

News Letter

Foreign Student Service, Agriculture

海外留学の意義—自分の体験から

常 脇 恒一郎

〔福井県立大学生物資源学部〕
〔京都大学名誉教授・農林生物学教室〕

世界大戦の終息からちょうど10年経った1955年の8月に米国に留学し、カンサス州立大学の大学院博士課程に入学した。当時の日本はドルが乏しく、持つことが許された米ドルは、たったの30ドルであった。当然、太平洋は船で渡ったが、それが三井船舶の新造貨物船であったことが、とんだ出来事の原因になった。この貨物船、「穂高山丸」は予定より1日早くサンフランシスコに着いた。そこから、鉄道でカンサス州のマンハッタンへ行った。30ドルしか金がないので、サンフランシスコのグロセリーストアでパンや果物を買込み、まる2日の汽車の旅をこれ食べて過ごした。デンバーでロスアンゼルスから到着する汽車を待つ時間があつたので、そこから、カンサス州立大学の指導教授である Dr. E. G. Heyne へ、マンハッタン到着が1日早くなることを電報で知らせた。Dr. Heyne に前もって到着予定が知らせてあり、適当な下宿が見つかるまで自分の家にいるようにという返事を貰っていたからだ。電文はデンバー駅のサービスの女性が直して呉れた。きっと、まともな電文になっていなかったであろう。

早朝、薄暗いマンハッタン駅に着いた。日本の駅とは違い、そこには線路以外何もなかった。Dr. Heyneらしい人影も見あたなかった。小さな無人の駅舎の横にタクシーを呼ぶ電話機が見つかった。タクシーに来て貰うよう電話した。本当に通じたかどうか知らないが、すぐにタクシーがやってきた。えらく早く来るものだと思った。乗ろうとすると、修道女の衣装をまとった女性が同じタクシーに乗る。米国では、こんな習慣があるのかと思って、いっしょに乗り込んだ。今考えると、やってきたタクシーは彼女が呼んだものであつたらう。自分が呼んだタクシーと思込こんでいるので、その時は、このことにまったく気付かなかった。

運転手に Dr. Heyne の家のアドレスを見せ（口では通じなかった）、そこで降りて貰った。ドアのベルを何度押しても誰も出て来ない。他に方法がないので、いつまでもベルを押していた。そのうち、ドアが開いた。「Dr. Heyne か」と聞くと「違う」という。「Dr. Heyne の息子か」と聞くと、また「違う」という。困った事になったと思った。やがて、この人物は、最近、中国から留学してきた人だということが分かった。米国の大学教授が下宿人を置いているなど、まったく想像もできなかった。なにせ、当時の日本からみれば、天国や極楽にも思えた米国の、しかも立派な大学の教授なのだから。Dr. Heyne の一家は旅行に出かけているとのことだった。

とにかく家に入れてもらい、リビングルームに荷物を持ち込み、ソファに腰を下して一家の帰宅を待つことにした。そのうち、疲れが出て寝入ってしまったらしい。何か騒々しいので眼を覚ますと、幾人もの人が自分を取り巻いて立っている。ようやく、今自分は、米国に来ており、Dr. Heyne の居間にいるのだということに気付いた。これが、自分の指導教授となった Dr. Heyne およびその家族との出会いであり、今日まで続く家族ぐるみの「国際交流」の始まりである。

カンサス州立大学にはちょうど2年いた。2年目の終わりに、

Dr. Heyne からカナダのマニトバ大学へポストドクトラル・フェローとして行くよう勧められたからである。思い返してみると、カンサスでのこの2年間は、もっとも勉学に集中できた期間であり、研究者として自覚が確立した時期であった。ときどき、この時期を振り返って、自分にとって海外留学とは何であったかを考える。それは次のようなことである。

- (1)勉学に集中できた：日本では、自分をとり巻くいろいろの「しがらみ」があり、それから抜け出すことが難しかった。これが、勉学に集中するための障害となった。海外に出ることにより自然にこの「しがらみ」から解放された。ただし、留学先で同じような「しがらみ」を作らないよう注意した。
- (2)英語が修得できた：英語を日本で学ぶことは、時間的にも金銭的にも、負担が大きく、難しかった。英語のレッスンにかなり投資したが、効果がなかった。留学したら、毎日が英語の研修だったから、進歩が早く、そのうち、英語で夢をみるようになった。ただし、日本の友人といっしょに下宿することになったとき、互いに約束して、外では日本語を絶対使わないようにした。
- (3)外国の友人・知人とともに成長する：主に帰国後のことになるが、留学先でできた友人・知人は、自分の人生にとっても何にも代えられない宝となった。これら友人・知人の学問的成長によって、自分自身も自然に成長することが分かった。
- (4)他国についての理解：日本においても外国の情報はいろいろと入ってくる。しかし、米国に留学して、この国についての自分の理解がいろいろ間違っていることにすぐ気づいた。1つの国や民族を本当に理解するには、その中に入り、個々の人にふれる必要があることを痛感した。

