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.)

	2017.08. 20
Affiliation/Position	Primate Research Institute/ M1
Name	YAN Xiaochan

1. Country/location of visit

Japan/Niigata prefecture, Sasagamine

2. Research project

Sasagamine Field Science Course

3. Date (departing from/returning to Japan)

2017.07.18 – 2017. 07.21 (4 days)

4. Main host researcher and affiliation

Dr. Sigeru Sugiyama, Associate Professor at Shizuoka University

Dr. Shiro Koshima, Professor at Wildlife Research Center, Kyoto University

Dr. Tetsuro Matsuzawa, Distinguished Professor at Institute for Advanced Study, Kyoto University

Dr. Reiko Takizawa, Assistant Professor at Wildlife Research Center, Kyoto 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.

During 18 July to 21 July, I attended to the Sasagamine Field Science Course at Sasagamine, Niigata prefecture. The aim of this course is to learn survival skills as the basis for field work, including wildlife observation, mountain climbing, rope work, and night-time bivouac practicum.

On the first day, we arrived at the station, then cleaned up the room and walked around the hut. On the way, Dr. Sugiyama told us about plants and animals ecology around the station. Several kinds of toxic plants were introduced, I believe it will be helpful for my future field work. At night, we had a lecture on how to read maps given by Dr. Sugiyama. It was interesting and useful for fieldwork. I cannot wait to practice it.

On the second day, we had a practice on trekking. During the trekking, I learnt how to distinguish the direction and find out the route in the forest. It was a bit tough to climb steeply-rocky area where is sharp and dangerous. According to this practice, I have developed my knowledge on how to find the way and keep safe in the forest, which will be of great help in future fieldwork. In the afternoon, we sling a hammock between two tree-trunks and made swing, it was my first time to make it in the field.

On the third day, we climbed Mt. Hiuchi lasting 12 hours. On the way, I was delighted by the beautiful natural scenery even it was exhausted. It was impressive when I saw the snow on the ridge. I enjoyed play the snowball in summer. This summer is quite different for me.

Last but not the least, we had a lecture on rope knots which is greatly practical and helpful in both daily life and field work. Art of rope knots is a magic. I believe it must be helpful for my field work in Indonesia.

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Figure 1. Trekking



Figure 5. Group photo on top of Sasagamine



Figure 2. Snowman in summer



Figure 3. Lake view along the trail



Figure 4. Rope work training

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6. Others

I would like to express my gratitude to Dr. Matsuzawa, Dr. Sugiyama, Dr. Koshima, Dr. Takizawa for supporting the course. I also want to express my gratitude to PWS for organization and financial support.

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