

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. 10. 23
Affiliation/Position	Primate Research Institute (PRI) / M1
Name	Makiko Take

1.	Country/location of visit
	Myoko-City, Niigata, Japan
2.	Research project
	Sasagamine field science course
3.	Date (departing from/returning to Japan)
	2015. 10. 01 – 2015. 10. 04 (4 days)
4.	Main host researcher and affiliation
	Prof. Sigeru Sugiyama, Sizuoka University
5.	Progress and results of your research/activity (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>This course was held at Sasagamine Hutte which is located in Myoko-highland, Niigata Prefecture. The aim of the course was to learn important skills to survive in mountain or other fields. Six students from PRI and five from Wildlife Research Centre (WRC) participated in this course.</p> <p>Day 1 : Getting off the train at the Myoko-Kogen Station, I felt a chill, clear air and it reminded me the autumn of my hometown. After we arrived at the Hutte around 14:00 by city bus, we cleaned our bedroom and went outside to gather wild fruits. Prof. Sugiyama told us the good points to find the fruits, and we all were absorbed in harvesting wild grapes, raspberries, and hardy kiwis. Finally, we got 4 plastic bags of those fruits and made juice using wild grapes.</p> <p>Day 2 : After the breakfast, we went a three-hour hike. We walked around to see Sasagamine Shrine, a water spring, and large pastures while observing plants and animals. There were a lot of acorns on the ground and many kinds of mushrooms. We also encountered cows, a snake, and a troop of Japanese macaques during the hike.</p> <p>Day 3 : We climbed Mountain Hiuchi. We left the Hutte at 5:00 AM and walked for 6 hours for going up and 5 hours for coming down. I enjoyed the whole way with beautiful landscape and fun chatting with friends.</p> <p>Day 4 : We had a lecture of rope work and bivouac. The contents of the lectures were really useful not only for fieldwork but also for daily life.</p> <p>Overall, I had a very good time in beautiful nature. The program was very informative because we learned a lot of things from the lecturers who had rich experiences of fieldwork. I think it will be good to adopt a little more severe program, e.g. walking in the mountain using map and compass or staying in bivouac whole night, for making this course more meaningful.</p>

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Sasagamine hutte and students



Small mushrooms coming up from the ground



Start point of Mt. Hiuchi



On the way to the peak



The lecture of rope work



The lecture of bivouac

6. Others

I am grateful to PWS for supporting this course. I also grateful to Prof. Sugiyama and the other lecturers for teaching us a lot of things.