

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

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Affiliation/Position	Wildlife Research Center/D1
Name	Cecile Sarabian

1. Country/location of visit
Kyoto University facilities, Japan
2. Research project
Inter-lab Exchange course
3. Date (departing from/returning to Inuyama)
2015. 04. 07 – 2015. 04. 11 (4 days)
4. Main host researcher and affiliation
Dr. Michio Nakamura, 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.
<p>During this 4-days inter-lab exchange course, I have visited six out of numerous facilities/institutes/laboratories that are attached to or used by Kyoto University (KU) Graduate School of Science. Four of them were associated to my field of research (the Primate Research Institute, the Japan Monkey Center, Kyoto City Zoo, and the Center for Ecological Research). It was great to learn which kind of otehr research in Science KU is supporting; f.e. I have never heard about the Research Reactor Institute, Seto Marine Biological Laboratory or the Center for Ecological Research before, although I have been visiting KU for 2 years already. I generally like the idea to let the students know about what their university can provide in terms of research facilities; perhaps more particularly for M1 or undergraduate students. This “biodiversity” of research seems very good and I wish the different institutes/facilities working on similar topics but with different approaches could exchange and communicate more. One thing, however, that seemed to lack under my eyes is to have not put on the program what KU Graduate School of Science is doing to protect the environment in terms of Education, Conservation and Sustainability.</p> <p>My doctoral research investigates the link between behaviour and health in captive and wild non-human primates. To assess health, through blood (immunology) and/or decal (parasitology) samples, I will have to use different laboratory techniques. Those could be carried out at PRI through collaboration with experts on pathogen antibody detection in Japan. Experts in this field of analyses are not necessarily based at KU so, I will have to contact scientists from other national universities; f.e. Dr. Makoto Itoh from Aichi Medical University, a parasite immunologist, can help isolate antibodies in urine and faeces. My research can also enrolled in welfare/conservation by testing whether in a group of primates some individuals are more at risk of pathogenic infection by their behaviour, which could ultimately be used for targeted vaccination, and neuroscience by testing how different disgust stimuli might affect the choice of a target individual cognitively. This means that my research is pretty multidisciplinary and that I am eager to collaborate with different institutes and scientists to complete its aims.</p> <p>I think that the administration and content of the course was generally good. However, some suggestions for next year: perhaps, we could receive the detailed program of the course earlier than on the first day; I agree that international students studying in Japan are supposed to speak Japanese but not in every case (f.e. those part of an international program) and not necessarily from their first year of study. So, it was difficult for some part of the course to actually know what scientists or institutes were doing. I think this could be improved by letting these organisations know that there will be foreign students among the attendance.</p>
6. Others



Top: safety measures; middle: students approaching the nuclear reactor; bottom left: inside the reactor; bottom right: students checking their radioactivity after visiting one of the reactor. Research Reactor Institute, Kyoto University. Photo credits: Cecile Sarabian.

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Top left: researcher showing a *Tutufa bubo* to the students; top right: Shirahama Aquarium; bottom: scenery in front of Seto Marine Biological Laboratory, Wakayama prefecture. Photo credits: Cecile Sarabian.

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Top left: surgery room; top right: cognitive experiment room; middle-left: elephant trunk at the private museum, Kyoto city zoo. Bottom left: Japanese macaques in cages, Primate Research Institute. Bottom right: interesting chimpanzee grooming position, Japan Monkey Centre. Photo credits: Cecile Sarabian.