
UN University Volunteer Post-Assignment Report

Xiaoyue Liu (Pluto)

UN University Volunteer in Diversification and Climate Change Adaptation

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I've never thought this experience could be such memorable and unforgettable. As written in the UNV report, this assignment can't be better, and these six months could be the best time of my life.

The motivation

Volunteer has always been my hobby since I was a little kid and wanted to do it in a professional way. This mind guided my choice of study in high school and university. But extra-curricular activities are always not regarded as important or even be banned by the teacher because they distract the concentration on studies before attending the university. This assignment means quite a lot to myself before starting, which not only proves my dedication to volunteerism but also personal ability. But a lot more meaning has been added to it during the six months. I will talk about it later.



United Nations ESCAP

My role

Generally, the work is about the interrelationship between climate change and agriculture, learning how they would affect each other and help improve the resilience of countries in Asia and the Pacific to crisis and threats. More specifically, my responsibilities include:

- Learn the process of establishing a climate change online technical network for agriculture sector stakeholders in Asia and the Pacific to support strengthen knowledge on effective climate change adaptation in the agriculture and land-use sectors including gender sensitive and 'climate-smart agriculture' approaches;
- Assist national stakeholders from the agriculture develop implementation and monitoring plans for their Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC) in the agriculture and land-use sectors;
- Support collect information to help in preparation of a regional study on key knowledge gaps in Asia and the Pacific regarding effective climate change adaptation in the agriculture and land-use sectors;
- And learn how to support the development of communications materials including policy briefings, videos, podcasts, infographics, and statistics to strengthen the value of the climate change community of practice for agriculture sector stakeholders;
- Learn and help in organization of a global or regional FAO Technical Meeting on Integrating Climate-Smart Agriculture and Disaster Risk Reduction;
- Furthermore, strengthen knowledge and understanding of the concept of volunteerism and promote volunteerism through action and conduct.



UNV Thailand Meeting

I have worked on projects and meetings include

- *Regional workshop “Climate Action for Agriculture in Asia: Strengthening the role of scientific foresight and CSA in addressing NDC priorities”* organizing and reporting. I was focusing on logistics, newsletters, and report integrating.

The three-day workshop must be the greatest achievement for me during the assignment. Although the schedule was a bit intense and logistics was quite a busy job which made me get a really bad cold, I would still rate 10 points out of 10 for it. During the workshop, I’ve met various experts in different fields and learnt a lot from them. I remembered when I first introduced myself to them, I was nervous and said my role in the workshop was not important with some simple tasks to do. A very kind person then told me that don’t ever think that way. “What you think is simple may be hard for others. So be proud and passionate of what you are doing. And you are doing a great job here.” I think I will never forget these words.



- *NDC (Intended National Determined Contribution) database analysis*
By instigating and integrating information from NDCs and NCs (National Communication), the NDCs will be taken stock of in a systematic way which allows for measurement within and comparison across countries. I am responsible for pacific countries among Asia and the Pacific region.
This task might be the one I learnt most. Before this assignment I had no knowledge and background in climate change or any other environmental related fields. What I had was just a passion in environment and a bit volunteer experience. Actually, I’ve never thought I could pass all the interviews successfully. Back to this task, which mainly contained data analyzing work, by reading through all the pacific countries related document, I learnt their history, culture, geography, status quo, and even politics. A lot professional terms about climate change like IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change), GWP (Global Warming Potential) has been added

to my own dictionary as well. Now I'm back at university to study some environment related causes, I get really excited when those familiar terms appear in the lecture.

- *Building a regional knowledge sharing online portal for Asia and the Pacific under the FAO regional program on climate change*

Based on a 5-year program on climate change, FAO envisions to build the regional knowledge sharing online portal for Asia and the Pacific to help countries embark on a low emission and sustainable food production pathway. I am working on forming a knowledge sharing newsletter using HTML email and creating a template for further use.

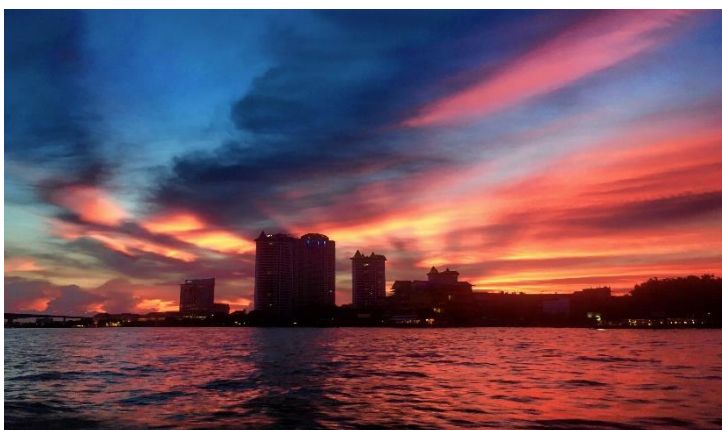
Actually I learnt some design and HTML coding in spare time by myself before this assignment, but never thought this skill would help a lot during it. The truth was, it did play a very important role through my main tasks, including the workshop I just mentioned above. It was a pity that I was not able to finish the email template before the end of assignment due to work priorities and data lost.

- *Researching about the interrelationship between GI (Geographical Indications) and climate change*
Geographical indications are quite a new topic regarding with climate change. I prepared a paper summarizing the key features and the identifications of GI and highlighting its relationship with climate change, with some relevant research.

I was lucky to be able to step into such a new topic, which means I needed to do some research by myself instead of just reading others' papers. And only one person in the office were in charge of this. But this didn't mean it was not important, if there was a breakthrough then lots of regions could benefit from it. Again this was a perfect chance to broad my knowledge and improve researching skills.

The city and people

Despite the different tasks, what I was impressed a lot was my supervisor and my little working team, as well as the working environment.



Chao Phraya River Sunset

Although the weather could be quite hot, Bangkok city is famous for its Buddhism culture which makes people there very kind and friendly. And the sceneries too, are affected by such kindness. I would see a lot of animals on the street or from the office like little squirrels, different birds, not to mention dogs and cats. That could be a paradise for a person who loves animal like me. And the abundant sunshine would bring the amazing sunrise and sunset. Furthermore, our office is located right on

the Chao Phraya riverside. Sometimes we may just have meetings with the river view.

With regards to the people, my supervisor was really good at coaching an inexperienced student to adapt to work and get to familiar with different technical terms. Moreover, balance was his working motto. For the first week he asked me to learn the basic knowledge in the morning and spend every afternoon to learn about the Bangkok city, or even the country. And during the six months, I got chances to explore skydiving, scuba diving and even got a professional certificate. What would be the most exciting was that I even had a chance to play soccer with “Jamie Lannister” (A character in the famous TV show: Game of Thrones)!



Soccer Team Photo with “Jamie”

Besides that, my supervisor and the whole team members were all very cute and friendly people and always made me laugh every day. The final comments from he was “Pluto was an excellent UNV and performed the tasks assigned in a professional and manner that exceed the requirements of someone working at her level”, which made everything worth it, no matter it was tense or not. I always told my friends that this experience increased my expectation and standard for my future career because it was so awesome and so perfect. This assignment can’t be much better for me.



Team photo with some workshop participants