

UNV Report

--United Nations International university Volunteer Program

LYU Lingbo
Duty Station: Cambodia
Host Institute:
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
Assignment Title:
UN University Volunteer in Economic Analysis



Work in UNDP

- **UNDP and UN System:**

As the biggest humanitarian organization all over the world, United Nations has a mature and complicated system. Various agencies take different responsibilities but cooperate closely at the same time. As one of the biggest agency, UNDP focuses mainly on Policy and Development Projects, works closely with government and development partners to implement sustainable development goals. In UNDP Cambodia, we have two main teams: policy team and programme team. Programme team manages various development projects, including climate change, agriculture, urbanization and so on. Policy team, which I'm belongs to, focuses on the research part of various development projects and will provide policy recommendations to government.

- **My job as a UNV:**

My assignment title is UN Volunteer in Economic Analysis. The main responsibility is working closely with the Country Economist, formulate and implement technical assistant and economic related research projects. During the past 6 months, I mainly worked on Cambodia Human Development Report, Industry 4.0 and Cambodia Sustainable Development Goals.

We organized various meetings and seminars with development partners and government representatives to discuss about challenges and opportunities of Cambodia development. In addition, UNDP also provides research report and helps ministries write the Cambodia



Promote sustainable development goals in UN Day and Human Right Day

National Strategic Development Plan. Besides the research part, I also participated in field trip about human development. We went to field to interview local people, try to know their real feelings about lumbering and forest, make record of the current lumber situation.

Overall, my volunteer work may be a little bit different from other volunteers. It very specific and focus more on research, development and policy. This is very different from my background and I really learned a lot.



UN team at Angkor Wat Charity Marathon

Life as an UNV

If use one word to summarize my UNV experience, it must be “learn”.

As a university student major in Financial Services, although I have economic and finance background, I know very little about development, policy and international relationship. United Nations and work as a UNV is totally new for me. During the six months volunteer period, I really learned a lot from all my supervisor and colleagues.

I feel so lucky that I have a very experienced, learned supervisor, he shares a lot of knowledge to me, help me to improve economic knowledge and skills, and also let me know more about development and policy. As an experienced scholar in development economics, he is still very humble and willing to listen to my opinions, although I'm totally a beginner regarding to United Nations work. All of my other colleagues are same, they come from different countries, have various background, all very kind and experienced. I learned a lot through working with them. The strongest feeling of working in UNDP is that I feel really valued. No one treated me just as a university student, they helped me to grow, both in professional and personal. This make me be very willing to try my best to do my work, to learn and to contribute.



Farewell Party for colleague

In addition, as a university student, I have similar backgrounds and goals with most of my friends and classmates. Before I came to UN, I can only see the small part of world in front of me. But when I came to Cambodia and worked in UN, I met a lot of people from different countries, have various specializations and really different lives from me. By working and communicating with them, I got various knowledge, from engineering to psychology, from economics to culture, not only about my major. In addition, I learned to see the world and see myself from a different perspective. I know myself better and become more clear about what I want by visiting many different people's lives.

The opportunity of working with people from different backgrounds is really a treasure for me and I learned a lot through it.

Besides, I also got deeper understanding about volunteerism. During the 6 months, I saw various development projects, from fundamental agriculture to high technology blockchain, knowing that developing country also should pay attention on innovation; saw unequal opportunities and gap between rich and poor people, children from rich family go to international school but the public school only provide half-day education; saw many colleagues became vegetarian in order to protect the environment... There are a lot nightside in a country, in an industry and even in everyone's lives, but I learned to find out the bright side, feel it and make an effort to do something good. This is the most valuable part, I learned to become more optimistic and more brave to face the difficulties and challenges in my life, and also try to help people around me at the same time.



UNDP Policy Team Year End Reflection Meeting

On my Facebook Post, I wrote like this:

Time flies, 6 months passed so fast! Cambodia has a lot of my first times. This is the end of my Cambodia adventure but is definitely not the end of our story!

Big thank you all for brightening my life! ✨✨

See all of you around the world! ❤️