

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. 07, 28
Affiliation/Position	Primate Research Institute / D1
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1. Country/location of visit
Kyoto University Sasagamine Hutte in Myoko-kogen, Nigata Prfecture, Japan
2. Research project
Sasagamine Field Science Course
3. Date (departing from/returning to Japan)
2015. 07. 23 – 2015. 07. 26 (4 days)
4. Main host researcher and affiliation
Sugiyama Shigeru, Koshima Shiro, and Yamamoto Munehiko
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>As part of the PWS curriculum I joined the Sasagamine Field Science Course which was held from July 23rd to 26th 2015. The purpose of this course was to learn survival skills and to have a field experience climbing Hiuchi Mountain. All students left the Primate Research Institute together on July 23rd and met other group members (Miku Akiyama, Reika Takizawa, Shiro Koshima, Nicholas Langlitz, and Cat Hobaiter) on our way before arriving at the Kyoto University Sasagamine Hutte in the middle of afternoon. Shigeru Sugiyama welcomed us and helped us to settle everything. Munehiko Yamamoto joined us a little bit later. We used the opportunity of the diner to all introduce ourselves and get to know each other.</p> <p>We started the first real day of the course by an approximately three-hour walk around the hutte in the morning. After the lunch, Prof. Yamamoto who is an expert in climbing high mountains, gave us a lecture on how to tie ropes. He taught us what kind of ropes and what kind of knots you need to use depending on what you want do such as climbing, rescuing a person, or sleeping while hanging. With Prof. Sugiyama, they then set up a rope at the first floor of the hutte in order to practice and try to climb. We ended the day by learning how to read maps and Prof. Yamamoto explained the route that we had to take on the next day to climb Hiuchi Mountain. He also gave us information about what we need to bring and that we need to be mentally prepared because it will be a long tiring walk and climb.</p> <p>The next day, July 25th, was dedicated to the climb of Huichi Mountain (summit at 2454 meters of elevation). We woke up at 04:30 in the morning and left the hutte, (at 1300 meters of elevation), all prepared at 05:15. The climb towards the summit of Huichi Mountain was composed by alternation between flat and very steep areas. We had a wonderful weather. I really enjoyed watching the landscape. It was nice to see some snow during summer season. We arrived at the peak at 10:50 so it took us more than five hours to reach the summit. The view was amazing. We took one hour break for resting and having lunch. The afternoon spent coming down from the mountain was much easier than the morning. We arrived all red and sweaty around 16:00 at the hutte after more than eleven hours walking and climbing. We enjoyed the last dinner having a barbecue and eating outside as a reward.</p> <p>On the last day, Prof. Koshima gave us a lecture on the use of tent. He presented us how to set up a simple tent but also insisted on the fact that you can use a simple tent in many different ways such as a protection against the wind, as a roof, or even a poncho. For Prof. Koshima the two major things that you need to keep in mind when you go in the field and something bad happens are: 1. You need to have a flexible mind in order to improvise and adapt quickly to the situation and 2. You have to be able to calm down, if something bad happens, you need to be able to calm down, to really analyze the situation and take the right decisions.</p> <p>Overall, this course was very enriching from the field experience to the human experience. I think the hutte is a very nice place to exchange many interesting conversations with people. I really appreciated this part of the course where you have the time and the good atmosphere to get to know the persons. If I am not in the field at this period of the year</p>

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I would love to come back there during the winter season. I love skiing and I am sure it would be an amazing experience to go there at this time.



Kyoto University Sasagamine Hutte



Liz reading the map



Yamamoto-san knotting the rope



Climbing to the 1st floor of the hutte



View of Huichi Mountain



On our way



Departure of the group



Posing with the clouds

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Panoramic view of Huichi Mountain

6. Others

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Profs. Sugiyama, Koshima, and Yamamoto for sharing their experiences and teaching many skills and also Takizawa-san and Akiyama-san for organizing this field course.