

## **Overview**

My UNV journey could be described as a 6-month mountaineering. 6 months, half a year, could look short, yet every day is filled with challenges and new insights as if experiencing a life journey.

It was an eye-opening experience to see how United Nations agencies work strategically to resolve world issues and drive the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and assist countries in the pursuit of its development objectives. Through engaging in various projects and activities, some skills could be picked up not limiting to strategic planning, negotiation, asking the right questions. For instance, the engagement in refining the proposal for the Green Climate Fund (GCF) enhances my knowledge in Climate Change and climate finance and learn through facilitating and observing various bilateral and multilateral meetings with different stakeholders and counterparts. The Country Programme Framework workshops also allow me to witness how a country plan is developed and aligned with national development objectives and interact and learn from different specialists. Overall it was a life experience beyond the ordinary to witness country development first-hand, stay in a developing city with exotic culture and way of life, and accelerate personal development through a challenging environment.

## **My Assignment**

I was assigned two principle responsibilities surrounding two strategic areas under the Country Programming Framework, namely increase the resilience of livelihoods to disasters, and help eliminate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition. I support the Green Climate Fund concept note development, which aims to increase resilience to climate change and disasters through Climate Information System on agriculture. I support through reviewing background situation materials, facilitating bilateral and multilateral dialogues and preparing drafts of documents for further discussions by the working team. Engaging in relevant discussions and activities, I could witness negotiation and contribution to the UNFCCC Paris Agreement on national strategy and policy level.

Leveraging my identity as a youth volunteer, I hope to make contributions to the organization and bring new initiative to empower youth, who will be the pillars to ensure food security and nutrition and achieve Agenda 2030. I develop a program from awakening, envisioning and acting to empower youth to achieve the SDGs, particularly the Zero Hunger Challenge and associated issues. I took the lead from proposal development and communications with stakeholders to possible collaborations for implementation. Flexibility and open-mindedness becomes essential to adjust to the needs and realities and maximize the impacts brought out of the constraints.

Reinforcing learning and development as a core value of UNV, I actively seek for opportunities both within and beyond my scope. I was opened up to new insights and thoughts through engaging in and researching topics from green jobs and National Determined Contributions for Paris Agreement and COP 23, to women rights and empowerment, sustainable bamboo, agriculture and aquaculture.

The value of volunteerism is strengthened through tapping into online resources for UNV, exchanging thoughts with volunteers and engaging in local volunteering ourselves. We initiate

campaigns along with the International Volunteer Day out of many local constraints and share our story as a living promoter for volunteerism. Through building on some medical missions with local volunteers mobilized, it allows me to witness many realities and deepening thoughts on issues that once only appear on books, for instance, inaccessibility to basic social services, indigenous community, humanitarian rights, innocent children whom are deprived of their rights to education and safe environment to grow. The impact of volunteering is reinforced through also seeing how training the trainers could help build a self-sustaining community.

**Why UNV? Why volunteering?**

Everyday there are some people who look up onto you to make a difference in their lives.

## Some Highlights



On the International Humanitarian Day, UN agencies gather to stand for human rights and peace, particularly the armed conflicts in Mindanao, South of Philippines.



The UN Day, which marks the 72nd anniversary of the UN, was celebrated with the public at an open-space.



The UN compound at the Philippines with another UNV.





Meetings and discussion with project development and management team



Events such as the Country Programme Framework workshop that highlights the strategic foci of how UN-FAO would facilitate the country with reference to Philippines Development Plan.



We stand for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



The World Food Day was celebrated at a Public Square with the Department of Agriculture.