

Report for Institutional Program for Younger Researcher Overseas Visits, 2011
Center for Southeast Asian Studies
Kyoto University

Name : Retno Kusumaningtyas	Date : Day/20 Month/1 Year/ 2012
Position in CSEAS : Postdoctoral * Check an appropriate entry (Lecturer · Assistant Professor · Research Assistant <input checked="" type="radio"/> Postdoctoral · Ph. D. Student · Master's Student · Undergraduate Student)	
Host Institute (Counterpart, Institute and Country) : Prof. Paul Burgers, Faculty of Geosciences, Utrecht University, the Netherlands *Circle the appropriate entry for host institute <input checked="" type="radio"/> University · Research Institute · Company · Others)	
Term : (Day/9 Month/11 Year/2011) ~ (Day/8 Month/1 Year/2012) (61 Days)	
Research Purpose: * Check any appropriate entries. ① Research/ Laboratory Work ② Fieldwork ③ Seminar ④ Internship ⑤ Take course or class ⑥ Attend Academic Meeting ⑦ Earn credits <input checked="" type="radio"/> Other	
Research Area: * Circle the appropriate entry. ① Humanities ② Social Sciences ③ Mathematics and Physics ④ Chemistry ⑤ Engineering ⑥ Biology ⑦ Agriculture ⑧ Medical Science, Pharmacy and Dentistry <input checked="" type="radio"/> Integral Area of Studies ⑩ New Multidiscipline	
Outline of Overseas Visits (About 300~400 words) For the oversea visit this time, I used the opportunity more for my intention to expand my academic network and see if there is possibilities to conduct some collaboration with academic scholars in the Netherlands who has research interests close to my research topic and at the same time I also use the time during this trip to collect references and improve the draft of papers for publication in the near future. In the beginning of the trip, I visited the Faculty of Geosciences, Utrecht University, The Netherlands to learn and conduct discussions with several researchers and a number of PhD candidates from this faculty whom conducting research on the consequences of policies related to climate change being implemented in Asian countries. Their project entitled Beyond Agriculture Foods (ABF) are holding a number of research in several sites in Asia with topics that are closely related to my current research interest, which focused on the impact of spontaneous migration stimulated by economic development on natural resources in Sumatra. After few weeks in Utrecht, I continued the trip to spend a few days in The Hague to visit the International Institute for Social Studies (ISS). During some times in this institute, I collected references on Indonesian studies and attending seminar on Asian Economic Development in a Cross Road. The seminar discussed changing the policy in Asian countries, with focus on China, Indonesia, Mongolia, Philippines, and Vietnam, and offer preliminary analysis of effectiveness and their impacts. This topic has been an interest of mine since most of recent conditions occurred in my research site cannot be separated from the global economic development and policy changes that occurred. Proven or not the policies changes in Asian countries some how are inter-correlated. Listening and learning how this flows of policies and the implementation from this seminar was hoped to provide me better understanding on the phenomenon I encountered in the field for my own research. The remaining time during this trip were spent in Leiden, to visit the Royal Netherlands Institute of Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies (KITLV) to collect some references and research materials. I have visited this institution before during the previous trips and found out they have abundant of references collection that are very useful for my current research, especially in the historical contexts of my research.	

Research Achievement on this Program (300~400 Words)

The overseas visits to several institutions in the Netherlands has given me some important lessons to improve my knowledge and analysis on the situations and problems I encountered in my own research activities. Policies implemented by governments in several Asian countries including Indonesia are often unable to improve local communities' welfare or fail to deliver some measures to prevent environmental damage. Like the case of the large expansion of palm oil plantation that occurs in a rapid pace in the last two decades in my research site, Riau Province, Sumatra, Indonesia. Indonesia has made some significant investments in energy crop production especially palm oil, to a large extent as a response to an increasing global demand for edible oils and other industries such as cosmetic, paint, soap, etc. And recently due to the increase of fossil fuel prices has create further demand for palm oil for bio-fuels applications, that has added to the overall market demand for palm oil products. The establishment of these oil palm plantations is often mentioned as the culprit behind land use change and deforestation, peat-land degradation and forest fires in Indonesia.

During the visit, I also managed to collect extensive references on the colonial government policies and documentations on the execution of migration from Java to Sumatra before the second world war. Some journalistic references that could present different views of this migration policy published in the old magazine (publication of the year 1929-1930) were also found during this visit. This journalistic writings will provide me interesting story from sources other than the ruling regime at that time about this program.

The effort to improve my draft of the chapter on management policy of forest resources in Indonesia for GCOE has also provided useful results during this visit in the Netherlands. References that I found in the libraries of Leiden University and KITLV and the time spent has allowed me to work on the manuscript intensively.