

*Name of Volunteer: Chung Yik Kiu, Lilian  
Position: Communication Support Officer  
Agency: International Organization for Migration  
Duty Station: Timor-Leste*

It is such an honor for me to have this opportunity having a glimpse of the international working environment as a UN University Volunteer. The six months working at the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Timor-Leste has created a new version of me. I was pushed to work harder, think deeper and equip better for the society.

Thanks to the acceptance of my agency and their willingness of broadening my horizon, the past few months have allowed me to approach different practical working skills and interpersonal experiences I was assigned to help in the human trafficking workshops, editing human trafficking prevention videos and going on field trips.

Additionally, the trainings provided by IOM have equipped me with the knowledge of disaster risk reduction. I have learned how to produce a disaster risk assessment in the district and how a disaster risk map helps a village to evacuate in disasters. I have also gotten to realize the importance of monitoring and evaluation skills in the implementation of any project and learned about the different methods of monitoring and evaluation. Through organizing the Disaster Risk Reduction Day and IOM 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration, I have learned the event management skills, from venue booking, invitation card design, taking minutes during meetings to social media advertising.

Apart from the professional skills, I have gained the skill to interact with people from different cultures and how to make compromise when my colleagues have different working patterns. It is pivotal to understand their background and culture behind the decisions they make which prevents me from judging people and enhance my capacity in working with different people. I was once in a village attending the International Disaster Risk Reduction Day, and when I was there, I strongly felt the hierarchy in the country which was very saddening. The children were taught that the ages, classes, occupation determine their respect from people. It was really hard to

accept this culture and I was there to teach them how to queue when everyone thought I was doing too much.

Working in an NGO, I would sometimes doubt the efficiency of spending much on advertising like my position to communicate through media and interviews. However, I have learned the hindrance in an NGO about the funding while we were waiting for budgets in processing our DRR projects. Therefore, I came to realize that it is necessary to keep the donors in close relation to further implement our projects and the importance of my job.

I am so thankful for the ups and downs during the six months. The voluntary experience has transformed me into a person who can better manage my emotions appreciate things I have and handle cultural difference. Timor-Leste has shown me another side of the world and ignited the desire of my heart to continue helping the neglected, needy and poor in the future.



My colleagues trusted me so well that they provided me lots of learning opportunities



Timorese women face a lot of problems but still keep a very beautiful heart



Educate the youth about Disaster Risk Reduction on the International Youth Day



IOM holds Early Warning System and Disaster Risk Reduction workshop for committees from 7 municipalities



School Education about DRR in Manatuto



Exhibition of IOM on the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction



Teach the children to queue up



IOM staff training for Disaster Risk Assessment



IOWave National Simulation Exercise



DRR exhibition on United Nations Day