

## COMPLETION REPORT

The Invisible College among Japanese Scholars in Asia

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### **Research Summary**

The notion of invisible college connotes academic space beyond the physicality of universities where the life of the mind exists and thrives to produce knowledge-relations and knowledge/information-based societies. It is a cultural domain as this study explores Japanese scholars' journeys into differences of race, language, traditions, beliefs and practices in Asia. It is psychosocial at the same time where Japanese scholars learn and experience adjustment and adaptability in an environment away from home as they pursue their scholarly and scientific pursuits. This study delves into the formation of networks, linkages and informal ties of Japanese scholars as they went and stayed here and elsewhere in Asia through exchange programs, fellowship grants, research projects, conferences and scientific gatherings. The study also goes deeper in understanding the extent of scholarship of Japanese scholars in Asia by analyzing bibliographic data from SCOPUS and JSTOR journal publications.

### **Bibliographic Study and Analysis Using SCOPUS and JSTOR**

The final data produced 691 journal articles. Most notably, 74% of these are Japanese studies on Japan or 510 Scopus articles and 26% are Japanese studies on Asia or 181. This paper then limited the focus of the study in the 181 scholarly papers published by Japanese researchers on topics all about Asia. The dominant academic field is economics with a total of 94 published articles under that discipline, which covers 52% of the total publications. Followed by international relations, this academic field has 18 outputs or 10% yield. Next are political science and multidisciplinary studies with 14, 13 outputs or 8%, 7% yield, respectively. Sociology and psychology captured 11, 10 outputs or 6 and 5.5 %, respectively. Within proximity Japan closely studies its neighbors. The next countries Thailand, Indonesia, Philippines, Singapore, Malaysia and Vietnam in that order are all from Southeast Asia.

Using JSTOR as a measuring tool is considered a different method because it is a combination of online generated data and manual screening/selection of data. First off, we need to access the JSTOR site and punch in the search terms: Japanese Scholars + Asia. Then key in 1960 to 2014 for the date range, English for language. It took several weeks or exactly 32 weeks (8 months) to finally download and read all articles based on the qualifiers stated above. With that a total of 523 articles have been screened and selected for this study. Most of the articles are studies of Japanese scholars in Japan comprising 53% (277 articles) and the 47% are studies of Japanese on Asia (233 articles). Out of the 233 articles analyzed, Japanese studies on Asia has produced 148 exclusive articles. Spread in 41 years, it produced an average of 3.6 articles per year. The year 2006 yielded 8 articles, the highest year of production, followed by 2007 which resulted to 5 published articles. The dominant discipline in JSTOR as far as Japanese studies on Asia is concerned is history with 54% share (40 articles) followed by economics with 9% (7 articles), sociology with 8% (6 articles) and education with 5% (4 articles).

### **Interview Results – Personal and Cultural Notes of Japanese Scholars**

Japanese scholars interviewed: Masanao Oue-sensei of Osaka University, Saya Kiba of Japanese Embassy in Bangkok, Kusaka Wataru of Kyoto University, Kunio Tanako of Tokyo University & NHK TV, Atsumasa Nagato of Kyoto University.

Indeed among Japanese scholars, Asia has become a fertile ground of their imagined and actual invisible colleges. It is an intellectual pursuit where great minds meet and converge and as time goes by because of the rise of information technology and the cultural openness and mutual collaborations in the region, Japanese scholars in Asia have become now a major pillar so to speak to influence society, our way of thinking and our condition of living freely and cooperatively between and among Asians.

#### Publication of the Results of Research Project:

Verbal Presentation (Date, Venue, Name of Conference, Title of Presentation, Presenter, etc.) N/A
Thesis (Name of Journal and its Date, Title and Author of Thesis, etc.) N/A
Book (Publisher and Date of the Book, Title and Author of the Book, etc.) N/A