



PECC Internship Programme 2022
Internship Report
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Tommy Cheung
The Hang Seng University of Hong Kong

The PECC Internship Programme, in which I participated during my final year of university, exposed me to matters in the field of economic cooperation at the multilateral level. With the desire to learn more about the work of PECC in the Asia-Pacific region, I enrolled in this programme and was honored to be nominated by HKCPEC and to receive the offer.

One of the main tasks of this virtual internship was to attend the 2022 Third APEC Senior Officials' Meeting and related meetings hosted in Thailand and online, which brought together a group of policymakers to provide updates on regional cooperation projects. For me, the biggest takeaway was understanding how the economies in the region make commitments to cooperation, a process that includes extensive application of political, economics and international finance concepts. We benefit in many ways from multilateral agreements that affect our everyday life matters. For example, government programmes for university students and young entrepreneurs, or even VISA-free arrangements could possibly stem from multilateral programmes initiated by organisations like the APEC, which are important tools for boosting foreign investment and promoting regional economic development. This experience appeared particularly interesting to me, as I was able to witness how cross-border agreement have enabled regional economic development, especially in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic period, which concerned the social and macroeconomic recovery of the entire region.

Through my work assisting the PECC International Secretariat with research tasks, I analysed different economic projects and data from the World Bank and the IMF, as well as different statistical departments/organisations. I learned about the economic landscapes of different economies. For example, when I started to find out the foreign exchange reserves as a percentage of external financing requirement, I needed to do data mining and applications. In the process, I would find out that some countries had negative figures, and I was amazed by the fact that some of these were even developed countries.

In addition, I also had the opportunity to sit in on many APEC panel discussions on global economic issues. These sessions invited different stakeholders from the region who provided valuable input on different regional issues and projects, such as environmental issues related to emissions reduction, overfishing, green economy and silver bonds. Major concerns for all economies were to restore the

world supply chain and to reduce the travel restriction under the COVID-19 pandemic, contributing to the regional economic recovery by stimulating the development of some industries (such as travel, international financing and retail). In short, attending those international meetings gave me the opportunity to grasp the development of different industries in the region.

The main difficulties I faced during this virtual internship were communication and team building issues. As we were working through virtual participation, we found that the communication and cooperation between interns could be a difficult task compared to a physical internship. Moreover, due to the pandemic, we were not able to work physically at the PECC International Secretariat in Singapore to get hands-on experience and feel the local working culture. Fortunately, we kept in touch with our mentor at the Secretariat, Ms Ip, who was very responsive to our messages and helped us with any problems we encountered at work.

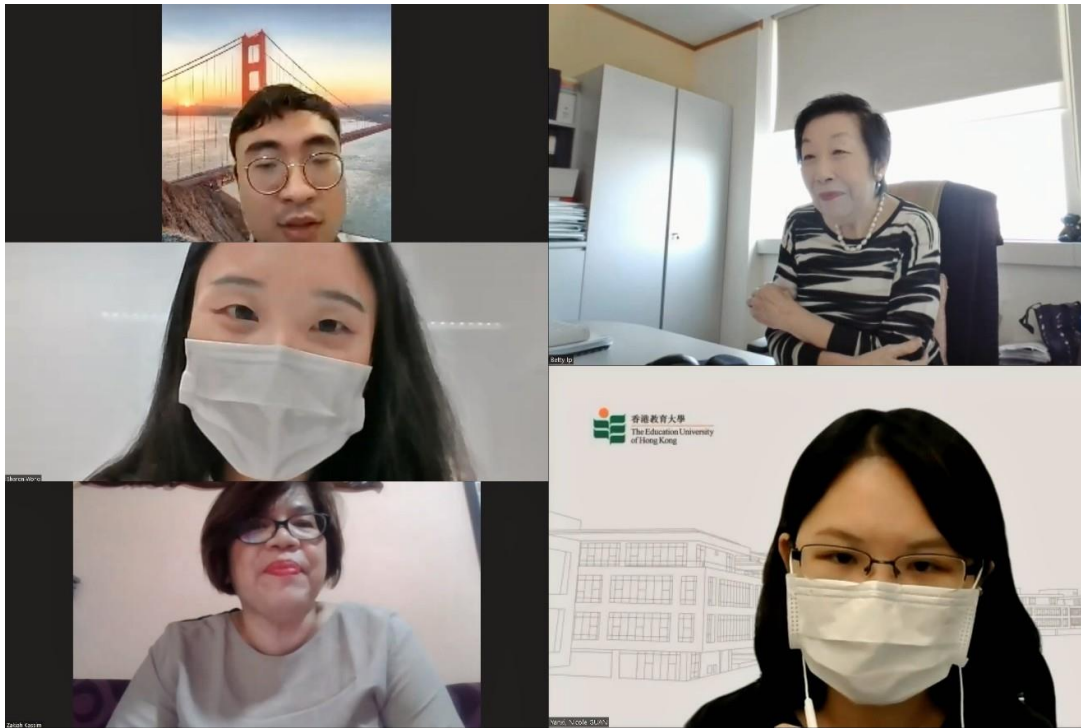
As this internship programme involves various research projects, for future students who wish to apply for it, I think they could learn a lot about statistical data software. This will be useful when performing analysis of data in the future. I also sincerely hope that as the pandemic eases, future interns will be able to work with PECC colleagues in Singapore and experience the local culture first-hand.

