

# Strategic Young Researcher Overseas Visit Program for Accelerating Brain Circulation

## Dispatch Report

Year: 2014

Place of fieldwork: Markfield Institute of Higher Education

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 publishing and Maududi at the Markfield Institute of Higher Education in Leicester, UK. This institute is an independent research group based on the Islamic Foundation, UK.



Photo 1: Markfield Institute of Higher Education, Leicester, UK



Photo 2: Islamic Foundation

I had a research room and accommodation on the campus. I spent most of my time in the research room or in the library, where they have a nice collection on Maududi in both Urdu and English. On the weekends, I attended a variety of classes, research meetings, community gatherings, and camps. During my study period, I made research presentations at Durham University. The Business School at Durham University held the Eighth International Workshop on Islamic Economics and Finance on 25 and 26 August 2014. I made a presentation on Maulana Maududi's economic writing, focusing on banking interests.



Photo 3: International Seminar at Durham University (reporter: left)

- Results and achievements of fieldwork

This fieldwork provided a very good experience for me to attend the above-mentioned international seminar in Durham. This was my first opportunity to speak about the economic aspect of Mauaudi. It was an honor to make a presentation in front of economic students and scholars who are involved in various studies, including economics, finance, political science, and Islamic finance. I received much praise and many useful comments on my presentation, especially from Professor Mehmet Asutay. This was my first visit to Durham. I was very impressed by the intense interest in this academic gathering.

While staying in Markfield, I often went to the mosque on campus. It is located near the entrance of the campus and is open to visitors 24 hours a day. July was the month of Ramadan in the Islamic calendar; it is the month of fasting. I attended evening gatherings to break the fasting and study meetings during the daytime. At the end of Ramadan, they had special events, festivals, and meetings on and around the campus. I enjoyed being with campus members, foundation members, volunteers, and locals.



Photo 4: Mosque on campus



I also met many famous scholars on the campus. My meeting with Professor A. R. Kidwai from India was very fruitful. He is the one of the most important English translators of Maududi. I received a great deal of advice from him on my research, article, and study methods.

- Implications and impact on future research

This was my final visit as part of this Strategic Young Researcher Overseas Visit Program for Accelerating Brain Circulation. I would like to say thanks to all of the members and staff of this program for physically and financially supporting my overseas research. It is my sincere hope that these stays will provide me with many new ideas and resources, human networks, and language skills. I will present the result of this visit that was supported by this program at an international seminar in February of next year. I had a chance to invite two scholars from Pakistan, Professor Moinuddin Aqeel and Professor Rafi'ddin Hashmi; both are specialists on Maulana Maududi. Professor Hashmi has a published list of Maududi's works in Urdu.