

United Nations Volunteer

POST-ASSIGNMENT REPORT



Yeung Ka Shuen

UN University Volunteer in Youth Engagement,
YEP-AP Team,
UNDP Bangkok

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Introduction

As we navigate the 2030s, it is clear that young people play a crucial role in building peace, security, justice, and a sustainable environment for all. The UNDP Youth Empowerment Portfolio in Asia and the Pacific (YEP-AP) is dedicated to achieving the goal of "Leave No One Behind" (LNOB) by empowering vulnerable youth groups, including women, people with disabilities, Indigenous Peoples, and the LGBTQ+ community. Through supporting them in entrepreneurship, amplifying youth voices in societal activities, equipping them with 21st-century skills, and raising their climate awareness, YEP-AP encourages young people to actively contribute to their communities.

Additionally, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) are recognized as key values for creating a secure environment where young people can ignite their potential and stay resilient and creative in challenges. By leveraging young people's capabilities, transformative change can be achieved, leading everyone to a brighter future.

During my internship, I worked as a Youth Engagement UN Volunteer, contributing to the promotion of DEI across various communities and supporting the team's DEI work.

The first day at the office
Nervous but also excited!



Having my last team lunch

Duites Performed

One of my duties was identifying potential funding opportunities for resource mobilization. Each potential funding opportunity was crucial in determining whether our team's programs could be started or continued, highlighting the importance of mapping and filtering suitable funding opportunities.

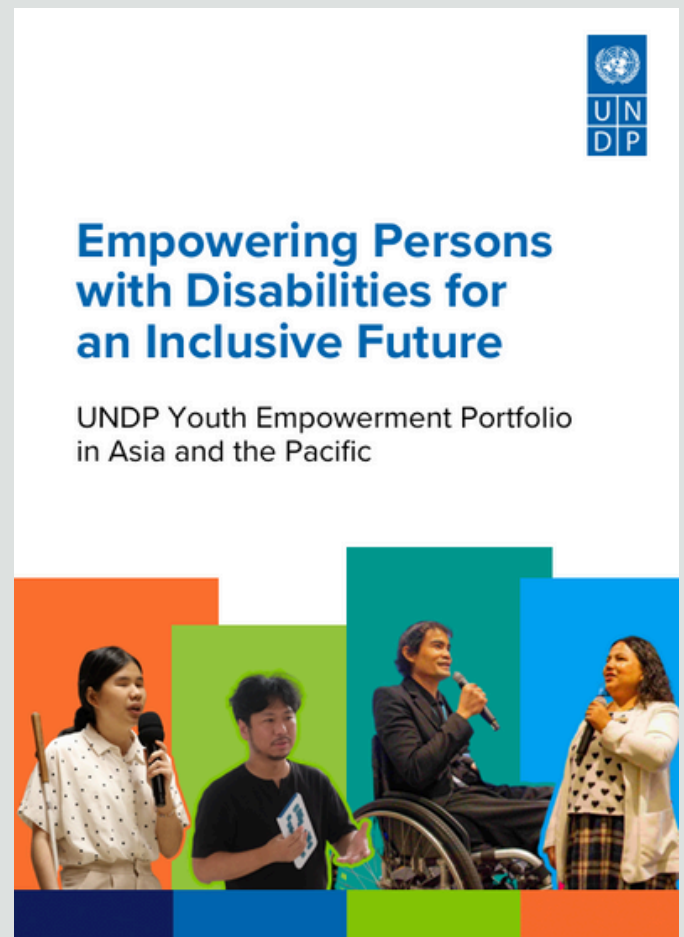
I conducted bi-weekly research to identify funding resources that aligned with our team's project in terms of goals and targeted LNOB groups. After organizing my findings, I presented them to my colleagues, supporting the team in securing resources for their projects and upcoming initiatives.

Additionally, to maintain the sustainability of this important task and to gather as many resources as possible, I invited online volunteers from various countries to assist with the mapping of funding opportunities.



