

**Research Activity Report**  
**Supported by “Leading Graduate Program in Primatology and Wildlife Science”**  
 (Please be sure to submit this report after the trip that supported by PWS.)

2015.08.28

<b>Affiliation/Position</b>	Primate Research Institute/D1
<b>Name</b>	Liesbeth FRIAS

<b>1. Country/location of visit</b>
Japan/ Niigata Prefecture, Sasagamine Hütte
<b>2. Research project</b>
Sasagamine Field Course (Summer Season)
<b>3. Date (departing from/returning to Japan)</b>
2015.07.23 – 2015.07.26 (4 days)
<b>4. Main host researcher and affiliation</b>
SUGIYAMA Shigeru (Shizuoka University), KOHSHIMA Shiro (Wildlife Research Center)
<b>5. Progress and results of your research/activity</b> (You can attach extra pages if needed)
Please insert one or more pictures (to be publicly released). Below each picture, please provide a brief description.
<p>The Sasagamine Field Course was held right after the 31<sup>st</sup> Congress of the Primate Society of Japan and the PWS Symposium in Kyoto. For this we traveled to Myoko kogen (Niigata Prefecture) to the Sasagamine Hütte (fig. 1), a cabin built in 1929 by members of the Kyoto University Travel Club (including Kinji Imanishi!), and surrounded by Mount Myoko (2454 m), Mount Hiuchi (2462) and Mount Kurohime (2053). The goals of this course were to learn basic survival skills for future fieldwork, observe the wildlife and climb Mount Hiuchi.</p> <p>On the first day we went exploring around the cabin. We visited Udana no Shimizu, one of the 100 best waters in Japan, saw grazing cows along the way and briefly visited the Sasagamine green house. During this course we had two practical lectures and a hike. The first lecture was on knots and which one to use according to different purposes, and the second, on how to improvise a tent with minimum equipment, and use it for several purposes, like collecting water or as a sledge to carry equipment on the snow (fig. 2). For the hike, we climbed Mount Hiuchi, one of Japan’s 100 famous mountains. The first part of the hike was flat, but once we reached the bridge, we were in for 12 turns of pure steepness. After this part we stopped at Kouyaike Hut, and from there went through marshlands (with some remaining snow) before the last steep transect (fig. 3). From the summit, the view was astonishing (fig. 4). Right next to it we could admire Yakeyama, a volcano with an active vent near the summit. The whole hike took us almost 12 hours, but we celebrated our success with an amazing barbecue for dinner.</p> <p>Overall we had a wonderful time. The place was beautiful, the food was delicious and we could not hope for better company. I think this course offered us a good opportunity to have interesting conversations with people in a quite and peaceful setting, while taking a break from daily routine.</p>

**Research Activity Report**  
**Supported by “Leading Graduate Program in Primatology and Wildlife Science”**  
*(Please be sure to submit this report after the trip that supported by PWS.)*



Fig. 1. Sasagamine Hütte, summer season (left); exploring the surroundings (right). Photo credit: Liesbeth Frias.



Fig. 2. Lectures on survival skills. How to tie knots (left) and how to use a tent for multiple purposes (right). Photo credit: Reiko Takizawa and Miku Akiyama, respectively.

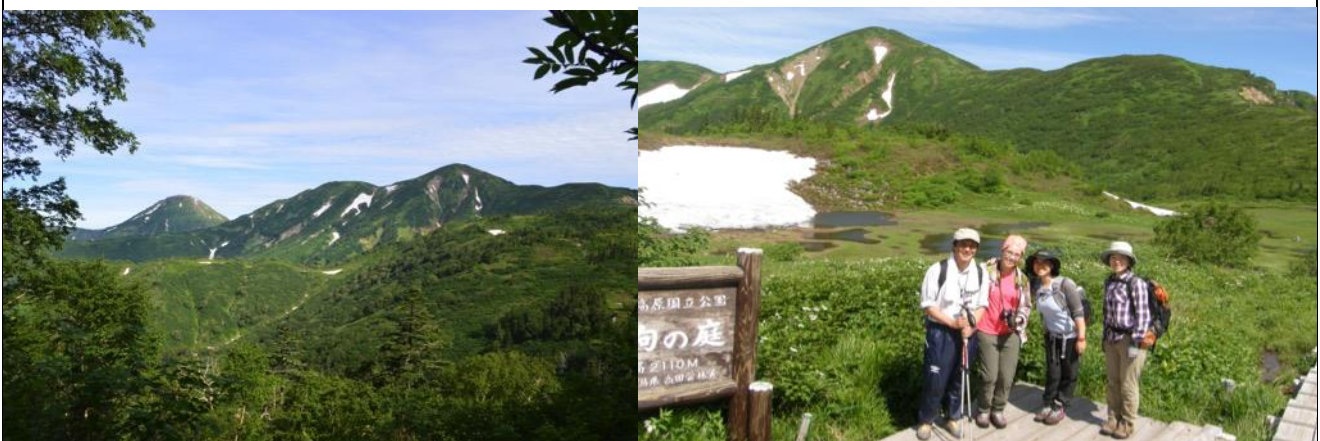


Fig. 3. View from the northern Japanese alps (left) and tenguno niwa (right). Photo credit: Liesbeth Frias and Yamamoto-sensei, respectively.

**Research Activity Report**  
**Supported by “Leading Graduate Program in Primatology and Wildlife Science”**  
(Please be sure to submit this report after the trip that supported by PWS.)



Fig 4. The team at the summit of Mount Hiuchi. Photo credit: hiker at the summit!

### **Acknowledgments**

I would like to express my gratitude to PWS and Prof. Matsuzawa for supporting this field course. I would also like to thank Yamamoto-sensei for instructing us about mountain climbing, and sharing with us his knowledge about alpinism; Shigeru Sugiyama and Shiro Kohshima for their amazing climbing stories, guidance and support during the course; Miku Akiyama and Reiko Takizawa for the great company and organizing this trip; and to all participants, specially Cat Hobaiter and Nicholas Langlitz, without you this trip would not have been the same!