



**PECC 2019 Internship Programme  
Internship Report  
August 2019**

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The PECC International Secretariat Internship in Singapore is one of the highlight of my undergraduate studies and undoubtedly the most valuable overseas internship I have ever experienced throughout the five years of studies. During the one month stay in Singapore, not only had I gained knowledge on policy research and data analytical skills, I built meaningful friendships and connections with all the PECC colleagues. This experience allows me to have the most authentic experience in living in Singapore. I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude towards the staff from Hong Kong Committee for Pacific Economic Cooperation in organizing and liaising this internship and PECC in providing me such memorable internship experience.

I could still recall how excited I was when the Hong Kong Committee for Pacific Economic Cooperation has invited me for an interview. Recalling one of the panel's question on the reason why I would choose this internship since most of my past experience was in corporate law firms, I somehow doubted whether I am a good fit for this internship. Despite conducting background researches on PECC, I was not sure the exact work nature and tasks I would be given in such international organization. Thankfully, Steve has been very helpful in liaising me with the staff at PECC to ensure smooth transition of my internship. All the help from PECC staff has definitely make my internship smoother and more meaningful.

Throughout the internship, I was not only able to gain first-hand experience and knowledge on the functioning of policy institutions, I also got to experience the true Singaporean culture by working with local people and exploring Singapore with them during my leisure time. Under the supervision of Ms Betty Ip and Mr Eduardo Pedrosa, my first task was to review the previous years' PECC Annual Reports and identify the possible risk factors for the coming year. This task required me to have a thorough understanding on what are the specific risks faced by the global economy and other jurisdictions, for instance credit risks, sovereign risks etc, so as other political and socio-economic factors that are likely to affect the APEC economy. It was my first time to have a serious analysis and comparison on different Annual Reports conducted by various international organisations, for example, IMF, World Bank and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank. Thus, this research broadened my understanding towards how different international organisations focus on different world challenges, ranging from environment to political issues and how PECC was directed to address its forecast on APEC economy. In my second week, I was taught that most of the qualitative analysis in the annual report are backed by complex quantitative analysis. Hence, most of my tasks in that week is to assist in sorting out data and conduct quantitative data analysis on GDP forecast for the APEC region. For instance, I was asked to filtered irrelevant data sets and calculated the average GDP for emerging and advanced countries according to the tax revenue. All these tasks enabled me to understand the usual research methods for international organisations when they had to put forward arguments or suggestions to solve an economic challenge. Lastly, as PECC runs its survey every year in order to collect first hand data set for their annual report, I have also assisted Ms Betty Ip in compiling the Survey of Opinion Leaders, in particular in organizing the received surveys from various stakeholders and completing the online survey on behalf of the representatives. All these concrete work allows me to have a thorough understanding on



the daily operations of PECC and other international organisations that focus on promoting regional cooperation.

Apart from daily tasks, I was also given the opportunities to attend numerous conferences and panel discussions on global economic issues, most notably the talks on “Free and Open Indo-Pacific”, “Trade, Trump and the future of US-China Ties in Asia” and “Trade and Economic Connectivity in the Age of Uncertainty”. These talks are mostly conducted by global academics and even government officials, which allows me to have a brand-new perspective in viewing the global economy, in particular the prospects of trade war from a South East Asian country’s perspective. They have also largely discussed on the South China Sea issues and the recent Hong Kong protests that are all reflections of political tensions. I was also given the opportunity to mingle with local master students and professionals to understand more about Singapore’s economy and their thoughts on the global economy.

The wonderful colleagues and friends I have met during my internship have undoubtedly make my journey more remarkable. I would like to thank Mr Educardo Pedrosa for his insightful instructions on every task he has given to me, Ms Betty Ip for her detailed guidance and supervision, Ms Chaitri Hapugalle for her supports and advice for my future career, Ms Zakiah Kassim for her hard work in sorting out all the administrative issues and Ms Nor Irdawaty for her detailed guidance in working on tasks and exploring Singapore. Their sincerities are not only limited to work, but also their passion in bringing us around Singapore. For instance, Zakiah and Nor have brought us to an extremely delicious Indonesian restaurant and even hosted a “durian party” in a hawker centre as they said this was what a “true Singaporean” would be enjoying in their spare time. The staff are all very amiable and friendly that have undeniably made my journey in PECC even unforgettable and meaningful.

In the weekends, I always went out to explore Singapore and meet new friends. It was particularly special that I was able to witness the Singapore’s bi-centennial national day, where everyone celebrates the joy of the country’s establishment with a lot of events and exhibitions happening throughout the two weeks. As people often say that Singapore and Hong Kong are very similar cities, one of my biggest aim in this internship is to have a personal experience in Singapore, to live in another country and to experience the culture there. After all, I would say Hong Kong and Singapore are very similar yet different – similar in people’s way of living and economic structure, but still different in the entire political institutions and how people perceive the world. As a local student who have mostly completed her high school and undergraduate studies in Hong Kong, this internship has provided me myriad opportunities to see the world from a different landscape. It reminds me to always be open-minded and critical in facing global issues.

Lastly, I would like to thank the Hong Kong Committee for Pacific Economic Cooperation in providing me such precious opportunity in participating in this PECC internship in Singapore, in particular, your generous scholarships and study loan that allow me to have the financial resources throughout the entire month. I would definitely recommend my fellows to participate in this internship.

## Highlights of the trip



PECC staff brought us to a wonderful Indonesian restaurant



PECC staff hosting a “durian party” for the interns as we went to a hawker centre.



My daily working environment.



Tea-time with the staff in the pantry.



PECC staff brought us to another authentic Indonesian restaurant.



The staff are very amiable and kind as they would want us to experience the life of a true Singapore and always bring us out for food.





The interns and Ms Betty Ip, our supervisor in the last day.



The interns and the rest of the staff members (not including Ed) in the last day.



Attending a conference and panel discussion on “Trade and Economic Connectivity in the Age of Uncertainty” organized by Konrad Adenauer Stiftung.



Walking around Singapore to witness the Singapore National day.