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Date of the Internship: 02/15/2021 - 03/05/2021 (Online)



At the International Institute for Zoonosis Control, Hokkaido University, Japan

WHAT DID YOU DO?

My internship's activities can be categorized into four main parts:

1. Understanding Reference Centers (RCs) activities

My task was to list the newly designated experts in 2 years. To achieve this assignment, I referred to various laboratory commission reports and made a list of newly replaced experts of Reference Laboratories.

2. Attending regular staff meetings

During meetings, staff from Veterinary Services (VS), One Health (OH), Aquatic Health (AH), Transboundary Animal Diseases (TADs), and Human Resource gave updates regarding the activities in their departments. Although most updates focused on the 3rd OIE regional meeting of OIE RCs in Asia and the Pacific, departments also reported their day-to-day activities. Furthermore, departments reported other meetings in the region, such as the Tokyo Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Conference for One Health, on 02/17/2021, and the Wildlife Day Webinar on 03/03/2021.

3. Supporting the RCs meeting

I was privileged to be part of the 3rd OIE regional meeting of OIE RCs in Asia and the Pacific from 02/24/2021 - 02/25/2021. During this online meeting, my task was to summarize the key messages presented on the first day and give a recap on the second day.

4. Interviews with OIE staff

These interviews were informative and interactive, covering a broad range of topics such as AH, TADs, VS, OH, and career guidance.

WHAT DID YOU LEARN?

The OIE internship program allowed me to learn capacity building through technical support services among staff from diverse disciplines. Furthermore, this internship granted me a unique opportunity to experience work from an expert organization's perspective. Finally, I took particular interest to learn about activities of OIE related to One Health.

MESSAGE TO FUTURE INTERNS

Despite the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic that has negatively affected most academic activities, there is a realization that webinar software can substitute face-to-face interactions. In fact, in some cases, online interactions are more convenient and practical. For example, the 3rd OIE regional meeting of OIE RCs in Asia and the Pacific from 02/24/2021 - 02/25/2021 recorded a higher turnout than previous years. With this background, I would like to encourage my junior colleagues that an online internship is just as informative and exciting as face-to-face interactions.