

INTERNSHIP REPORT

- Name: Mana Nakata
- Country: Japan
- Position: 5th grade student, Rakuno Gakuen University
- Date of the Internship: June 30th – July 4th

WHAT DID YOU DO?

During my five-day internship, I participated in the WOAH regional workshop on animal movement and border control, and assisted WOAH officers for three days. My tasks included handing microphones to participants, taking notes, taking photos, and preparing the venue. On the second day, I delivered the day-one summary. During the two office days, I supported workshop preparations and post-event tasks, and also joined internal meetings among officers.

WHAT DID YOU LEARN?

Although the internship was short, I had valuable opportunities to experience the atmosphere of a WOAH meeting and to learn many English expressions. I gained insight into real challenges faced by different countries and found the presentations and discussions both interesting and, at times, surprising. I came to understand the importance of information sharing in solving international problems, and I also learned about border control in my own way.

Delivering the summary was a valuable opportunity for me. It was not only a chance to practice my presentation skills, but also an opportunity to help others recall the day-one content, even if only in a small way.

Taking notes during the country presentations was challenging, but with the support of other interns, I gradually improved my efficiency. After the workshop, I joined the social gathering, where I enjoyed conversations and asked about the practical realities of working in different countries.

Throughout this internship, the officers kindly supported me not only in work-related matters and questions, but even in everyday things like sightseeing in Tokyo. Since my English is not yet sufficient for international work, this experience strongly motivated me to improve my skills and pursue a future role as a WOAH officer. Another rewarding aspect was interacting with fellow interns. I enjoyed exchanging ideas with them and learning about their backgrounds and perspectives.

MESSAGE TO FUTURE INTERNS

What I realized is that English proficiency is essential. Not only for casual conversation, but also for **expressing opinions, sharing veterinary knowledge, and taking accurate notes**. Even so, during the internship many people will help you, even if you are an undergraduate student and still learning like me. The office provided a safe and supportive environment, and you may even make friends from abroad.

Most importantly, I believe that continuing to study and maintaining a strong interest in animal health are what sustain enthusiasm for solving livestock disease problems. That passion, I think, is the true reason to become a WOAH officer. If you are interested in animal health or working in an international setting, I highly recommend applying for this internship.

