

# **Strategic Young Researcher Overseas Visits Program for Accelerating Brain Circulation An Introduction**

## **1. International Joint-Research**

### **• Content**

A process of historical formation and cultural creativity of East Asian cities are discussed from the perspective of comparative history on the primary axis of Chinese urban history and the secondary axis of Japanese and Korean urban history. With regard to this discussion, we established the following framework : "The Phase of formation and transformation of urban cultures" (until 16th century) as the first phase; "The Phase of maturity of urban cultures" (17 to 19th centuries) as the second phase; and "The Phase of urban cultures in globalization" (19th century to the present) as the third phase.

As to the discussion on the first and second phases, we not only supplement studies on various problems such as cultural maturity in urban settings and movement in remote areas that have not been fully discussed in Chinese urban history in the early modern period but also analyze Japanese urban history centering on the city of Osaka and the trend of Korean cities (Republic of Korea). On the basis of this analysis, we reconstitute the historical development of East Asian cities in pre-modern period.

Specifically, we focus on the trend of social groups in urban settings, comparing traditional cities in Japan and Korea where regional ties to their communities are strengthened with Chinese cities where hierarchical spatial fluidity is more prevalent. We also utilize contract and legal documents to understand the actual situation of social groups for in-depth research on the groups, and then examine what unique urban cultures they have created.

As to the discussion on the third phase, we examine how traditional cities that were formed in China, Korea and Japan have been forced to transform under globalization and what challenges modern cities are facing. Since the 19<sup>th</sup> century, cities with a segmented structure seemingly have begun to transform themselves into enormous homogenized spaces. Meanwhile, there is an increasing tendency not only to accept these homogeneous trends under globalization but also to strategically utilize traditional cultures that have been fostered in each city and region.

We explore how social groups that were formed in traditional East Asian cities and their created cultures have been transformed since the modern and contemporary period, and also examine the accumulated culture and creativity of cities during the process of transformation from traditional to modern cities.

#### ▪ **Methodology**

In order to successfully promote international joint-research as mentioned above, we establish a steering committee for "Strategic Young Researcher Overseas Visits Program for Vitalizing Brain Circulation" and conduct planning and management in cooperation with the Urban-Culture Research Center. For further research, we have divided the research organization consisting of principal researchers and assistant researchers into two sessions as follows: I "Formation and maturity of the urban culture" and II "Urban culture in globalization". In session I, we examine the first and second phases of the urban cultures (refer to the above section) and in the session II, we focus on the third phase of the urban cultures, respectively.

For this examination, we dispatch principal researchers and others to cities in China and Korea every year so that they can engage in field surveys and collect material. Researchers also visit the University of Minnesota, Yale University and the University of Illinois to investigate research progress on East Asian cities in English speaking countries.

We hold individual seminars to discuss issues in each section as well as international joint-seminars at Osaka City University by inviting researchers from overseas cooperative research institutes including The Research Center bases on The Subject of Modern Chinese History, History Department of Shanghai Normal University; Center for Korean Studies at Pusan National University; The University of Seoul and Institute of Modern History, Academia Sinica, Taiwan. These seminars are also held in the research institutes mentioned above for further international research exchanges. In addition, we invite American researchers to these seminars who have made remarkable research contributions to Chinese urban history. We publish integrated reports containing these research contributions so that junior researchers can develop their own careers.

Concurrently with these investigations and research, we are compiling a "Bibliographical Database on East Asian Cities" and a "Database on Historical Materials of East Asia" which will represent a database of papers and historical materials on East Asian Cities. We are aiming to release the databases on our web site to contribute to the research in this field.

#### ▪ **Features**

Studies on urban history of East Asia have rapidly progressed over the past twenty years and have resulted in many contributions to research. However, most of this research involved sole concentration in an individual period, or focused on a particular country only, , thus a broader approach based on comparative history, which is designed to understand how East Asian cities have developed as a whole, has not been established. Accordingly, this research project hypothetically offers a framework of historical phases of East Asian cities so that we can understand the overall process of their historical formation.

