Report on Participation in [Leiden University and Heidelberg University Graduate Student Exchange Program]

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First of all, I would like to express my deep sense of gratitude to Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology-JAPAN (MEXT), Kyoto University Asian Studies Unit (KUASU), Dr. Shuji HISANO and Dr. Natsuka TOKUMARU for their helpful support for 'the filed trip in Germany and Netherlands'.

I'd like to summarize the key word of the field trip in Germany and Netherlands as "diversity". And I can say that I have learned two diversities from 'the diversity of culture' on the one hand and 'the diversity of learning' on the other. The field trip presented me with valuable time to experience the diversity of culture. During two weeks' journey, all the people I met, all the foods I eat and all the places I visited provided ample opportunities to experience firsthand the diversity of culture. Of course, there is a limit to the depths of knowledge in the diversity of culture learned from Germany and Netherlands for two weeks' journey, which was a quite a short time. Nevertheless, many places --historical places in Heidelberg and Amsterdam, the financial districts and flea market in Frankfurt, farms and traditional market in Wageningen, etc.-- where I visit to understand and view German and Dutch culture at close range presented me with precious knowledge that I cannot just learned from books, papers and lectures in class.

Furthermore, the field trip in Germany and Netherlands provided me with a motivation to think deeply on 'the diversity of learning'. For a long time, I have been studying Institutional Economic with researching regulation theory and an analysis on corporate system, and therefore I have narrowly approached the knowledge in specific fields. So it is true that I had a less opportunity to discuss various research topics in the different lines of study. From various students' presentation at many universities in Germany and Netherlands and the interchange of ideas at German labor union where I visited, I could learn many new things and ideas about international relations, Agricultural Economics, the concept of sustainable development, the environment issue of the world, gender issue in Asian countries, distribution issue between regular and non-regular workers and the issue of minimum wage, etc. that I had not known before. And without any doubt, I sure that the discussion process on how other students think of my research and how I think of others researches and the fruitful interchange of idea through research presentation given by each student will contribute to the improvement of my future research.