

## Internship Report (Part 2)

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### ❖ Background Information



**Organization:** UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) Headquarters

**City:** Paris, France

**Department:** Communication and Information Sector (CI)

Division of Freedom of Expression and Media Development (FEM)

Section for Media and Society (MAS)

**Period:** From 19/8/2013 to 7/2/2014

### ❖ Recent Work Statement

It is my fourth week of the internship in UNESCO and comparing to the first week I am involved more in the preparation of the upcoming first **Global Forum on Media and Gender (GFMG)** which will take place from 2 to 4 December 2013 in Thailand, Bangkok. Currently I am doing routines with my colleagues as below,

#### 1) Sending updating information to partners and following up

We had published a 'Call for Interest' on UNESCO's website in July to call on all organizations who are working in the field of media, journalism, communication, and gender and media for setting up a **Global Alliance on Media and Gender (GAMG)**. Positively we have received responses from over 200 organizations up to now including numbers of new partners. It is some time to take further actions with those partners.

I was requested to draft a reply email to all partners last week to thank for their attention, inform the latest tendency of UNESCO and ask them to call on other organizations related to them. It was sent by my name on the behalf of UNESCO, so I have the responsibility for following up any requests or questions asked by partners. If I am not sure, I need to confirm with my supervisor or discuss with other colleagues.

#### 2) Building and improving the new website for GFMG

The website for Global Forum on Media and Gender is presently underprepared and expected to be launched this week. So we are busy adding information of the partners such as their logos, homepages, activities and messages to the website. In order to do that, I firstly contact to the partners, confirm their information with my supervisor and adjust the font, alignment etc. before sending to my colleague to link them to the website. Sometimes we need to change the

order of the partners for several times or modify one article again and again which require patience for all members in the team.

3) Sending invitation to partners to join a Global Debate on the WSIS platform

**The WSIS Knowledge Communities** is an online collaborative platform hosted by UNESCO. The objective is to facilitate information gathering and exchange, and to stimulate common development of ideas and projects in the area of ICTs for development. We are planning to launch an online global debate via WSIS among the partners on the nature of the global alliance on media and gender very soon. As an administrator of the community for GFMG Debate, I need to send invitation from the platform to the major partners and keep in touch with them by email to solve some technical matters they may meet. The outcomes of these debates will contribute to the draft Framework and Action Plan for the GAMG.

4) Following up the Agenda of the GFMG

For the latest few months my supervisor was focusing on the Agenda of the upcoming GFMG. And it will still be the top priority of our work before December. Because the former intern assisting this issue will leave at the end of September, I should take over following up the Agenda. Now I am working together with her and trying my best to remember everything. For example, among groups of our partners, I should be clear with the questions of 'are they potential partners or partners for sure, do they speak during the form or not, are the speakers paid by UNESCO or not, are they sponsors or not'. Sometimes we add or remove partners and change partners from one list to another list very frequently which require better ability on classification and management.

5) Writing summary for draft publications

Several books related to media and gender will be published before the GFMG. Presently I am summarizing the Draft of '**Media and Information Literacy – Policy & Strategy Guidelines**'. The summary of the first part had received a good evaluation from my supervisor. I will keep doing the rest part as soon as I can. Also reading the draft can help me understand the main ideas of UNESCO on the communication and information perspective.

6) Attending meetings

In UNESCO, besides some rooms for interns, one office is usually for at most two staff. Sometimes people doing the same project are even on different floors. In order to exchange ideas and interact with each other, we have meeting frequently. For example, we often discuss some details of the agenda or changes for the website. We did a brainstorming on the side event of the GFMG last week. I also attended two large meetings. One was the '**10th Conference Call Organising Committee Meeting - GFMG - Plan of Action**' with a staff from other field offices last week. Mainly we reported to each other about what we had done separately and discussed what we were going to do next for the GFMG. The other one was '**Division of Freedom of Expression and Media Development (FEM) staff meeting**' with the director on Monday this week. Some staffs had just returned from summer vacation, so I finally got a chance to introduce myself to members in the same division and they all kindly

introduced themselves to me. We shared what we were doing and what was coming up in the remainder of year together.



**Discussing the agenda with my colleague**

#### ❖ Self-assessment

In the former report, I have set seven goals to accomplish after six month when the internship be finished. I will give a score in every report from now to remark the process of achievement **(10 points in all)**.

