

Scott Kloeck-Jenson International Internship Grants 2005

By Eunsook Jung

The Scott Kloeck-Jenson International Internship grant provided me a great opportunity to work with the International Labor Organization (ILO) in Jakarta for 12 weeks during the summer of 2005. My responsibility was to do research on gender issues, to help them to organize a workshop for raising gender awareness, and to work as a facilitator during the workshop. I had worked for a women's issue NGO as a program officer a few years prior, so I was able to use my previous working experience to contribute to the ILO. At the same time, I learned how an international organization functions. As an intern, I was able to attend any meeting held in the ILO, have unlimited access to its library and internal reports, and interview the ILO employees. As a whole, my experience was like being an employee at the ILO for three months.

My main tasks involved preparing a workshop for gender awareness promotion. I was involved in the workshop from the very beginning, including site selection, scheduling, and content planning. The workshop was held in Makassar, Sulawesi, for three days at the end of July. Participants included government officials, employers, and trade union members from various regions. The workshop covered national legislation and international norms about gender equality, sexual harassment at the workplace, HIV/AIDS education, and cross-country analysis on gender equality in the workplace. I gave a presentation dealing with cross-country analysis of gender equality laws in Asia-Pacific countries in the Indonesian language, my first official presentation in Indonesian language in front of many people. I believe this workshop contributed to gender awareness among participants, and I am sure that those participants will share their experience among their colleagues. After the workshop, I was able to stay in Makassar for a few more days to do some interviews and research. When I came back to Jakarta, I was also in charge of writing a summary report of the workshop on behalf of my team.

During my internship, I was able to put the ILO in contact with labor groups which I used to work with in Indonesia, helping the ILO to distribute its education materials to them. I attended educational activities by labor groups, and gave a presentation regarding obstacles to labor party success in Indonesia.

My internship enabled me not only to have professional experience but also to do pre-dissertation research. My dissertation topic deals with social welfare provision in Indonesia. I am interested in how the Indonesian government has developed its social welfare system after democratization. During my internship, I was able to arrange interviews with employers' organizations, trade unions, government officials, and international organizations in Indonesia. The ILO itself also worked on social welfare issues, which helped me to obtain additional information. My preliminary field research helped me to shape my prospectus when I came back.

On every level, my internship with the ILO was invaluable. I would like to thank the Kloeck-Jenson family, the Scott Kloeck Jenson Fellowship committee, and the Center for Global Studies for providing me with funding for such a great opportunity.