

# Internship Report (Final)

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## ❖ Background Information



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

**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 Development and Society (MAS)

**Period:** From 19/08/2013 to 07/02/2014

## ❖ Work Statement

At the end of my six-month internship in the Communication and Information Sector of UNESCO, I would like to sum up my main achievements.

### 1) Establishing partnership for the First Global Forum on Media and Gender

The preparation for the first Global Forum on Media and Gender (GFMG) from 2 to 4 December 2013 in Thailand, Bangkok was the top priority of my work. I contributed to establishing the partnership by calling on organizations and individuals related to the field of media, journalism, communication and gender to join the Global Alliance on Media and Gender (GAMG). I maintained contact with potential attendees, sending updates on the conference and assisting them to register online. I organized hundreds of participants and classified them into several categories, such as international partner, regional partner, national partner and individual. Invitations for participants were classified as paid, non-paid and part-paid and were then sent according to the decisions of budget distribution among participants. In particular I managed the paid participants and facilitated their attending of the conference. I coordinated between participants, travel agencies and the UNESCO Thailand Field Office to deal with air tickets and hotel booking for participants, as well as their Thailand visa obtainment. The first Global Forum on Media and Gender was successfully held with the launching of the Global Alliance on Media and Gender in the close session.

## 2) Building website for the Global Forum on Media and Gender

I assisted the building of the preliminary website for [Global Forum on Media and Gender](#) (click to view) by updating information on partners and adding their messages. After the launch of the website, I updated new partners into different categories, editing descriptions of their publications and adding other practical information. I also managed information for an online mapping tool on the homepage. The tool is an interactive map indicating the location and the relevant information of our partners. I marked the location of partners on the map and then linked it to relevant information. Visitors to the site are then able to access information on our partners in a clear and visible manner. Three days before the Forum, when the agenda was finalized, I created an electronic agenda on the website.

## 3) Managing global debate community on WSIS online platform

As the administrator of the community for [Global Alliance on Media and Gender \(GAMG\) Debate](#) (click to view) on the WSIS Knowledge Communities hosted by UNESCO, I invited and approved people to join the online global debate via this collaborative platform. It helped participants to exchange ideas and opinions regarding topics related to media and gender issues. I managed almost three hundred members and all their posts, as well as fixing any technical problems. The final outcomes of these discussions contributed to the Framework and Action Plan for the Global Forum on Media and Gender.

## 4) Following up the GAMG by Promoting Women Make the News, 2014

The aim of the Global Forum on Media and Gender is to establish a global alliance and to facilitate deeper cooperation for media and gender issues. The upcoming follow-up, Women Make the News (WMN), is one of the celebrations for International Women's Day and is a global initiative focusing on gender equality in and through the media. This year the WMN objective is to promote more membership to the Global Alliance on Media and Gender. I maintained contact with partners from the Global Forum on Media and Gender to inform and detail them about WMN 2014, and to ask them to help publicising WLN and its message. The Global Alliance on Media and Gender will hopefully contribute to the Post-2015 Development Agenda and to the UN Conference on Women in 2015.

## 5) Contributing to the preparation of the World Radio Day 2014

This year's theme for UNESCO's World Radio Day (13 February, 2014) is 'Gender equality and women's empowerment in radio'. It is also an important follow-up of the Global Alliance on Media and Gender. I contributed to the building of Chinese version of [2014 World Radio Day](#) (click to view) website by editing and translating articles (from English into Chinese and vice versa), items and transcriptions. The most exciting part of the preparation was to coordinate and interview the Chinese media, organizations and celebrities, to make video/audio to share their opinions around the world. So far we had messages from Mr. Shijun GAO, Director General of Western Europe Headquarters, China Radio International and Miss Aowen JIN, a Chinese-born British artist, social commentator and regular guest on BBC programmes. They gave point of views regarding 'gender equality' in Chinese media's side and overseas Chinese's angle.

