

## Exchanging Best Practices Around the World

As part of the [Professional Fellows Program of the National Committee for US China Relations](#) (NCUSCR), Cascade hosted Ms. Chen Xiaoqiong, a journalist and marketing specialist from a Shanghai recycling Non-

Governmental Organization (NGO) called [AIFEN](#). During the month of May (2017), Ms. Cheng spent time at Cascade learning about our IT Asset Disposition and electronics recycling operation and auditing processes. She also shared information on the struggles of recycling electronics and plastics in China and presented her first-hand accounts to us.

In addition, she toured other municipal and private recycling facilities, met with government regulators and educators, and collaborated with researchers to help understand American approaches to waste sorting and recycling. Ms. Chen also spent several days working side by side with American environmental

NGOs to learn how they organize, fundraise, and manage their

programs. Since the non-profit sector and philanthropy are rather new concepts in China, this information sharing was most interesting to her.

Later in the year, Neil Peters-Michaud (CEO of Cascade) was able to travel to China to visit with Ms. Chen and other organizations engaged in waste sorting and recycling activities in Shanghai, Beijing, and surrounding communities. Neil learned how these organizations work with communities and government programs to increase waste diversion, support environmental education, and promote sustainability.

The trip also included visits to electronics recycling and refurbishment facilities and a lively workshop with entrepreneurs, journalists, and activists working on e-waste issues in China. This experience allowed him to see how both formal and informal electronics processing is developing in China. He also learned more about dynamic political challenges that impact processing of electronics in the country.

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