



We are delighted to have Ms. Alice Wong (2013 graduate) to share her work experience with us.

EVMTAA (E) : Hi, Alice. What are you working on now that you've graduated from your master degree?

Alice (A): I am working in the Planning Department (PlanD) of Hong Kong Government as a Town Planning Graduate. This training programme consists of job rotations among different sections and my current duty is to assist in development control and enforcement. In addition, as a trainee, I am encouraged to participate in community engagement activities and public consultation events to enrich my knowledge on urban planning matters in Hong Kong.

E: Why did you choose to pursue urban planning?

A: When I was about to graduate from EVMT, I wasn't sure what to do. I was looking for something that has less emphasis on technical capability and can make an impact on the society. Then I stumbled upon the Master in Urban Planning offered by HKU and enrolled in the programme.

E: Was the programme helpful in achieving your target?

A: To be frank, it is only after taking the degree that I realized personal effort is far from enough

for making an impact and achieving effective planning. Equally important are communication and collaboration with different kinds of people, breadth and depth of relevant knowledge, and an open mind to changes and perspectives. I still have a long way to go and am working on it during my training now.

E: What else are the PlanD responsible for?

A: The PlanD conducts researches and community engagement to advise on urban planning policies, like new development areas, revitalization of industrial buildings, harbor-front planning and design, cross-boundary infrastructure and development, etc. It also exercises development control and guidance through statutory planning procedures like processing planning applications and amendment of statutory plans.

E: Could you share with us an interesting experience during your work?

A: Once, I had to conduct a survey on government, institutional and community facilities in a district which I lived near. It was not until I've done the research did I discover so many normally overlooked facilities. On one hand it provided insights for future planning and local engagement, on the other hand, it has opened my eyes and heightened my awareness and sensitivity to surrounding environment – it's like rediscovering the whole place and the community within.

E: That's impressive! Do you have any advice for students interested in becoming a planner?

A: I would suggest to keep our eyes and mind open, like what I did during the survey, which was a good practice for aspiring planners. It is important to be observant and keep imagining future possibilities of the city.

E: Thank you for your insights and we wish you all the best on your career.