

ITP Final Report

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The ITP affected my ambition and confidence at work

The ITP programme brought me a lot of new experiences including working in a group and becoming close friends, particular during trips together and when working on the assignments, we cared for and helped each other. The e-learning programme is very convenient in that it provides the context of the training which helps the participant focus more on their goals clearly before going to London.

During my time in the UK for 4 weeks (the British Museum and the Partner museum in Norwich), I was very interested in the sessions on exhibitions and galleries, storage management, hand on activities and education programmes.

The ITP affected my ambition and I intend to take inspiration from the programme for the exhibitions, panels and label descriptions I work with in my museum in terms of the way that they are shown and created, which my museum needs to be working on to improve. I feel that my opportunities have been broadened by participating in an overseas programme and will help to fulfill my goals and visions for my department. My museum requires more funding support and more human resources to make it happen.

According to the opinion of my director, the museum is not a place to exhibit, but should become an active, living museum. Museums should more active on social media. It was helpful to learn about this through the hands-on activities in the British museum and the Partner museum in Norwich. The Object in focus project was very useful and relevant to me and my department. In the galleries of my museum, there are not many explanation panels and the writing isn't good, so we need to develop the old research in order to add new information. I also saw the children's activities in the BM and other museums. I wish that my museum could have more activities like these ones.

The new skills I learnt and how I am using them in my museum

While I visited the galleries I was interested in the panel and the label information within their design. Most of them are short, with a limited word count and included a photos detail, drawings and sometimes a map which clearly explains and makes the audience understand.

The studying of an object - we need to observe detail and try to find the meaning of the object which provides us more of a story, not just the object's physical, historical and cultural meaning.

I learnt a lot from the Object in focus project. I saw many different styles of panel and poster designs. The wording is limited, the design of the poster follows the rules of the museum, highlighting only the object with the title, supporter, and dates. I have the chance to handle and research the object that I worked on, including limiting the information. The organized idea or the context is very important for writing the label and panel.

The storage of objects in the BM: I like the system of storage which separates the objects and I also like the way that they keep the small objects in ethafoam blocking, attaching a small label made with acid free paper. Convenient storage systems such as a rolling shelf is a good idea.

Hands-on desks: in the BM galleries there are small tables for the visitors who want to touch and feel the real objects. This is bringing more interest from the audience, particularly the young student. Using this experience, I wish to create a space for a hands-on desk. In addition, I want to use broken pots so the visitor can play with the puzzle to assemble the pieces together, as if we build the history piece by piece.

Managing the theme and context for an exhibition during planning is a very good way for selecting the objects that fit with the story. I am currently working on selecting liquid storage ceramics to join the exhibition in my museum. I am choosing and writing short articles about using the ceramics which used to store liquid elements in the ancient period.

During the month following the ITP, I received a lot of work which related to what I learnt and the people I met the UK during the ITP programme. For example, we cooperated with another institution to work on an exhibition together which relates to the research I did during the Object in focus exhibition as I have to research and write the short panel information about ceramics. I also joined a community programme called the Cultural community meeting: one village one identity.

During International Museum Day, which focused on The Power of Museums, my museum department worked with the ICOM representation in Cambodia to prepare two programmes. The first, a workshop about the procedure of museum management, was attended by all museums under the government who are authorised to define the definition of a museum - what museums should do to fit the role of a museum, what are they facing? The second programme was a tour visit and presentation from students from three different schools visiting three different museums. This activities allowed the students to get to know the history of the museum's construction in different contexts and they presented what they learnt about museums.



The panels in the Japanese gallery at the BM.



Here I am at the Hands-on desk in the BM.



Learning about the planning of choosing the objects and the context for an exhibition.



Visiting the storage of the British Museum.



Blocking objects in foam for safety.



An object display with label and panel information at a gallery in the BM.



The activities of students participating in the Cultural community meeting: one village one identity programme, at the National Museum of Cambodia.



The activities of students during International Museum Day.

