

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.

[Encountering A New Exit to the Future]

On arriving at Kyoto University, I promptly recognized that I have just entered an exit to a new academic world, certainly inspired by the name of "Kyoto" and the program organizer and friendly instructor Prof. Deguchi Yasuo (出口 康夫). Definitely his name itself was pointing to the new exit for the following students in the "Kyoto school." From the very first moment, I knew that this learning experience at Kyoto will change my future life forever, and that I will come back soon again to live and breathe in Kyoto before I finish my Ph.D. in the Buddhist philosophy.

The primary purpose of this visit was to participate in the lecture, Buddhist Metaphysics the Catuskoti, and Modern Logic given by Prof. Graham Priest. He began his lectures with some introductory remarks on the Buddhist philosophy especially focused on the Madhyamika philosophy, leading the discussions to the modern logical theories of dialetheism. His teachings on the paraconsistency theory of truth was intuitive and inspiring for all students though required heavy readings and pre-understandings in order to fully grasp the ideas of the subject. Since I had similar lectures but with very different approaches and opinions on the same subject provided by Prof. Mark Siderits, Prof. Priest's arguments help me draw a full picture of the spectrum.

Prof. Deguchi's lecture "Infinity in 90 + α minutes" was SO interesting that the formulas and the series of infinite numbers are still lingering in my mind. Whenever I think about the Huayen Buddhism, I am sure that this lecture will come again and provide a lot more solid and mathematical grounds for me to penetrate through the infinity in one, one in infinity in space and time. I am willing to go learn more about "infinity in a longer period of time" in the future.

I haven't just learn a lot and been inspired by the scholars and students in Kyoto, I also enjoyed being in Kyoto. The beautiful scenes and ancient temples attracted my eyes all the time. I literally fell in love with Kyoto. I've tried to visit as many places as possible, including Royal Palaces, Shinto shrines, Buddhist temples, schools, and mountains and rivers in and around Kyoto. While I was walking through the Philosopher's path, I knew I am literally following the steps of Nishida Kitaro, who founded the Kyoto school, and Prof. Deguchi Yasuo, who is trying to find an exit to a new era of the school.

Let alone all those amazing experiences, I think people I met in Kyoto were the best of all. Since it is true that there are some political tensions coming and going between Japan and Korea, and other Asian countries, it was specially more grateful and joyful to meet and share the same interests in the Academic subjects and also in the hope for peaceful Asia. Scholars and students from Kyoto, Sidney, Taiwan, Hong kong, and Seoul were all witnesses how we can trust each other and live together. I am still feeling that I was lucky to be part of such a great program.

Many thanks KUASU, thank you all in Kyoto!