

(Abroad • Domestic) Internship report form (Student)

2015.03.25(Year/Month/Day)

Name	Tapiwa Lundu Mtonga
Laboratory	Public Health
Year (Grade)	D1
Internship institution	WHO Western Pacific Regional Office (WPRO)
Internship period	Internship period: 03/07/2015 - 03/11/2015 (Departure Date from Sapporo: MM/DD/YYYY, Arrival Date in Sapporo: MM/DD/YYYY)
Purpose	To visit WPRO and see their daily activities

### - The reason why you chose this institute

I chose to go to WPRO to assess the suitability of the organization for my internship. I became interested in the activities of the world health organization because of its focus on providing leadership on global health matters for shaping the health research agenda. WHO also sets norms and standards for safeguarding public health and providing technical support to countries and monitoring and assessing health trends. This provided me an opportunity to experience how the WHO actually achieves these goals.

### - Result of the activity (about 800 words, provide photos, tables and figures that clearly show the activities during the period)



*Manila Philippines*

The World Health Organisation (WHO) Western Pacific Regional Office (WPRO) is one of the six regional offices of the WHO and is based in Manila, the capital of the Philippines. The region extends over a vast area, from China in the north and west, to New Zealand in the south, and French Polynesia in the east. It is one of the most diverse of

the WHO regions, constituting some of the world's least developed countries as well as the most rapidly emerging economies. It includes highly developed countries such as Australia, Japan, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea and Singapore; and fast growing economies such as China and Viet Nam.



*Photo taken outside WPRO showing flags  
representing member countries*

The WHO western pacific regional office has divisions that all work under the regional director and his deputy. These divisions are, namely, the communicable diseases, health security and emergencies, non-communicable diseases and health through the Life course, the Health sector development, pacific technical support and the administration and finance divisions. The first four divisions are further subdivided into several teams that deal with specific aspects of public health.



*Hokkaido university Graduate school of veterinary medicine  
members that worked at WPRO*

The purpose of our visit to WPRO was to have an experience of the work that takes place there and to assess the suitability of the office for future internship. Our team was at WPRO for two days only. During the two days, we worked together with the Emerging Disease Surveillance Response team (ESR) which falls under the health security and emergencies division. We started work early in the morning at about 6 o'clock. From about 6am the team reads through emails and other news media for any latest information on disease events happening in the region. This news is gathered by the team members in readiness

for a pre morning meeting which is held at 7 o'clock. At this meeting, members decide which news items should be reported to the 8:30 morning meeting. Events that are considered to be unusual or unexpected are added to the agenda for the 8 30 am meeting for further action. It is at this pre meeting that news relating to other occurrences such as poisoning cases, natural disasters like floods, are forwarded to the departments that are directly responsible for such events.

During the 8:30 meeting, members of the other health security and emergencies teams are present and they also give an update of latest events recorded by their teams. If some events are recognized as requiring monitoring or immediate WHO response, then appropriate action is taken.

In the afternoon we had seminars in which we were provided with an overview of WPRO activities.

Our work at the office ended after 5 o'clock. We would then return to the hotel before going for dinner together later in the evening. We were accommodated at the pearl manila hotel which is about 5 minutes' walk from the WPRO offices.



*Spacious and comfortable accommodation was provided*

Meals were composed a variety of local and international cuisines. This means that students intending to work at WPRO in future can easily adapt to life in Manila.



*Delicious foods made up the menu. These included international (left) and traditional Filipino dishes*

