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A Visit to Primate Research Institute, Kyoto University

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It was really quality time to join HOPE-GM Conference in Japan. This was my first time to meet people who study primates in the other areas and also give a poster presentation in the international conference. My poster was about the physiological study of sexual behaviors in captive Sichuan snub-nosed monkeys. My results suggest that females may modify their behavior in response to changes in their social group, and hormones are closely related to sexual behaviors in Sichuan snub-nosed monkeys. It was a great opportunity to explain my work in front of Dr. Frans de Waal, and William McGrew. Still, I couldn't believe that I had a conversation with them. I was also very impressed with the astonishing works done by young scholars. I am really excited to meet them again in Kyoto in near future. There were several studies regarding tool using behavior, perceptual recognition, and cooperative and altruistic behaviors both in the wild and captivity. The most interesting topic was cooperation and altruism, and I am shifting my study to primate cognition, specifically on cooperative and altruistic behavior. Now, I am warming up myself to give a good influence on them. I really thank Prof. Matsuzawa to give me a chance to join this conference.



How lucky I am!! I took a picture with Dr. Frans de Waal.

After finishing the conference, we headed to Inuyama to see Chimps in PRI. On the first day, we slept with a beautiful sunset, and fortunately my room was the biggest one among those of my colleagues. Because I was sick on the second day, I had to lie down on the bed whole day.



We were allowed to attend the experiments. In the morning, we watched Ai and Ayumu performing the numerical task, and then went to the Higashiyama Zoo to see their experimental setting for cognition study. The Chimps in Higashiyama Zoo looked like having fun with the experimental device. The Chimps were truly eager to do that experiment with touch panel. Because we already built an experimental booth in Seoul Zoo, we discussed how we could apply this system to ours. We also participated in Kano's experiment (i.e. eye-tracking) as human subjects.



Akira kissed me!!

Inuyama was such a beautiful city to study and relax.

I couldn't imagine how much they have spent their time and energy to make and revise this well organized setting. I also impressed their care for Chimps. Especially, I would never forget the moment that Dr. Matsuzawa put lotion on Ai's skin. I felt how he loves their family, Chimps. I deeply appreciate everybody in PRI inviting and welcoming us. I truly enjoyed my stay in Japan.