

Strategic Young Researcher Overseas Visit Program for Accelerating Brain Circulation

Dispatch Report

Year: 28 February 2013~25 March 2013

Place of fieldwork: Ethiopia

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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

South Omo Research Center (SORC) and Museum is the only institutional museum in the South Omo Zone. It is important for the many foreign tourists and community members in this area who want to understand the cultural heritage and practices of this area. In 2012, there were more than 3,000 foreign and local visitors. They have also started a library facility, and the number of visitors to the library has reached more than 4000. Most users of the library are local students. In this regard, this institution has played a role in providing cultural facilities for the community and foreign tourists. Presenting a special exhibition at SORC would open up many channels of communication with locals, governors, researchers, and tourists. I could collaborate with local SORC staff and governors to prepare a special exhibition and cultural events during this period. In addition, it was a positive move that a draft list for some of the collections was initiated. Sharing ideas on reorganizing the main exhibition with local SORC staff, researchers, and governors will be included in future research.

- Implications and impacts on future research

A certain degree of success would be achieved by opening a special exhibition. The main exhibition that continues to be a showcase has not been reorganized for some time. Because most of the exhibition has been prepared by international scholars who have conducted research in this area, I will look for collaborations

with international scholars and local SORC staff as part of further research.



Photo1 Aari Objects in Southwestern Ethiopia



Photo2 Aari Spear



Photo3 Entrance of South Omo Research Center (SORC) and Museum