

## PECC Internship Programme Feedback

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Duration of Internship: 2<sup>nd</sup> July, 2010 – 23<sup>rd</sup> August, 2010

There are quite a number of observations I made throughout my internship at PECC and I believe it will be good to share with HKCPEC and possibly some future candidates pursuing the internship to help form an informed idea of what is expected from the candidate and what this internship will actually bring.

There are five staff in the PECC International Secretariat office and thus the internship was designed in such a way that I was assigned to be under each of them for 2 weeks. My tasks include compiling an excel of contacts by extracting names and affiliations from various conference agenda, transcribing audio speeches of conferences into scripts and researching for the questions to be used for surveying opinion leaders in the region for the State of the Region Report 2010.

The research for the questionnaire was a good chance for me to learn and think about the issues facing the region. I was lucky enough to be coached on how to form a critical angle in analyzing complex regional matters in order not to get lost in doing research. Another vital advice from Eduardo, the Secretary General, was how to cipher information to ask and answer concisely. Two weeks under Eduardo might be too short a time to learn but it was a good start for me to begin training up myself.

Thanks to Eduardo, I was able to join a lot of conferences and round table on different regional topics. The conferences were not only extremely helpful in enriching my understanding of different perspectives of different regional issues and to get to know the regional experts, but they also provided ample chance for me to learn public speaking and question/answer skills from observation. Almost all questioners I encountered were able to put forward difficult doubts for the speakers. I was particularly amazed by how a high school student was able to ask a question a Nobel Laureate of Economics was unable to answer. I realize no one can really be an ultimate expert forever unless one keep questioning and asking others to question oneself.

For the task on transcribing audio speeches, I was glad that my English listening skill is dramatically improved after this assignment as I was exposed to very different accents from around the globe. It was also a good time for me to learn from the contents of the speech.

For the task of compiling contacts from agenda, it could be a bit tedious. It would be better if clearer instructions were made at early stage of the compilation to avoid the subsequent re-work. It was however still a good chance to brush up my excel skills.

I was grateful for this internship opportunity and it was an impactful experience working and living in Singapore for 2 months. I learn a great deal from all the different people I met there and

from observing the many aspects of the city nation and the workplace. The internship would have been a lot more fruitful from candidates' perspectives should they be assigned more tasks which allow more in-depth exposure to the regional economic issues instead of assigning clerical tasks majority of the time within the precious but short stay the candidates have in Singapore.