



LOOKING BACK AFTER 2 MONTHS

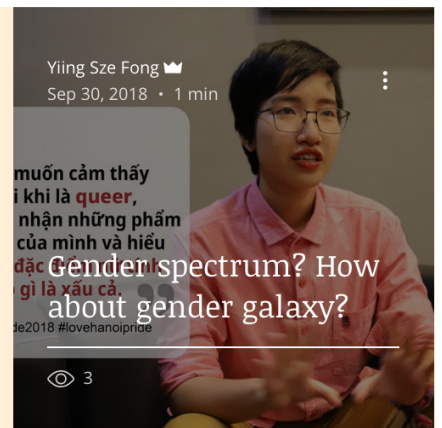
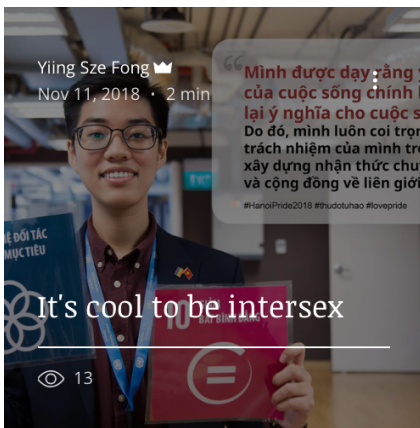
While writing this reflection, I am actively seeking for jobs in Hong Kong. I am surprised that, unlike some of my peers, I have a clear vision and realistic expectation about getting what I want. My better-organised mind has to be attributed to the experience I have in UN Viet Nam. No, I am not going to tell a fairytale about how I discover my true self through volunteering far from home. In fact, the journey was filled with self-doubts, anxiety, sometimes tear, and many times emptiness that kicked in at nights and made me wonder why I was where I was. Yet it still boils down to a cliché: I never regretted putting myself out there simply because there were also plenty of laughs, memories and lessons learnt that enrich my life story. After all, no better time than your 20s to fail, feel lost, discover your resilience and grow ever stronger.

CREATING ONE UN VOICE

I was assigned to the One UN Communications Group in UN Viet Nam. The team is at the cutting edge of UN "Delivering as One" Reform that helps the UN in Viet Nam speak with One compelling and coherent Voice. It was a once-in-a-life chance to shadowing and learning from communications professionals that specialised on a variety of development issues (they all belong to different agency but sit together as Comms). It helped me to become adept at the many ways to understand people's belief and values, their social and cultural norms and be well-prepared to work for communication that goes beyond providing information but leverage development. Also, this bunch of people are not just passionate and competent in the workplace, but also absolutely funny and caring. They make rules to "punish" colleagues who go home too late, bragging or have a new purchase. They collectively "feed" a "piggy" money container and throw a wonderful Christmas party. They, oh no, it's actually WE, decorate, sing and dance for Staff Day like kids in the school! They make office an exciting place and spread the true spirit of ONE UN!

HIGHLIGHTS OF MY UN TIME

As part of UN supporting effort for the movement, I was given an opportunity to develop a series of Pride stories with 6 members from the LGBTIQ+ community, included a deaf artist, single-mom of a gay man, a gender-fluid queer, a first generation LGBT activist, a trans journalist and an intersex activist at his 20's. It was the first time I came across issues surrounding gender and understand the idea beneath "fighting for marriage equality". In fact, that is not the goal of any gender equality dialogue. It is the value of freedom, equality and diversity that they hope to plant in every aspect of our life by starting from challenging gender norms to achieve zero discrimination across all the differences we have (race, occupation, income etc.)



10 December 2018 is the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Together with a colleague, I planned and produced a video to commemorate the Human Rights Day, featuring more than 20 UN's key partners, Resident Coordinator of UN in Viet Nam and pledge to #standup4humanrights by representatives of different UN agencies in Viet Nam.

Video production to me is the pain that feels so good. To make the video relatable to the local audience, we decided to use Vietnamese as the medium. Thus, I have to seek help from Vietnamese co-workers and always refer back to time code on transcript to make sure I was on the right track. I concerned more about story-telling technics and tempo - to lead the audience to understand the message - rather than making cool effects. And so I spent quite some time to experiment with an-hour-long footage and came out with the best two minutes. Tight deadline, the lack of audio equipments and not understanding the language; I knew that this video is not even near to perfect, but finishing it has taught me that only way to overcome obstacles is to act. :D