

Young Researcher Overseas Visits Program for Vitalizing Brain Circulation

Trip Report, London (UK), January 26 to February 1, 2012

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Trip dates: January 26 to February 1, 2012

Destination: London School of Economics (LSE), London University School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS)

Trip report:

On January 27, I met with Dr. Jonathan Liebenau (LSE), Dr. Urvashi Soni-Sinha (University of Windsor, Canada), and Dr. Madhulika Banerjee (University of Delhi, India) to discuss future academic exchange and education/research collaborations, including the Vitalizing Brain Circulation Program. We agreed on the need for tripartite exchange between Japan, India, and Europe and also agreed to proactively explore such exchanges in the future. In addition, I visited the library of London University's School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS).

On January 28, I participated in an international conference titled "The Diversity-driven Path of Economic Development: Small-scale Production, Commodity Consumption and Socio-cultural Representation in Modern India" as a general discussant. The conference was also attended (in addition to the three individuals mentioned above) by Dr. Claude Markovits (former director of CNRS, France), Dr. Janet Hunter (LSE, UK), Dr. Anjana Singh (LSE), Dr. Srirupa Prasad (University of Missouri, USA), Dr. Giogio Riello (University of Warwick, UK), and provided an opportunity for lively discussion and exchange of ideas. In attendance from Japan were Dr. Minoru Mio (National Museum of Ethnology), Dr. Takashi Oishi (Kobe City University of Foreign Studies), Dr. Riho Isaka (University of Tokyo), Dr. Sayako Kanda (Keio University), and Ms. Reiko Iida (Graduate School of Asian and African Area Studies, Kyoto University), who was, at the time, on an Overseas Visit Program for Vitalizing Brain Circulation in London.

On January 29, I met with Dr. Crispin Bates (Edinburgh University) and Dr. Aya Ikegame (The Open University) and discussed future international academic exchange.

In addition, I had a tutorial interview with Reiko Iida, who was in London on an Overseas Visit Program for Brain Circulation. In the beginning, Ms. Ikeda had considered finding a position at a university in London as a visiting research scholar but, in the end, decided to only participate in seminars hosted by various universities in London while advancing her research using the library at the British Museum. Underlying this choice were, among others, the prohibitively high tuitions of British universities and a mismatch in the timing of the Overseas Visit and the British academic calendar.



International conference at LSE