

Internship focusing on wildlife health

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University / Position: The University of Tokyo / Undergraduate student

Date of the Internship: Feb. 15, 2021 – Mar. 05, 2021(online)

What did you do?

My main task was to assist in preparing World Wildlife Day webinar. My intern colleagues and I monitored the chat box of the webinar to check questions to the speakers, assisted in technical matters, and made a brief summary of the webinar. We also summarized meetings on wildlife health for OIE members in Asia and the Pacific, and gave a presentation on the last day of our internship.

All of my intern colleagues and I participated in weekly meetings and interviews with OIE RRAP staff which enabled us to get familiar with the work of OIE. Besides, there were several chances for me to participate in meetings related to wildlife, which is my area of interest. I have attended a monthly meeting with WWF and a meeting discussing about current situation and possible improvement on wildlife relating issues with Japanese experts.

What did you learn?

In order to accomplish the task, I worked both independently and collaboratively with my intern colleagues. The experience has equipped me with communication and time/task management skills.

The internship also provided me a chance to see wildlife related issues from a different perspective as a vet student. I learned current status of wildlife and the remaining issues in one of the OIE members from the meetings with experts of the member, and the career path and necessary skills/knowledge to become a wildlife veterinarian from World Wildlife Day webinar. I was very lucky to have conversations with experts from many different fields, which especially deepened my understanding of the concept of One Health.

Message to future interns

Although we were not able to work with each other in person because of COVID-19 pandemic, it was still a fruitful experience thanks to OIE RRAP staff.

Working as an intern is an excellent way to know more about OIE and broaden the horizon of knowledge in different fields. It is also a precious experience to communicate with professionals especially in public health. Accordingly, I really recommend students (especially vet students) who are interested in or even just curious about how it looks like working in international organizations join the internship program.

