

Strategic Young Researcher Overseas Visit Program for Accelerating Brain Circulation

Dispatch Report

Year: 2013/2014

Place of fieldwork: Main Library of Jamaat-e Islami, Pakistan

Name: SUNAGA Emiko

- Research background

The aim of this study is to trace the history of Pakistan's languages and the extent and development of publishing culture as it relates to Islamic thought in Pakistan. Islamic theologian and politician Maulana Saiyid Abu al-Ala Maududi (1903-1979) and his publications are the subject matter of this research. Maududi was a controversial twentieth-century Islamist thinker who worked in South Asia. He founded the religious party Jamaat-e Islami (Islamic Party) in 1941 in Lahore and wrote over 150 books and pamphlets in Urdu.

- Research purpose and aim

Based on the result of my previous fieldwork, I commenced my main research on Urdu publication and on Maududi at the main library of Jamaat-e Islami in Lahore. During my study period, I made research presentations in Multan, a southern city in Punjab province. The Department of Urdu at Bahauddin Zakariya University in Multan held the first international academic seminar *Pakistan Studies in Japan* 2014 on 20 February 2014. I made a presentation on Quranic Interpretation in South Asia, focusing on vernacular languages in South Asia. In addition to me, there were five Japanese speakers who are specialists in Pakistan studies on politics, economics, and cultural studies, including Professor Yamane So of Osaka University.

- Results and achievements of fieldwork

During this fieldwork, it was a very good experience for me to attend the above-mentioned international seminar in Multan. This was the first international gathering ever held at the university, and more than 17 Japanese scholars and students participated. It was an honor to make a presentation in front of Pakistani students and scholars who are involved in various studies, including economics, finance, political science, and Urdu literature. I received much praise and many useful comments on my presentation, especially from female students who were earning their MBAs. It was very surprising to me that they have more interest in Islamic studies than students in Lahore. This was my third visit to Multan city. I was very impressed by the intense interest in this academic gathering.



Photo 1: International seminar at Bahauddin Zakariya University, Multan



Photo 2: Reporter at international seminar

While staying in Lahore, I often went to the Sunday book market and old book shops. They are located near the university or in the book bazaar. They offer textbooks, children books, journals, magazines, novels, and Islamic books. I found many magazines from the 1970s when Maulana Maududi was very famous and had just retired from his political party. I was able to find many articles on him. The articles demonstrate that Maududi and his writings were of significant interest to the people at that time.

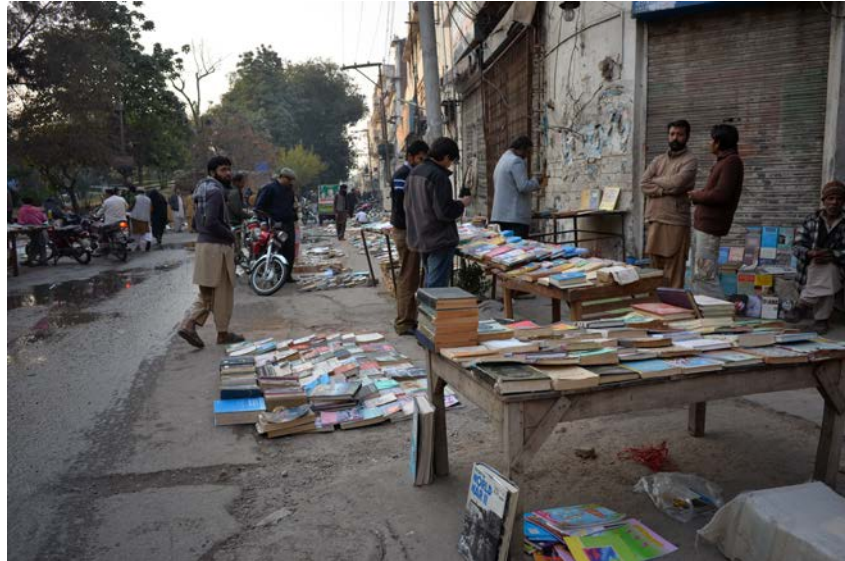


Photo 3: Sunday Book Market near Anarkali Bazaar 1



Photo 4: Sunday Book Market near Anarkali Bazaar 2

- Implications and impact on future research

This was my final visit to Pakistan as part of this program. My next visit is to the Markfield Institute of Higher Education in Leicester, UK in the spring of 2014. This institute was founded by a Pakistani scholar who was the biggest supporter of Maulana Maududi so there are lot of South Asian scholars and teachers in this institution. They also have a great deal of interest in Maududi studies and they have huge collections of Maududi in their library. The main purpose of my next visit is to summarize my field research from Pakistan and to write English articles from the point of view of an outsider who is not from an Islamic country. I will also attempt to visit publishers and bookshops in the UK that sell and publish Urdu books for migrants in the UK. This will reveal the networks of publication from South Asia to Europe.