Priorities: changes I would like to make in my museum following the ITP learning

Developing panel and label information is the first thing that I would like to do. The gallery display is classified following the chronology, and materials. There is little panel information in each gallery. The label is not written with very much information. I think labels and panels are very important to let the object speak, which means both to the audience and the object itself. Objects can tell the story; audiences read and learn from them. I will add more information and pictures to the labels and group some labels together to improve the display space in the showcase. I plan to rewrite the panels in the gallery with not too short, but not too long pieces of information to fit with the theme of each gallery. I will create a team to do the work and ask for help from the volunteer students. Moreover, I will contact other art history experts to check and advise me on these ideas for changes.

Secondly, I would like to redisplay the ceramics gallery with special objects with a theme, displayed beside the general context of ceramics. I will revisit the all-ceramics collection in storage and try to research and create a special area for those items and display them in the same way as the Kundi collection, Pancharong collection, animal pot and Chinese collection. However, there are not many people working on this exhibition space because some of the museum's staff moved to work in other departments. We also need to do more research at other cultural institutions and raise some funds to work on that.

I want to create an education programme with young students, by inviting them and their family to the museum to do activities such as drawing and finding the objects in the gallery. But I do need an adviser as I don't have any experience working on this kind of thing. Most of the students who come to visit are in huge numbers that are not easy to control, and they also do not understand well.

I really enjoyed the ITP, this is very meaningful for me as I saw and learnt many activities from the museum, departments and the Partner museum. I loved the Object in focus exhibition, this is the start of exhibition work for me. I met the mentor to discuss ideas and research and working together with my friend from Bhutan, we created the panel, poster, and label together. We also worked on an activity relating to the object involving a shadow puppet.

I went to my museum Partner in Norwich, I learnt a lot and it felt different from the Museum in the city.

Choosing the two objects that I was interested in, for the ITP's social media, was a good way for me to practice and show my object research.

I had a chance to see The world of Stonehenge exhibition in the BM. It has an amazing design and object display. I wanted to visit again but I had no time.

Moreover, I would like go back to the BM again to attend training on the education programmes for young students and exhibition work in the BM.



Activities focusing on embodying the design.



Activities during Object in focus.

Playing a part in the ITP global network

I am happy and excited that I was selected to attend the ITP's International Training Programme because I wish to extend and improve my professional skills in the museum. I can also help my museum and other colleagues to work together for our department and for our younger generation. I want to see my museum in the future, as the centre of education where local people come to visit the museum. I feel I am so lucky to have attended and been a part of the ITP programme, I had a great chance to see the famous museums and their collection displays. I see the people I met as friends, advisers and supporters which is very important for me in order to connect with other colleagues, departments, communities and other countries to share knowledge, ideas, skills and experiences.

If I develop a project with the other museums of the ITP fellows, I will travel to see them and their museums to exchange the experience of life outside of my country. I hope I will learn more and keep the connection with them going and bring the work experience home to my country.

I would like to join workshops and conferences or short training focusing on museum work in the other ITP countries to show my work and see their work and share ideas for developing together. In the future, we will be creating a museum network through social media and onsite with museum and online museum connections.

After participating in the ITP, I will always share this training information with my students, friends and my colleagues. I want to bring them in to see the other world and what we did, how it helped and how it is a good process.

I also want to create a project together with other ITP fellows to make an online exhibition. We can share our own pictures of objects with short descriptions. We could publish as an ITP magazine or collection book from the online exhibition. Idea for another online workshop - share working experience and new research every 3 or 6 months and create events and people will come to attend the events, they meet and talk.

We are working to find the funds to send museum staff to learn more about the work of museums in the other fellow's countries, such as conservation, collection management, storage and documentation, exhibition and galleries...or working as a volunteer.

These strategies will keep the fellows working together and continue to engage the working connection. Having these relationships is the great value of building the ITP global network. This makes it easier to access other museums and colleagues around the world.

I would like to express my grateful thanks to the British Museum; the ITP museum Partner and the Marie-Louise von Motesiczky Charitable Trust for supporting me to attend the ITP programme. My great time in the UK would not have been possible without your support. This training provided me with the knowledge to improve my career, my knowledge and build connections with other museums, experts and other ITP fellows.