## UN University Volunteer Programme Post Assignment Report My UNV Assignment with the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation

In July 2019, right after finishing my undergraduate degree, I went on the journey as a UN Volunteer to the United Nations Regional Hub for Asia-Pacific in Bangkok, Thailand.

I started the assignment with great excitement, as working in the UN has always been a dream for me. I was assigned to the UN Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), whose mission is to facilitate and mainstream South-South Cooperation, i.e., the cooperation between developing countries. As an alternative model of development cooperation to the traditional donor-recipient model, South-South Cooperation empowers the developing countries by giving them more decision-making capabilities and catering to their demands.

## My Assignment

My assignment is to coordinate the office's youth related programmes, with a focus on entrepreneurship training. My main task is to organize an Entrepreneurship Academy with several partner institutions in Hong Kong. Over time, I also took on other initiatives, coming up with new project proposals, as well as bringing in new partners and funding resources.





Visiting the ecological park in Shenzhen

In August, I represented the Office to participate in the Shenzhen International Low Carbon City Forum, where I learnt a lot about the new technologies and initiatives in low carbon infrastructure and green city. During the Forum, I also met other participants, mostly the government officials from Southeast Asia, and promoted the idea of South-South Cooperation to them.



Consultative Meeting on the Entrepreneurship Academy

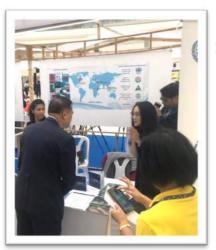
In October, I organized a consultative meeting about the Entrepreneurship Academy that I oversee, bringing together institutions working on youth entrepreneurship programmes in Asia-Pacific, to facilitate sharing and learning from each other's experience and expertise.

Later, I organized another seminar with a private sector partner to facilitate the exchange among startups from Thailand, Malaysia and China.

In these few months, I also got many opportunities to push the boundaries of my own comfort zone. As someone extremely anxious about public speaking, I challenged myself to be the MC of a seminar organized by our office. At an exhibition of development agencies organized by the Thai government, I also made an effort to speak to the participants to promote South-South Cooperation and UNOSSC.



Being MC at a seminar



Promoting our office at the Exhibition at Thai Government



Working at the United Nations has also given me chances to attend events and conferences that are eye-opener to me. For example, the Climate Change Week, "Beijing+25" Asia-Pacific Review on Gender Equality. I even got a chance to meet the former UN Secretary General Mr. Ban Ki-Moon.



Mr. Ban Ki-Moon giving lecture about climate change in UN Conference Center



Looking back to this half a year, the experiences of managing projects, representing the office to external events, having meeting with partners independently, etc., have transformed me from a freshly graduated student to a more mature adult. I am grateful for my supervisor, who gave me lots of freedom to take full charge of a project, and to propose and implement new initiatives. At the same time, the experience has given me food-for-thought about the more efficient ways to achieve the SDGs, and the skills and knowledge needed to participate in the agenda.

## Life in Bangkok

Being the most travelled city in the world, Bangkok is full of interesting things to explore. I took the chance to engage myself in local activities such as Thai cuisine cooking class, Muay Thai, etc., exploring a completely new area of interests. I was also lucky to know the NGO ATD Fourth World in Thailand, which host open dinner every month. Every time for me, the open dinner would mean a lovely evening having great conversations with like-minded people, as well as enjoying delicious home-made food.



Open dinner at ATD Fourth World



Thai cuisine cooking class

Finally, I would like to express my sincere gratitude for the Agency for Volunteer Service Hong Kong, which sponsored my UNV assignment; as well as the UNV office, which creates the programme to give young people chances to work at the UN. It is through this programme that I got the chance to continue my journey with the UN as a consultant for another half a year. Though the future is still uncertain, this experience will always remain a precious piece, guiding my career development, as well as personal growth, in the days to come.