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**The Logistics of a Dream Job, Part 4**

Published: Feb 06, 2018

*This blog entry is the fourth in a series written by Global Logistics and Distribution (GLD) Industrial Engineering Manager, Karen McNulty. Through The UPS Foundation, Karen has been “loaned” to Gavi, a vaccine alliance based in Geneva, Switzerland. We asked Karen to share, in her own words, her thoughts on this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.*

2018 officially started a month ago, and the new year came with new beginnings. I hit the ground running with different activities since my previous post, traveling from the southeast coast of the Persian Gulf, to The Alpine region of Switzerland.

In October 2017, I took a short break from Gavi and joined the UPS EXPO 2020 team for six weeks in Dubai. The EXPO is a world event that will run from October 2020 to April 2021. Not only will 170 countries showcase their homeland, but UPS will be managing all of the logistics for the event. As an assistant of developing the draft operating plan for our services, I’m confident that the EXPO will be well served by our expertise.

Traveling to Dubai was amazing: it took me a full week before I stopped saying “wow” at every new experience. All of the residents were welcoming and friendly. On Fridays and Saturdays, I visited the beaches, the mall, the aquarium, and the spice and gold souks (markets).

*Dancing Fountain at the Mall of Dubai*

“Flag Day” also occurred during my visit. The day is a national event where the United Arab Emirates culture celebrates their nation’s founders for their hard work in creating the country. The national pride was infectious with individuals who loved their country and their culture. I felt very safe there and look forward to visiting again.



*Burj Khalifa, the world’s tallest building*

Upon returning to Geneva from Dubai, I voyaged via train to Leysin, Switzerland. Traveling through the Alps was quite exciting: the railroad tracks literally run through the mountains! There within the town I presented the Rwanda drone project for a Logistics Emergency Team meeting (hosted by the World Food Program). It was exciting knowing that UPS was part of the first daily delivery of medical needs via such devices.

I then finished out my assignment with the UPS Foundation and bid a farewell to Gavi in December. I left with a STEP\* (Strategic Training Executive Program) workshop road map, a solid foundation for improving access via drone technology, and a list of other supply chain improvement ideas for vaccine coverage.



*From one of my last weekend road trips, Mt. Blanc Chamonix, France*

Thank you UPS, my management team, the UPS Foundation, Gavi and the UPS EXPO 2020 team. It was quite the opportunity to serve our missions in such a unique and rewarding way. I return to UPS a better person than I was 18 months ago. I see the world very differently and have a deeper understanding of the human condition than I did before. For that I am forever grateful and look forward to the new adventures 2018 has in store.

\* The Strategic Training Executive Program is a leadership workshop for immunization logistics managers.