

# My 6-month Journey with



## UN VOLUNTEERS

July - December 2018

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Communications and Youth Advocacy

Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific,  
UN Volunteers programme



Post-Assignment Report

UNV-Hong Kong Universities Volunteer Internship Programme



## MY TEAM

From July 2018 to December 2018, I have served as an UN University Volunteer in Communications and Youth Advocacy at the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific of UN Volunteers programme in Bangkok, Thailand. The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme aims to promote the value and global recognition of volunteerism worldwide. And the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific works closely with the partners for promoting volunteerism and delivering UNV advisory services on volunteer infrastructure development in over 20 countries in Asia and the Pacific.

## MY ROLE

As an UN University Volunteer in Communications and Youth Advocacy, my work is mainly focusing on external and internal communications and stakeholder engagement. My daily work includes managing social media platforms and website, supporting outreach events and internal training of the office, preparing corporate promotional materials, and so on. The most unique yet challenging part of working in the Regional office of the organization is that I also have to support and facilitate the communication between the headquarter and the country offices, including gathering volunteer stories from the field and delivering them on the global platforms, providing guidance and support for the communication and external events in the countries, such as social media, press release and publications.

# MY MOTIVATION

As a student grown up in Hong Kong, I feel really grateful to have a precious opportunity of receiving good education, to have a safe and secure living environment and to access information through internet. Through volunteering in the local communities in Hong Kong, I can feel the power and the happiness that volunteers can bring to the people in need, and make the society a better one. After all, I wish to see more on how people in different corners of the world volunteer and bring positive changes. On top of that, I would like to utilise my professional skills and own strength to contribute to the world development, at the same time, learn about local culture and context of developing countries. All these motivated me to step out and work as a UNV.

# UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCES

Apart from the daily communication work, throughout my 6-month assignment, I have been working with the whole team for 2 major projects, which are also the highlights and the most rewarding experiences to me.

One of them is the launches of the 2018 State of the World's Volunteerism Report (SWVR) on the global, regional and national levels. SWVR is a flagship UN publication designed to strengthen understanding on volunteerism and demonstrate its universality, scope and reach in the twenty-first century. The latest report of SWVR was launched in 2018 globally, and in the Asia-Pacific region, as well as in some of the countries respectively, including China, Thailand, Pakistan, Fiji, and so on. My role was to make sure the message of the report that volunteerism is the thread that binds community together and builds community resilience to be promoted wisely in the region.



# UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCES

To promote the message of volunteering for the community, I had to gather a lot of promotional materials including stories, project information, photos, video footage. I got to learn a lot of inspiring volunteer's stories from different local communities across the region, including the work of volunteers serving in Sri Lanka for human rights, the stories from Laos and Nepal that volunteers fighting against natural disasters. All these stories inspired me a lot on how volunteers can contribute to the development of a single community to the whole country.

Another highlight of my assignment is definitely a series of celebration events of the International Volunteer Day 2018 on 5 Dec. Apart from echoing the theme of the Volunteers build resilient communities on the regional communication channels, my duty also includes assisting the communication work of all the celebrations happening in the countries, including India, Afghanistan, Myanmar, Lao PDR, Vietnam and so on. We supported the preparation work for social media, media and press, promotion materials, post-event reporting. It was a great challenge to me that we had to work with colleagues from different countries and different time zones remotely. I did learn a lot from this on how to have efficient internal communication and teamwork in a large organization. Among all the events, I am very honored to be part of the organizing committee of the first ever IVD celebration event in Thailand, engaging hundreds of guests from the Government, UN agencies and volunteer involving organizations. All the event preparation work was not easy, yet it was an unforgettable experience to manage a formal event with various parties, and to interact with the Thai local volunteers.



# PRECIOUS TAKEAWAYS

“Make the world a better one through life on life interaction.” Thank you for this amazing journey with the UNV office confirming my belief on volunteerism.

In this 6 months, I was able to meet a lot of amazing volunteers who are striving their best with their professions and passion to make a difference, face-to-face or through reading their lines. With the specific nature of my role, through gathering stories, organizing events, I felt like I was supporting their meaningful work through sharing their motivation, their vision and on-the-ground work to more people in the other part of the world. And it was to encourage more people to bring positive changes to our community.

Sometimes, there were challenges, heavy workloads or pressure, I am very blessed to have a very supporting, dynamic and lovely team, who was always there to provide guidance, to encourage me and to provide me opportunities to learn and to grow. Living abroad and working in a large international organization is never easy as we have to deal with very diversified cultures and working styles. It is undoubtedly a very important learning experience for me to find a comfortable way to live, work and position myself in the office.

The once-in-a-lifetime journey has been over, yet, my role as a volunteer is still going on, to bring more people together, to let more people hear how amazing it is to make the world a better one through person-to-person interaction and volunteering.

