



HARVARD  
ALUMNI FOR  
GLOBAL  
DEVELOPMENT

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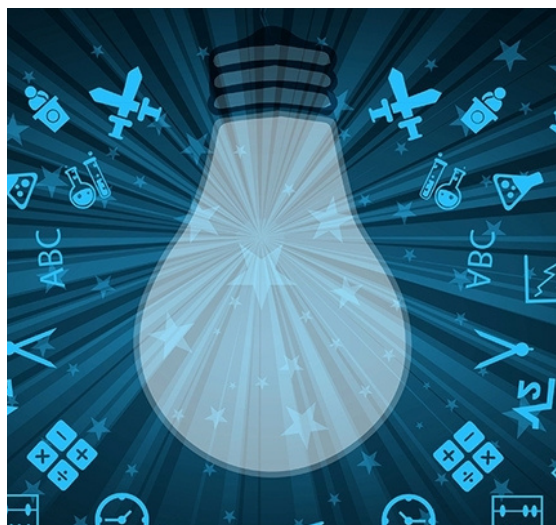
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## JOB OPPORTUNITIES

**Position:** Partnership Leader - Strategy Realisation & Innovation

**Location:** United Kingdom (preferred)

**Organization:** World Vision

**Position:** Project Director, Democratic People's Republic of Korea

**Location:** Bangkok, Thailand

**Organization:** World Vision

**Contact:** Stephen Chiu at [stephen\\_s\\_chiu@yahoo.com](mailto:stephen_s_chiu@yahoo.com)

**Position:** Coding School Partner for School Kids

**Organization:** Jakarta-based EdTech

**Location:** Jakarta, Indonesia

**Contact:** Mandeep Sibia at [mandeepsibia@gmail.com](mailto:mandeepsibia@gmail.com)

If you have an opening that you would like us to publicize, please send us details via email to

[harvardalumnglobaldevelopment@gmail.com](mailto:harvardalumnglobaldevelopment@gmail.com).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**October 21, 2020 at 12:00 pm ET:** Webinar on the "Future of Global Education" with Craig Vezina, Homa Tavangar, Dave Fils-Amie, and Santiago Rincón Gallardo - \*RSVP by clicking on the button below this page break!

**October 28, 2020 at 2:00 pm ET:** Reading Group's follow-up discussion on the "Future of Global Education" webinar - \*Details will be shared via Slack

## PERSONAL REFLECTION ON THE CURRENT PANDEMIC

### **A Bystander View: Livelihoods and Jobs**

By Mandeep Sibia

Harvard Kennedy School, ExEd '10

COVID-19 has become a new word that will be etched into our memories forever! As stories of a flu-like virus spreading across China and Southeast Asia started to emerge in January 2020, I figured this would be a rerun of SARS. Little did I realize that come March 2020, terms like lockdown, shutdown, and, quarantine would soon be common ones in Bangalore and make headlines across the rest of the globe. What started as a simple work from work home (WFH) exercise in my coworking space during the first week of March extended past seven months.

My job in human resources and livelihoods enables me to help firms with their workforce needs and job seekers in their hunt to find their respective foothold in the market. When COVID-19 arrived, our recruitment machine had a kind of stroke. Our clients were trying to find the answer to “should we hire and how?”, while our job seeker was saying, “I’ve just interviewed – when and where do I join?” After hiring a team for a fintech company’s contact center services, the company had to make an important decision. Given the emerging situation, it would offer its team a mobile phone to work remotely, and everyone would go back to the office once things ease up post-lockdown. However, the company realized that the list of customers to call was disappearing, while productivity was staying constant. Executives decided to pull the plug, and within one month of being hired, we let go of all the new employees.

WFH is the new human resources trend, and how to ease this transition for offices and employee engagement are topics that have been on the webinar circuit. However, the reality of the situation in India is that essentially only 20-25% of jobs can adapt to WFH, and 80% of jobs have to boost the economy and provide a way for people to earn a living. The same is true of international development work, most of which is onsite. WFH does not fit this work style - 75% is field work and 25% is possible WFH. What this means is that our world will need to shift to adapt to our current situation. This is the time for people like me to equip graduating students and others preparing to enter the job market with the necessary skills to function in ways that they would not have done in the past. How can we make it so that people are prepared to work remotely, and will this shift enable them to better balance their lives? Only time will tell...



**MEMBER SPOTLIGHT**  
**Ruth Jaensubhakij**  
Harvard College '22

**What brought you to Harvard, and how did you become interested in global development?**

I had a very global upbringing. My family is from China, Thailand, and Malaysia, but I grew up in Singapore, the U.K., and the U.S. So, I think my interest in global development was an accumulation of the experiences I had growing up with my family's travels, service, and mission trips. These allowed me to witness incredible development projects going on around the world and my own global identity combined with my passion for human rights work. As for Harvard, I knew that I wanted to attend a liberal arts institution rather than deciding my career path at age 17, and having the opportunity to attend the College was too big of a blessing to pass up!

**What are your personal experiences with global development, and what makes the field a meaningful one for you?**

I'm a Social Studies concentrator with a secondary in Ethnicity, Migration, and Rights, thus much of my academic work has focused around topics related to global development. I've taken classes on post-colonial theory; international NGOs and philanthropy; global human rights issues; and more. All of these have shown me the extent to which approaches to global development are coordinated, non-patronizing, and justice-minded. Most recently, I was an intern for International Justice Mission, which helped me further think about the international community's responsibility to investigate and address human rights abuses worldwide.

**Dexter Gate says, "Enter to grow in wisdom; depart to serve better thy country and thy kind." How has Harvard impacted your understanding of global development, and what are your personal aspirations within the arena?**

Harvard has opened so many doors to me in terms of what global development can mean. Prior to college, I had a very narrow view of what careers *(continued on the next page)*

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT (CONTINUED)

and fields fall under this umbrella, but now I can imagine many different futures for myself that all have a global focus and are development-oriented.

That being said, I hope to go to law school and eventually work in the NGO sector doing international human rights work.

**If you could have any superpower to accomplish any singular world-changing goal, what would that superpower/world-changing goal be?**

The superpower would be transferring knowledge from my brain to someone else's and vice versa. The world-changing goal would be achieving 100% global literacy rates.

**If you could sit down and eat dinner with any one person (alive, deceased, or imaginary), who would it be and what would you eat?**

I would choose Murasaki Shikibu, author of "The Tale of Genji," which is regarded as the first modern novel and the first psychological novel. So few Asian women feature prominently in world history, and I'd love to hear about what obstacles and social pressures she faced in writing the novel. I'm also a huge fan of Japanese food, so I guess we'd eat that!

## RECOMMENDED READS

**What If We Tried Radical Acts of Education?** (from BigQuestions.Institute)

**"When Will This Year Be Over?" is the Wrong Question** (from BigQuestions.Institute)

NPR/WHYY Feature on **Global Kids Offers Multicultural Lessons**

Links to each are available when you click on the relevant button at the bottom of this page break. All of the articles are related to our upcoming "Future of Global Education" webinar.

## JOIN US ON SLACK!



We have a HAGD workspace on Slack and invite you to sign up via the URL <https://hagd-sig.slack.com/> or by clicking on the button at the bottom of this page break. Joining our workspace will give you access to various discussions with other members. Our channels include the following: Announcements, Careers, General, Introductions, Random, and Reading Group. We recommend that you adjust your notification settings to define if and how often you receive email notifications when activity takes place in one of the channels you subscribe to in our workspace.