

Strategic Young Researcher Overseas Visit Program for Accelerating Brain Circulation

Dispatch Report

Year: 15 February 2013~22 February 2013

Place of fieldwork: Nethreland

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- Research background

People in Asia and Africa have invented many utensils and tools that are used on a daily basis to adapt to the natural environment, enhance social relationships in communities, and influence the outside world. This research contributes to the development of a sustainable human sphere in Asia and Africa by describing the process by which local knowledge (*ZAIRAICHI*) related specifically to the body and bodily techniques, the domain that is most vulnerable to changes in global conditions and social institutions, is shared and disseminated.

- Research purpose and aim

The focus of this research includes the following three components: 1) fieldwork in Southwestern Ethiopia; 2) academic collaboration with the South Omo Research Center and Museum (SORC&M) at Addis Ababa University as well as with local communities, such as the South Omo People's Ensete Research Center (SOPERC); and 3) academic exchanges related to the results of my research at international conferences. This year, I will focus on the second and third components.

- Results and achievements by fieldwork

The Institute of African Studies at Leiden University (IASL) has more than a 50-year history, and its activities are not limited to research but are being expanded into the domain of developmental activities. It was difficult to find opportunities for collaboration on related craft issues, such as museum activities and production and distribution, with the IASL staff. Many important areas are available for collaboration between research and development activities on current issues. Future research should include policies at the national level and an examination of the economic situation, which is based on an intermingled local economy and cash economy system

- Implications and impacts on future research

Some of the important issues in research include policy at the national level, and the economic situation, which is based on an intermingled local economy and a cash economy system. I am planning to present a special exhibit at the South Omo Research Center during the next fiscal year. I will show this intermingled situation, which involves a production process of small community activities, and provide an evaluation of crafts in the context of distribution based on local community and global levels. I also focus on how this research shows the entire process as a contribution to the development of a sustainable human sphere in Asia and Africa.



Photo1 Dr. Ton Dietz, who is the director of Institute of African Studies at Leiden University, introduces us to the Leiden University library



Photo2 Leiden University



Photo3 English journals on Ethiopian Studies in the library at Leiden University