All in all, I am very grateful to have been nominated by HKCPEC and selected by the PECC International Secretariat as one of the interns this year. I think that being an intern with PECC can benefit students' career development and equip us with future work skills. This valuable work experience has also broadened my international perspective and allowed me to understand different issues related to economic development and regional cooperation.

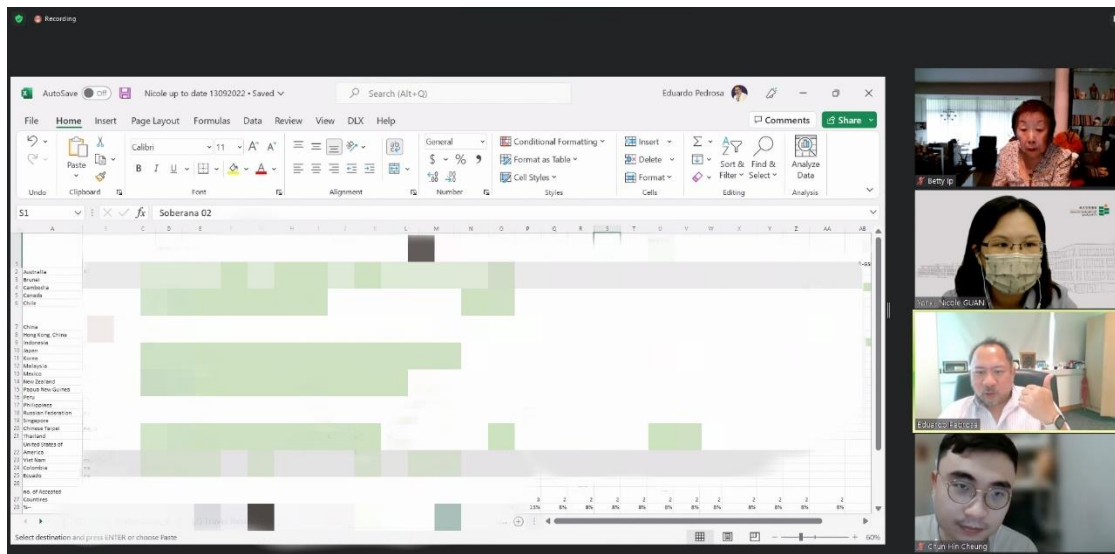
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Photos provided by Nicole Guan and Tommy Cheung

- 1) Nicole (right on bottom row) and Tommy (left on top row) are having a virtual meeting with PECC and HKCPEC colleagues -



- 2) Nicole is presenting research findings to PECC colleagues -



3) Tommy and Nicole are having an online meeting with PECC colleagues –



4) Nicole is attending the 2022 Third APEC Senior Officials' Meeting and related meetings online –

