

Kyoto University Global COE

“Reconstruction of the Intimate and Public Spheres in 21st Century Asia”

Asian ERASMUS Pilot Program for Next Generation Researchers and Students from Overseas Partners Institutions

Name (First, Middle, Last)	YU Xiao	City/Country of the Home Organization
		Singapore/Singapore
Home Organization (University/Institute, Dept./Faculty, Position/Status)	Ph.D. Candidate Department of Political Science, Faculty of Arts and Social Science, National University of Singapore	
Invitation Period	From July 29 th , 2012 to November 25 th , 2012	
Counterpart Graduate School/Center at Kyoto University	Counterpart Professor: Prof. MATSUDA Motoji Counterpart Graduate School/Center: Graduate School of Letters	
Title of Research	The Political Economy of Pollution-induced contention in Rural China	
<p>Titles of lectures/seminars which you attended and names of the lecturers. (List up to 5 classes.)</p> <p>Oct 4, 11,18,25, 【Title】 The Concept of Asia 【Instructor】 Pekka Korhonen (Professor, University of Jyväskylä)</p>		

Please attach a written report evaluating your results/achievements through the GCOE Asian Erasmus Pilot Program.

(1) Submit a written report in 700 words. (2) Attach reference materials if any. (3) Also, email a digital photo showing your education or research activities if available. (The photo should not infringe on privacy rights.)

The submitted materials will be posted on the web page of this program.

My life as an Erasmus researcher of GCOE program lasted from July 29 to November 25,

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2012. This was a quite valuable experience for me, which I will cherish for always. The very first academic activity was the Graduate Seminar on “Kyoto and East Asia” soon after I arrived at Kyoto. The interesting presentations by those from studies of Humanities opened a window for me to understand Japanese history and culture. Later in August I attended the presentation rehearsals for East Asia Junior workshop twice and thus had an opportunity to interact with undergraduates and get to know what young Japanese students care about. In September, the most exciting part was the field trip to Kumano where I not only enjoyed beautiful natural scenes of world heritage sites but also had a close contact with rural life in Japan. I followed three teams of professors and students, visiting a mountain village, an agricultural village and a fishing village respectively. The students’ presentations and Matsui san’ explanations helped me a lot in understanding the problems in contemporary Rural Japan. And thanks to Matsuda Sensei, I was able to talk to Prof. Tsuchiya who is an expert in anti-pollution protests in Japan and found something comparable between Japan and China in terms of pollution-induced contentions. In October, I attended Professor Ari Pekka Korhonen’s lectures on the concept of Asia. The combination of a European professor and students from different Asian countries indeed offered me with some new perspective to view the taken-for-granted ideas. In November, I was lucky to present my work and got useful feedback at the 5th Next Generation Global Workshop. The interactions with professors and students at the workshop as well as the GCOE conference really benefited me a lot.

As the activities above shows, the GCOE program is operating on a global scale. I was quite impressed by the professors’ global vision in their own work and their efforts to forge an intellectual community globally. I shall thank Ochiai Sensei for her introduction at the very beginning so that I could get well-involved in these wonderful activities even I could not speak Japanese. The experience of studying at the university which is considered as the tradition of liberal and academic freedom was great. I love the libraries of Kyoto University so so much, especially the ones of Graduate school of letters and Graduate School of Law. I could not describe how excited I was when finding the books I searched for a long time.

Besides the activities above, the most encouraging thing was that I got touch with scholars doing environmental politics of China in Japan and found people who shared similar research interests with me at GCOE. Outside Kyoto University, I had nice talks with scholars from Kyoto Sangyo University, Kwansei Gakuin University and Kobe City University of Foreign Studies. Their academic acumen and networking capability were very impressive. I did look forward to future collaboration with these excellent scholars.

Certainly, the most unforgettable are the people I met here, who made my stay fruitful and meaningful : the program director Ochiai Sensei and my supervisor Matsuda Sensei gave more help than I could expect; Prof. Asato was so nice to be my guarantor for house rent; Matsui-san was

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always caring about me and showed me around with Maya-san and Thi-san, 1 the staff at GCOE office, Momozaki-san, Song-san, Sakai-san, Takata-san, always offered a helping hand when needed; Watanabe-san, Karashima-san, Hirata-san and Hosoya-san who shared the same office with me were all nice and interesting people ; Huang-san and Hao-san treated me like a sister; Chiashi-san, had the similar research interest with me; Inomota-san and Nakagawa-san were always nice to me.

Four months were long and short, long enough to get myself familiar with the people and the city and too short to experience more with those lovely people in this city. I wish I could come back to Kyoto again and create more memories here.