

Strategic Young Researcher Overseas Visit Program for Accelerating Brain Circulation

Dispatch Report

Year: 15 February 2013~22 February 2013

Place of fieldwork: Netherland

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- Research background

This research contributes to the development of a sustainable human sphere in Asia and Africa by making system of academic exchange program especially among young scholars who are engaged in long-term fieldwork in Asia and Africa.

- Research purpose and aim

Studies on local community-based knowledge that utilizes local intellectual resources are important for long-term field work and have been a unique characteristic of field research at Kyoto University. The objectives of my trip to the Netherlands were to make arrangements for sending young scholars there, to continue to do fieldwork, and to make an international platform for promoting collaborative research among Japanese, Asian, African, and European scholars to contribute to sustainable development in Asian and African countries.

- Results and achievements by fieldwork

I visited the Institute of African Studies, Leiden University (IASL), and the Sociology Department of Wageningen University, and exchanged recent research and information on educational activities that are the focus of collaborative activities regarding recent situations in Africa. Those activities are relatively close to activities that have been called a series of integrated area studies on bridging research and practices in Africa during the last decade at the Center for African Area Studies, Kyoto University. There are many possibilities for our institution to collaborate with these institutions. At the same time, it is important to conduct collaborative studies with young scholars.

- Implications and impacts on future research

Several studies are ongoing at IASL, such as the pervasive use of mobile phones and its influence in Africa, and conflict resolution in African countries. They are particularly focused on current issues, using social science analytical approaches. These issues are relatively common not only in African countries but also in Asian countries. Such topics offer possibilities for collaborative studies in the future. Many professors at Wageningen University have PhDs in natural science. Thus, studies on bio-diversity and natural resource management would be a strong topic for collaboration.



Photo1. The Library at Leiden University. Professor Ton Dietz (Director of the Institute of African Studies), Professor Jon Abbink, and myself, Masayoshi Shigeta



Photo2 Professor Ton Dietz explains some of the collections in the Leiden University library



Photo3 I receive the latest information on research activities at Wageningen University from Professor Han van Dijk and Dr. P. G. M. Hebinck