以上、自分自身の留学で得た経験を綴った。日本に来ておられる留学生、また日本から海外へ留学される方に、「他山の石」（他の山からとれたつまらない石でも、自分の宝石を磨くには役立つという中国の諺）となれば幸いである。



JT(日本たばこ産業株式会社) 関西工場で製造工程等の説明を受ける参加留学生(平成6年5月に実施したバス見学。巻頭言の内容とは関係ありません。)



Reminiscences of Kyoto

Nick G. Guanzon, Jr.

(Division of Tropical Agriculture)
The Philippines

It was my first time in Japan thus, a new world and new challenges came into my life. Although I was the only Filipino student who will enter Kyoto University for that particular year and semester, I didn't experience so much trouble in coming here. The language barrier was the only problem I had. Everything was well arranged and facilitated (e.g. housing, transportation etc.) by Monbusho. I spent my first night at Osaka airport and came here by taxi the following day. When I arrived at Shugakuin International House at noon time, I felt nervous and uneasy because the place was very quiet and I didn't see anybody around. I proceeded to the hallway and kept on muttering to myself: "What kind of world is this? This is such a lonely place! I can't survive in this kind of world!" If I have wings, I had flown back to the Philippines. Without my knowledge, somebody from the office who saw me through the small glass window of the door came out to rescue me. He interviewed me for a while. We then went to the room which was reserved for me. I brought all my belongings into my room and went out to get familiar with the place and to look for a restaurant. I was so hungry! I wanted to eat that very moment ... anything! Since I was a stranger to the place and didn't have any knowledge of Nihongo, I wasn't able to find a restaurant. Instead, I went to the vending machine nearby and had a can of hot coffee for lunch. That lunch wasn't exact my idea of fine dining Japanese style. But what can I do? At that very second, I started to realize why some people call Japan a "*shikata ga nai, kuni*" After drinking my lunch (And boy was it a BIG lunch, all 100 ml of it!), I went back to the dormitory and asked from the office if there were some Filipino students residing in the dormitory. Fortunately, there were some Filipino residents but all of them were out. So, I waited 'til evening. When I met them that night, all my doubts, insecurities and fears vanished. It must have been the familiar language. "Hola kamusta ka na ... welcome to Kyoto" (Notice that we Filipinos are very fond of mixing languages. Not we don't care for linguistic purity. It's just that we're quite comfortable in multiethnic and multicultural environments). On the next day, I went to Kyoto University accompanied by my new Filipino friend (who edited this text for me, by the way) to meet my professor and to comply with all the requirements of the university at the Foreign Student Service Office. I received a very warm welcome from my professors and colleagues. Since I couldn't communicate in Nihongo, I used English in conversing with them. I also smiled a lot. Sometimes beautiful teeth help. I was very glad and didn't feel isolated because all of them could speak and understand English well. Thereafter, I was able to manage my affairs independently.

As days, weeks and months passed by, I adjusted to the Japanese way of life. I was able to learn and speak the language gradually. I learned to love and eat the Japanese food. Most of them are very delicious and nutritious. I enjoyed eating them except for *natto*, a fermented soybean. Although it is a very healthful food, I can't take its taste and smell. I think the genetic engineers should do something about this problem. Nobel prize in the waiting? My favorite Japanese food are *sushi*, *sashimi*, *sukiyaki*, *tempura* and *nabe*. It was also my first experience to use chopsticks because in my country we are using spoon and fork or sometimes with our hands. At first, it was very difficult and it took

me a long time to finish eating all my food. But through constant practise, I was able to master the "art" of using it.