1. To well understand international organization through getting to know the operation of UNESCO and the way of establishing partnership during the internship (5 points)

→ I start to know the way of establishing partnership while keeping in touch with partners by email. I feel that contacting with partners and following up actions with partners one by one are quite intensive work. It requires some time to acquire holistic understanding about international organization.

2. To develop the ability on working (also team work) through actual participating in the process of planning, drafting, contacting, communicating etc. (5 points)

→ I am getting used to the work by consulting with my supervisor, discussing with my colleagues and taking part in planning, modifying and implementing projects. However, it is pretty often to confront things that I am not sure or I cannot do well. I should keep developing my working ability consistently.

3. To improve the ability on intercultural communication through exchanging ideas with people having different nationalities and backgrounds (6points)

→ I share an office with three other interns now, one Spanish girl, one Indian boy and one girl of British and Bangladeshi descent. We talk about everything in English and we share the music we love to each other because music has no boundary. I like the flamenco which my Spanish colleague recommended to me. Among other interns, there is one German boy who can speak standard Mandarin with perfect Beijing accent. I was really surprised at the first time he talked to me. I heard later that he had been lived in Beijing for eight years. What I want to say is that it is very interesting to communicate with people having different backgrounds. I truly enjoy the multicultural environment which I am conducting my internship in and want to make more progress on my intercultural communicating skill.

4. To build personal connections in UNESCO (4 points)

→ There is one Chinese staff member in CI Sector. She is very kind and good at communicating. Thanks to her, I get to know other Chinese staff in UNESCO and we often chat during the lunch time. It is really helpful in broadening my knowledge about UNESCO when having conversation with staff from other sectors. I will try to get along with people not only from my own country but also from other countries in the further few months.

5. To perfect my English on speaking, business vocabulary and writing skill through working in English (6 points)

→ The English I can speak are almost oral expressions and for daily conversation I have no difficulties. However, when it comes to an official situation it is better to speak in a more professional manner. I am trying to use the advanced words which I have learned from UNESCO publications. Also I have memorized many fixed expressions when exchanging emails with my colleagues and our partners.

Regarding English writing, the letters I have drafted likely lacked formal words and were modified by my supervisor every time. It seems that I need to make more effort on using professional English.

6. To learn basic French in order to live a happier life in France (2 points)

→ I am still learning French pronunciation right now by myself and for the moment I only can say some greetings. But I say them to my colleagues actively. With the help of my French colleagues, I succeed in applying a French class and will start from the end of September. To be more familiar with French, I always watch videos and listen to music in French through smart phone when taking a subway or bus. Also I will learn French grammar in my spare time.

7. To look for connection between the internship in UNESCO and my research and to collect relevant documents for my research (4 points)

→ To be frank, what I am doing now in UNESCO is not directly related to my research theme. But just like the relation between media and gender, I want to look for the connection between media and education. For example, ICT (Information and Communications Technology) in

Education can contribute to universal access to education, equity in education, the delivery of quality learning and teaching, teachers' professional development and more efficient education management, governance and administration. I am considering gleaning some documents and data for my research at this aspect.



**Lunch Time: Brazilian, French, Chinese, Chilean, Bulgarian and Russian (from left)**

#### ❖ **Multicultural phenomena in Paris**

You can see a lot of Asians when walking on the street of Paris. Maybe it is more than the Weston people can be seen on the street of Tokyo. Especially if you go to No. 13 district in Paris, you will find so many Asian restaurants offering Vietnamese, Chinese and Thailand cuisines and almost all the pedestrians are Asians. The McDonald's there is in Chinese architectural style and even has a sign-board of Chinese character. In Chinese supermarket, there are a lot of Chinese seasons for sale and I can buy my favorite black vinegar there. Even in the common supermarket, some typical Japanese food such as sushi rice and Nissin yakisoba can be found. It is said that around Opéra in No.9 district, there are many Japanese ramen restaurants, Japanese supermarkets and shops selling Japanese style handicraft article. I would like to go there next time.

The weather was very good last weekend, so I went for a walk around Eiffel Tower. A Thailand cultural festival was being held there. It was possible to watch Thailand dance, eat Thailand fruits and listen to the introduction about a trip to Thailand. It was very interest to see French people enjoying Thailand culture. But the most impressive thing would be a sign-board of an ice

cream selling car which had 11 different languages on it. Paris really is a miraculous city with many multicultural phenomena.

Chinese style McDonald's



Nissin yakisoba



Thailand cultural festival



Ice cream selling car