



PECC Internship Program 2024

Internship Report

Period of internship:

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As a postgraduate student who has had three years of prior professional experiences, I was astonished when I was offered the opportunity to take part in the PECC Internship Programme which could enrich my experience and rejuvenate my career path. My time at the PECC International Secretariat has been one of the most unique and precious experiences of my life. During the 12 weeks at PECC, a number of major international events that have significant impact on the global economy happened, such as the 29th Conference of the Parties in Azerbaijan, the 2024 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders' Week in Peru, and the 2024 United States (US) presidential election. I pride myself with honour to have conducted several research projects and tasks with the PECC Secretary-General, Mr. Eduardo Pedrosa, and my supervisor at PECC, Ms. Betty Ip, under such rapidly evolving international landscape, from which I have learnt a great deal, and I was able to apply what I've learnt from my postgraduate programme to practical research for a renowned research institute.

Research Tasks, Individual Projects, and Seminar Reports

At the time I joined PECC, Mr. Pedrosa and Ms. Ip were working on the latest State of the Region report which is the annual flagship research publication of PECC, and I took part in the statistical analysis and write-ups in the area of trade. Given the fact that I specialised in Global Political Economy and international studies in my postgraduate study, Mr. Pedrosa assigned several tasks to me in the areas of regional trade, trade restricting measures, and geopolitical fragmentation. I spent the first month at PECC immersing myself in data analysis on regional trade between major economies such as the US, China, and Japan, as well as regional trade agreements and organisations such as the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, the US-Mexico-Canada Agreement, APEC, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, and the Pacific Alliance. After that, data sourcing and collection are another major part of my work. To accurately source various data related to international trade, I had to fully familiarised myself with data sources such as those of the World Bank Group, the International Monetary Fund, and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. Meanwhile, qualitative research was also essential to my research aside from quantitative analysis.

For my contribution to the State of the Region report, I have conducted two individual projects in the area of climate change as I was preparing for an examination on sustainability and climate risk. Mr. Pedrosa and Ms. Ip were kind enough to give me the freedom to explore the topics on my own and provided me with constructive advice on narrowing down the scope of my research. For the first project, I explored areas including potential GDP losses under different climate scenarios, economic and insured losses from major types of climate physical hazards, and green bonds. Mr. Pedrosa guided me through the structural write-up and chart presentation after selecting the potential GDP losses section, from which I had the opportunity to get to know the structuring and presentation of major research publications which are quite different from academic papers. For my second individual project, Ms. Ip gave me suggestions on extending the second section of my first project which is on economic losses from

climate physical hazards. There was a major obstacle while working on this project which was to find the appropriate data source, and I spent a week and a half to locate the data source for the section of economic losses from climate physical hazards by economic sectors by seeking help from professionals, utilising artificial intelligence and self-sourcing. After another week of data consolidation and writing, I finally delivered the project report which are divided into three parts across a span of almost four weeks.

By the recommendations from Ms. Ip, I got to attend several seminars by S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies of Nanyang Technological University, with topics on international affairs and political economy. One of the seminars was about the 2024 US Presidential Election by Professor Jia Qingguo from Peking University, which was a lecture that enlightened my understanding on this widely concerned event and deepened my interest in international trade and politics. Another impressive seminar was about multilateralism among small states. The three professors who developed the project presented a comprehensive overview of the multilateralism among state governments from Southeast Asia and the Pacific, including the institutions, and mutual cooperation. All in all, these lectures helped me with my research projects, and some research fellows I networked with in these seminars provided me with useful sources for my postgraduate projects on governmental measures on tackling climate change effects.

Reflections and Acknowledgements

I have worked in the Mainland of China, the US, Hong Kong and even Pakistan, which made me a versatile and resilient employee in the organisations that I used to work for, the PECC internship allowed me to prove myself a reliable employee with strong work ethics and capability to fulfill job assignments and contribute to the organisation. It is also a whole new experience for me to work in a non-profit organisation, because I got to understand how it works and how teamwork is essential for a research publication of a considerable size. I am forever grateful for the guidance given to me by Mr. Pedrosa and Ms. Ip in the line of work in research.

I appreciate the opportunities to take part in a major project like the compilation of the State of the Region report, to connect with these incredible professionals and to understand how a research institute works. I had a wonderful time at PECC and in Singapore.

Finally, I would like to extend my gratitude to Ms. Zakiah Kassim and Ms. Nor Irdawaty. Ms. Kassim took care of me since my first day in office, and both her and Ms. Irdawaty helped me in familiarising myself with the working environment and Singapore. Ms. Irdawaty also helped me a lot when I encountered difficulties in looking for the right data source so that I could deliver my tasks and projects in time. I show my heartfelt appreciation for Mr. Pedrosa, Ms. Ip, Ms. Kassim, and Ms. Irdawaty.