Kyoto is really a very conducive place for study. There are lots of beautiful sceneries around and fresh air to breath. The city is surrounded by mountains covered with trees. The rivers and canals are clean: a veritable sanctuary of many kinds of birds and other animals such as fish, newt and tortoise. The streets and sidewalks are free from garbage and potholes which cause obstruction to motorists and pedestrians. It has no problems of pollution and flooding. The pace of life is relatively slow and calm. It is not as busy compared to some other major cities in Japan. There are a lot of places to visit which are of great interest (e.g. temples, shrines, zoo, botanical garden etc.). Every springtime, I look forward to that wonderful experience of viewing the cherry blossom trees everywhere.

"Like cascades of pink
Connecting heaven and earth
The weeping cherry"

They are very beautiful especially when they are at their peak. During autumn, I had also a nice time sightseeing. I am and will always be fascinated by the changing colors of maple leaves especially when there is sunlight. It is very exciting to watch the red, orange, purple and gold leaves blown by the wind.

"Maple leaves of red
of orange, purple and gold
Set the hills on fire"

There are also a lot of fruits to eat during this season. In summer, although it is very hot and humid, I enjoy watching festivals which can be traced back to ancient times. Of the four seasons of the year, I hate winter the most. The winter of 1991 was my first time to see a real snow because I grew up in a tropical country with only two seasons — the dry or summer and the wet or rainy seasons. At first, I was very excited to watch the snow flakes falling from the sky. However, excitement disappeared when I realized the unimaginable cold that the season brought. In order to warm myself and not to get sick, I wore many layers of clothes which were heavy and uncomfortable. It took me a long time to get dressed. I looked like a rooster ready for a fight in the cockpit. I couldn't even compare my clothing with that of the 12 layered *kimono* of the Heian period. I suppose heaters were not yet around.

At the university, I had a great time doing my research activities together with my professors and fellow students. Working condition was good because all my subordinates were very accommodating, understanding and kind. Laboratory facilities and supplies were well provided. This encouraged everyone to do independent research. During my free time, I enjoy playing badminton or softball with my colleagues and fellow foreign students.

During my first 3 years in Kyoto, I had the opportunity to visit other places in Japan through the generosity of Monbusho arranged by the Foreign Student Service Office or by the Foreign Student Advisor's Office of the Faculty of Agriculture. These trips afforded me to see some of the gorgeous places in Japan and exposed me to different aspects of Japanese culture and tradition.

Coming from a developing country where 70% of the people live below the poverty line (I definitely belonged to this social class before coming to Japan), I was amazed with the quality of life in Japan. Transportation and communication systems are very efficient. Everybody is busy everyday trying to cope with the high standard of living. I didn't see beggars and idle people which are a common scene in the streets of most developing countries. The crime rate is very low and it is a very safe place to live. Moreover, there's an abundance of food everywhere and the people are enjoying a comfortable lifestyle. The government is sincere and has a great concern with the people. Although most of the people have an air of conservatism, they are honest with their dealing, well

disciplined, very polite, industrious and optimistic about their future. All the citizens seem to have a feeling of contentment.

The above stories are my recollections of my 3-year stay as a foreign student at Kyoto University and some of my frank impressions about Japanese and Kyoto City based on my actual observations and experiences. I will cherish all these precious moments in my life after I finished my studies. And, I will be very happy to share all these memorable experiences to my family, friends and colleagues back home.



Japan in My Eyes

H. M. Zakaria

(Division of Agricultural Engineering)
Bangladesh)

Similar to other foreign students, I faced some difficulties upon arriving in Japan, since this was my first experience to go abroad. Last year, on 16th January 1993 at 8 am I arrived at Osaka airport. From Osaka airport to Kyoto University I did not face any problems as Mr. ISHII, now a Doctor's Course student in our laboratory, had kindly received me at the airport. However, in the afternoon after exchanging warm greetings with my sensei, I was informed that a room had been reserved for me in a hotel named "CO-OP KYOTO" for two days. I also received two maps, one on how to get to the hotel and the other one from hotel to the University. On those days, I realized how hard the English pronunciation of Japanese sounded. For example, I should say "shinguru" instead of "single", otherwise some of the Japanese do not understand. On 18th January 1993 when I was going to Kyoto University from the hotel, I took a taxi. The taxi driver dropped me in front of the Clock Tower. It was regrettable that, I was not able to go to my laboratory, eventhough I tried to ask several people for help but no one could show me the direction, at that time. Then I showed the document of the Department of Agricultural Engineering to a person who was trying to help me, he telephoned my Professor and I was then received by an officer of Foreign Student Section (F.S.S.). The problem was then solved.

