accepted definition of sustainable tourism and contains clear references to the Brundtland report as it contains the ideas of intergenerational justice and the three pillar model:

*“Sustainable tourism development meets the needs of present tourists and host regions while protecting and enhancing opportunities for the future.*

*It is tourism which leads to management of all resources in such a way that economic, social and aesthetic needs can be fulfilled while maintaining cultural integrity, essential ecological processes, biological diversity and life support systems.”*

To support this ambitious goal and experience its conversion into practice was my goal during the GLEN-internship in Mongolia.

## **2. Situation in Mongolia (tourism development)**

While the Mongolian government is trying to make tourism the third mainstay of its economy, tourist arrival numbers are still relatively small. However visitor numbers have been increasing since 1997. The two key ingredients to Mongolia's tourism product today are the natural environment, exemplified by empty tracts of desert, steppe and boreal forests and its traditional nomadic culture. To preserve these two ingredients the concept of "sustainability" has been introduced into the Mongolian tourism industry. Tourism operators appear to be connecting to the concept of sustainability in their company's philosophy and their offers. Although the concept of sustainability appears to be very fruitful for the preservation of natural resources, it is connected to an increasing arbitrariness in the use of the term. In spite of this confusion about the term it is now being introduced into other countries, especially in the field of development cooperation. It is often introduced from the outside and used from local people without questioning the validity of the concept for the local conditions. The question arises if there are local concepts connecting to the idea of sustainability which could be used more effectively to promote sustainable development.

The Khövsgöl region with its beautiful nature (e.g. lake Hovsgol) and fascinating culture (reindeer people) is one of the most frequented tourism destinations in Mongolia. As most tourism activities are organized from Ulaanbaatar, most of the profit and taxes deriving from tourism stay in Ulaanbaatar and regional statistics about tourism are unavailable.

Unfortunately, although Mörön has quite a good infrastructure and is beautifully situated amidst mountains close to the Delgermörön river it is not yet seen as a tourism goal in itself but more as a stopover on the way to Lake Khövsgöl. Thus it does not benefit so much from tourism. People are aware that it is the beautiful intact Mongolian nature that attracts tourists, but as environmental problems are still quite new, have not yet developed sophisticated methods of how to deal with them and protect nature. As traditionally animal husbandry produced hardly any garbage, people are now confronted with new problems of how to deal with rising amounts of trash. This is also noticeable in Mörön. In the wooden house districts and ger districts a sewage system does not exist. Not all ger camps at Lake Hovsgol have appropriate sanitary systems, which could possibly lead to a pollution of the lake.

All these reasons make it difficult at the moment to put the concept of sustainable tourism into practice. The "Association of Hovsgol Tourism and Information" is one of the most important actors in the region promoting Moron and its surroundings for sustainable tourism and thus trying to overcome these challenges.

## **3. The host organization and its aim**

Before founding the NGO, the head of the organization, Gombojavın Tseepil, had been working for the Department of Tourism and Environmental Protection at the government of the Khövsgöl-Aimag. In the year 2005, after having worked for the government for a couple of years, Tseepil decided to found an NGO which could serve as a bridge between the government and private small scale businesses and promote sustainable tourism. Due to her work in the government she has a great experience with tourism development at the administrative level. Therefore links exist between the "Association of Hovsgol Tourism and Information" and the local and regional government, the National Park Administration of the Khövsgöl Lake National Park as well as with other local NGOs such as the "Hovsgol Dalai Eej" NGO which aims at ecological education, nature conservation and the preservation of historical and archeological sites (e.g. "The Deer Stones"). Furthermore, contacts to the tourism information center in Ulaanbaatar (TIC), the Sustainable Tourism Development

Center in Ulaanbaatar (Ayalal Juulchlal togtvortoi chogjiin tov, TBB) and the “Altai Sayan conservation fund” exist.

