

CONFERENCE REPORT

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The Conference tour to Okinawa organized by ICU and JICA for 2008 alumni JDS fellows was very productive and useful for me. First of all, I could get much helpful and practical information during the Conference, concerning to making and presenting research works. Some of those information and data I can use in writing my Master Thesis. Secondly, due to this tour we have a chance to visit one of the most attractive and mysterious place of Japan - Okinawa. Finally, during the tour I made a many new friends, and it was a good opportunity to know better the other JDS fellows.

During the conference there were not so many lectures in English. However, even among a few lectures presented in English were very interesting ones. Below, I will describe some of them.

The paper "Contribution of Knowledge and Agglomeration Economies to Economic Growth in OECD Countries " presented by Tatiana Khomiakova, the 3rd year PhD student from Nagoya University, focused on examination the key determinants of economic growth in the OECD member states at the modern innovation-driven stage of development. The results conformed, that knowledge and agglomeration economies represent sources of economic growth in OECD countries for the period 1990-2004.

The next research, presented by Wawan Juswanto from Graduate School of Nagoya University, was about the government expenditure on education in Indonesia. This paper focused on the incidence of government expenditure on education in Indonesia. The Indonesian government is responsible for financing education and ensuring that each citizen is entitled to education and must participate in basic education. Moreover, the constitution says that 20% of the state budget must be spent on education, but it has never been reached. In 2007, the year of the highest share of education spending in Indonesia's state budget history, it was still about 11.9 percent of total budget. Lector tried to answer the next following research questions: a. How is the incidence of expenditure on education to each different segment of population? How much does the poor actually benefit from public education spending?

The presentation "Analysis of Public Basic Education Policy and Local Realities: The Case of Yemen" made by Toyohiko Yogo from Graduate School of International Cooperation Studies, KOBE University, also was very interesting. In 2002, the Ministry of

Education of the Republic of Yemen has developed its first Public Policy for Basic Education, the National Basic Education Development Strategy (2003-2015, BEDS), in order to set the country itself to reform and expand the benefit from Education. The main objectives of this study are to examine the BEDS impact of the BEDS through the process of implantation and requirements for the further improvement of Yemeni Basic Education Development.

During the conference there were also many other interesting presentations. However, due to the limitations of the report I could not describe all of them.

Making a conclusion, I want to say that the conference in whole was very interesting. Thanks a lot for organizers of our tour to this conference. Also I want to mention, that we are lucky by having our coordinator Mr. Hasegawa. He is personally very nice and friendly person. He was also excellent group leader. Hasegawa-san, thank you very much!