Duites Performed

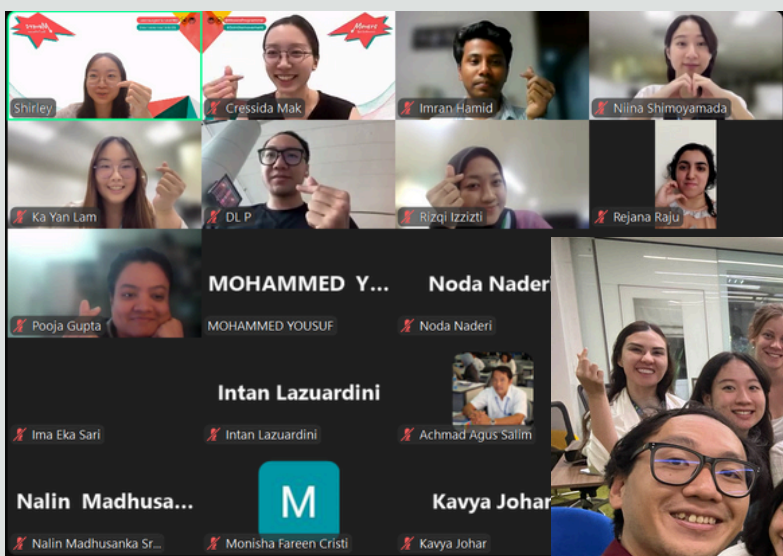
To secure funding, the materials presented to the funders are also essential. During my internship, I collected data regarding the country office's efforts and the YEP-AP team's initiatives related to disability inclusion in 2024. I then consolidated this information into draft reports. After discussing them with colleagues, I incorporated their feedback to improve the drafts and collaborated with the communications team on the design. As a result, a fact sheet and a comprehensive report were finalized and published. These reports showcased the work of the country offices and the YEP-AP team in promoting disability inclusion.



Duites Performed

Last but not least, I hosted various online Movers workshops, including the launch of the first "Introduction to DEI" Movers workshop. The Movers Programme is a regional movement of volunteers who develop SDGs awareness, entrepreneurial mindsets and 21st-century skills by conducting localized training at a grassroots level. I collaborated with different volunteers to host workshops focused on gender equality, well-being, and leadership. These workshops allowed me to interact with people across the Asia-Pacific region. It was an enriching experience to co-host a workshop with volunteers from various countries and engage with participants from diverse backgrounds.

Additionally, I assisted in designing and launching a novel Movers workshop on "Introduction to DEI." I contributed to developing the module and workshop materials. Before the actual launch, the module and materials were reviewed and refined to ensure the workshop was informative, accurate, and interactive. To gather feedback on this workshop, my colleague and I conducted a dry run and invited colleagues to join. Finally, after multiple refinements, the workshop was opened for public registration, and I co-hosted it with passionate volunteers to raise youth awareness of DEI.



The first DEI workshop



The Movers team union

Challenge

I encountered some challenges during my time there. Since my academic background is in science, I did not develop my knowledge in the social and human work field during my studies, leaving me unfamiliar with many aspects of the role. This knowledge gap made it difficult for me to pick up this work effectively. It also became my weakness during team discussions about the future plan and upcoming programmes, as I struggled to understand how social change initiatives operate and how to maximize their effectiveness.

However, I believed that this should not hinder my work. Thus, I paid more attention on meetings, understood the organization's work, and learnt from my colleagues' insights. Along with the support of my colleagues, who always created an open-minded space that encouraged idea-sharing, I gradually overcame these challenges and tried to express my thoughts, even if they were not very perfect and concrete.

Stepping out of my comfort zone was difficult, as it required extra effort to tackle unfamiliar tasks. Yet, this experience broadened my perspective and helped me develop a more well-rounded view of the world.

The first formal event organized by our DEI team



Reflection

Working on initiatives related to DEI and intersectionality, particularly in disability inclusion, has deepened my understanding of these critical concepts. I learned the importance of approaching work with an inclusive lens, recognizing that accessibility and inclusive language are essential when collaborating with diverse groups. This experience has fostered my greater appreciation for multiple identities and enhanced my ability to cooperate effectively with individuals from various backgrounds. Being part of discussions around these topics and contributing to DEI initiatives has been both eye-opening and inspiring.

Additionally, collaborating with colleagues across the Asia-Pacific was incredibly rewarding. Their extensive experiences were inspiring, and I learned a lot from working alongside with them. Beyond professional growth, interacting with colleagues from different countries was enjoyable. I had a lot fun exchanging our languages and cultures. These experience enriched my understanding of the world.

The lessons I have learned there were life-changing, and I will carry them forward as I embark on the next chapter.

Thanks for the team always sending me a lot of support and encouragement!

