Year 4 Internship Experience

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PhD Thesis

Human Survivability Studies

- Issue-based discipline
- Solution-oriented academic approach

Socio-economic (Poverty, inequality)

Environmental (Climate change, pollution)

Energy access for all; Rural electrification using renewable energy

Goals of research:

1. Evaluate the impact of rural electrification in Kenya using a sustainability framework
2. Formulate policy recommendations for rural electrification in Kenya

PhD Thesis

- September 2019
  - Additional interviews and questionnaire completion in *Kenya*
    - Managers and consumers (households and small businesses)
    - Interview results into dimension scores

Internship

Location: Tokyo, Japan

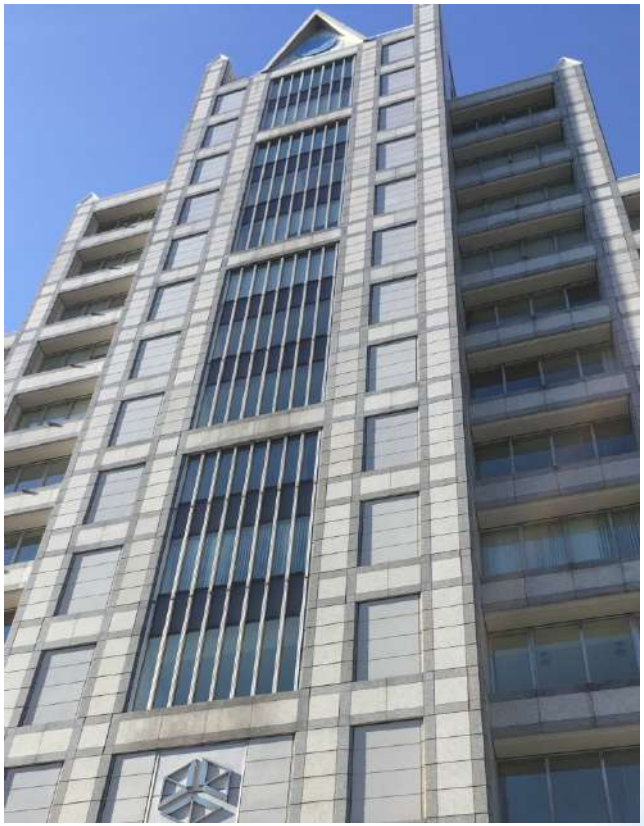
Organization: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Title: TICAD intern

Duration: September 26th, 2018 – March 25th, 2019

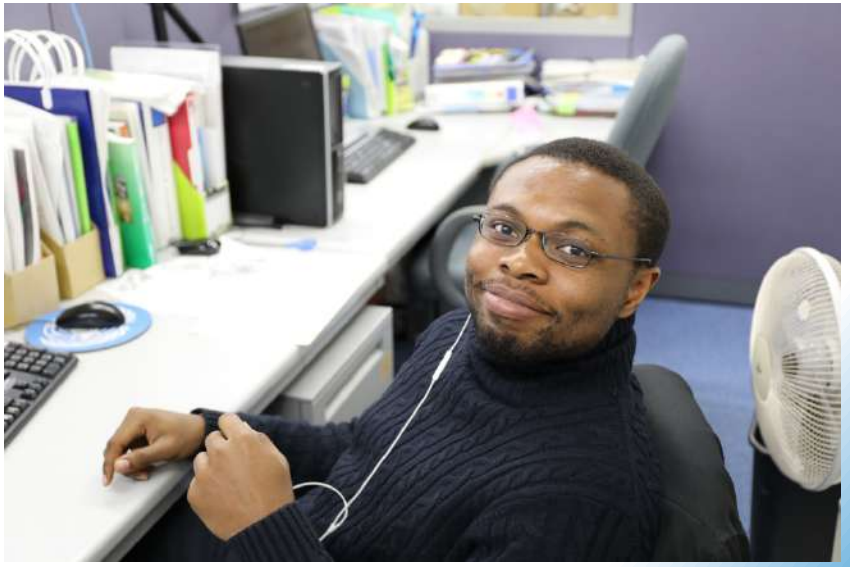
(*6 months*)

Responsibilities: Desk research, engagements in UNDP/TICAD related events, networking



Desk Research

- UNDP Projects
- International conferences of African development
- Entrepreneurship activities in Africa
- Various development initiatives: Gender inequality, FinTech, UN in Papua New Guinea
- Research results used to produce reports, PowerPoint presentations, or summaries (depending on occasion, audience, and purpose)



UNDP/TICAD Events

2018 TICAD Ministerial Meeting
October 5th – 7th

- Organized by UNDP, JETRO, and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, MoFA
- Preparatory event for TICAD 2019
- **Roles**
  - Venue preparation
  - Courtesy calls
  - Questionnaire preparation
  - Interpreter
  - Event preparation with African participants

UNDP/TICAD Events

AFRI-CONVERSE

- Monthly event organized by UNDP Tokyo
- Discussions center on African development
- Various stakeholders in African development are invited to attend/speak
- Involved in all aspects of Afri-Converse (logistics and reporting)

Benefits and takeaways

- Knowledge acquired
  - Desk research and discussions at various events
    - Various perspectives related to African development
      - Value of the private sector in advancing development
      - Multidimensional approach required for development
      - Existing UNDP initiatives in energy sector of several African countries

Benefits and takeaways

- Network connections acquired
  - PhD thesis development
    - Key contacts that can assist in the development of research
  - PBR conceptualization
    - Contacts that can be implicated in PBR plans

Benefits and takeaways

- Professional development
  - Experience accumulation
    - 1st time working at UN agency
  - Environment adjustment
    - Regular exposure to leaders in various sectors → Leadership skill development