The “Association of Hovsgol Tourism & Information” has a strong potential to function as a bridge between local stakeholders on the one hand and official institutions on the other hand. It can represent the interests of small scale businesses and individuals in the local government and strengthen their position through linking them. Therefore, the organization connects and organizes activities of different people being involved in tourism and tries to contribute to a common strategy of sustainable tourism development in Khövsgöl-Aimag. The Tourist Information Center is the central instrument to achieve the aims of the NGO. Its main idea is to bundle and channel information for people being involved in tourism as well as for tourists. The vision of the NGO is a tourism information center serving as the central information and meeting point for tourists and tourism providers in Moron, who are interested in sustainable tourism. The center would provide all kinds of information connected to tourism as well as booking facilities for travel tickets, accommodation or tours. Moreover it could serve as a platform for craftspeople to offer their products. Thus it could reach its aim of supporting and developing the local economy and sustainable tourism at the same time. Another important aspect of its future activities could be to provide training (sustainable tourism, English courses, etc.) for local people being active in tourism such as tour guides, drivers or guest house owners to enable them to get their share from the tourism industry.

The major fields of activity of the organisation at the present are the following:

- developing and promoting a sustainable tourism vision for the town and the region among businesses and local organizations as well as in the regional government
- providing information to tourists in the tourism information centre
- supporting tourist friendly infrastructure in the town (e.g street signs); in cooperation with the government
- developing new tourist information material (e.g. maps, guide book)
- cooperation with the government in the development of the tourism business plan for the Khövsgöl-Aymag and preparation for the future “Khövsgöl-Baikal lake tourism region”
- conducting research on tourism offers in the region (accommodation, restaurants, drivers, private guides)

Future plans are:

- building a bridge between private local companies, NGOs, government and tourists
- offering training to local people involved in tourism
- improving the infrastructure of the town not only for tourists but also for local people (education, training, improving the ecological situation)
- cooperating more intensively with the government and other NGOs in the sustainable tourism sector

## **4. Internship process, the cooperation with contact persons and tandem partner**

Due to visa problems, we arrived in Mörön two weeks later than planned. We had entered Mongolia with the wrong visa type (Saskia: student visa, Jana: business visa, HG visa was required) because regulations for the invitation of foreigners (working in Mongolia) had been changed and therefore the invitation and registration in the office for immigration was not ready yet when we left our home countries. For that reason we had to leave Mongolia again (we travelled to Ereen in China, one night by train there, receive visa, one night by train back) to enter it with the proper visa. After having received our visa we had to register in the labour bureau and the immigration office in Ulaanbaatar. As this seemed to take quite a while again and we were eager to start our internship in Mörön, we left Ulaanbaatar for Mörön without our passports. A Mongolian friend offered to take care of our documents. After one month our host mom met this person in Ulaanbaatar and brought us our passports.

When we arrived in Mörön, we were met by Tseepil, the head of the NGO, and her husband. We had lunch at her home and were able to get to know the first plans for our internship. As Jana and I both speak Russian it was very comfortable to communicate with Tseepil and to get to know each other and discuss things immediately. Afterwards we got to know the manager of the tourism information centre and our co-worker Enkhtuvshin and last year's manager Delgermaa. Then they drove us to our host family (which the NGO and Delgermaa had organized for us), who welcomed us with a heartily welcome.

Our main contact persons were the head of the organization, Gombojavyn Tseepil, and our colleague Boldbaatarin Enkhtuvshin who is the manager of the tourism information center.

On an everyday basis we were working in the tourism information centre as a team together with Enkhtuvshin.

Communication with both of our contact persons was going very well thanks to our knowledge of English, Russian and Mongolian language. In the beginning it was possible for us to discuss our working plan together with the head of the organization and our colleague. All people involved into the NGO were very open minded and interested in the ideas of the participants. Meetings with Tseepil were irregular but professional and fruitful. She gave input concerning the tasks that were needed but was also open for new ideas.

We were immediately integrated into the work in the tourist information centre. In our team (with Enkhtuvshin) we are able to answer almost all tourists' questions and to help them. Enkhtuvshin has a great knowledge of the local conditions. In connection with our language skills we were able to cope with all everyday challenges.

The topic of our internship was „Sustainable Tourism Development“. As the current financial position of the NGO is not so strong, it is difficult though to strive strongly towards this goal. Other tasks, which can help the center to develop economically seem to be more important at the present.

