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UN Women Asia and the Pacific

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Duties performed:

During my time as a UN University Volunteer in UN Women ROAP, I supported both the communications team and partnership team under Communications and External Relations. I had the opportunity to provide support for events and manage social media platforms for regional and country offices, I also facilitated research on different embassies and donors, and provided support on resources mobilisation.



Learning experiences:



There were several training workshops during the assignment, most of the colleagues across the region attended, which was a valuable opportunity for us to get to know each other, share our thoughts and knowledge. Through the conversation and interactions with country office's colleagues, this could enhance my understanding on countries' situation and know how to support each country as a regional office ... One of the most memorable learning experience was Asia-Pacific Regional Consultation on the Sixty-Eighth Session of the Commission on the Status

of Women (CSW68), I learnt more about gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls in different countries through different sessions of the meeting, including *Developing economic and social policies to address gendered poverty*, *Developing economic and social policies to address gendered poverty*, *New development strategies: Towards Caring, Green Economies*, *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action +30 Review: Presentation and overview* and *Review of suggested actions by session*. By listening to the sharing and discussions from panellist, I could know the actual situation and difficulties that girls and women are encountering from multiple perspectives, I shared my insights gained from the meeting in the Beijing+30 Youth Blog afterwards.

Challenges encountered:

There was quite a challenging time for me as I was not doing what I was expected to and interested in. At first, I mainly supported the communications team on events and social media, however, I was assigned to support to partnership team instead due to the lack of manpower. Despite I had expressed my lack of interest in doing research and resources mobilisation several times, my supervisor did not take my concerns into account and keep asking me to do what I was unexpected to. Because of the lack of interest and supervisor's support, I struggled with the change of focus in assignment, which negatively affected my performance and efficiency and passion. Afterall, we compromised so as to balance the workload of both teams under the same unit. Although it was challenging, I also gained, learnt and growth as I became clearer on what I enjoyed and interested in doing and vice versa.

Reflections:

It was my first time working and living abroad alone, I had learnt and reflected a lot. After the 6-month assignment of UN Volunteer, my reflection is to speak up and raise questions immediately, I shall express my concerns when I encounter something unexpected at once and not to leave the problems to be solved later. In daily lives, I enjoyed the way that behave like a Thai so that I can immerse into the local community and culture, it was also a great opportunity for me to be independent and take care of myself.

