

My Internship Experience

By: Magnus Berg

“Pay attention to details”, my colleague Ebenezer told me on my first day in May. Soon thereafter, I found myself wrapped up in the busy schedule of UNIC Accra, unable to stop smiling. I did not want to change the moment that I was experiencing for anything in the world.

This feeling, the feeling of joy and challenge, has been persistent throughout my internship period. I have continuously had the chance to meet inspiring people and attend interesting conferences, powerful commemorations and meaningful meetings. I also got enough creative space to develop my own ideas, and I never felt as if my colleagues regarded my ideas with skepticism. I was always encouraged to be innovative, and my colleagues always provided me with valuable feedback. My supervisor Cynthia, and my colleague Ebenezer, showed wonderful confidence in me, which helped me to build confidence in what I was doing. The stimulating working environment spurred me to constantly improve my English, which I treasure with great gratitude now as I look back.

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Aside from the work at the office and outside events, a highlight of the day was to have lunch with UN colleagues from our office and FAO. I befriended Mauricio, a Mexican working with FAO Regional Office for Africa who gave me a lot of “informal” insights about the UN system and how the Organization is structured “behind the scenes”. I also had a lot of interesting political talks with my UNIC colleagues, and felt that I got closer to Ghanaian public life each day. And of course there were a lot of laughs, too.

I will deeply miss both Ghana and UNIC. Once again, this has been an experience I would not want to trade for anything. I know that I will come back, and I know that I will meet my colleagues again. That is the reason why I am still smiling, even on my last day.