

## Reflection of shifting career focus on the environment

I am aspiring for a meaningful life, a pursuit I believe aligns perfectly with development work. While my past has been rich with diverse learning experiences, I now seek a more profound engagement with the world – one that involves understanding my role, contributing to the well-being of others, and achieving true fulfillment through the fight against economic injustice.

I approach new opportunities with open heart, curiosity, and a willingness to step outside my comfort zone. My commitment to personal and professional growth is unwavering, and I am eager to apply my skills and passion to a cause truly dedicated to economic empowerment and restoring human dignity.

I am currently starting a solo private practice. After I left my corporate job in 2023, I sought meaning in a community of freedivers. I even briefly attempted a social enterprise initiative to help dive guides earn income by using a travel agency model. Despite significant challenges, including difficulties collaborating with local freedivers and facing repeated rejections from startup funding, these trials deepened my resolve to pursue my aspirations, even as my financial resources diminished. With this, I hope to avail of available financial aid and/or scholarships.

Nature has contributed so much of my healing that I have to evaluate my life, whether or not it is sustainable. Spending time at the beach or being surrounded by trees make me calm. I really feel at peace whenever I hear birds, crickets, chickens, and all the sounds of nature – terrifying or not.

There is a certain kind of mystical experience that the Nature gives. I feel it deep in my heart that I am one with Nature. This is perhaps due to the reason that I found God in Nature.

Sincerely,

Annie Hazel D. Basada