

International Training Program (ITP)

On-site Education of Practical Languages for Area Studies

2012 Academic Year Report

-Hamer district, South Omo Research Center, Ethiopia: 15 June 2012–29 August 2012–

Year of Enrollment: 2010

Graduate School of Asian and African Area Studies

Samuel Tefera Alemu

The contribution of ITP program to my research in Hamer district

As in my previous ITP language training program, I once again went to Hamer district, South Omo Zone of Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples Regional State in Ethiopia. During my Hamer language training in the field, I have stayed with my host family, my name son's family as well as a Beshada tribe family to whom I made a new partnership. I found a good opportunity to study Hamer language more and improve my speaking ability to a better level. Apart from my language training program in those villages in the district, the friendship I made with the people contributed much to my knowledge of the diverse culture, nature and folk-lore that exist there.

ITP program offered me the possibility of travelling to various spots in the district supported me to invest in a better research future through its significant contributions on my language ability and the possibility of connecting me with useful people. This was a great chance that also strengthened my ties with the local people where I conduct the research enabling me to easily get access to key informants, resources and acquire social trust. I was also able to collect additional vocabularies and pictures showing my research environment where I will be sharing with you. As I planned earlier before I left Kyoto, I now see better progress in my speaking ability due to the opportunity I got from this second round to spend more time to study the language and practice what I gained through lessons in my daily encounters with people in the district.

