

Research Activity Report
Supported by “Leading Graduate Program in Primatology and Wildlife Science”

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Affiliation/Position	Primate Research Institute/D2-L2
Name	Josue Alejandro Pastrana

1. Country/location of visit	
Tokyo, Japan	
2. Research project	
Expo 90 Foundation 2017 International Cosmos Prize Award Symposium, United Nations University, Japan	
3. Date (departing from/returning to Japan)	
2014. 11. 10 (1 day)	
4. Main host researcher and affiliation	
Dr. Tetsuro Matsuzawa, Professor, Kyoto University, Institute for Advanced Study/ Cosmos Screening	
5. Progress and results of your research/activity (You can attach extra pages if needed)	
   	<p>Last week on November 10th 2017, we had the great opportunity to attend the Cosmos Prize Award Ceremony, part of the The Commemorative Foundation for the International Garden and Greenery Exposition, Osaka, Japan of 1990, held at the United Nations University in Tokyo, Japan. During our participation of this commemorative symposium, we were able to listen to a talks by past winners and the current award recipient, Dr. Jane Goodall, and ask questions during a discussion panel at the end of this very important 25th edition of this prize event. It was a very good opportunity to listen to Dr. Goodall, a world known primatologist and activist, not only animal rights but also a pioneer in habitat conservation and human communities that are in poverty and forgotten. We also listened to previous award winners such as Dr. Kunio Iwatsuki, a professor and researcher from Emeritus University who has among many accomplishments in biodiversity studies, has greatly helped advance the preservation of wild plants by being an advocate of the importance of botanical gardens, which can make a wide range of contributions, from basic research on plant diversity to actual plant conservation practices. We also listened to a previous prize recipient, Dr. Sukumar from the Indian Institute of Science who has made and implemented many proposals on biodiversity conservation and the preservation of elephant habitats in India, and has conducted research on the evolution of elephants and the impact on environmental and human population have had on them over the years. Perhaps, because I had listened to most of these professors before in other events and climate change is a very controversial topic these days, I found the talk from the professor I had not heard about before probably the most shocking or interesting to me, the 2015 Prize winner Dr. Johan Rockström, professor at the Global Sustainability Science, Stockholm University. His main talk was on how we need to change the dynamics of how we tackle climate change problems (a pyramid or cake structure where the basic elements- water/land use, biodiversity and climate are non-negotiable), and that they have to go hand in hand with other economic, socio-cultural and resource uses. The biggest shocker was that in order for the earth to continue its natural cycle and for us to have some sort of hope for the future, his models suggest we have to peak on emissions by no later than 2020 to have any hope of returning to a healthy planet. It was very alarming to hear such numbers as other panelists agree that it make take a few decades for actual change to occur. After the seminar my colleagues and I discussed the topics during this event and we promised to ourselves that we should do our part in improving environmental and social problems in our own way and to a very minimum spread the word. It was a great opportunity to listen to such renowned scientists, and even had the opportunity to be a dressed by the Crowned Royal Prince and Princess of Japan. As always, I am thankful for the PWS program for making it possible for me and my colleagues to attend at such a wonderful event.</p>
6. (Images from Expo 90 Foundation Website)	