International Training Program (ITP)

On-site Education of Practical Language for Area Studies Report in 2009

----Cairo University, Egypt, Arabic (Dec. 10 2009-Mar. 17 2010)----

Year of Enrollment: 2009 Graduate School of Asian and African Area Studies Takatomo INOUE

On my research theme and the Language Training -400w

My research topic is contemporary activities of "Islamization of science." The background of my research is following.

Since 1980s, by some intellectuals, such as al-Faruqi, "Islamization of knowledge" has been claimed. As a part of this concept, the discussion called "Islamization of Science" is now getting larger. However, there is few mutual understanding about what "Islamization of knowledge" or "Islamization of science" is.

The roots of the discussion on "Islamization of Knowledge" have been rose since Muslim world met the modern Western civilization to prosper. In the latter half of 19th century, Muslim world tried to Westernize themselves. Since the beginning of 20th century, however, this idea is criticized and Islamic revivalism became major concept to make Muslim world prospered. Under the revivalism, which brings the discussion how foreign knowledge should be combined into their own civilization, the discussion of "Islamization of knowledge" is developed. In other words, the most important problem to solve in this discussion is how to regard the knowledge from outside as a part of their system of knowledge.

Arabic language is not mainly but partially important to my research topic. The discussion on "Islamization of Knowledge" is not just a local discussion but a international one. Thus, the first common language for the discussion is English. On the other hand, Arabic language is the second common language for that, for it is the discussion on Islam. In fact, lots of technical terms are Arabic, and there are there is not so small number of Arabic material or documents for the discussion. In that aspect, it is necessary much to study Arabic language for the research of "Islamization of knowledge."

Through the training this time, I am sure that I managed to gain a skill-up for handling Arabic language. This experience will give a chance to have a further study for this topic.