

Post-Assignment Report

UNV – HK Universities Volunteer Programme
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FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
Bangkok, Thailand
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Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

Summary

In mid-March 2018, I received an official offer of assignment from UNV, for the position I long desired. After some hesitation, I decided to accept the offer in April. This one simple click on the UNV volunteer portal “accept offer” signifies the start for my voyage and marked my full commitment to serve my host agency for a period of 6+ months.

My assignment is UN University Volunteer in Climate Change with the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations Regional office of the Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok, Thailand. It started on July 2 and ended on December 25.

Climate change is a disruptive influence and a cross-cutting in theme in FAO might hinder their way in ending hunger by 2030 (SDG 2: Zero Hunger). Me, together with my colleague from Bangladesh and supervisor from Australia, forms a small sub-team in the bigger climate change team that falls under the Natural Resources Management group. Our sub-team work focuses on climate-smart agriculture, and enhance capacity of member countries to implement an monitor measures identified in their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and support the integration of agriculture into National Adaptation Plans. From a broader perspective, the climate change team in FAORAP has a few working area including enhancing availability of climate change and agricultural data, disaster risk reduction, strengthening climate resilience, climate change mitigation and adaption in agricultural sector.

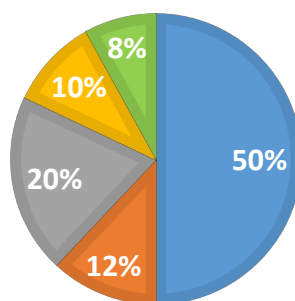
FAORAP is the Asia and the Pacific regional office of FAO overlooking 46 countries in this Region. The headquarters of FAO is in Rome, Italy. Regional offices has their own priorities and initiatives. They are also responsible for coordinating country offices in the region, initiate regional projects and conduct regional scales meeting, workshops

and conferences.

My job main job duty in FAORAP is to research, design, analysis and report on any tasks I was given to. This is the framework I have used throughout my stay in almost all of the tasks and topics I worked on. This model is very useful in situations when one is unfamiliar with topic and will need to produce output in a very short period of time. Some highlights of my duty are:

- Write about wood energy and in general bioenergy for the flagship publication - Third Asia-Pacific Forest Sector Outlook Study (APFSOS III)
- Organized the regional workshop on Rice Landscapes and Climate Change
- Researched on Koronivia Joint Work in Agriculture (KJWA) and supported the ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) submission on KJWA
- Background study on climate change and food security, designed a survey on national data availability on agro meteorology, production of crop and livestock
- Attend relevant meetings and workshops organized by other organizations or units

If I were to divide my working hours into specific working area, the distribution will be like:



- Research
- Communications
- Data Collection and Analysis
- Attend Workshop, meeting, conferences
- Chill

Timeline/ Key Milestones

JUL



Climate change risks and responses in the Asia and the Pacific Presentation

Wood energy paper (APFSOS III)

- Trend in bioenergy: Wood Fuel, charcoal
- Country renewable energy policy profile
- Wood energy mitigation potential
- Outlook for 2050
- Latest bioenergy technologies

AUG



1 University Scholars Leadership Symposium

2 International Youth Day

3 Regional Consultation Workshop ASEAN Guidelines for Disaster Responsive Social Protection

SEP



Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture

4 Bangkok Climate Change Conference

OCT



Case studies:

- Emission reduction in forestry by REED+
- Livestock and rice mitigation technologies
- Extension services: agrometeorology and crop diversification

5 Rice Landscapes and Climate Change Workshop

NOV



6 Accelerating the End of Hunger and Malnutrition – a Global Event

National agrometeorological and agricultural data availability study

DEC



7 NAP-AC Meeting



1 9th University Scholars Leadership Symposium

The 9th University Scholars Leadership Symposium (USLS) took place in the United Nations Conference Center in ESCAP. Participants of the USLS were mostly university students and it was really lucky to meet some students from Hong Kong.

Interns and volunteers of FAO were invited to join the event, to introduce the organization and work to fellow university students. Booths of various UN agencies (IOM, UN habitat, UN Women, UNFPA etc.) were set up. It was the first opportunity I had to understand other UN agencies and what are they working.



2 International Youth Day 2018

August 12 is the International Youth Day and the 2018's theme is – *Safe Place For Youth*. It were mostly Thai university students who took part in this UNESCO event I volunteered so I met some Thai students. APINY presented the finding on increasing effectiveness of UN work in youth development via strengthening collaboration and peer exchange among UN entity.

APINY suggested a new model – *Design thinking* to make this work. Participants are then divided into groups to solve a social problem using this model. I facilitated the discussion in my group which attempt to fix the education system in Thailand.



3 Regional Consultation Workshop

In this workshop, ASEAM members discussed the drafted ASEAN guideline on the disaster responsive social protection, providing opinion on culture, gender, universal registration, finance. Case examples were presented by various country government officials.



4 Bangkok Climate Change Conference

Coincidentally the Climate Change conference were held in Bangkok, hence I was really lucky to be able to attend and to know more about the negotiation process of UNFCCC. I sat in the SBSTA, G77 & China meetings. Due to time constraint not every delegate were able to speak.



5 Rice Landscapes & Climate Change Workshop

This was a successful 2.5 day workshop that we spent 2 months to prepare. The workshop discussed climate change mitigation and adaptation through rice cultivation process by promoting investment, policy change and technology adoption. I was overwhelmed by the presentation, poster exhibition, games and interactive session which requires participants to come up with action plan in 1 hour. The 120 participants of our workshop includes NGOs, researchers and agricultural ministries of Southeast Asia.



6

Accelerating the End of Hunger & Malnutrition

Accelerating the End of Hunger and Malnutrition is an event co-organized by FAO and IFPRI, bringing decision maker, practitioners and researchers to share experiences and explore the influence of technology, finance and climate change in accelerating the end of hunger and undernutrition by 2025 , committed in the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition.



Alongside with the conference, side events and panel discussion was the future smart food fair demonstrating neglected and underutilized crop species identified in eight countries which are nutrition dense, climate resilient, economically viable and locally accessible. These crop species, enhance soil health, bolster dietary diversification, improve nutrition and reduce agricultural inputs.



7

NAP – Ag Project Meeting

NAP-Ag is a program coordinated by FAO and UNDP aims to address agriculture-related climate change adaptation concerns in developing countries' existing national planning and budgeting process.



The meeting is followed by progress presentation then Q&A/ discussion and the participants are from ONEP, UNDP and FAO. The meeting was purely in Thai hence I could barely understand their discussion. However, It was my first time attending such meeting

