

INTERNSHIP REPORT

Name: Rina Iwatsuki

Country: Japan

Position:

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Sydney School of Veterinary Sciences | Faculty of Science

Date of the Internship: 23 June 2025 – 18 July 2025



• WHAT DID YOU DO?

During my internship at the WOAHP Tokyo office, my main involvement was supporting the Animal Movement and Border Control Workshop held in Makuhari. I assisted with various stages of the event, including logistical preparation, organizing group sessions, creating facilitation slides, preparing evaluation surveys, arranging presentation materials, taking notes, supporting group discussions, presenting day summary during the workshop, analyzing the survey results and writing the workshop report. This hands-on experience provided me with valuable insight into how international workshops are managed by WOAHP and how cross-country collaboration supports regional animal health initiatives. It was my first experience engaging directly in an international workshop, which strengthened my communication and organizational skills, and gave me valuable exposure to regional cooperation in practice.

In addition to the workshop, I worked with several teams on a range of activities, One Health (AMR, Wildlife Health), Communication, and Veterinary Services. My tasks ranged from checking website links and contacts, creating a communication opportunities calendar, and updating focal points documents, to drafting website texts for projects and rumour tracking—an activity that deepened my understanding of global disease surveillance and the role of WAHIS in monitoring outbreaks. These varied tasks from different teams enabled me to be exposed to veterinary global issues that I was not familiar with, broaden my perspective, and enhanced my knowledge of in-depth disease situations in different countries.

• WHAT DID YOU LEARN?

Through these experiences, I gained a much deeper understanding of WOAHP's structure and its crucial coordination role—far beyond my initial perception of it as primarily a policy-making body. I learned how **effective communication**, **structured teamwork**, and **adaptability** are essential for managing projects across different countries and time zones. It was inspiring to see how professionals collaborate to deliver impactful outcomes in the region. I also enhanced my technical and organizational skills through tasks involving digital tools, data management, and report writing. Most importantly, this experience reaffirmed my aspiration to pursue a veterinary career that contributes to global animal health and international cooperation, particularly in wildlife health. I also recognized the importance of being proactive, seeking opportunities, and continuously developing cultural and professional competence to bridge countries and disciplines.

• MESSAGE TO FUTURE INTERNS



It is a truly rewarding opportunity to explore the global dimension of veterinary work and to see how veterinarians contribute beyond clinical practice, which gives insights that broaden your perspective and inspire your future career. Through hands-on involvement and collaboration with professionals from diverse backgrounds, you can witness international cooperation in action and learn from dedicated officers working toward shared goals. The WOAHP team provides an incredibly supportive and welcoming environment where learning is continuous, and curiosity is always encouraged. **This experience not only deepens your understanding of global veterinary initiatives but also helps you discover new possibilities within the field and strengthens your motivation to make a global impact.**