Besides the promotion of sustainable tourism in Hovsgol-aymag – with the Hovsgol lake and the area of Tsagaannuur with the reindeer people as its main tourism destination – the promotion of tourism in the town of Moron and the surrounding areas is an important subject. This could help to protect the local environment, strengthen the local economy, and support the local people in keeping and creating their own cultural lifestyle.

Our main tasks were the following:

- To supply tourists with information about the town, surrounding areas, transport, accommodation, activities
- To make Moron more attractive for tourists, that is making more information about Moron available (maps, guide book, street signs, web site), to present what Moron can offer
- Include the foreigners' view into the work at the center; make colleagues understand what foreign tourists need, like, want, or are interested in
- To develop freetime activities, which the center could offer to tourists
- To discuss the concept of sustainable tourism together with our colleagues.

Right from the start we worked very independently in cooperation with our colleague Enkhtuvshin. Our own ideas were openly accepted and we had enough space to realize them. On an everyday basis in the tourism information center we were able to give good advice to tourists as we served as a mediator between Mongolians and tourists. We connected to local institutions like the government, museum or a local tour operator with the help of our colleagues but also on our own.

Shortly after our arrival Tseepil made it possible for us to participate in a meeting of a government working group. This group's goal was the creation of a business plan for the tourism development in the Hovsgol-aymag. The meeting was not only very interesting for us but we were also able to contribute our own ideas and our knowledge of the tourism industry in our European countries.

We could realize many of our own ideas, for example we presented our ideas for street signs to the sum (district) governor or developed a postcard series „my homeland“ and had an exhibition presenting and selling these postcards. This is one example of how the NGO could earn money from tourism.

Apart from everyday work we were able to meet with the head of the organization, Tseepil, and our colleague Enkhtuvshin for a one day workshop about “sustainable tourism” at the end of our internship. During this workshop we discussed the concept of sustainable tourism, the future of the centre and possibilities to raise money.

Concerning our tandem, I think that we fit very well together thanks to our language skills and our educational backgrounds. We were both able to exchange ideas directly with Tseepil in Russian. It was very fruitful to share ideas and to support each other in realizing them. As we were also living together in one family we stayed in touch with each other almost every minute of the day. After having worked commonly on projects for the first weeks we realized that it would be good to be working on separate projects from time to time. Thus everybody would have enough space to realize her own ideas. As Tseepil only came by once in a week or once in two weeks, we had to cooperate and plan by ourselves.

We were taken care of by all persons of the NGO as well as by our host family in the very best way. Our host family not only helped us with all questions of everyday life, but moreover let us feel like part of their family. I am very thankful for that and hope that they feel like we gave them something back in return

## 5. Problems, challenges and solutions

One of our first challenges was to be working in an unknown environment without having a designated person to manage this process. Tseepil only came by once in a week and Enkhtuvshin, the manager of the centre, did not make an attempt to take over the leading role. The problem was not what to do and how (because we had enough ideas and creativity) but how to coordinate our plans and to keep everybody busy at all times. Also, we did not want to tell Enkhtuvshin what to do (because we wanted to get to know her own ideas) but sometimes she seemed to count on that. When Jana and I realized this after a while, we tried to find tasks which everybody can fulfil on her own and then to gather after a while to share our results and put them together. Also, after having adopted the dominating role during the first time, I tried to soften this during the course of the internship.

It was a little bit sad to see at the end of our internship that a lot of information we could have needed for our work was available in the office but nobody told us about it. This is also due to the fact that the manager changes every other year and sometimes maybe does not know about this information herself. This made advisory to tourists more difficult than it could have been.

It seemed that the computers in the office had not been updated on a regular basis and when I made a virus scan it detected many viruses, in fact too many: the office computers often broke down and in the end of the internship it was nearly impossible to work with them properly. We were even lucky that we could extract the important data for the website. Therefore it was good, that I had brought my own mini laptop with me from Germany which made work a lot easier.

Sometimes it was difficult or took quite a while to do simple things like buying equipment or copying papers. It was a challenge to be patient with it. It was a great help that Enkhtuvshin tried to support us with these things as much as possible.

