

## Kyoto University Asian Studies Unit Program Completion Report [Student]

### 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.

### [Influence of Indian Medical Thought on Chinese Medicine Through Buddhist Texts]

[Elena Gessler, National Chengchi University,  
Taiwan]  
[17.03.2016 – 28.03.2016]

I was attending the 3d Kyoto – Singapore – Chengchi Graduate Conference and several related workshops. This Conference and workshops are a part of triangle cooperation between departments of Philosophy of Kyoto University, Taiwan National Chengchi University and National Singapore University.

The opportunity to attend the 3d Kyoto – Singapore – Chengchi Graduate Conference helped me in several ways. Firstly, it was a very fruitful academical exchange between international graduate students, and notorious professors, such as Prof. Deguchi Yasuo from Kyoto University, Prof. Garfield Jay from National University of Singapore and Prof. Sharf Robert from Berkley University, whose ideas and critical response to my own research were inspiring and gave me as a researcher some new development possibilities. It was very interesting to see the difference in the trends of different departments of Philosophy and exchange the ideas between differently oriented and rooted scholars. This difference in trends, spreading from the field of formal logic to the thought of Yogachara Buddhism, from the paradoxes of Zhuang-zi to the field of Chinese medical thought, was very challenging in terms of participation in the discussion and gave me as a researcher new dimensions to think about and develop own research. The ideas expressed by researchers from different fields of philosophical studies were inspiring, as they could see the problem from the different angle and this helped to realise some aspects which I could not before. The participation in an international event also tested my skills not only as a upcoming researcher, but also as a speaker, as the presentation in an international environment is a very different experience from the one done in your own affiliation. Also, through the exchange of thoughts with professors and fellow graduate students I could shape some problems connected to my research which before this I could not realize. This gave me an opportunity to correct myself and understand what should be done to polish and enrich my thesis. I believe this is one of the best outcomes possible and am very happy that due to the attendance of this conference I could realise and was pointed out of several interesting aspects connected to my current

research.

I could also access the library of Kyoto university and manage to search for some related materials, which I will use in my further research. I find the opportunity to search for materials, especially some Japanese materials which cannot be found in Taiwan very important for my research. Another important point is, that Kyoto University's academical environment seemed to be very open-minded and friendly towards students, and this open-mindedness helped to express and re-think some ideas which I believe will prove to be of a great help for writing my thesis.

The attendance of this Conference not only helped me to establish new academic connections, exchange the ideas and receive some inspiring critical response from fellow graduate students and professors, and present in an international environment; it also helped me to re-think some aspects of my research on Indian medical thought influence over Chinese medical thought and the way to progress with the research in this field. Now I see that some more research in the means of epistemological differences should be done and plan to add one more chapter to my thesis which will deal with the concepts of matter in Indian and Chinese medical thought – an idea, which was pointed out to me during conference and after-discussion. I also plan on trying to apply for longer-stay program in Kyoto University in the future for further studies in the field of Buddhist philosophy and medical thought.

\*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.