

(Abroad) • Domestic) Internship report form (Student)

2017/01/14

(Year/Month/Day)

Name	Manyando SIMBOTWE
Laboratory	Infection and Immunity
Year (Grade)	DC3
Internship institution	World Health Organization, Regional Office for the Western Pacific, Manila, Philippines. Division of Health Security and Emergencies
Internship period	Internship period: 12/12/2016 - 02/04/2017 (Departure Date from Sapporo: 12/11/2016, Arrival Date in Sapporo:02/04/2017)
Purpose	Internship: to gain a practical working experience and explore employment opportunities

- The reason why you chose this institute

- I was motivated to do an internship at WPRO because of the experience I had during the 6th Asia-Pacific Workshop on Multi-Sectoral Collaboration for the Prevention and Control of Zoonoses held in October 2015 at Hokkaido University, Sapporo, Japan. During this workshop I developed a keen interest on roles played by WHO in zoonoses control.
- To have a practical working experience in an international organization and to explore a career in public health.
- To get more information on employment opportunities.
- Networking: to build a network of contacts with whom I may liaise with in my future endeavors.

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

Daily activities: I participated in regional event and indicator based surveillance by monitoring acute public health events in the region. Taking an all hazards approach, I collected official and unofficial information from various sources using event-based, and indicator-based surveillance systems (Table1). Furthermore, I carried out verification of official and unofficial information by liaising with the team and through communication with various focal points of member states. I also assessed the risk of various hazards, notably, natural disasters, AIH7N9, dengue, zika, cholera and other public health threats prior to more formal notification or presentation to the Division of Health Security and Emergency audience. In addition, I learned how to use different public health databases, and the extent to which these databases and other media sources can be applied in collecting information on various public health hazards.

Table 1: Daily Schedule

Time	Activity
5:30 -7:00	Event screening of unofficial and official media sources
7:00 - 8:30	Pre morning meeting with the detection verification and risk assessment team <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Report potential events that meet WHO criteria (events that are of public health concern, likely to cause public panic and international concern) ▪ Risk assessment of events ▪ Preparations for the morning meeting with a wider ESR audiences
8:30 – 9:30	Morning meeting (Division)
9:30-10:00	Surveillance team meeting (daily task sheets)
10:00-10:30	Breakfast
10:30-12:00	Preparation and update of daily news reports and communication
12:00-13:00	Lunch
13:00-16:00	Preparation of situation reports, biweekly reports, update of even database and event screening.
16:00- 17:00	Surveillance team meeting
17:00-19:00	Completion of other tasks

I also gained a lot of invaluable knowledge on Asia Pacific Strategy for Emerging Diseases (APSED), International Health Regulations (IHR), infectious diseases, disasters and data management.

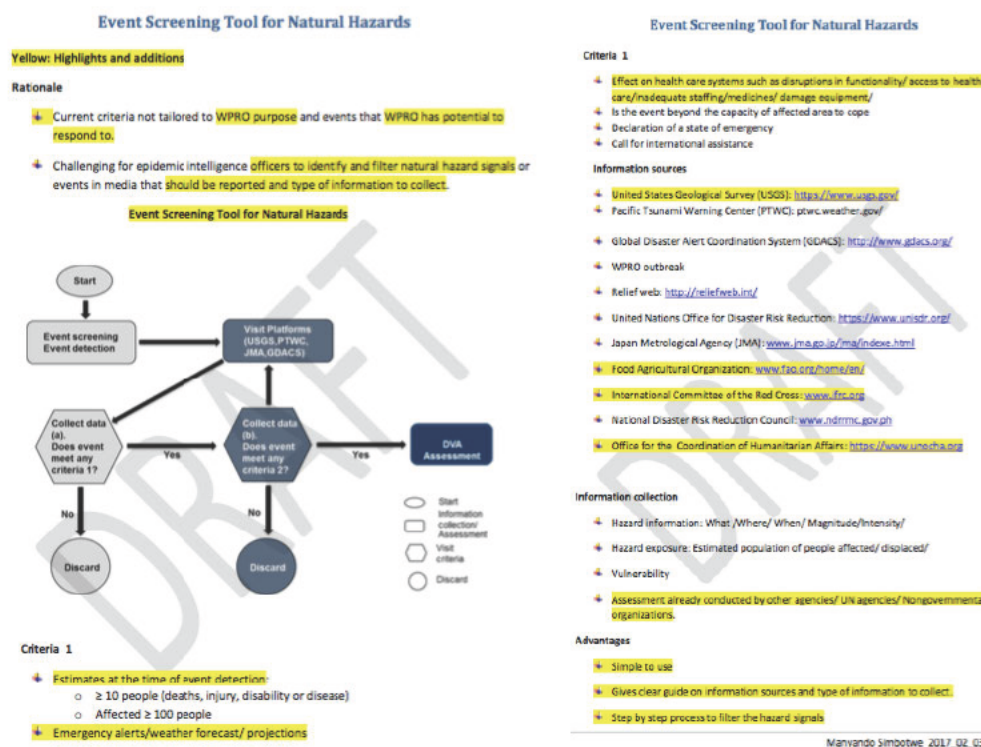
APSED and IHR: I came to understand WPRO's role in response to various public health threats and how it coordinates/communicates with member states in the region, providing guidance, building and strengthening country capacities in preparedness and response.

Team work: Working with professionals specialised in different disciplines and participating in the various work activities made me realize the importance of team work and collaboration especially in the risk assessment process.

Workline: During my internship, I spent a considerable amount of time working on disasters; event screening, monitoring, communication and undertook event notification risk assessment and rapid risk assessments of potential public health threats.

Based on my experience, I developed and proposed an event screening tool for natural hazards (Fig.1). This tool can be used in the detection, assessment and investigation of natural hazards. This tool was designed and tailored to the WHO Western Pacific Regions purpose and its potential to respond to these hazards. Following signal identification during the event screening process, screening tool provides options on the platforms to visit and the type of hazard information that should be collected. And if a hazard meets any of the set criteria 1 in the algorithm, the event may be assessed using the criteria 2, and if the hazard meets any of the criteria it may be reported to a wider WHO audience. If the signal does not meet any of the set criteria, the signal may be discarded. I believe this tool will be helpful in identifying and filtering natural hazard signals that require WHO's attention and response.

Figure.1 Event screening tool for natural hazards



What do you think the positive impact of the activity will have on your further career path?

- First and foremost, this opportunity made me aware of some competencies that I possess. I recognized my strengths and weakness especially in public health and zoonosis, particularly, in analyzing several situations regarding public health threats.
- Indicator and event based surveillance: I believe that the knowledge and experience I gained will be an added asset when I seek for employment in the near future.
- I understand the scope in which my experience and background in veterinary science can be applied in international organizations like WHO.

Advice for your junior fellows

- Prior to the internship or selection of the institute of interest, write down your career goals or interests and let these guide you in selecting the institution.
- Plan for the internship as early as possible (6 months) before, especially for international organizations.
- When you consider doing an internship in an international organization, it is imperative to know and learn the organizations missions, mandates, roles and guiding principles prior to the internship.
- Communication is mainly conducted in English, so one must check the official languages used in particular

- You should have basic knowledge on zoonosis as well as basic information on communicable and non-communicable diseases.

Approval of supervisor	Institution • Official title • Name 印
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