

### 3. Report

Please write a report on your study experience, addressing the matters listed below. Your report should be more than 500 words in English. 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.

\*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.

#### Shifting Identities: The Function of Pinoy Music on Identity Choice Among Newly Migrated Japanese Filipino Children (JFC)

Frieda Joy Angelica Olay Ruiz, University of the Philippines-Diliman  
February 6-March 29, 2015

My participation in this short term research scholarship program has been very fruitful and I am very thankful for the opportunity that was given to me. My research topic identified the representations and reconstruction of Japanese-Filipino identity in select Original Pinoy Music (OPM) and how Japanese Filipino Children (JFC) gave meaning and interpret the representations, most especially how music figures in terms of identity choice. My findings showed how intimacy bonds with peers, coworkers, and the JFCs mothers have a hand on the musical preferences and in the embodiment of their identities. My research also brought out the counter-discourses that the JFCs had to negotiate in their day to day lives especially as a way to gain both social and cultural capital. Alternative spaces of identity formation and affirmation have also been seen in bars, churches, and music competitions.

My research experience in Japan has been very productive because it gave me the opportunity to see the conditions of newly migrated JFCs and understand their situation in their own socio-cultural milieu. The narratives of my informants made me sympathize with their situation and worldview. These experiences have given me the motivation to continue with this study into a broader topic for my PhD dissertation most especially that this study has unearthed valuable and interesting information that is of interest for me to pursue this topic further. I was able to do participant-observation in sites where JFCs and their mothers would usually congregate which was relevant for first-hand data gathering.

I am very honored to be affiliated with the Kyoto University during the duration of my research. This has proven to be valuable because of the wealth of knowledge shared by the various people who I became connected with and most especially from my host supervisor, Dr. Wako Asato, who is a specialist in Japanese-Filipino research. The Kyoto University library has also been very a gold mine for related research. Furthermore, my affiliation with KUASU has also been crucial for me to view my research in the angle of intimacy with added to the perspective on how music plays a role in identity choice among JFCs.

My program was specifically for me to undergo the research that I proposed to the university. It was done via anthropological research methods and was an independent research. This led me to be able to establish rapport with my informants in a more natural manner wherein my data gathering was done in a more relaxed environment and minimized researcher-informant power relations.

The program is very important in that it enabled me to do data gathering in Japan and research on music and identity choice which gave me the opportunity to fill the research gap and to contribute to the current discourse. The concluded research is also very helpful in starting my PhD dissertation which follows a similar theme. The research is very valuable in that it led me to do preliminary research and since there is a gap in terms of this study of this topic in related literature my own findings fill this void.