Often friends, relatives or people from the street came by to pay a visit to the centre (not for touristic purposes) and then stayed there for an hour or more. This sometimes made continuous, common work difficult but enhanced our days on the other hand.

The biggest challenge for us, from my point of view, was when we got to know that the NGO had financial problems and could not pay the rent for the office for two months. It was a real dilemma for us to decide what to do: To lend them money or not. We felt that we would not be able to continue our work properly if we had to move the office and that it would take a lot of energy. But on the other hand we were also cautious to lend them money because we thought that this would not be sustainable and that they had to find their own way to manage the centre sustainably. In the end we decided to lend Tseepil the money for the two months' rent. Although a lot of our friends from Germany told us that this was probably a big mistake, in the end we had the feeling that it was the right decision. We got the money back after a few weeks, were able to go on with our work immediately and the whole incident added a feeling of confidence to our common work.

But still the whole internship left us with the question of how to spend donations in a wise way. We bought a tent for the organization and a digital camera so that the next interns and our colleagues could work with this equipment. Still we don't know if these were things they really needed and if this equipment will be used in a wise manner or only for personal necessities (which would not be so bad either but not according to the original intention).

This whole subject-matter made us clear that it would be the most important task to think about possibilities for the centre to finance itself sustainably in the future. Our first attempts to do this were the postcard project and the workshop in the end of our internship.

Connected to this topic was the feeling that many tourists seemed to expect a tourism information centre with European standards. Sometimes we had to explain them that this is simply not possible in the current situation.

Quite a personal challenge for me was to have too little time for myself, alone with myself. Jana and I shared one room in the house which had no door. Thus we were basically included into all daily processes in the family. On the one hand this was very nice because we never felt lonely, got to know our host family quite well and had a joyful time with them. On the other hand it got stressful from time to time. Therefore, after a while, I started to go for a walk by myself and I slept in the backyard in my tent for a few days. These feelings were very interesting because they showed me how individualistically we are living in Germany. The funniest thing was when I came back home: I could not stand to be alone in my room or our flat. Often I escaped from this situation by paying visits to my friends.

## **6. Results, learning effects and experiences**

On an everyday basis we have supported tourists in various ways. For example we sold maps, helped them to find transport, a driver or even to buy horses. We also arranged tours with other tour operators and assisted with obtaining a border permission for the Tsagaannuur area. We had a meeting with the sum governor at which he promised financial support for a new guidebook about Moron and for street signs in town. We thought about the places to be put on the street signs, and where to install them, measured the distances from place to place and presented models for it to the sum governor at a second meeting. Together with our colleague Enkhtuvshin we designed and printed a map of the market area which helps tourists to find their way at this sometimes confusing, crowded, but great place. We have done research about transportation (from where the buses or minivans leave, which prices they have) and included this information into the map. We took part in a meeting of the government working group which was designated to formulate a tourism business plan for the Khöwsgöl-Aimag and joined the discussion.

For our postcard project „Minii nutag“ (My homeland) we asked several people from around Mörön to take pictures of their homeland. With these pictures we created postcards, describing the project and the aims of the NGO. On a postcard exhibition we celebrated and sold these postcards in the centre. These postcards are one of many possibilities how the NGO could earn some money from tourism. At Tseepil's suggestion we tested a possible tour for tourists and collected new ideas for a tour around Moron. We connected to the museum; the museum's workers wanted us to translate some descriptions of their exhibition. Unfortunately we did not manage to do this due to our limited time frame. With the help of the donations I had collected in Germany preliminary to our internship, we bought a tent and photo camera for the NGO, connected the office (= tourism information centre) to the internet and pre-financed projects like the photo project. We tried to keep working on the web site; since last year, a website is existing, but not yet hosted on the internet. Unfortunately it was not possible for us to host the website online because we had a lot of problems with the computer and it was difficult for us to follow the steps which were given to us by last year's Czech participant. However we managed to copy all necessary data on a flash disk so that Martin can go on working with the data.

