

This report should be submitted within 2 weeks after you return to Japan.

(Abroad • Domestic) Internship report form (Student)

2017/07/11

(Year/Month/Day)

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| Name                   | Lesa Thompson  |
| Laboratory             | Toxicology   |
| Year (Grade)           | DC4  |
| Internship institution | OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific (OIE RRAP)  |
| Internship period      | Internship period: 04/03/2017 - 07/07/2017<br>(Departure Date from Sapporo: 04/01/2017, Arrival Date in Sapporo: 07/07/2017) |
| Purpose                | Undertake internship, including performance of tasks with other veterinary officers.   |

- The reason why you chose this institute

The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) is the veterinary arm of the tripartite group with WHO and FAO, working together for One Health. I therefore felt that the organization was a good fit for my experience in veterinary medicine, knowledge of One Health and future expectations to work at an international organisation.

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

The offices for the OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific (RRAP) are located in the Food Science Building in the Yayoi Campus of the University of Tokyo. Dr Hirofumi Kugita is the Regional Representative for the OIE, supported by the Deputy Regional Representative (Dr Noriyoshi Ojima), four other veterinary staff, and three administrative staff. The RRAP office coordinates activities for the 32 OIE Member Countries in the region, with support from the Sub-Regional Representation in Bangkok. Annually each May there is a General Session at the Paris headquarters, when representatives from all 181 Member Countries attend. Although the OIE is a global organization, the RRAP office is quite small and therefore very busy. I was able to participate in many activities

during my internship.

Within the office, the staff have a monthly meeting to update everyone on ongoing and future projects, but there are also frequent smaller group meetings to discuss the progress of various activities or OIE “missions”. Many of these focus only on the Asia and Pacific Member Countries, but some are global and involve other organizations. There were many meetings with representatives in other countries, and so we used telephone or video conferencing a lot. This was a new skill for me and I was interested to learn how the chairperson manages such a meeting. It was also quite exciting to be part of international discussions on breaking news – such as recent reports of avian influenza to the OFFLU committee (the OIE/FAO network of expertise on animal influenza). For some meetings, I prepared minutes or had follow-up work to undertake. On a number of occasions I had to prepare a summary of some reports (e.g. on recent avian influenza outbreaks in the region, recent contributions in the region for the updated Tripartite Zoonotic Diseases Guidebook) or proof-read documents. These were excellent opportunities to learn more about the OIE and the work they do.

Most of my time was spent assisting the veterinary staff to **organize workshops in the region**. During my time in the office, there were many workshops at various stages of progress, so I was able to participate in the full process. This included planning the program/schedule, writing concept notes and draft invitation letters at the beginning to submit to the OIE headquarters for approval. Then closer to the meetings we had more detailed preparations, such as making packs for participants and managing venue facilities. The staff worked very well as a team, both in the office and at meeting venues. It was very satisfying to be part of the National Focal Points for wildlife workshop, as I was involved from the program planning stages and was pleased to follow this through to hearing presentations from speakers who I had proposed. Also at this workshop were several staff from the OIE headquarters in Paris, including Dr Erlacher-Vindel who is the Head of the Science and New Technologies Department, so it was a good opportunity to discuss global issues also. The other meeting which I was involved heavily with is on influenza, which will be held at the Research Center for Zoonosis Control at Hokkaido University in October, so I was in close communication with Professor Sakoda during the early stages of preparations.

**Table: Workshop preparation and attendance**

| <i>Title</i>  | <i>Dates</i> | <i>Location</i> | <i>Comment</i> |
|---|--------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Preparation and submission of dossiers by member countries for country disease status recognition (CSF and FMD) | 20-22 June   | Tokyo, Japan    | Attended       |
| Regional seminar for National Focal Points on Wildlife  | 4-6 July     | Bali, Indonesia | Attended       |
| Regional expert group meeting for the control of avian influenza in Asia  | 3-5 October  | Sapporo, Japan  | Will attend    |

**Workshop: Final day of OIE National Focal Points for Wildlife Workshop, 4-6 July, Bali, Indonesia. OIE staff from RRAP (Tokyo), SRR (Bangkok) and headquarters (Paris) are present.**



Dr Kugita arranged some **meetings with Japanese governmental authorities** during my internship. All of the OIE RRAP veterinary staff met with several members of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries to introduce new staff in April and to discuss joint issues. This group includes Dr Ito who is the OIE Delegate for Japan. Dr Kugita also arranged for me to meet with the National Focal Point for Wildlife in Japan, Dr Iwano (a Hokkaido University graduate), who works at the Ministry of the Environment. She was able to outline the work done in Japan for and about wildlife, including describing surveillance of avian influenza in wild birds.

I was able to attend the Scientific Committee Meeting & Joint Secretariat Meeting for the Prince Mahidol Award Conference (to be held next year) as an **observer**. There were many prestigious participants, including members from FAO and The World Bank. I was made to feel extremely welcome, learned a lot about preparation

of a large international scientific conference, and had good discussions with the participants during breaks.

**Meeting: Scientific Committee Meeting & Joint Secretariat Meeting for the Prince Mahidol Award Conference (PMAC, 2018), 19-21 April, JICA offices, Tokyo**



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

I think it was incredibly useful to be able to spend just over three months working in an organization, effectively as an employee. I was able to see projects through from start to finish and learned a great deal about organization of workshops. I also gained a deeper understanding about communication and coordination of global action for One Health. I think these are very useful experiences that I hope to bring to future employment.

- Advice for your junior fellows

If possible, choose an internship institution where you might like to work in the future. If scheduling permits and the institution is willing to take you for a longer period, you will be able to learn a lot more and put your skills into practice. This is something you will be able to add to your CV. You should allow plenty of time to arrange the internship, so the schedule will suit both you and the institution.

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|------------------------|---|
| Approval of supervisor | Institution • Official title • Name               |
|                        | Hokkaido University • Professor • Mayumi Ishizuka |

- ※1 Send the electronic file to the Leading School section, International Affairs Office, also submit the original print out with seal of supervisor to the Leading School section, International Affairs Office.
- ※2 Attach a copy certificate of the content of internship activity that is prepared by the counterpart at the internship institution (any form with a signature of the counterpart).
- ※3 The Steering Committee of the Leading Program will first confirm the content of this report and report will be forwarded to the Educational Affairs Committee for credits evaluation.

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