

Report of UNDP Internship 2008

UNDP GTI Secretariat

By Jenny Jieun Kim
(tourism.jen@gmail.com)

MSc Student of
School of Hotel & Tourism Management
Hong Kong Polytechnic University

It was my great honour to have a chance to work for UNDP GTI (Great Tumen Initiative) Secretariat as an intern from June to September in 2008 in Beijing, China. First of all, I would like to extend my grateful to the Peace and Development Foundation which sponsored me with covering the cost during internship i.e. accommodation, air ticket, and living cost. Also I appreciate Hong Kong Polytechnic University and UNDP (Ms. Josie Jin Zhou) to match me to a job for which I am best suited and to support me to adapt to unfamiliar environment promptly.

Working in UNDP GTI Secretariat

UNDP Great Tumen Initiative is unique intergovernmental mechanism in Northeast Asia, established by five countries (the People's Republic of China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Mongolia, Republic of Korea and Russian Federation) together with the partnership of United National Development Programme (UNDP).



There are five key sectors such as transportation, energy, tourism, investment, and environment which have been agreed by member countries at the meeting in 2005. In the first week I tried to understand the pending issues of each sector and what UNDP GTI Secretariat has been done by looking through the past correspondents between the secretariat and member countries or other international organisations. As regarded, there are enormous amount of documents which has been accumulated over the decades. Those

documents are allowed to have a look for interns in the public server so that we could notice the importance of data/ document management and control and understand working flows under the UN system.

Above five sectors, I had definitely interests on tourism sector since it is what I have been studying and working until now. Through the thoughtful consideration of Director, Mrs. Nataliya Yacheistova, I was allocated for tourism sector in the beginning second week. It was highly enjoyable to work for what I am interested in, and it made me have a sense of belonging in the organisation and get a motivation to devote myself to the work.

Due to the lack of human resource in the secretariat and unpredictable international situation, sometimes we had to deal with unexpected work loads. General projects were implemented in close teamwork based on tight dead line. To meet the dead line of each project is tremendously crucial, thus individual time management is always required. As seen in the Appendix 1, I used to make a weekly plan and check the next steps with alarming me the priority order of works' importance. (Basically, Project Task 1) Capacity-building of tourism officials/ representatives; 2) Publishing of Tourism Guide; and 3) Development of a Multi-destination tourism products and the other projects i.e. Seminar, Funding Planning.)

The most memorable work which I have done in the UNDP GTI Secretariat is organising “the Seminar on International Cooperation in Greater Tumen Area” which was held in 28-29 August 2008 in Yanbian, China in cooperation with Yanbian government. It was priceless opportunity to involve from planning (i.e. Agenda) and communication with member countries (i.e. inviting GTI National coordinators) and China Government up to implementation in Yanbian indeed. Furthermore, I could visit tourism attractions in this area such as Mt. Baekdu (Changbai), Tumen River and Hunchun which is the border between Russia, China and DPRK. During trip to this area, I realized that local communities' participant and communications should be considered as well as the communications between nation levels, thus the role of UNDP GTI secretariat is tremendously important ultimately to generate great value of this area.





<The top of Mt. Baekdu>

The Internship programme in UNDP GTI Secretariat presents me countless memorable moments and experience and I am sure that it will be my great credit for my future career.

I was sufficiently enjoyed the best of best time in Beijing, so to speak, “2008 Beijing Olympics”, Chinese culture and various local foods. Also I could not forget those who I met in Beijing; UNDP GTI’s six interns, Mr. David Cho, Mr. Bok Chul Song, Mrs. Nataliya Yacheistova who is one of the best leaders I have met ever, and others.

Once again, I would like to express my deep gratitude to the Peace & Development Foundation, Hong Kong Polytechnic University, UNDP China and my colleagues and friends in Beijing.

Thank you.

www.tumenprogramme.org



Task Schedule (Appendix 1)

as of 24th June

by Jenny

Objectives	Mission	Action Details	Timing				Contacts
			Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	
Overall	Networking , D/B	Set the contact list of Education/ Institute, International/ AP regional Tourism Association					
		General regional information					
	Web site	clear information in a professional manner					
TP1. Capacity-building of tourism officials/ representatives	Tourism council meeting (Seoul, 12 Jun 2008)	1) Follow-up the meeting: - Tourism Council Composition/ Charter - Future activities, Business Coop. - Action Plan					
		2) Letter with the summary of the meeting					David
	Tourism Council	TC composition - Member List					
TP2. Publishing of Tourism Guide	Coop. with UNWTO	Collect the previous studies					Dr.Varma
TP3. Development of a Multi-destination tourism products(Mt. Paekdu)	Collect the documents	Contact list of research institutes/ professionals					
P. Seminar on Int'l Cooperation in GTA	Overall	Draft Agenda/ venue					
Yanbian, 28-29 August	Contact/communication	Yanbian					
	Registration	Potential participants Details of info (hotel, transportation..)					
	Session	Speakers_Presentation Materials					