

'Museum and University Collaboration: Training Museum Professionals'

Dr Ogawa Yoshikazu at the National Museum of Nature and Science Tokyo (Kahaku) hosted my JSPS Fellowship for 40 days from 3<sup>rd</sup> January until 12 February 2013. At Kahaku, my base, I was provided with my own desk next to Dr Ogawa's and made to feel a valued part of the education team from the outset. Overall twenty-three discussion meetings with Kahaku staff were arranged during the Fellowship, to exchange ideas and compare the different ways of working in the UK and Japan. I was especially pleased to observe educational activities in process, notably part of the undergraduate training program for museum curators, which included guided visits to Exploration Spaces such as the Woodland Wonder and the Hands-on Experiments Galleries at Kahaku.

Beyond Kahaku Ogawa Sensei had planned the research meticulously. He accompanied me on all research trips to heritage, museum and university sites in: Tokyo, Tsukuba, Hokkaido, Osaka, Kyoto, Kanagawa and Fukuoka. Excellent planning enabled me to engage in extensive discussions, deliver lectures and workshops on the theme of collaboration and training at twenty-six educational venues. Following these research visits we produced our first joint research paper comparing the Japanese and British approaches to the training the museum professionals. Outside of this, my main academic research theme for JSPS, Dr Ogawa facilitated a seminar for museum professionals attending the Japan Museum Management Academy (JMMA) Winter Meeting on the theme of 'Controversy, Stereotype and Humour in Museums', which prove immensely interesting in highlighting the distinctive Japanese, British and American views on these subjects.

Finally I would like to offer some tips for effective working in a Japanese research environment and for living in Japan generally. In my experience Japanese people are very kind and patient, so being in Japan I urge Fellows to practice Japanese, with colleagues at the JSPS host site and at every opportunity outside of the workplace, at restaurants, temples, shrines and at the onsen (hot springs). My Japanese host and his team invited me to all of the after work meetings, including a bowling trip, where while my score was bottom of the whole group, perhaps my performance the most amusing! When we try to improve our language skills we gain a better understanding of each other, how we think and see the world, along the way. In other words, spending time together with Japanese people in Japan, we can come to appreciate our common humanity, respectfully, through our differences.



Dr. Golding delivering a lecture at Meiji University



Dr. Golding working with colleagues at the National Museum of Nature and Science, Tokyo