

Report for Institutional Program for Younger Researcher Overseas Visits, 2010
Center for Southeast Asian Studies
Kyoto University

Name : Retno Kusumaningtyas	Date : Day/ 8 Month/ 2 Year/ 2011
Position in CSEAS : Postdoctoral * Check an appropriate entry (Lecturer · Assistant Professor · Research Assistant <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Postdoctoral · Ph. D. Student · Master's Student · Undergraduate Student)	
Host Institute (Counterpart, Institute and Country) : Mr. Ahmad Muhammad from the Department of Biology, Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, Riau University, Indonesia. *Circle the appropriate entry for host institute <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> University · Research Institute · Company · Others)	
Term : (Day/ 7 Month/ 12 Year/ 2010) ~ (Day/ 6 Month/ 2 Year/ 2011) (62 Days)	
Research Purpose: * Check any appropriate entries. ① Research/ Laboratory Work <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ② Fieldwork ③ Seminar ④ Internship ⑤ Take course or class ⑥ Attend Academic Meeting ⑦ Earn credits ⑧ Other	
Research Area: * Circle the appropriate entry. ① Humanities ② Social Sciences ③ Mathematics and Physics <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ④ Chemistry ⑤ Engineering ⑥ Biology ⑦ Agriculture ⑧ Medical Science, Pharmacy and Dentistry ⑨ Integral Area of Studies ⑩ New Multidiscipline	
Outline of Overseas Visits (About 300~400 words) The initial phase of the field research was mostly done in North Sumatra Province. The focus of my research actually is only directed at migrant communities in Riau Province, which is located in the middle of the island of Sumatra. But I feel the need to also conduct surveys to the area where the majority of migrant communities coming from, which is North Sumatra Province. Travel to this area was expected to give an idea about the state of society in the area of origin of the migrant communities in Riau Province. The surveyed area in the North Sumatra Province is in the Indrapura Regency and some neighboring sub-districts. With the help of a migrant who has settled in Riau province I visited some relatives and parents of the generations before him who lived in the area of Indrapura. In addition to the orientation of the field, I have conducted interviews to 10 families. The conversation during the interviews are discussing on the topics surrounding the stories from the beginning of their arrival in North Sumatra Province. All respondents interviewed during the survey were originated from Java. Before conducting further field studies in Riau Province, I spent one week in Jakarta. One week in Jakarta was spent to prepare the next field trip, and to visit the office of the Ministry of Manpower and Transmigration in South Jakarta. A staff of the Ministry of Manpower and Transmigration was interviewed. He can be considered as a good source to understand the Transmigration Project in Indonesia today, however he was not familiar with specific issues in Riau province. The next phase of the field studies was traveling to Riau province, sub-district of Bunga Raya in Siak Regency. In this area, migrants from Java island settled through the transmigration project sponsored by the Government of Riau Province. The transmigration project was originally intended to provide a rice-producing region that was expected to become main suppliers of rice demand in the province. In spite of this, in the recent years many community members have changed their rice fields into oil palm plantations. This activity actually does not get the justification of the local government and now is prohibited to convert paddy fields into oil palm plantations. The survey was conducted to obtain information regarding the management of rice fields and also oil palm plantations. Questions were asked about the economy of oil palm plantation and why today the community preferred to manage oil palm over the rice field that they originally had before.	
Research Achievement on this Program (300~400 Words) Migrant communities in the Indrapura Region, North Sumatra were mostly from Central Java, to be precise, from the region near the border between Central Java and West Java. There are two generations of migrants have been identified, the old generation: who came to this area in the period of Dutch rule in the early 19th century, and the second-generation: who came to this area when the expansion of large plantations in the province occurred in early 1980s. Migrant communities in this region can be said as successful migrants. This can be seen from the level of welfare of their livelihood is quite high. Groups of migrant from the older generation started their activities in this region by developing rubber plantations. Groups of migrant who arrived in the 1980's started their activities by developing rubber plantation and some of them also started by developing oil palm plantation. Currently, all migrants manages oil palm plantations, and there are some who also still maintain rubber plantation in addition to their oil palm plantation. The economy of managing oil palm plantation management is very attractive for the migrant community in the Riau Province. On average, oil palm grower who has at least two hectares of plantation can have a relatively decent life in this province. This fact has been widely supported by the establishment of infrastructures that support for the development of palm oil industries in almost all regions of the province. The establishment of crude palm oil (CPO) mills, which are fairly spread in all regions, is one factor that trigger the booming of the expansion of oil palm plantations. Global demand and market price of palm oil, which is very attractive at this time, ensures the development of this industry will not subside in the next few years. On the other hand, the distribution chain of oil palm harvest into palm oil industries has also been in-placed. Thus, oil palm growers do not need troublesome efforts to market their production. These conditions have made the migrant communities in Bunga Raya Sub-district prefer to develop oil palm plantation instead of the wet paddy fields. This is also coupled with the fact that the development of wet rice in this region is limited by the condition of the ecosystem. The water in this area tends to have low pH (acid) and the water availability is also very limited, This condition led to low rice production, which is very detrimental to the farmers.	