

Natsuko Robert, 2nd Year Chemical Engineering

The Charity:

[Women's Environmental Network](#) Women's Environmental Network mission is to make the connections between women's health and well-being and environmental issues. They want to inspire women to make environmentally informed choices. They aim to empower women to become agents of change in their families, networks and society, and to participate equally in an environmentally sustainable future.

The Project:

To expand the reach of the campaign and the Week of Action. I pitched the idea of producing a mini-film to go alongside the campaign, and despite my lack of experience in film making (aside from silly montages I would make at my friends' birthdays) I interviewed, filmed and researched to put together the final product. Alongside this I also researched ways in which we could get universities involved in the Week of Action by helping WEN prepare resources to guide clubs and societies to hold their own events.

Although I highly enjoyed working at WEN, a charity that campaigns for two causes that are important to me (feminism and the environment), I found myself missing solving technical problems. I learned that if I were to work in the charity sector, I would be more fulfilled in a setting that would also allow me to directly apply my engineering knowledge.

The main thing I take away is the importance of being passionate about the work I'm doing. Being surrounded by WEN staff and volunteers who, despite the lack of funds and the small size of the team were all working hard towards a common goal was very inspiring. The days went by quickly and I found myself leaving the office with a smile and a feeling of fulfilment every day (even after having spent 10 consecutive hours editing footage on my laptop)!

By completing my project I was able to identify that creativity was a key part of my skillset. This is not a skill that I get to develop a lot at Imperial given the technical nature of most projects. However, I have learned that I should try to focus on my creative and artistic side more as this is an asset that could set me apart from other engineers. [Watch Natsuko's finished video here.](#)



Highlights:

- Starting to plan an event with Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh for the Week of Action in October. I will be doing a year abroad in America and encouraged by my supervisor I contacted the environmental society on campus to start organising an event with them for WEN. This is a very exciting opportunity as it will mean that my work with WEN will go beyond the internship.
- Getting started with the project was very exciting as the team was extremely supportive with my ideas. They helped me perfect my project brief and connected me with people to contact for potential interviews.
- Finally being able to share the final edit of the video! The team was pleasantly surprised and it was a relief to see that my project somehow helped the charity.

