



**PECC Internship Program 2023
Internship Report**

**Period of internship:
3rd July 2023 to 25th August 2023**

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Daily Tasks

During my internship at the PECC International Secretariat, one aspect that particularly caught my interest was the opportunity to work on cross-border economic and policy issues. Being a part of an organisation that focuses on promoting regional economic integration and collaboration provided me with insights into the complexities and dynamics of global economies. The conceptual thinking of the Asia-Pacific region gave me a comprehensive picture of what was going on after the pandemic.

The Global Connectivity Index project, one of PECC's signature projects, deeply affected my views on the flow of capital, labour and new technology. Although the economic recovery was not as rapid as expected, developed countries adapt faster than developing economies. The pillar affected most by the pandemic was people-to-people connectivity, where the international migration stock, international tourism and personal remittances had seen the biggest drop during the past two years. However, economies in the Asia-Pacific region also increased investments in physical and network constructions, which alleviated the difficulties of keeping in contact with each other.

Furthermore, I was intrigued by the emphasis on data-driven decision-making and policy analysis. The chance to engage in data mining, analysis, and visualization aligned with my interest in leveraging data to derive meaningful insights. This aspect allowed me to see the real-world applications of skills I had developed and strengthened during my academic journey. I appreciate the arrangement that my supervisor took my background and abilities into account when delegating projects to us.

During this internship program, I had achieved several notable milestones, particularly in the areas of Microsoft Excel and data mining. I became proficient in using advanced functions, such as VLOOKUP, INDEX-MATCH, and pivot tables, to manipulate and analyse data efficiently. I had successfully undertaken data cleaning and preparation tasks, including identifying and rectifying inconsistencies, missing values, and outliers within datasets. These skills had allowed me to present complex data in a clear and concise manner, making it easier for stakeholders to understand and interpret.

Collaborating with a diverse team of professionals from different backgrounds also piqued my interest. My colleagues came from different Asian countries. The opportunity to learn from individuals with varying perspectives and experiences enriched my understanding of the culture, history and economic developments of various Asian countries.

Overall, the combination of international economic affairs, data-driven decision-making, and collaboration within a diverse team made my internship at the PECC International Secretariat an engaging and intellectually stimulating experience.

Workshops and Meetings

Besides our daily work, we were encouraged to attend workshops organised by Nanyang Technological University (NTU) and PECC, covering a wide range of contemporary topics. For instance, we had the privilege of attending an enlightening seminar titled “*A House Divided? Prospects and Challenges for ASEAN Unity in an Era of Regional and Global Crisis*”, held by NTU S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies. Prior to this, I possessed limited background knowledge about ASEAN countries and held a strong curiosity about this topic. During the seminar, I learned the two major challenges faced by ASEAN countries: the civil war in Myanmar and the territorial sovereignty in the South China Sea. Since ASEAN divisions had widened over the current challenges, I felt that the ASEAN “house” is divided, but not yet broken. I still maintain a positive outlook on regional integration in the Indo-Pacific and foresee more prosperous economies emerging, akin to Singapore, in the future.

During the PECC General Meeting, we were fortunate to witness heated discussions over the use of technology and attend a series of workshops online, such as *Technological Solutions to Environmental Challenges and Climate Change*, *AI and Workforce Impacts*, *Digital Tools to Enable SMEs*, *Access to Global Markets* and so forth. I felt more connected to the real-life opportunities and challenges faced by workers and companies, and these discussions broadened my horizons. Experts from education, government, business and international organisations gathered to offer their insights on the rapidly changing technology. These workshops underscored PECC's pivotal role as an official observer of APEC, dedicated to developing strategic perspectives and offering guidance to APEC stakeholders.

My internship experience was made truly exceptional and unforgettable by the unwavering support of HKCPEC and the warm hospitality extended by the PECC International Secretariat. I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to Mr Eduardo Pedrosa and Ms Betty Ip of the PECC International Secretariat, whose guidance provided me with countless learning opportunities and invaluable insights. Mr Pedrosa's thought-provoking questions consistently encouraged me to think critically and beyond conventional boundaries. I would also like to express my thanks to Ms Zakiah Kassim for her assistance in arranging logistics and handling visa matters. I consider myself fortunate to have Ms Nor Irdawaty and Ms Alicia Sit as

colleagues whose support extended beyond the professional realm, enriching my overall experience. Furthermore, I am deeply appreciative of HKCPEC for their nomination and financial support. Their commitment to fostering learning and growth is truly commendable.