



World Organisation for Animal Health

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INTERNSHIP SUMMARY REPORT SEPTEMBER 30 – OCTOBER 17, 2025

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Acknowledgement

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my supervisor, Dr. Kinley Choden, for her invaluable guidance, support, and encouragement throughout the course of my internship at the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH), Sub-Regional Representation for South-East Asia. Her mentorship and dedication played a vital role in making my learning experience both enriching and meaningful.

I am also deeply thankful to all the staff members at WOAH for their warm welcome and kind assistance. Their willingness to share knowledge and provide support greatly contributed to my understanding of the organization's work and its impact. In particular, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to Dr. Naree Ketusing for giving students like me the opportunity to undertake this internship and learn from such a dynamic professional environment.

Although I began this internship with little knowledge of how things functioned within the organization, I have gained valuable insights over the past three weeks. I have learned not only about the internal operations and responsibilities within WOAH, but also about the importance of delivering work that brings real value and benefit to society.

This internship has been an eye-opening and transformative experience. I will carry forward the knowledge, skills, and experiences I have gained here to enhance my future academic and professional endeavors.

Once again, I am truly grateful to everyone at WOAH for making this internship a memorable and rewarding journey.

Executive Summary

I had the opportunity to complete my internship at the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH), a globally recognized organization dedicated to improving animal health and welfare worldwide.

During my internship, I was involved in various tasks that supported the organization's operations and projects. My primary responsibilities included reading and summarizing key materials from the official websites of WOAH and the United Against Rabies (UAR) initiative, which helped me gain a broader understanding of global strategies for rabies prevention and animal health management. I also contributed to ongoing research and documentation related to animal health policies and practices.

In addition, I had the opportunity to participate in several significant activities. On October 3, 2025, I joined a site visit to a WOAH Collaborating Center at Mahidol University, Salaya Campus, where I observed how such centers contribute to the global animal health network. From October 7 to 9, 2025, I attended the United Against Rabies (UAR) Forum Stakeholders Seminar, which provided in-depth discussions on rabies control strategies, inter- sectoral collaboration, and global policy implementation. I prepared detailed summaries of both the site visit and seminar sessions, which were submitted via Google Drive as part of my internship contributions.

One of the key highlights of my internship was contributing to a project focused on rabies and wildlife health. This involvement allowed me to explore the challenges of disease control at the human-animal-environment interface and understand the importance of coordinated international efforts under the One Health approach.

Throughout the internship, I had the privilege of observing and interacting with professionals from diverse cultural and academic backgrounds. This experience not only enhanced my knowledge of international health governance but also improved my professional communication skills in a multicultural work environment.

Overall, this internship has been a transformative experience. I gained valuable insights into the operations of an international organization, developed critical thinking and research skills, and deepened my interest in public and animal health. I am confident that the lessons and experiences gained from this opportunity will positively shape my future academic and career path.

Introduction

This internship report outlines my three-week internship experience at the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH). The primary purpose of undertaking this internship was to gain broader insights into the workings of an international organization. I aimed to understand how such organizations operate, including their internal processes, coordination mechanisms, collaboration with other agencies, and how they engage with both governmental bodies and local communities.

The objectives of this report are to reflect on and present what I have learned and accomplished during the internship period. It serves as a summary of my key responsibilities, the projects I contributed to, and the knowledge I gained throughout the experience.

This internship is closely aligned with my long-term career goals. I aspire to work in a professional environment where English is the primary language, where I can interact with individuals from diverse cultural and academic backgrounds, and where I can be involved in meaningful discussions, fieldwork, and problem-solving processes. I also value the opportunity to exchange perspectives and propose practical solutions, while gaining new insights through cross-cultural collaboration.

Choosing to intern at WOAH was a deliberate decision, as it encompasses many of the professional elements I seek. I wanted to immerse myself in an international working environment to better understand whether this type of career would suit me in the future. Additionally, as I am considering pursuing further studies but am still exploring which direction to take, this internship has given me a new and unexpected perspective. It has helped clarify my interests by showing me what kinds of work I enjoy and what I may not. The experience has provided me with valuable material for self-reflection, which will guide my decisions going forward.

Company overview

The World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH), formerly known as the Office International des Epizooties (OIE), is a leading intergovernmental organization with 183 member countries. Its headquarters is located in Paris, France (12, rue de Prony, 75017 Paris), and it operates through multiple regional and sub-regional offices around the world to coordinate its global efforts.