After two months in Japan, on March 1993, I got the opportunity to visit Kanazawa City mainly for a holiday and sight-seeing arranged by F.S.S. of Kyoto University. Yes, that trip was a very interesting one. I had learnt a lot but it is rather difficult for me to note down all those beautiful and exciting experiences in brief. An example is Kenrokuen, a garden of combination of six attributes still bearing the memories of the Maedas, one of the most feudal families in the samurai era. Fortunately again, in November I got the chance to visit Hiroshima and Hagi City for three days. Oh! Hiroshima! The word which I had heard when I was a primary school student and from that time, it was painted in my mind to visit that place and to know what actually had happened on that particular day. The city, once devastated on August 6, 1945, with the Atomic Bomb, "the Dome" at the center of the Hiroshima, still bears the memories of the horrors of the World War II. I will never forget the photographs and pictorial records of the Atomic Bombing which I had seen at the museum in the Peace Memorial Park, Hiroshima. I was very surprised when I visited the Hagi City especially while walking into the natural underground footway. Really, that is the "Goddess of Mercy" and the conservation of the natural resources and beauty is really great and beyond the imagination of how efficiently the people of Japan are taking care of it.

I am delighted to mention here that within this short period of stay, I also had the opportunity to visit some gorgeous places like

Tokyo, Chiba, Okayama and Gifu prefectures as well as different cities of Kansai area and though all the places are interesting and worthwhile experiences but I feel the greatest impact from Kyoto. Kyoto City is surrounded by beautiful mountains, the City exudes the atmosphere of glory and splendor of Japan's ancient culture. I had heard before that the largest number of holy temples are in Kyoto where people performed the prayers to their God. The most wonderful temples, not only increase the beauty of the city but also act as protection of the natural calamities. During the World War II, there was no reason given during the news coverage as to why Kyoto had been spared. If asked about the cause, people might answer that God helped to protect Kyoto.

In spite of my very short experience in Japan I am bound to wonder at the extent of the manifest success of the Japanese economy, the good nature, the sacrifices, and the great openness of the Japanese to the different ways of others. The resolution of Japanese people to internationalize their own meeting by conducting them in English, facilitating the participation of visitors from neighboring Asian countries and from further afields must be applauded. Educated Japanese women, particularly, might favor the good-oriented approach to professional work which permits a much freer choice of lifestyle on the part of the employee. I am really grateful to this society. Not only the people but also the Japanese Government has swiftly responded to the new wave such as to offer more and more financial aid to international organizations, to accept increasingly foreign students in Universities and to offer unprecedented postdoctoral fellowships to the foreign researchers, to launch and fund big and ambitious projects aimed at promoting basic research and technological innovations and to open its markets.

Lastly, I would like to express my opinion that when I was a graduate student in the University of my country, it was my plan to go to Japan as it is a newly developed country and establishing peace all over the world.

交流の歩み (7)



Why Students Choose to Study Abroad? and Why at Kyoto University?

A. Bob Karnuak

(Division of Animal Science)
Liberia)

On many occasions both in the University and in other places, many of my colleagues, both foreign and Japanese students, likewise some Professors normally ask me, why did you choose to study abroad, of course referring to Japan, and then with a follow up, why at Kyoto University? At times I tried to answer these interesting questions, but there is always not enough time for detailed explanations. So, I would like to share my views on these questions with you all.

Study abroad and related migration of scholars and professional is a pervasive phenomenon dating back as early as 300-500 B.C. when intellectuals migrated to Athens. In subsequent countries, there were similar migrations to major intellectual centers such as Alexandria, Rome, etc.

Most literature on study abroad has focused on only two principal issues: a) the problem of cultural adjustment for students from developing countries who go to the industrial countries such as the United States, United Kingdom, Japan, etc. and b) the so-called BRAIN DRAIN. Frankly, studying abroad has more to it than just those two issues, and also it has both positive and negative aspects. For this time, I could like to focus attention on

the positive aspect in four counts.

1) Development of Technical Skills: One of the common arguments for studying abroad is that it is a mechanism for acquiring important technical skills relevant to development. This has been the major motivation for fellowship and scholarship programs which that of JICA and MONBUSHO are of no exception.

