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University / Position: Veterinarian
Date of Internship: Sep 2022 – Mar 2023

Internship Report

What did you do at WOA?

I was involved with all teams (One Health, Veterinary Services, GF-TADs and Communications) during my internship at WOA. Mainly, I was involved with rabies and avian influenza activities due to my interest in these topics. For rabies I was tasked to help with the arranging, organising and attending of webinars, as well as writing of the "Rabies situation and WOA's recent initiatives in the Asia Pacific Region" report. In terms of avian influenza activities, I summarised the surveillance methods conducted for the disease of each country in the Asia Pacific region, as well as participated in meetings and consultations relating to avian influenza due to its impact and its upcoming focus for the next WOAH General Session.

I also had opportunities to attend a conference and physical events, as well as a visit to Haneda Airport's quarantine centre during the internship, which was interesting!

Message to Future Interns

There are a lot of opportunities to experience and witness work in an international environment, and also in the field of One Health in this internship. Via this opportunity, I have broadened my worldview and developed more ideas on what I would like to pursue in the future, in terms of research or even a role as a government veterinarian. The internship will open doors to new ideas and connections, especially if you have a specific interest in One Health, zoonotic diseases, public health and epidemiology. I would highly encourage you to apply and work with a wonderful, lively and enthusiastic team!

What did you learn?

Even though I was mainly involved with regional rabies and avian influenza activities, I was exposed to the in-depth disease situations of different diseases. This would range from global, regional, national and even area-specific frameworks and activities in the control of such diseases. This was an eye-opening experience, as I realised different regions had to tailor their control based on many factors, from capacity to culture of the country or area.

Having had a chance to help witness, organise and coordinate these high-level meetings or workshops between stakeholders, experts, international organisations, and even national ministries, helped me understand the complexities of collaboration, as well as the fruitfulness of this information sharing and exchange in tackling diseases, as well as other issues.

I was also able to improve my skills during the internship by performing scoping reviews, data collecting and analysis, report writing, and even in graphic designing and presenting to professional audiences from being involved in a range of activities. I realised being proactive and involving myself with many different activities can enable me to pick up many different hard and soft skills.

Having done my studies in the UK, being exposed to Japan - an Asian country I was unfamiliar with - has been a very lovely experience, especially with the help of the most friendly and helpful colleagues!

