

International Training Program (ITP)

## On-site Education of Practical Languages for Area Studies

### Report in 2011

- Swahili, Nairobi University, Kenya, 2 Aug. 2011 - 1 Dec. 2011) -

Year of Enrollment: 2011

Graduate School of Asian and African Area Studies

Nobu Inazumi

#### **On My research theme and/or Language Training**

The purpose of my research is revealing the mechanism of livestock herding in a pastoral society, and exploring changes in the relationships between human and livestock in relation to social changes of the society.

The Pokot live in northern Kenya and eastern Uganda. Previous studies of the pastoral Pokot by Japanese researchers are scarce. I selected Tangelbei town in Kenya as my research base, which is located northeast of Lake Baringo in Kenya. People in this area have made a livelihood for years with pastoralism of cattle, goats, sheep, camels, and donkeys.

However, new ideas and technologies, such as agriculture (crops and techniques), commercial exchanges and school education, have gradually begun to flow into this area because of the governmental policies and the development of transportation. Accordingly, the lifestyle of people has been also slowly changed. People began to settle around towns, adopting new diet and economic activities, and sending children to schools.

In my research, I will investigate how Pokot people's subsistence activities changed, which is still mainly pastoralism. Then, I will explore what kind of changes occurred in livestock behaviors, in response to the changes in herding and husbandry practices of the Pokot people, that is, I will study the changes in human and animal relationships, with special reference to the herding activities in which a variety of human-animal interactions is expressed.



Landscape of the research area



Fetching water with donkeys

In the first half of the training period in Kenya, I covered the basic grammar of Swahili at a language school in Nairobi, which is recommended by the Institute of African Studies, University of Nairobi. The lessons were one to one teaching and we did active questions and answers.

In the latter half of the period, I stayed in my study area among the Pokot, and practiced Swahili conversation there. I strove to learn basic greeting ways and words of Pokot language with the help of my research assistant. There were some differences between Swahili in Nairobi and that of Pokot land. For example, ‘lake’ was called ‘bahali (sea)’ among the Pokot, because the lake was big as sea for them who had never seen ocean.



In the classroom of the language school



My research assistant in Pokot area