

REFLECTION UNV-HK UNIVERSITIES VOLUNTEER PROGRAMME

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United Nations Development Program

United Nations Viet Nam

July 2017 to December 2017



JUN. 23

THIS IS WHERE THE STORY BEGAN

HONG KONG



During this intensive training programme, a bunch of young Hong Kong university students gathered together with great excitement to the unknown future. Although we do not know what this programme would bring to us, nobody doubts that it will be a harvest journey.

DURING THE ASSIGNMENT

MY DUTIES

VIET NAM

1. Project and partnership Development

By attending various conference, workshops, and events related to a broad range of topics, I developed a much more mature understanding about youth, entrepreneurship, business and human rights. They are no longer purely terminologies or slogan anymore; they are something that I want to encourage myself and the surroundings to devote to.

When exchanging ideas with other participants and trying to look for cooperative opportunities, I felt that I found a group of people who are genuine and sincere in advocating development. Their stories and actions are so inspiring that I can sense the power even up to now. As a representative of my unit, I was always open-minded, welcoming and initiatively looking for new ideas, brilliant people, and opportunities to leverage our power and create a bigger value.



I also contributed to the formulation and initiation of new projects, such as EU JULE and SDG Youth Survey, which gave me a brief idea about how an activity is incubated with a specific aim, how to design those actions and outputs, and how to coordinate with other groups.

2. Project Support

I provided regular support to the planning, implementation, and finalising stage of different projects. Several main ones are SDG Youth Scholarship and SDG Challenges and translated UN Guiding Principles. They rapidly helped me build the logic framework of project management.



3. Policy dialogue and advocacy:

When supporting the UNDP governance team in advocating for the core values of democratic governance in various dialogue with the Government and other organizations, I gained much better understanding of the complexity and essence of governance.

In the meanwhile, I determined to make my own contributions in the policy making area in a long run.



(On behalf of my unit, I was presenting the business and human right ideas to social innovation entrepreneurs)

4. Research Support

I conducted primary and secondary research on policies and engagement strategies about Vietnamese legal system, China's environmental justice, (comparative study) discrimination law, (comparative study) bribery of foreign officials, e-governance, and so on; researched into best practices of governance tools for justice, rehabilitation of new-released prisoners, and so on;

All of them, gradually, rooted fairness and justice deeply in my mind.

When coming back to Hong Kong, I happened to encounter with an unfair situation. But I did not keep silence and tolerate them. Reversely, I stood out and tried to talk with the other party, preparing to seek for legal assistance.

5. Knowledge sharing and learning:

As a team, we actively promoted the sharing of lessons learned and best practices amongst projects, counterparts, donors both within the UNDP office and in global knowledge networks.



MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

1. Success in leading the publishment of translated UN Guiding Principles

We went along with the whole process, from translation, to design, print, and finally launched and disseminated them in the Vietnam Internet Forum.



2. Success in leading the SDG Youth Scholarship

I helped with the idea generation, promotion and communication with different stakeholders from the very beginning, joined the selection period and ultimately brought three winners from Hanoi to HCMC to present their ideas;

3. Researches into different topics as mentioned in last part.



WHAT HAVE I GAINED?

- Improved professional skills:
 - o Project initiation, support, and management.
 - o Deeper understanding in the field I am involved: anti-corruption and rule of law.
 - o More knowledge about event management, communication, media, and knowledge sharing.

- Better understanding of NGOs, Cross-governmental organizations, and ventures/ startups:
 - Teams tend to be small but efficient; members are usually expertise of their field, and some of which are good at research, some others are good at project management; they are passionate about the stuff they work on; etc.
 - Great partnership: people know well about how to leverage their power to exert a bigger influence on their targeted groups.

- Changes in mindset
 - Sustainable development goals rooted in my mind because of this assignment;
 - I now truly believe in possibilities and human beings. If a person has a brilliant idea and really wants to work on that, the dream can ultimately come true.

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THE END OF THIS ASSIGNMENT

HONG KONG

Although many obstacles, when looking back, there are three things I enjoyed most about this assignment: this precious chance itself, the tasks assigned to me and expected output, my great colleagues and teams. I was so honored to get the chance and contribute to this organization for six months at such a young age. Great appreciation

to everyone who strive for this chance for us, and I promise, one day I will definitely give something valuable back to the society.

