

Strategic Young Researcher Overseas Visit Program for Accelerating Brain Circulation

Dispatch Report

Year: 9 July 2013~1 August 2013

Place of fieldwork: Germany

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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

From July 9, to August 1, 2013, I went to the Froubenius Institute in Germany for academic exchange and collaborative research on ethnographic museum activities in Germany and gave seminar presentations at the Froubenius Institute and Goethe University. I received an index of all kinds of documents and photographs that were related to Ethiopian studies, including inaccessible staff through the Internet during my stay. I am planning to publish the list of these archives in the Journal on Ethiopian Studies. In addition, I had an interesting discussion with Dr. Sophia on collaborative research activities at the South Omo Research Center. The seminars at Froubenius Institute and Goethe University allowed for good academic exchanges with German scholars and graduate students in social and cultural anthropology at Goethe University on sharing and distributing local knowledge (*ZAIRAICHI*) in Ethiopia. I will focus on collaborative research and community museum activities.

- Implications and impacts on future research

The academic exchange and the museum activities in Germany stimulated me to develop collaborative research activities through discussions with Dr. Sophia, visiting museums in Germany, and sharing the experience of preparing an exhibition with curators. I will include these points in an upcoming special exhibition at the South Omo Research Center and Museum, Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia.



Photo1 Giving seminar presentations at the Froubenius Institute and Goethe University.



Photo2 Ethnographic museum in Leipzig



Photo3 World culture museum in Frankfurt