

YOUNG DIASPORA LEADERS



Meet Hanyuan (Karen) Wang

Age: 26

Country of origin: China

Country or residence: The UK

What would the title of your biography be?

Karen was unsure of what her exact title would be, but she explained that it would be something along the lines of "change maker." She also likes the idea of calling her biography "climate tech entrepreneur and researcher."

How would you use a time machine?

"I actually don't want to go anywhere else" says Karen. She explains how she doesn't think that going back or forward would be better. It's more important to her to live at the moment and enjoy the life you have with the people you surround yourself with in addition to the environment around you.



At the Sharm el-Sheikh Climate Change Conference (COP 27).



How has your migration experience influenced your work?

Karen grew up in a small town called Dali in China and moved to Hong Kong for eight years to study and work there; she also, during that time, spent periods working in Australia, the United States, and she now resides in the United Kingdom. Karen likes to use the term "global citizen" to describe herself as she is able to navigate a world bigger than herself and grow in the context of different surroundings.



At the Misk Global Forum in November 2022.

What do you hope to accomplish by 2030?

Karen would like to continue to build her start up (Climind.co) so it can be useful for people and continue to progress the conversation on climate. Karen also wishes that by 2030 we all can have more harmony with the environment, the politics that surround it, and with each other. Also, Karen believes that as humans advance technology, people should use these advances to make the environment better.



If you had a superpower what would it be and why?

Karen would choose the ability to communicate and understand all languages, as languages serve as the primary means of communication. She herself grew up with a mother tongue called Bai, which has no written format as it's only spoken. For her, it has been one of her most proud gifts because she found out that the language is dying and she hopes she can do something to save it. The hope, as with climate, is to communicate with humans in order to raise awareness and make the planet a better place to live. Together for implementation, as stated by COP27 this year "all nations with different languages must find common ground."

How do you connect with your diaspora community and support it in both countries of origin and residence?



At the Sharm el-Sheikh Climate Change Conference (COP 27).

In all the countries she has traveled to or the work she does, Karen tries to "build and identify the connections where she can be part of the solution and not just the problem." She also has been able to learn from the knowledge and practices of the places she has been able to take that technology and utilize it in her climate action work. Karen also relies on building a network with her classmates, social grounds, and NGOs she belongs to, in addition to young leader platforms in order to spread her message and increase the span of her connections.

Which Sustainable Development Goal is most relevant for your work?

For Karen it would definitely be SDG 13 (Climate Action). It connects to lots of the other SDGs like poverty and hunger, as climate change can affect both of these aspects in different ways. Also as a young leader who focuses on climate technology, entrepreneurship, and is a founder of an organization that combats aspects of climate change, SDG 13 focuses on the core of her work.



What would you tell other young people who want to make an impact in their communities of origin and residence?

"I don't think I am at a position to be able to give anyone correct advice because people really need to walk the path to figure out their own life," Karen explains. One idea she did make was to try to not follow the advice of others too much. "You won't be able to copy anyone's life." It is important to experience things for yourself, through your own eyes and perspectives. There is an immense value in embracing uncertainty and difference.



At the Sharm el-Sheikh Climate Change Conference (COP 27).