

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.)

	2016. 08, 31
Affiliation/Position	Wildlife Research Center/D1
Name	Nachiketha Sharma

1. Country/locationof visit	Niigata prefecture, Myokokogen
2. Research project	Sasagamine Field Science Course
3. Date (departing from/returning to Japan)	2016. 08. 01 – 2016. 08. 04 (4 days)
4. Main host researcher and affiliation	Mr Sugiyama, Sasagamine Hut, Kyoto University
5. Progress and results of your research/activity (You can attach extra pages if needed)	<p>Please insert one or more pictures (to be publicly released). Below each picture, please provide abrief description.</p> <p>The Sasagamine field science course is mainly designed to give exposure to students who are willing to work in the field, to teach students about the necessary field skills and safety measures required for conducting effective field work. It was a great opportunity for me to explore the new terrain. Following are the lessons and skills that I learnt during this course:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Team work- During hiking/ mountaineering, teamwork is the most important as it makes things easier for all the participants. During our course, everyone helped each other, especially while climbing the mountain. At least for me, it was so helpful which made me to climb Mt. Hiuchi with ease as I was getting tired time and again. 2. Map preparations- So far, I was only aware of the modern gadgets (GPS) which are used in navigation during trekking/hiking/surveying the habitat, etc. But, here I learnt very basic techniques, such as adjusting maps according to geographic variations etc. 3. Not to give-up- This is probably the most important thing I learnt from this course. As I was climbing Mt. Huichi, I had a pain in the groin (which I had developed during my field work). I wanted to stop climbing as I was worried that it may get intense at any time and could be difficult for me to climb down. But, Sugiyama-sensei inspired me. He was climbing that mountain twice within a span of 2 days, which inspired me to not to give up. As a result, I could witness beautiful scenery of the Alpine meadows, an erupting volcano and my ‘first ever sighting of snow’. 4. Bivouac shelter concept and rope technique will surely be useful for my field work. <p>Apart from all these, I had a great time with my fellow participants while preparing food, observing the local flora and fauna, especially the glimpse of ‘red fox’ so fascinating and interesting, discourses over politics and science with Sugiyama-sensei made this course worth remembering and learning filled with fun.</p>

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6. Others

I am grateful to Sugiyama sensei for hosting us. My sincere thanks to Prof Matuzawa sensei and Prof Kohshima sensei for giving me an opportunity to participate in the course and PWS leading graduate program for the support