

### 3. Report

Write a report on your study experience, addressing the matters listed below. Your report should be around 500 words in English and completed in the space of this form. Submit your report form file by e-mail.

Matters to include in your report: (a) Academic outcomes (how participation in this program affected your motivation, university study and international understanding, and what interests and plans you developed for further study in the future); (b) Your experiences in Kyoto University; (c) The content of the program; (d) The impact of the program on your career plans. Please attach reference materials or digital photo to show your activities if available.

\*The information you provide may be included in Re-discovering Japan Project reports, or published in printed materials or on our website in pages dealing with the outcomes of programs offered by the Asian Studies Unit and/or Kyoto University. Please ensure that your report only includes content which is publishable in light of privacy considerations and the need to safeguard personal information. Also note that depending on the publication format, we may need to edit parts of your report.

#### Prof. Graham Priest's lectures: Buddhist Metaphysics, the Catuskoti, and Modern Logic Nov 10 – Nov 22, 2013

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It's a privilege for me to be invited to attend Prof. Graham Priest's lecture held by KUASU and the Philosophy Department of the Kyoto University. I am just a dentistry major who is fascinated by Buddhist philosophy, especially the notion of no-self, because philosophy to me is less a subject of research but more a guideline of my life. There were times I tried very hard to search for my "self" because I believed I had to know myself better in order to know how I should live my life and set my career path. But pains don't guarantee gains. This is why when I first heard the notion of no-self, I was shocked by this idea. Buddhism points out a possible way of solving my personal problem! And yet Buddhism has its own problems as well: why did Buddha continue his preaching after he had attained enlightenment? If Buddhism promotes no-self, then why does Buddhism affirm compassion? I bore these questions in mind and came to Kyoto, hoping that I could have some clues on them. I think the best part of the lecture is that we not only discussed with each other in classes, but also in the free time, when we were roaming in this ancient city, we students exchanged our ideas. I learned a lot from a Korean student: the topics of our talk wasn't limited to Buddhism only, and through his eyes, I have come to know Korea with perspective... The lecture did provide some possible answers to the questions mentioned above while it left more enigmatic puzzles: why did Nagarjuna talk of the ineffability? Is this a contradiction itself? Why did he say that nirvana and samsara are the same... So, to me, this lecture is not over yet, because it leaves so many intriguing questions that each of them is worth further studying. Though I know right now I don't have the ability to decide which topic can be my research focus, I am sure I will continue searching, searching for possible answers to these enigmas.

Finally, I have to thank the KUASU and the students of Philosophy Department of the Kyoto University for your hard work and your hospitality to make such an occasion possible. This is my first-time experience in Japan, and it is totally different from my own imagination. I always thought of travelling by myself to this beautiful country, but, to my surprise, I came here attending a lecture on Buddhism given by Prof. Graham Priest. To be honest, sometimes I didn't really know how to behave in this kind of occasion, but your open-mindedness made me feel easy and comfortable. Thank you for everything you did for foreign students like me, and you are an essential part of this lecture, of my trip, of my memory!