

Name of Volunteer: Shu Wang

Position: Strategic Information and Resource Mobilization

Agency: Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS

Duty Station: Lao PDR

None of us were familiar with this country before going there. All of my friends doubted why I suspended my study and spent six months in Laos. I doubted too before leaving for assignment. No one can expect that this is almost like a turning point in my life in which I got to know myself more and grew up so fast.

Free from fast-paced atmosphere, I totally released myself from all sorts of pressure. Laos is such a laid-back country and all you need to do is 'do not hurry'. Not only the relaxing atmosphere, but also the café society and affordable restaurants amazed me. There is



(Patuxai)

nothing to worry when living in this city. Our weekend was mainly biking around the city and letting the sun shine on us. One of things at the top of my to-do list was sitting aside Patuxai and doing a long and mindful meditation in a cozy afternoon. How Laotian I was!

I worked in a one-person office which was UNAIDS country office. My supervisor used to work in UNICEF for more than twenty years. Because of the small scale, I had more opportunities to have direct contact with a lot of stakeholders. I spend most

of my time sitting in office and reading guideline for different grants and then forwarding to local organization.



(Me and my supervisor, Mr Thongdeng)

Besides, working on World AIDS Day and International Volunteer Day are the main focus of my work till the end of the assignment. Seven events were organized to observe World AIDS Day, varying from concert and academic discussion to flash mob. I even did a welcoming remark at the opening ceremony because my supervisor was on mission. Therefore, I was sitting on the stage with heads of agency and it was a wonderful time.



(Represented UNAIDS in the World AIDS Day opening ceremony)

A presentation night called Rethink HIV was held by UNAIDS. We invited speakers who worked with female sex workers, men have sex with man and general population. More than that, a volunteer speaker from another province shared his personal experience of living with HIV. He said yes as soon as we sent out the invitation to him. It was so inspirational to see him standing on the stage and share his story in public. A HIV testing demonstration was also held within this event and EU and French Ambassadors were invited to join the test. Seeing people packing up the venue, I felt so grateful since I spent so many nights sitting in the office to sort out everything. I just received the final report from French Red Cross which was our partner for this campaign several days ago. I felt so lucky to be part of this campaign this year and made a difference together.



(World AIDS Day event--‘Rethink HIV’)

What I appreciate most is meeting so many friends and listening to their fascinating life stories. Recently, I met a Chinese girl who opened her own café in city center of Vientiane and is planning to open a second one. I also encountered colleagues from regional office in UNAIDS and was amazed by how experienced they were. The best thing in my assignment is living with three Hong Kong UNVs and went through this adventure with them. Although sometimes we may have conflicts, we still care for and accompany each other. They are already my sisters and brothers and I can't tell how grateful I am.



(Four of us!!!)

I would never regret joining this once-in-a-lifetime program and this is so far the best experience ever for me. Join the next batch of HK UNV and an incredible journey is waiting for you.

More pictures:



(UN Staff day with cutest friends!)



(Birthday surprise for Kara!!)



Lovely colleagues

**FREE EVENT**

**ຄິດໄພ່ກ່ຽວກັບເຮສໄວວີ  
ສຳລັບໂລກປັດສະຈາກເຊື້ອເຮສໄວວີ**

ເລື່ອງກ່ຽວການຕໍ່ສູ້ກັບເຊື້ອເຮສໄວວີ  
ການສະແດງລະຄອນເພື່ອໃຫ້ຄວາມຮູ້  
ວິທີການກວດເລືອດ ແລະ ຮູ້ຜົນກວດໄວ

ວັນທີ 6 ເດືອນທັນວາ  
**18:30-21:00**  
@ສູນພາສາຝຣັ່ງ



**WORLD  
AIDS DAY**

Poster of World AIDS Day event 'Rethink HIV'

**WORLD  
AIDS DAY**  
1 DECEMBER 2017

**My health, my right.**  
ສຸຂະພາບຂອງຂ້ອຍ, ສິດທິຂອງຂ້ອຍ.

**ວັນເອດໂລກ**  
ວັນທີ 1 ທັນວາ 2017

World AIDS Day Facebook Cover!



(Interns and young UNVs in Laos!)



Solo travel in Myanmar!



(Acro-yoga love!)