

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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Affiliation/Position	Primate Research Institute/D5
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1. Country/location of visit	International Seminar house, Yoshida Campus, Kyoto University, Japan
2. Research project	Conserv'Session “Chasing coral”
3. Date (departing from/returning to Japan)	2017. 1. 28
4. Main host researcher and affiliation	Mi-Yeon, 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 a brief description.</p> <p>Corals are considered the nursery for all life forms in the ocean, which sustains life in our planet. Yet, global warming has led to loss of coral reefs throughout the world. In the movie “Chasing Coral”, biologists, divers and photographers explore this issue and the potential consequences to the ecosystem.</p> <p>The movie emphasized an important topic of concern that is not evident to the general public because it is underwater: the disappearance of coral reefs. In 2015 there was a massive loss of coral reefs due to climate change, known as coral bleaching. As the water gets warmer, corals lose photosynthetic abilities that lead to their death. Many people may not realize this problem, but the contrasting images of live and dead corals in the film are very clear, as well as the consequences for fishes that live in symbiosis with corals.</p> <p>Coral reefs are very attractive in touristic sites, but I believe that those spots advertised to the public were less affected by the event on 2011, which is probably why the producers of the documentary were contacting divers all around the world for help to obtain images and transmit the issue to the public. It was amazing to see the diversity of people that contributed to the film. In the last scenes, the coral reef team was engaging in several activities to raise public awareness, including presentations at schools and conferences, and implementation of visual methods to teach children about the aquatic biodiversity. It was very inspiring to see how much effort they put into this cause.</p> <p>As one criticism, the movie focused mainly on the consequences of climate change on coral reefs. But as informed by the PWS student Mi-Yeon, after the screening, there are several other things that affects coral, including extensive fishing, tourists, boats and anchors, sedimentation, pollution and sewage, that can cause physical damage or change the pH of the water. The movie also did not explore how we can contribute to this issue as a single person or as a society, besides spreading the information and the movie to others. The Conserv'session team is organizing another session (Chasing Ice) that will approach the issue of climate change, so it would be a good follow-up for this movie.</p> <p>I would like to acknowledge PWS for funding the screening and my trip to Kyoto and the Conserv'session members, in special to Mi-Yeon for leading this session.</p>



Photo credit: Himani Nautiyal