2) Political Development: Overseas experience can be a major stimulant fostering social change. Experience in other political, cultural, social and economic environment, like that of Japan can be a powerful motivating force. The memories of African early nationalist leaders such as Nkrumah and Azikiwe indicate that it was while abroad that they developed their strong determination to work for the independence of their countries in the common interest of their regions. Similarly, key Asian leaders like Ho Chi Minh, Chou EN-Lai and Chen YI developed revolutionary consciousness while studying in France.

3) Development of Regional Consciousness and Greater Sensitivity to the Need for Cultural Democracy: While studying abroad, like we the foreign students in Japan, often become familiar with various culture from our region and become more conscious of our identity. For example, "African Identity" or a "Southeast Asian Identity", thereby developing multicultural, regional and international identity.

4) Enhancement of Mobility Opportunities: Overseas study can be an important factor in upward social mobility. The prestige of overseas study can in some cases compensate for 'deficiencies' in socioeconomic background. In societies where both educational and occupational opportunities may be limited for certain cultural minorities, overseas study like such in Japan can be an important source for mobility.

Why did I choose to study at Kyoto University

It is the fact that MONBUSHO provides the fund for studying at Kyoto University for a large majority of the foreign students with the exception of some privately supported students, but before seeking for MONBUSHO sponsorship, the student already had at the back of his or her mind which higher Institution of learning in he or she wishes to enter in Japan.

In selecting a school or University abroad for that matter, we have to bear in mind our objective and plan for the future. Different individuals have different criteria for selecting a University. On my part, emphasis were on the followings: a) Curriculum content, b) quality of the University, c) research facilities and d) location.

Kyoto University has been and continue to be one of the best and leading Universities in Sciences and Technology both in Japan and internationally. Greater advancement of high technology in agricultural research, including Animal Science, inspired me to study at Kyoto University. Having the confidence that studying and doing research at Kyoto University will better prepare me in my area of concentration, thereby affording me the opportunity to learn newly developed technology, methods and know how.

Location and setting of any learning Institution plays a very important role in the learning process. Living in Kyoto, this historic city under conducive atmosphere, clean and calm; less populated and equally so among the friendly people of Kyoto goes a longer way in making one feel home away from home.

What are the expectations?

Japan has grown into a world economic power due to its group of hard working people. They are taught and trained to believe that the benefits of the society is more important than the individual's. Also due to its well planned research activities which has gain momentum and produced wonderful results which Kyoto University is one of the major contributors. This is what every student at Kyoto University, including myself would like to copy the example (s), try to understand how the system works, and to be

able to apply it in some way upon returning to our respective countries.

In conclusion, international study and co-operation feeds many aspirations, stimulates minds and enlarges experiences. At its base lies the belief that each country has much to learn from others if we approach research work and study with open and inquiring minds.

留学生室ニュース

新入留学生のためのオリエンテーションと歓迎パーティー

今年度は34名の新入留学生を迎え、4月12日に恒例のオリエンテーションと歓迎パーティーを開催しました。オリエンテーションに引き続き、歓迎パーティーは農学部大会議室において約175名の参加をえて盛大に行われました。農学部国際交流推進後援会の援助の他、アサヒビール、京大生協、キリンビール、月桂冠、サッポロビール、サントリー、雪印乳業から御高配を賜りました。ここに記して感謝いたします。

農学部国際交流推進後援会の会員加入について

本年も6月に平成6年度の会員加入のお願いを御案内しました。この呼び掛けに対して学内および学外の多くの方々（8月末日現在で143名、3団体）からご賛同を頂いております。なお、同後援会についてのお問い合わせは留学生室宛にお願いします。

ア・ラ・カ・ル・ト

私費外国人留学生の大学院修士課程入試状況

平成7年度京都大学大学院農学研究科修士課程入学考査では、農林生物学専攻1名、農業工学専攻2名、農林経済学専攻2名、水産学専攻1名の計6名の私費外国人留学生が合格しました。

ウィスコンシン大学への派遣留学生の決定

平成6年度文部省学生交流制度に基づく農学部からのウィスコンシン大学への派遣留学生は農芸化学専攻の修士課程在籍中の1名に決まりました。



竹内芳親教授から灌漑実験とその施設について説明を受ける参加留学生（於：鳥取大学乾燥地研究センター、平成6年7月に実施した見学旅行）

発行所 京都市左京区北白川追分町
京都大学農学部留学生室
電話 (075)753-6298, 6299

印刷所 京都市上京区下立売通小川東入
中西印刷株式会社
電話 (075)441-3155~8