

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.)

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1. Country/location of visit
Yokohama, Kanagawa Prefecture, Japan
2. Research project
The 31 st International Congress of Psychology
3. Date (departing from/returning to Japan)
2016. 07. 24 – 2016. 07. 29 (6 days)
4. Main host researcher and affiliation
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>I joined the 31st International Congress of Psychology in Yokohama during the last week of July. This conference welcomed more than 8,000 participants and was organized around plenary talks with keynote speakers, symposiums and open sessions. It was not the first time for me to join an international conference, however, it was the first time to present my research at one of them. It was a great opportunity to be able to present the first results of my doctoral study. I gave two talks where I presented different aspects of the grooming interactions that are my main focus to study the social dynamics of chimpanzees and bonobos.</p> <p>The first talk I gave was called “Chimpanzees and bonobos differences in grooming approach”. This talk was part of an open session on social communication, with researchers working on mating strategies in mice, Social Network Sites, effects of sex and self-esteem on communication style in humans. People were not familiar with chimpanzees and bonobos so I adapted my talk to an audience unfamiliar to non-human primates. It was an interesting exercise to do, since I am used to present my research to people that are experts in this field.</p> <p>For my second talk, I was invited by Professor Yuko Hattori to participate on her comparative cognition symposium talking about the evolutionary origins of bonding mechanism. The title of my talk was “Comparison of body part preferences between chimpanzees and bonobos”. This symposium brought an audience that is working on great ape communication. At the end of my talk I could get interesting and useful feedback with comments and suggestions for further analyses. It was the first time that I presented these data and I am glad that researchers got interested on the results that I showed.</p> <p>In addition to the opportunity of presenting my work, this conference was also great opportunity to listening to renowned primatologists such as Jane Goodall, Joseph Call, Frans de Waal, and Andrew Whitten, talking about their most recent studies. Additionally, Professor Matsuzawa organized a “chimps get-together” dinner on July 25th to give the opportunity for students to meet primatologists working on chimpanzees. During this dinner I had the great honor to meet Jane Goodall and discuss about my research with her.</p> <p>There was, however, one frustrating part during this conference, which was the overlap between symposiums or plenary talks with similar topics. Sometimes, you had to choose between three different symposiums talking about the same topic and that were planned at the same time. For example, during my first talk there was at the same time a symposium on bonobo society that I would have love to join.</p> <p>Overall, I think the conference was very well organized regarding the number of attendees and a very good experience for me to present my research and practice my communication skills. The opening ceremony was also interesting with the Princess Kiko Akishino attending it, and the cultural dances. I particularly enjoyed the opening lecture gave by Professor Hiroshi Ishiguro. His work on humanoid robots is just fascinating.</p>

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Picture 1. In front of the conference hall entrance (credits: Yena Kim)



Picture 2. During my second talk part of Prof. Hattori's symposium (credits: Yena Kim)

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Picture 3. With Dr. Jane Goodall, Prof. Matsuzawa, and Duncan at the “chimps get-together” dinner
(credits: Masaki Tomonaga)

6. Others

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the PWS program and Prof. Matsuzawa for supporting my attendance to this conference.