For this study, we chronologically divide the history of these cities into two phases, "Formation and maturity of the urban culture" and "Urban culture under globalization", and organize sessions

corresponding to each phase, after which we intensively examine this history in cooperation with researchers at overseas cooperative research institutes. This allows us to analyze them from an international perspective. Promoting the transnational collaborative research in the modern era when the world is becoming homogenized under globalization could assist us in solving many of the common problems facing East Asian Cities.

Additionally, we encourage junior fellows who focus on Japanese history, society and culture, except for dispatched researchers, to acquire international perspectives on their research through the research presentations at international joint seminars as well as the communication with overseas researchers. We actively inform researchers in the field of Japanese studies, researchers who tend to remain within the confines of their area of expertise, of the significance of international joint-research and encourage them to acquire its methodology.

## **2. Long-Term Overseas Deployment of Junior Researchers**

### **▪ Outline of the Program**

We dispatch junior fellows who are UCRC postdoctoral fellows or graduate students in the doctoral course, the Graduate School of Literature and Human Sciences, Osaka City University to The Research Center bases on The Subject of Modern Chinese History, History Department of Shanghai Normal University; Institute of Modern History, Academia Sinica, Taiwan; Center for Korean Studies at Pusan National University; and Department of Urban Sociology, College of Urban Science, The University of Seoul. This program will cooperate with research projects in the two sessions mentioned above.

The steering committee for the "Strategic Young Researcher Overseas Visits Program for Vitalizing Brain Circulation" recruits applicants and selects suitable candidates via a rigorous screening process. The result of the screening is reported to the faculty council of the Graduate

School of Literature and Human Sciences, Osaka City University to obtain its approval.

Dispatched researchers are required not only to attend the activities to share their research findings (briefing sessions, etc.) after the period is completed but also to contribute their findings to "Studies in Urban Cultures", an academic journal published by the Urban-Culture Research Center or other academic journals of their research fields.

▪ **Purpose / Content**

In China, Taiwan, and Korea, junior fellows can engage in investigation and research from a unique academic perspective and study first-hand the latest research progress, receive instruction from the highest-level researchers at each research institute. With exposure to making presentations of their research findings at seminars held at Osaka City University and international joint seminars given in respective countries, junior researchers have the opportunity to become involved in multilateral research activities in order to acquire international experience and a global perspective. They are also expected to explore a new research genre utilizing their findings in their own research activities.

▪ **Profiles of the Four Overseas Cooperative Research Institutes**

▪ Center for Korean Studies at Pusan National University

Since its establishment in 1994, the center has continued the research in the field of Korean studies and regional studies, in particular, having done outstanding research concerning Pusan and its peripheral areas. The Center also analyzes Japanese buildings in the pre-modern period and colonial cities in the modern period, etc. Recently, they have promoted regional studies involving localities and have actively held international symposiums related to the topic and published their research activities. The center is equipped with many facilities for urban studies such as academic research and research papers.

▪ Department of Urban Sociology, College of Urban Science, The University of Seoul

The department has made remarkable contributions in international comparative studies of urban sociology.

- The Research Center bases on The Subject of Modern Chinese History, History Department of Shanghai Normal University.

The center is a key research institute of humanities and social sciences in Shanghai and is authorized as "Urban Culture Research Center", the key research institute of humanities and social sciences by the Ministry of Education of China. The center employs researchers who can analyze a wide range of issues regarding JiangNan society from various perspectives, including relations between Suzhou and Huizhou merchants, intellectuals, secret societies in Shanghai, an opiate problem, various social groups, anti-Japanese movements, comparison of cities (Shanghai and Tokyo), relations between the Shanghainese people and the Fujianese, folk religion, industrial production, Shanghai tabloids and Ping Tan.

- Institute of Modern History, Academia Sinica, Taiwan

In April, 2005, the institute established "The Chinese Urban History Research Group" for cross-sectional studies on each specialty. The institute, as a core of this group, has promoted the research related to urban history. They have held international symposiums and produced publications regarding cities. In addition, they are engaged in projects such as the "Geographic Information System of Modern Chinese Cities", geographical data processing systems of Shanghai, Suzhou and Beijing, and the collection and analysis of "tabloids" published in cities during the Republic of China period.