

February 4, 2013

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Destination 1) School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London, and Cologne University, Germany
2) School of Orient and African Studies (SOAS), University of London, and Madurai and Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India

Period 1) From July 4, 2012 to September 8, 2012 (for sixty seven days)
2) From October 17, 2012 to March 22, 2013
(for one hundred and fifty seven days)

1. Dispatch Purposes and Outlines

The main purposes of this dispatch are;

- 1) To investigate the various records regarding the rural societies of India, especially south India, such as the articles, art crafts, and the legacies since the British Raj because many areas in London have still had historically deep ties with India.
- 2) To contrast the study method of area studies between ASAFAS and SOAS.
- 3) To promote the ways of expressing my research outcome in English through short essays, a conference presentation, and seminar discussions.
- 4) To conduct a fieldwork in the rural south India, Madurai, Tamil Nadu.

The outlines of some activities from above;

I visited numerous museums, temples, and college libraries in and out of London and found that there were ties between colonial India and British Raj during the colonial time.

At SOAS library, I found a good volume of books on the subject of the structural change of rural Japan which were published during Meiji and early Showa period, and through which I gained some hints in organizing my research paper.

There were some other college libraries within a walking distance from SOAS library. Fortunately, I was allowed to access to some of those libraries, such as London School of Economic and Political Sciences (LSE), and Institute of Education (IOE). Thus, I changed where to read and write from time to time and used those libraries that were open till midnight.

In last July and August, I attended a SOAS summer course for six weeks. During the first half of it I took a course on essay writing and during the latter half on International Relations. The course on International Relations consisted of lectures, tutorials, and seminars, each of which was held six times within three weeks. We learnt theories in the lectures, got explanation after reading supplementary articles and explanation during the tutorial, and had a discussion with classmates and learnt applications of those theories to the current cases during the seminar. In every session, active participation was required, otherwise it was hard to follow the class. Therefore, the style of learning and the content of the study were intellectually stimulating. I also enjoyed talking with classmates and became friends with them.

In late August, I attended an International conference by International Geographical Union (IGU), which was held at Cologne University, Germany. Among many presentations over two thousands and six hundreds, I made a presentation in the session, called as “Governing in Development in Regions, Cities and Rural Communities”. Various researchers in the field of both natural sciences and humanities used cross- and/or multi- disciplinary approaches. As there were more than one hundred and twenty scholars from Japan, I enjoyed talking with some of them by exchanging research ideas and listening to others’ research results. I joined a special dinner prepared for those who studied about south Asia. In total, more than twenty scholars attended the dinner.

From October to December 2012, as an associate student, I studied at SOAS and registered for a course on modern Indian Economy. The course was composed of a series of weekly-based two hours’ lectures and two hours’ tutorials that was mainly organized by students’ presentations. At ASAFAS, Kyoto University, I conducted field-based research instead of the discussions about the modern political economy of India that were the main approach in the course. Therefore, it took a while for me to get used to this research style.

Also I attended some seminars prepared for general public in various locations.

2. Issues

Through this program, I have met people with various ages and different backgrounds. Therefore, through my research, I would like to communicate with as many people as possible in any forms.



At the end of the summer course



Presentation at Cologne University

3. Acknowledgements

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