

## Strategic Young Researcher Overseas Visit Program for Accelerating Brain Circulation

### Dispatch Report

Year: 2013

Place of fieldwork: The Markfield Institute of Higher Education, UK

Name: SUNAGA Emiko

- Research background

The aim of this study is to trace the history of the Pakistan's language and the expanse and development of publishing culture, which is strongly related to Islamic thought, in Pakistan. Islamic theologian and politician Maulana Saiyid Abu al-Ala Maududi (1903-1979) and his publications are chosen as the subject matter of this research. Maududi was a controversial 20th Century Islamist thinker working in South Asia. He founded the religious party Jamaat-e Islami in 1941 in Lahore and wrote over 150 books and pamphlets in Urdu.

- Research purpose and aim

Analysing the diction and theoretical contents of these materials will reveal how he used the publications and what ideas he wished to spread. His word choice in these books—in Urdu, Persian, or Arabic—will uncover the relationship of religion and the Urdu language. Thus, this research will explore the character of Islam in Urdu media.



Photo 1: Gate of the Markfield Institute of Higher Education

- Results and achievements of my fieldwork

This is my first visit to the Markfield Institute of Higher Education. I attended a small meeting for those who will be part of the visiting research programme in 2014. I met my supervisor and professors and the administrative staff in the main research office. This institution has much experience in receiving international researchers,

including a knowledge tending to their research needs and official requirements.

I visited the main research office of the Islamic Foundation's publishing and guesthouses. I saw that it has the necessary residence facilities. More importantly, it has a good campus library, with Urdu, Arabic, and English books, along with academic journals in the fields of Islamic studies and economy.



Photo 2: Main Research Office of the Markfield Institute of Higher Education



Photo 3: Library of the Markfield Institute of Higher Education



Photo 4: Book Store of the Markfield Institute of Higher Education

- Implications and impact of future research

I plan to remain at the Markfield Institute of Higher Education for six months in 2014. The main purpose of my next visit is to discuss my research with Western scholars and to prepare an article in English. Another aim is to build up a network of connections in Europe. I will actively attend seminars and academic meetings at the institution.