Our plan to collect information about Moron for the guidebook, to create a new guidebook and to include a small map of the city center was too ambitious as we did not have enough time for that. As well we wanted to write to the Lonely Planet and Brandt guide books to make them update information about Mörön. This is a task I still have on my to do list. The description in the Lonely Planet was nearly humiliating for Mörön from my point of view. In

the last week of our internship we organized and held a workshop with Tseepil and Enkhtuvshin about „sustainable tourism“ in which we also discussed the future of the NGO and possibilities to raise money.

As the organization is involved in sustainable tourism we learnt how the travel habits of foreign tourists can influence Mongolia in a positive or negative way. I got an insight into the patterns of the local tourist industry and a feeling for the “development level” of tourism in Mongolia, which influence an NGO like ours can have in this sector and what makes its work challenging. It was a good experience to get to know tourism from the other side, to understand how tourism can influence a region and its inhabitants and to comprehend its ambivalence. Contacts were easily established, if at work, in the family or at the market. My knowledge of the Mongolian language enhanced this possibility. I found many people being interested in a cooperation.

Because we were directly involved into the work of the organization on an everyday basis, we faced questions which are typical in the field of development cooperation: How to support the organization in a sufficient manner (ideas, working power, money)? How to continue the work of last years’ participants? How to involve and cooperate with local people in the working process in a sustainable manner? I experienced what a challenge it is to develop an equally balanced partnership which is fruitful for both partners.

As I had been to Mongolia before and am studying Mongolian language and culture, this time, not everything was new to me like on my first visit. In fact I had the feeling that my Mongolian language skills allowed me to gain a deeper understanding of Mongolian customs and lifestyle through our own work as well as through the contact to locals and the members of the organization itself. I achieved to look at the people not from the outside but to see them as friends or family. This takes away the dreamy perception and makes observations more objective and comparable to our life. From my point of view, everyday work with the Mongolian colleagues enhanced our knowledge and improved intercultural communication skills on both sides.

It was a wonderful experience to live with a Mongolian family, to share our everyday life with such wonderful persons, to play with their daughter and to pet the dog. We had the chance to participate in a Mongolian wedding like family members and to share our inner wealth with our host family.

## 7. Conclusion and Perspective

Looking back now, I can say that the internship was a real success. I have the feeling that it created a productive and critical exchange of ideas and a trusting understanding between Jana and me as well as between our host organization, our host family and us. From my perspective we managed to cope with the difficulties and I hope and think that we supported the Mongolian NGO with our input as much as we could. Jana's and my knowledge of the Russian language and my knowledge of the Mongolian language was a big help during this time and has opened us many opportunities.

The internship not only gave me new ideas and confidence for my future work but also provided me with wonderful contacts and relationships with people from Mongolia.

The GLEN seminars supported Jana and me to get to know each other and to handle first conflicts. However I felt prepared for the internship not so much by the seminars but more by experiences from my own life. I have the feeling that the real critical questions were not really touched during the seminars, it sometimes felt like only scraping the surface but not going deep enough. Anyway the seminars supplied me with many new ideas and unknown methods which I will surely use in the future.

My Global Education Activity consisted of a power point presentation in the Mongolei-Colloquium at the Humboldt University in Berlin. Due to my limited time frame I had to choose a more simple approach this time. I have already teamed seminars which had huge amount of time dedicated to practical exercises, activities and group work. However this time, my Mongolian language teacher asked me to give the talk and therefore I thought, it would be a good possibility to connect it to my global education activity. If I have an idea for an activity I know that I have all abilities to make it a creative and interactive one which allows participants to make their own experience; however, now, I did not see the sense to do this only for training. I found it more reasonable to spend my time to strengthen connections with the Mongolian partner, to plan my next stay in Mongolia and my activities there. This will allow me to create more sustainable projects with involvement of Mongolian partners which will reach many people.

I will be leaving for Mongolia again on the 14th of March 2010, this time for half a year. This year's stay will be dedicated to advanced studies of the Mongolian language as well as to various projects in the field of sustainable tourism. My GLEN-internship gave me the possibility to get acquainted with many people working in the field of sustainable tourism and to develop new ideas on how to be working in this field. It has strengthened my decision to go on working in Mongolia. I am very glad that this will allow me to continue the contact with our Mongolian host organization.