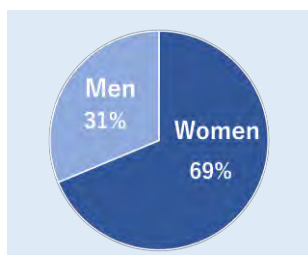


# Summer Intern Report 2017

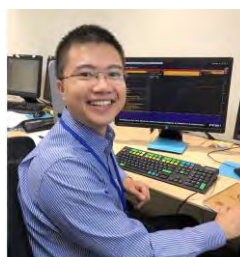
International Monetary Fund Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific



## IMF OAP at a glance



## 2017 OAP interns



### Economist Intern

#### Vu Thanh Trung

PhD Candidate  
National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies, GRIPS



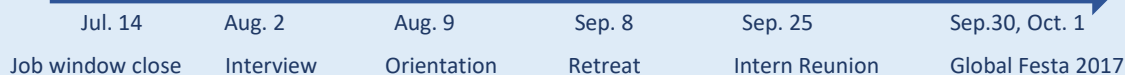
### Communications Intern

#### Yuta Anno

Master's student  
Graduate School of Public Policy,  
the University of Tokyo



## Schedule of 2017 Communications Intern



## Our Office



OAP revealed the completed renovation of its office. When you open the door, our beautifully designed office is waiting for you.

OAP is at one of the most prestigious addresses in Tokyo. Located right next to the Diet Building and overlooking Hibiya park.



## Global Festa 2017

We conducted an interactive quiz to promote the understanding of the IMF. The quiz and our novelty goods enjoyed a good reception, so our exhibition booth welcomed over 300 people!



With a brand-new polo shirt and a banner



## "Lunch chats"

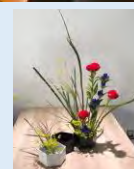
Lunch is also a great time to get to know OAP colleagues from diverse backgrounds. OAP staff members are very nice both with work and socially. They kindly invited us out to lunch or Starbucks almost every day and we got valuable advice for our future career.



## Retreat

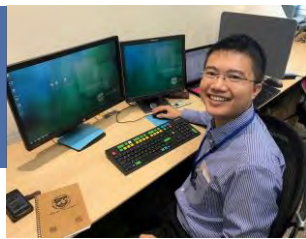
The OAP retreat gave a rare opportunity to experience Japanese flower arrangement called IKEBANA as a part of team building.

In the afternoon, we went to a Vietnamese restaurant which Trung recommended. After enjoying the meal, we had so much fun in the bouldering gym.



# Meet 2017 OAP interns

Vu Thanh Trung  
Economist  
Intern



Yuta Anno  
Communications  
Intern



## Q1. Can you tell me about yourself and motivation to apply for the position?

Trung

My major is International Finance and Policy Analysis. One of my first economics lessons was from the textbooks written by Olivier Blanchard and Maurice Obstfeld. They are the two economists I admire the most and their career in the IMF strongly motivates me. I wish one day I could work in the IMF as an economist and economist intern in the IMF OAP would be my very first step.

Yuta

Ever since I went on exchange to the University of Sydney, I have been interested in security and international affairs in the Asia-Pacific region. Currently I am studying international law to deepen my knowledge of international relations. Prior to OAP, I did an internship at the U.S. embassy. One of my goals was to find the differences in promotional strategies between a government and an international organization such as the IMF.

## Q2. How did you prepare for the application? How was the interview?

Trung

After I found the application information, it is true that it took me a few hours to prepare my CV and an application letter but it actually took years to accumulate some achievements and added them into my CV. In my application letter, I mainly mentioned my skills and expressed my strong motivation to be an Economist Intern in the IMF OAP.

Yuta

I fully researched the organization to ask questions to the interviewer about the internship duties and about the OAP. I tried to make the interview a “two-way conversation”. Asking questions was an important way to show that I was passionate about the internship. I found the interview was a relaxing and friendly atmosphere.

## Q3. What were your internship assignments?

Trung

My main task is to conduct research for an IMF working paper. The paper investigates the links among market confidence, foreign exchange risk premium, and related macroeconomic policies in Japan and some other Asian countries. Additionally, I joined some economic seminars and assisted economists in the IMF OAP to prepare for World Economic Outlook presentations.

Yuta

I was engaged in a wide variety of projects: organizing OAP’s exhibition booth for “Global Festa Japan 2017”, creating/translating IMF brochures to attract the general public. The brochures answered many of the typical questions, such as “What is the IMF?” and “What are three main roles of the IMF?” Creating those brochures allowed me to better understand the main goals and initiatives of the Fund.

