

Young Researcher Overseas Visits Program for Vitalizing Brain Circulation

Trip Report, India, February 5 to 14, 2012

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Trip dates: February 5 to 14, 2012

Destination: Department of Anthropology, Utkal University and Department of Sociology, Delhi University

Trip report:

I visited Dr. Prassana Patra at the Department of Anthropology in Utkal University and Prof. Abhijit Dasgupta at the Department of Sociology in the University of Delhi in order to discuss future academic exchange and education/research collaborations, including the Vitalizing Brain Circulation Program. As Dr. Prassana Patra and Dr. Abhijit Dasgupta had previously held positions in Kyoto University's Graduate School of Asian and African Area Studies as a Postdoctoral Fellow (PD) under the umbrella of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) and as a Visiting Professor, respectively and, as such, were my old friends, discussions regarding potential research and education collaborations proceeded in a most friendly atmosphere.

Dr. Prassana Patra is planning to introduce Japanese language classes at Utkal University as non-formal classes and requested that I provide support in that effort. I would like to begin by providing assistance on the personal level. Dr. Patra also expressed interest in conducting comparative research on Japanese and Indian societies, and we decided to further explore potential collaborations along these lines, including the possibility of expanding the scope of research to all of Asia.

With Dr. Abhijit Dasgupta, I primarily discussed present day changes in Indian political society. In particular, we compared the status of political participation by members of lower social classes in Orissa and West Bengal States. In addition, we discussed plans to host an international conference next year in India on the issue of social exclusion. This conference will be supported by other fundings.

In addition, in Bhubaneswar, I met with Keiko Sato, who is currently on an Overseas Visit Program for Vitalizing Brain Circulation, and discussed her plans for research, etc.



With Dr. Patra



University of Delhi Sociology Department campus