Waste management

Students wrap up research

The interviews are winding down for the ETH and UniSey students involved in waste management case study.

Contributed

Both UniSey and Swiss students now have new insights about waste handling in Seychelles.

Students meeting with the public for research.

Students must now identify the key findings from their research.

All the research groups are now involved in analysing the tremendous amount of data they have gathered over the past week. Most importantly, they must identify the key findings to present to the advisory board next Friday.

Aside from understanding the technical perspectives of waste management, students from both sides have gained new insights into the inner workings of the Seychelles on its more day-to-day aspects.

"I've gotten to know a lot about the government and things I didn't know before," Yuna, a UniSey student, says. "For example, I didn't know that the levy system existed for PET and cans. I didn't know how the government was involved in it. How government officials have to go to different ministries like Finance, Customs, even the Ministry of the Environment to make policies happen."

Students have spent the last week meeting people ranging from government officials to shop owners to informal PET bottle/aluminium can collectors. The responses they've received in the interviews have been surprising, and even inspirational at times.

"One guy told us today that he collects PET and aluminium waste so that he avoids stealing," Marc, an ETH student, points out.

"A lot of people have been saying that since the redeem centres have opened, theft has gone down a lot in the Seychelles," Franzi, another ETH student adds. "It's crazy how inter-dependent on each other the government, redeem centres, and informal collectors are."

Beyond the project and the beaches, many Swiss students enjoyed the opportunity to meet people from a new culture and with different perspectives.

"The mentality here is something we Swiss can learn from," Felix, another ETH student, says. "People here aren't so worried and really take time to listen to each other."