## Q4. What are essential skills for an economist intern?

Trung

Programming and analytical skill are two essential skills. Programming skills helped me to handle big data and repeated computations in my intern research. Analytical skills are essential for generating and presenting my own ideas and opinions to my supervisor and others. Also, I believe that academic thinking and economic theoretical background are important because they help me to think in a more logical way.

Part of publications and novelty goods I made



#### Q5. What was your most memorable thing during the internship?

Trung

I am the first Vietnamese who does economist intern in the IMF OAP and have chances to join many activities. The most memorable event for me was to join OAP Retreat 2017. I feel that I am lucky because it is one of the first team building activities in the IMF OAP and it is for the celebration of the OAP 20th anniversary. During the one-day trip, we were organized into teams, refreshed our minds by doing IKEBANA (Japanese art of flower arrangement) and then had lunch and fun in Tokyo. My team did bouldering sport and it was a lot of fun even though we had a little muscle ache after the activity.

Yuta

When I conducted some research to create a brochure, I faced a lot of obstacles. Even when I thoroughly researched, some data could not be issued from the standpoint of an international organization because some of my ideas represented a specific country without notice. At the same time, I found the public relations of the IMF was interesting. Even though the Fund has promoted global monetary cooperation, most of the achievements are not generally known. Finding new fact and letting people get to know about the IMF was challenging but rewarding.

#### Q6. What have you gained from the internship?

Trung

I not only gained valuable work experiences but also learned the way a research is conducted in the IMF. While my PhD research narrows down to only one theoretical point, research in the IMF requires a broader view and focuses more on empirical studies with policy implications. I learned how to apply economic theories I studied to the real world of policy analysis.

Yuta

OAP Internship gave me a chance to develop and mature my work ethic and communication skills. I was given the responsibilities for both internal and external activities, which will provide a working foundation as I move forward. In addition, my internship truly encouraged my growing in confidence and feeling more comfortable with new experiences.

#### Q7. What are your career goals?

Trung

My goal is to be an economist, have professional expertise in financial and currency markets, and work for the IMF. I believe that governments should further enhance economic policy coordination, and the role of international organizations such as the IMF is very important. I love to contribute to the process.

Yuta

Being an international relations major, I would like to contribute to the peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region. My summer at the OAP confirmed my interest in working for international organizations, and it is also something I am considering down the road.

#### Q8. What advice would you give to prospective interns?

Trung

I would advise that strong motivation is the most important thing. My supervisor in the IMF OAP gives me freedom to do the research. It is a good opportunity but it also means heavier responsibilities. Maintaining strong motivation and working on the research consistently are crucial to overcome technical challenges. Additionally, my supervisor and other economists in the IMF OAP give me advice: "Always Smile" and "Enjoy the Journey". I would like to give same advice to others.

Yuta

Expect to come into the office with an open mind. Working with a diverse array of people from a different background is a unique and rewarding experience. OAP staff members have various stories and they are all informative. If you want a creative internship that pushes your skills to the next level in an unpredictable and diverse environment, then this is the place for you!



# OAP Professional Networks

OAP's intern alumni community includes more than 29 men and women from across the country and around the world—in various fields, including headquarters of the IMF. Wherever they are, our alumni carry the OAP experience with them and know the impact it has had on their professional lives.

## Mr. Norito Manabe

Communications Intern '14  
MITSUI & CO., LTD.

Ms. Christine Lagarde, Managing Director of the IMF, visited Tokyo during my internship. Networking with such global leaders in a professional setting is a life-changing experience. Currently I am engaged in the LNG export project. The missions of IMF and my current workplace have something in common: both organizations are trying to make a positive difference in the world. I am proud to be part of such an energetic security project.



## Ms. Nanami Tachikawa

Communications Intern '15  
Consulting company

As a strategy consultant, I've been engaged in governmental projects. Currently I'm supporting global entrepreneurs in expanding their businesses in Japan. OAP internship helped me acquire skills to work with various stakeholders, which I found useful in those projects.



## OAP Intern in Numbers

In **2003**

OAP started internship program

**29** interns

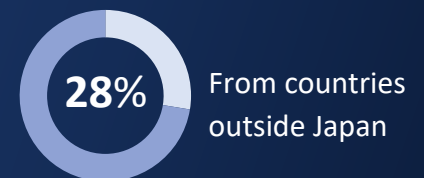
have worked for OAP so far

**8** countries

represented by our intern body

**2** former interns

are currently working for the IMF headquarters



## Intern Reunion

On September 25th, Intern Reunion was held in Italian restaurant. We had a chat in a relaxed atmosphere from beginning to end. We talked about a wide variety of topics from their career to the recent situation. This kind of alumni reunion is held every year. One of the best things about OAP intern is the chance to get involved in a worldwide alumni network.

