

Session 1: Trend of Geographical Studies in Japan and India

**Area Studies and Geography:
Case of Hiroshima University's Geographical Research on India**

Hidenori OKAHASHI*

*Hiroshima University

Nowadays, overseas area studies occupy an important place in the academic world, as globalisation is rapidly on the rise, sometimes causing serious conflicts in many parts of the world. Geography, which has a long tradition of being engaged in foreign studies as part of regional geography, is in particular required to collaborate with other disciplines for promoting area studies. For that purpose, it is important to clarify how geography helps conduct research in the field and what its main task is. The author examines those issues by focusing on the case of Hiroshima University, with which the author is affiliated. Regional geographical research works are often carried out as joint research with a specific university as the hub. A major reason behind this is the necessity of expertise and implicit knowledge specific to a region when conducting investigations. In Japan's geographic community, the University of Tsukuba's study of Latin America, Tokyo Metropolitan University's study of Africa, and Hiroshima University's study of India are well known. In this study, we first review Hiroshima University's trail of research in the regional geography of India. We then discuss the implications of this university's achievements in regional geographical research. Lastly, we examine its contribution to area studies, mainly based on our experience.