#### 6) Assisting other projects included in Communication and Information Sector

I took part in the preliminary editing for the draft of a publication named '*Media and Information Literacy – Policy & Strategy Guidelines*' that relates to the implementation of UNESCO's media and information literacy strategy. During the last month of my internship, I was constantly doing desk-based research on the internet about media and gender policy by governments. I researched countries in Eastern African and also China. In addition, I translated and recorded a Chinese version introduction of UNESCO's Information for All Programme and participated in a photo shot for World Press Freedom Day 2014.



Photo Samples for World Press Freedom Day 2014 (by Benjamin Stanford)

#### ❖ Self-assessment

In the first report, I proposed seven goals to be accomplished within six months before the internship ends. In this section of the report I will give final scores to monitor the level of achievement and indicate what I could achieve in the future **(10 points in all)**.

##### 1. To better understand international organizations by understanding how UNESCO operates and builds global partnership and cooperation during the internship (9 points)

→ The main programme I was taking part in throughout my internship was the establishment of the Global Alliance on Media and Gender. In order to launch this alliance, the building of partnership for UNESCO Global Forum on Media and Gender was crucial and significant because the Forum would be the first historic steps toward a gender-equal media. The partners of this forum spanned from a wide spectrum of organizations and individuals involved in or relating to issues on media and gender equality including, Ministries, non-governmental organizations, UN agencies, international associations, professional networks, academic and research institutions, media organizations. UNESCO and its partners formally launched the Global Alliance on Media and Gender at the close of the Global Forum on Media and Gender. This global alliance leading by UNESCO will provide the long needed unified international push to promote issues on media and gender equality. In short, I understand that UNESCO as one of the specialized Agencies of United Nations is the pioneering ideological builder for all humans

through international cooperation, intercultural dialogue and global level partnership establishment. However it is a huge organization with many sections and field offices all over the world and it would take time to learn about the organization in more detail. I will consistently pay attention to events, activities updating of UNESCO.

2. To strengthen my working capacities through active participation in processes of planning, drafting, communicating, and cooperating with others (9 points)

→ Through working in the team promoting the Global Alliance on Media and Gender following an overall strategy, my capacity to work under pressure, to deal with multiple tasks at once, and to finish assigned tasks in an efficient and timely manner was strengthened. I developed the ability to work in team and also the confidence to work autonomously. However I need to work on my confidence when discussing or brainstorming at meetings to further my career development.

3. To improve my abilities in intercultural communication through the exchange of ideas with people from different nationalities and backgrounds (10 points)

→ The most attractive part of working in international organizations like UNESCO is the international environment with friendly atmosphere. I always worked with people from different countries with their own cultural features and it helped me to improve my intercultural communication skills and interpersonal skills. I also understand better English spoken with different accents and know well than before about diversity of cultures and customs. It was quite interesting to ask about study and work experiences of others because everyone's story was unique. It was a good motivation for me to rethink my lifestyle and future career development.

4. To build personal connections in UNESCO (9 points)

→ I had a good relationship with staff in the division in which I worked, as well as friendships with other interns. I met and learned a lot from Chinese delegates, staff, consultants, and interns in different sectors. They gave me many useful suggestions regarding personal skills improvement, research plan and career orientation. Through their introduction, I learnt several ways that Chinese people can work in international organization and the minimum requirements. This was really helpful in broadening my knowledge about UNESCO. I also met and talked with Japanese staff from the Education Sectors. They are preparing for the World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development which will take place in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, 10-12 November 2014. We had lunch together and they provide me with advice toward my research ongoing and job hunting in Japan. In conclusion, I will do a research theme relevant to both UNESCO and my further career development. I will keep in touch with people I know in UNESCO and find good combination between my personal ambition and the needs of international organizations.

5. To perfect my English, particularly in speaking, business vocabulary and writing skills through working full time in English (9 points)

→ My spoken English improved a lot during my six-months working in English and communicating with colleagues in English. I feel free and more confident when speaking English

and can use advance words to express myself more accurately. Through reading publications, official descriptions on UNESCO's website, I accumulated a more formal vocabulary and this helped me to develop professional English writing. I am still not satisfied with my level of English and I will do more practice and to perfect it. I will renew my TOEIC score to a higher level as soon as possible when coming back.

