



OPANAL
Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean
Secretariat

Inf.20/2018

10 October 2018

Report on the 2018 Internship Programme earmarked for Caribbean Member States implemented with the financial support of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

The Programme

The Kingdom of the Netherlands communicated to the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean – OPANAL its decision to continue to support financially the implementation of this Programme in 2018 through Project number 4000001260, dated 7 February 2018.

On 16 February 2018, Ms Marjolijn van Deelen, Head of the Non-Proliferation, Disarmament, Arms Control and Export Control Policy Division; Mr Tom Coppen, Senior Policy Officer, from the Security Policy Department, Non-Proliferation, Disarmament, and Nuclear Affairs; and Mr Marc Verschuur, Policy Advisor at the Embassy of the Netherlands in Mexico kindly visited OPANAL Headquarters to deliver the decision of the Government of the Netherlands.

This Programme is part of OPANAL's activities in the field of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation education as prescribed by the United Nations.

The implementation of this initiative over the last three years has been made possible thanks to the financial support of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

The purpose of an internship at OPANAL Secretariat is to increase the participation of Caribbean Member States in the activities of the Agency. Moreover, the Programme provides young diplomats, graduate and postgraduate students of international relations, international law and political sciences with on-the-job training opportunities. Internships are granted on a limited scale and the participants receive guidance and support from the Secretariat officers with respect to the duties to be performed, including:

- assisting in meeting preparations;
- assisting in the elaboration of proposals in accordance with the Agency's programmes;
- assisting in the translation of documents;
- assisting in the organization of archives and documentation; and
- other duties as requested by the Secretary-General.

This internship programme is open to all CARICOM Member States.

Participants in 2018

On 15 March 2018, the Secretariat welcomed Ms Aaliyah Lightburn as an intern for the period March - August 2018. Ms Lightburn was nominated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Belize.

On 6 August 2018, the Secretariat welcomed Ms Alexandra Aurelien as an intern for the period August - December 2018. Ms Aurelien was nominated by the Ministry of Finance, Economic Growth, Job Creation, External Affairs and the Public Service of Saint Lucia.

Balance of Expenditure

The Agency received a wire transfer dated 20 February 2018 for USD 11,980.00 (HSBC account 0199312100) emanating from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands for the 2018 Internship Programme of OPANAL (Project number 4000001260). As informed by HSBC Bank, a wire fee was charged by the intermediary bank.

As agreed, interns received a round-trip airfare to Mexico City, and a monthly allowance of USD 1,000.00 for accommodation and living costs.

	2018	
	<u>First half</u>	<u>Second half</u>
Intern	Ms Lightburn (Belize)	Ms Aurelien (St Lucia)
Round-trip airfare	USD 721.75	USD 1,593.80
Monthly allowance of USD 1,000.00	March. Apr. May. June. July	Aug. Sep. Oct. Nov. Dec.
	USD 5,000.00	USD 5,000.00
	USD 5,721.75	USD 6,593.80

Total - 2018 USD 12,315.55

Remaining USD 892.52
from 2017

Grant - 2018 USD 11,980.00

Remaining USD 556.97
2018

Assessment of the Programme by the participants

“I am grateful for the opportunity I was given to intern at OPANAL for the past five months. It was an educative experience in which I was able to improve my knowledge on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation affairs through daily tasks at the headquarters and also through my participation in the Summer School hosted by OPANAL, SRE and the Monterey Institute. Working at OPANAL allowed me the opportunity to learn of the role that the Agency has in the region of Latin America and the Caribbean, and also the critical role the Agency plays in disarmament affairs throughout the world. Additionally, working with the team at OPANAL allowed me the opportunity to improve both my language and cross-cultural communication skills due to interactions with many people throughout the region.

I look forward to taking this experience with me in my future endeavours where I can share what I have learnt with those beyond the region of Latin America and the Caribbean so that the global initiative for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation can be shared and fortified.”

***Aaliyah Lightburn
Belize***

“My main responsibilities while an intern at OPANAL included translating of documents from Spanish to English, preparing for meetings, updating databases, and assisting with other tasks as necessary. Translation of documents is a key role at OPANAL as Member States are from both Spanish speaking and English speaking nations. While I did have knowledge of Spanish prior to commencing the Internship Programme, through my work, my Spanish speaking and writing skills have improved greatly. Assisting in the preparation for meetings has shown me the process involved in preparing for meetings, efficiently taking notes at meetings and ensuring the meeting decisions are upheld. I learned to work in an Agency with a different work culture from my own and work well with persons from different backgrounds. My experience working at OPANAL has been greatly beneficial in providing skills necessary for working in an international organization.”

***Alexandra Aurelien
St Lucia***