Danish Institute for Human Rights
Copenhagen, Denmark

William Oon
Class of 2019
Work responsibilities

• Research on legislation in developing countries
• Research on the nature and negotiations of investment contracts (mainly in mining industry)
• Drafted out short papers on contract mechanisms which affect the contract’s ability to be conductive to human rights
• Assisted in writing a book chapter which argues for greater transparency in mining contracts in Tanzania
• Some menial tasks like printing, proofreading, referencing, etc.
Impact

• Assisted in creating National Baseline Assessments for both Tanzania and Southeast Asia - helped give the Institute and its partners a better idea of what kinds of human rights work can be done in the region.

• Completed a full draft of the book chapter before I left. The book seeks to educate businesses and governments in the most human rights-conducive way to negotiate contracts, such as having more transparency, more accessible grievance mechanisms, etc.
Most rewarding experience

• Making so many new friends not just at the Institute, but at the squash club I trained at on most evenings!
Pictures of the office and its surroundings
Career Plans

• I’m not sure if I would want to work in an NGO as a career. Work culture there was generally pretty slow (although we were there during the summer months when most people go on vacation) and I was doing a lot of research support- nothing which I felt would make a lasting impact.

• This internship has reinforced my interest in working in business though. I am far more aware that businesses have to be conducted in sustainable ways which do not infringe on human rights.
Personal Growth

• Exposed to not just Danish Culture, but worked with a host of people from different nationalities in the Institute (Germany, Norway, Sweden etc.)

• Grew more independent from living and exploring the city alone

• Also learned to be a lot more financially conscious- had to find ways to stretch that $4000 as thinly as possible!
Intern boat trip around the city