6. To learn basic French in order to live a happier life in France (7 points)

→After staying in France for almost six months, I have become used to the French pronunciation and have become sensitive to understand French words when listening to people talking in French. I attended French lessons for three months, three times per week in the evening after work. My French teacher is a very kind lady with enthusiasm and patience to teach her student. Because the lessons were all taught in French I could understand at all at the beginning and almost lost my confidence to learn it. With the encouragement of the teacher by her dynamic teaching, it became better gradually. I also watched a complementary French course online which explained in Chinese to strengthen my understanding to French grammar. However, three months is a short time for mastering a language. Since was a good opportunity to study French, I will continue practicing and learning French.

7. To look for complementarities between my internship in UNESCO and my academic research, and to collect relevant documents for my research (9 points)

→ During the internship at UNESCO, I acquired plenty of information and resources about education. For example, themes and programmes on ICT (Information and Communications Technology) in Education, Media and Information Literacy (MIL), Peace and Sustainable Development in Education, the Youth Mobile Initiative to encourage young people to learn by mobile app, and a multilingual E-learning Platform online to teach women's story in African history. Since I was working on media and gender issues, I would like to integrate the initiative in to my research using information and communication technology. I will set a plan in detail for the essay.



With Japanese Staff Members



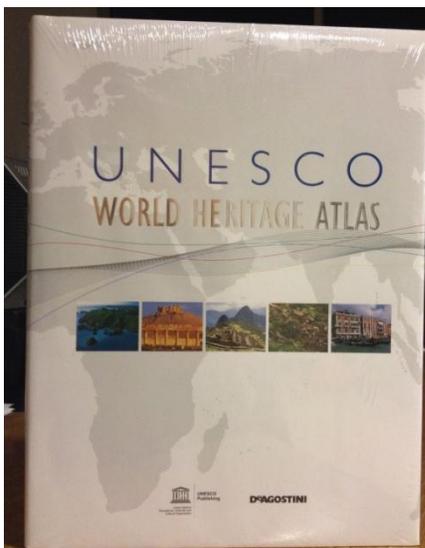
With Chinese Staff in CI Sector

### ❖ At the End of Six-month Stay in Paris

In mid-August when the summer days were long, I started my internship at UNESCO in Paris. It was my first experience living in Europe and the first time working at an international organization. UNESCO has a very nice atmosphere with the respect for cultural diversities, paintings and art everywhere, and friendly colleagues. With the supervision of Mr. Alton Grizzle and co-working with my colleagues Ms. Bilyana Guneva, Ms. Yasemin Uzuner and Ms. Laura Sansalvadore, we successfully prepared the launch of the Global Alliance on Media and Gender. My work at UNESCO was challenging and interesting. I experienced UNESCO's biggest event, the General Conference, and other international events like Youth Forum. I met people from all over the world and cooperated with them. It was the greatest and most I will treasure for my life and will be the inspiration for my future.

When living in Paris, you see historical and beautiful streets everywhere. You can try the most delicious desserts and feel the artistic atmosphere. I especially enjoyed the firework performance along the Seine river during 'La Nuit Blanche', the modern art in 'Palais de Tokyo' and the event 'Nuit de Chine' to celebrate the official celebration for the 50th anniversary of the diplomatic relationship between France and China in the 'Grand Palais'. I met with old friends and also made new friends here. We visited museums and castles, watched movies in French and tasted cuisine in different countries' style in our spare time. It was really a great stay in Paris.

Now I am returning to Japan, I would like to give my gratitude to Pro. Kimiko Uno, Pro. Masami Arai from TUFs, Ms. Rossella Salvia in UNESCO for providing me the opportunity to doing internship in UNESCO, Pro. Akito Okada and schoolmates who supported and encouraged me a lot, my colleagues whom I worked with at UNESCO and friends who helped me during my stay in Paris.



Gift from My Supervisor



Official Bagdge of UNESCO