



SOMPHRATTANA MELITTA VON PFLUG

UNV IN SUPPORT TO THE ROLLING-OUT OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN VIETNAM

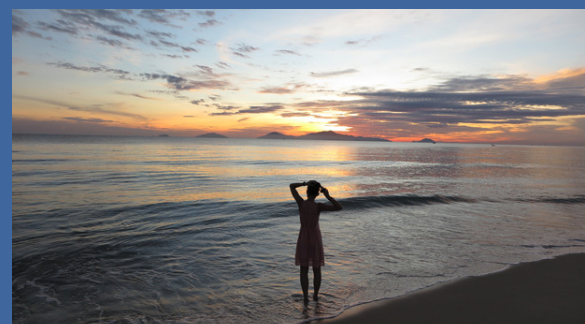
From July to December 2016, I served as a United Nations University Volunteer in UNDP, working as part of the Inclusive and Equitable Growth Unit and providing support to the on-going rolling-out of the SDGs in Viet Nam. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity. Working on this topic has given me valuable knowledge to bring back and apply in my daily life, my studies and my future career.



An essay could be written about all that I have gained through working as a UNV in Viet Nam, but among these are: a clearer picture of my goals and direction in my studies and future career; the confidence to independently navigate myself in unfamiliar situations, whether at work, while travelling or in my daily life; a stronger awareness of my role in the sustainable development of my community and the world as an individual as well as a global citizen; a better understanding of development work and international cooperation for peace and development.

MY WORK LIFE

The openness and trust that I experienced with my team allowed me to participate in and come into contact with a wide variety of work, including research, participation in government consultations and workshops, and preparing and delivering a presentation. My identity as a UNV also introduced me to fellow volunteers, and learning about their passion and experiences from all around the world broadened my understanding and perspective of volunteerism.



LEARNING ABOUT VIET NAM, AND MYSELF

With the benefits I received as a UN University Volunteer, I was able to travel extensively throughout Viet Nam in my free time. Maybe it was the conversations with many kind, open and passionate Vietnamese people, or meeting fellow travellers and exchanging stories, or sharing a meal with an ethnic minority family, or all the broken, basic Vietnamese I've learnt that I'll probably never forget – my journey in Viet Nam has inspired and changed me forever.