

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.

Singapore Students visit to Kyoto University

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19th June 2016 – 28th June 2016

This visit was made possible by the generous sponsorship of JASSO and the warm invitation of Professor Deguchi Yasuo. Over the course of this visitation, the NUS and Yale-NUS students were very fortunate to be allowed to attend ongoing lectures that Kyoto University Department of Philosophy was holding for their graduate students. These lectures include classes on the philosophers Saul A. Kripke and Arthur Schopenhauer, as well as classes on topics like philosophy of Mind as it relates to Buddhism and Buddhist philosophy. The lecturers were all delivered by renowned and established scholars and philosophers invited by Kyoto University such as Professor Mark Siderits, Professor Yagisawa and Professor Inukai. Overall, the lectures by guest teachers were extremely interesting and enriching, especially since my interest lies in history of philosophy which all of this lessons are relatable to.

Other than these lessons provided by guest lecturers, Professor Deguchi was also kind enough to give us two talks on the famous philosopher from the Kyoto School of Philosophy, Nishitani Keiji. The Kyoto School was and remains an important force in the world of Philosophy, being famous for its masterful syncretization of Western Philosophy and Eastern Philosophy, in particular Buddhist Philosophy. However, because of various reasons such as the language barrier, it has not been easy for students like us who come from Singapore, or indeed anywhere outside of Japan, to learn about this school. Professor Deguchi's talks on Nishitani were hence an invaluable opportunity for us to have access to the thoughts and teachings of the Kyoto School. My interest being primarily Chinese Philosophy, it was also interesting for me to see the links between Chinese Philosophy and Japanese Philosophy, which shares a long and proximate developmental history.

Overall, my experience as a visiting student in Kyoto University was a pleasant one. As explained, I deeply appreciate the opportunity to attend all the classes, including both the scheduled lessons delivered by guest lecturers and the introductory lessons on Nishitani delivered by Professor Deguchi. Outside of the classroom, we

were met with very warm welcome from the extremely helpful administrative staff, Ms Aki Hama and Ms Nishida Mitsuho, graduate students and professors. Visiting Kyoto University was also a great opportunity to see Kyoto, one of the oldest and most culturally rich cities in Japan and to go to world-famous places like Ginkaku Ji, Arashiyama and Inari Shrine.

Not only was it an enjoyable and enriching experience, I am confident that this visit will prove valuable to my own research in Chinese Philosophy and History of Philosophy. I also hope that I will be able to keep in touch with the people I have met throughout this process like the graduate students and the faculty members.

*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.