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A Visit to Primate Research Institute, Kyoto University
21st March 2010 ~ 27th March 2010
I attended ‘International Symposium of HOPE-GM Lectures on Primate Mind and Society’ in Kyoto University. It was a great time to share animal studies and lots of good presentations and posters were impressive. It was an honor to meet Frans de Waal who is an expert in primatology. His presentation about empathy was very helpful for me to understand primate cognition.

Before I visited Japan, I wondered how a researcher conducts cognitive experiments with chimpanzees, and I could find the answer in PRI (Primate Research Institute) in Inuyama. Nice facilities made me surprised and it looked established for animals.

Chimpanzee’s ability in the cognitive test was amazing. Professor Matsuzaw was trying to teach numbers over 10 to chimpanzees, they could recognize it easily. I was happy to ask questions about the experiments.
In addition, I participated in Fumihiro Kano’s test for comparing a tendency of eye-tracking between human and non-human primate as a subject and it was wonderful opportunity that I have never experienced. I showed my research and discuss with not only Japanese researchers, but also who are from the other countries. I met Hiroki Koda who is a gibbon researcher and it was pleasure to get his new papers.

I visit Japanes Macaque Facility and place where macaques live were natural and wide. I also watched a chimpanzee numerical experiment in Higashiyama zoo, Nagoya. Chimpanzees seemed to enjoy the experiment, they even fought for that.
Primate study in Korea took a first step in 2007 and still need more growth and attention. I learned many things in Japan. Although I am a field researcher in Javan gibbons, I am interested in applying my research to cognitive science to investigate ecological intelligence of gibbons. This symposium and visit helped me to widen my research topic, and I would like to thank to all for kindness.