WOAH operates in the international public sector, specifically within the animal health and veterinary services domain. It focuses on:

- Monitoring and improving animal health and welfare
- Preventing and controlling animal diseases, including zoonoses (diseases transmissible from animals to humans)
- Developing international standards for animal health, trade, and veterinary services
- Supporting One Health initiatives that link human, animal, and environmental health

Mission

To improve animal health and welfare worldwide, thereby contributing to better public health, food safety, and sustainable livelihoods.

Vision

WOAH aspires to be the global authority in animal health, leading the development and implementation of science-based standards and strengthening the capacity of national veterinary services. Under its Seventh Strategic Plan (2021– 2025) , WOAH aims to strengthen global animal health governance and promote a collaborative, proactive approach to emerging health threats.

WOAH's governance includes several keys:

- World Assembly of Delegates: The highest authority, composed of representatives (Delegates) from all member countries.
- Council: A smaller executive group responsible for strategic oversight and decision-making.
- Director General: Elected by the World Assembly for a 5-year term, responsible for managing the organization.

WOAH also collaborates with:

- Specialist Commissions (e. g. , terrestrial animals, aquatic animals, biological standards)
- A network of Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centers, which provide scientific expertise and support
- Regional and Sub-regional Offices located in Africa, the Americas, Asia-Pacific, Europe, and the Middle East

While WOAH does not provide commercial products, it delivers a range of services to support global animal health:

- **International Standards and Codes**
 - o Including the Terrestrial Animal Health Code, Aquatic Animal Health Code, and diagnostic/vaccine manuals used by veterinary authorities worldwide.
- **Disease Information Systems**
 - o Such as the World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS), which allows countries to report and access real-time data on animal disease outbreaks.
- **Technical Support and Capacity Building**
 - o PVS Pathway (Performance of Veterinary Services): A tool to assess and improve national veterinary systems
 - o Emergency response and recovery support for animal health crises
- **Scientific Research and Guidelines**
 - o Through global networks of laboratories and experts
 - o Dissemination of scientific reviews, technical reports, and guidelines
- **Publications, Seminars, and Knowledge Sharing**
 - o Organizes global forums, training programs, webinars, and publishes the Scientific and Technical Review journal

Internship Role and Responsibilities

I interned in the Rabies and Wildlife Health section of the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH). This department focuses on the global coordination of strategies to prevent, monitor, and control rabies and other zoonotic diseases associated with wildlife, in alignment with the One Health approach.

My daily responsibilities included:

- Reviewing materials and resources available on various platforms such as the WOAH official website, Google Drive, MIRO application, and Microsoft SharePoint
- Reading and analyzing documents related to rabies control, wildlife health, and inter-agency collaboration
- Summarizing key information from meetings and seminars
- Supporting research and documentation efforts related to animal health policies

In addition to these tasks, I contributed by developing concise written summaries of website materials and meeting discussions, which were used by the WOAH team for internal reference. These summaries supported the team's information-sharing and knowledge management efforts.

I also provided input for study materials related to wildlife health and rabies surveillance, drawing from both reviewed documents and seminar content. My notes and reports on the Collaborating Center site visit and the United Against Rabies (UAR) Forum were compiled and submitted via Google Drive as part of the organization's internal documentation.

These tasks helped me better understand how international organizations operate and communicate internally, especially in a multi-stakeholder environment.

Throughout the internship, I worked with the following tools:

- Google Workspace (Drive)
- Microsoft Office (Word, SharePoint)
- Miro (for materials reviewing)
- Zoom (for virtual meetings)

Projects Worked On

1. Website Content Summaries

I reviewed and summarized key content from the WOA and United Against Rabies (UAR) websites. This included reading through their mission statements, strategic plans, operational frameworks, and technical documents related to rabies control and wildlife health. The summaries helped consolidate the core messages and goals of the organizations, and contributed to my overall understanding of their work.

2. Collaborating Center Visit Summary Report

I attended a site visit to the WOA Collaborating Center at Mahidol University, Salaya Campus on October 3, 2025. I was responsible for observing the discussions, taking notes, and preparing a structured summary of the visit. The report focused on how the center contributes to rabies control, research collaboration, and capacity building in the region.

3. United Against Rabies (UAR) Forum Summary

From October 7-9, 2025, I participated in the UAR Forum Stakeholder Seminar, which included multiple sessions discussing global strategies to eliminate dog-mediated human rabies. I created a detailed summary of the seminar, capturing key points from the panel discussions, stakeholder inputs, and proposed future actions.

All of these reports and summaries were compiled and submitted via Google Drive as part of my official internship contributions.

Meetings and Training Sessions Attended

- **Youth Against Rabies Webinar** Gain information about Rabies: Prevention, Treatment, Vaccination, Wound care
- **Collaborating Center Site Visit: Mahidol University, Salaya** Observed how national and regional institutions work in collaboration with WOA to implement research, training, and surveillance strategies.
- **United Against Rabies Forum Stakeholder Seminar** Gained insights into global collaboration efforts, policy development, and best practices in rabies elimination and One Health implementation.

Skills and Knowledge Gained

Throughout my internship at the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH), I gained a broad range of skills and knowledge that have contributed to both my personal and professional development. These can be categorized as follows:

Technical Skills

- Gained hands-on experience in reviewing and summarizing technical materials related to animal health, rabies control, and One Health approaches
- Learned how to produce concise written content for internal organizational use
- Used online collaboration tools such as Microsoft SharePoint, Google Drive, MIRO, and Zoom
- Developed a foundational understanding of epidemiological surveillance systems, including how national and international bodies monitor and respond to disease outbreaks

Professional Skills

- Enhanced English communication abilities, particularly in technical writing, meeting participation, and professional correspondence
- Gained experience working in a multicultural environment, learning to engage with people from diverse professional and cultural backgrounds
- Improved time management by balancing multiple tasks and meeting deadlines within a short internship period
- Observed how different sectors collaborate within the framework of international public health efforts, and how global policies are adapted at the regional level

Personal Skills

- Became more confident in navigating a professional, English-speaking environment despite initial language challenges
- Learned how to ask questions and seek clarification respectfully when facing unfamiliar or complex topics
- Adapted quickly to new systems and organizational tools, which were initially difficult to use
- Gained clearer insight into my future career and academic interests, based on real-world exposure to international health work and field collaboration

Challenges and How You Overcame Them

During my internship, I encountered several challenges, particularly due to the new environment, the use of English as a working language, and the complexity of the topics involved. However, these challenges provided valuable learning opportunities that helped me grow both personally and professionally.

Language and Communication Barriers

One of the main difficulties I faced was related to communication. Since English is not my first language, I occasionally struggled to understand certain vocabulary, especially technical terms, and sometimes had difficulty following different accents during meetings. I also found myself needing to ask people to repeat themselves, which at times felt impolite or uncomfortable.

To improve, I made it a habit to listen to English-language videos and podcasts daily, especially those featuring various international accents. I also studied vocabulary related to global health and animal welfare, which helped me become more familiar with the specific language used within the organization.

Information Overload

Another challenge was the large amount of information presented during the internship. There were multiple topics to explore, and I sometimes found it hard to keep up or fully grasp the details, especially when the topics were technical or outside my area of study. In some cases, I only understood the general idea without knowing the specifics.

Whenever I encountered something I did not fully understand, I asked questions and requested clarification from my supervisor or colleagues. I also spent time reviewing relevant materials, such as documents, reports, and website content, to deepen my understanding of each topic.

Difficulty Navigating Online Tools and Platforms

As someone new to working with organizational digital tools, I initially found it challenging to use the various online platforms and resources provided, including the WOA website, Microsoft SharePoint, and other collaborative tools.

I took time to explore the platforms through trial and error, gradually familiarizing myself with their features and layout. By using them regularly, I became more confident and efficient in navigating the systems and accessing the information I needed.

Conclusion

My internship at the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) was a valuable experience that gave me a clearer view of how international organizations work. I learned about animal health, disease prevention, and global cooperation, while also improving my language, communication, and time management skills.

Despite facing challenges such as language barriers and new tools, I worked hard to overcome them and gained confidence along the way. This internship helped me grow both personally and professionally, and it gave me a better idea of the kind of work I want to do in the future.

Supporting Documents

The following supporting documents are included as part of this internship report:

- **Summaries of Webpage Materials**

Selected summaries based on materials reviewed from the official WOA and United Against Rabies (UAR) websites. These include content studied both prior to and during the internship period.

- **Collaborating Center Meeting Summary**

A written summary of the site visit to the WOA Collaborating Center at Mahidol University, Salaya Campus, held on October 3, 2025. The document highlights key points discussed during the visit.

- **UAR Forum Stakeholder Meeting Summary**

A detailed summary of the United Against Rabies Forum seminar, held from October 7–9, 2025. The summary includes insights from various stakeholder presentations and discussions on global rabies elimination strategies.

All documents were prepared to support learning during the internship and reflect the tasks and responsibilities assigned.