

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

2016. 05, 30

Affiliation/Positio	Primate Research Institute/D2
Name	Cecile Sarabian

1. Country/location of visit
South Korea, Seoul (Biodiversity Foundation), Incheon (National Institute of Ecology)
2. Research project
Conservation Education talk at the Biodiversity Foundation, visit of NIE, talk at NIE, meetings
3. Date (departing from/returning to Japan)
2016. 03. 18 – 2016. 03. 22 (5 days)
4. Main host researcher and affiliation
Ms. Yena Kim, National Institute of Ecology, Seocheon

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.

Roots & Shoots is The Jane Goodall Institute conservation education program based on empowering young people around the world by encouraging them to develop their own project benefiting the environment, animals, and humans (www.rootsandshoots.org). I went to Korea partly under my Roots & Shoots Iran overseas coordinator “cap”.

The Biodiversity Foundation was established in 2013 by renowned Korean ecologist Pr. Jae Chun Choe and Dr. Jane Goodall as a will to develop conservation education projects across the country of South Korea. Sanha Kim is now the director of the Biodiversity Foundation - acting as the coordinator and fundraiser for projects of The Jane Goodall Institute Korea. The Biodiversity Foundation does lots of outreach activities including the Roots & Shoots seminars in which I gave two talks on March 19th, 2016: one on disgust and one on conservation education projects in Iran, my second country (Fig. 2). Sanha Kim translated my talks into Korean, in order to be understandable by the entire audience. All members of those seminars have a ‘Roots & Shoots’ passport that is stamped every time they attend a seminar (Fig. 1).



Fig. 1: Group photo at the end of the ‘Roots & Shoots’ seminar (left); stamp of the seminar on the right page (right).



Fig. 2: The regular seminars hosted by the Biodiversity Foundation are called ‘sloth seminars’. With Sanha Kim on the right.

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The National Institute of Ecology (NIE) is a unique complex in the Republic of Korea, gathering ecological research, exhibitions, and educational areas open to the public. It is a very modern, very well equipped center for ecological research, ranging from entomology to climatology. NIE is funded by the government and directed by Pr. Jae Chun Choe. It is located in Seocheon, an eco-friendly city on the west coast of the Korean peninsula, south of Seoul. NIE can be divided into the institute itself for research and the Ecorium where different exhibits organized by biotope are presented.

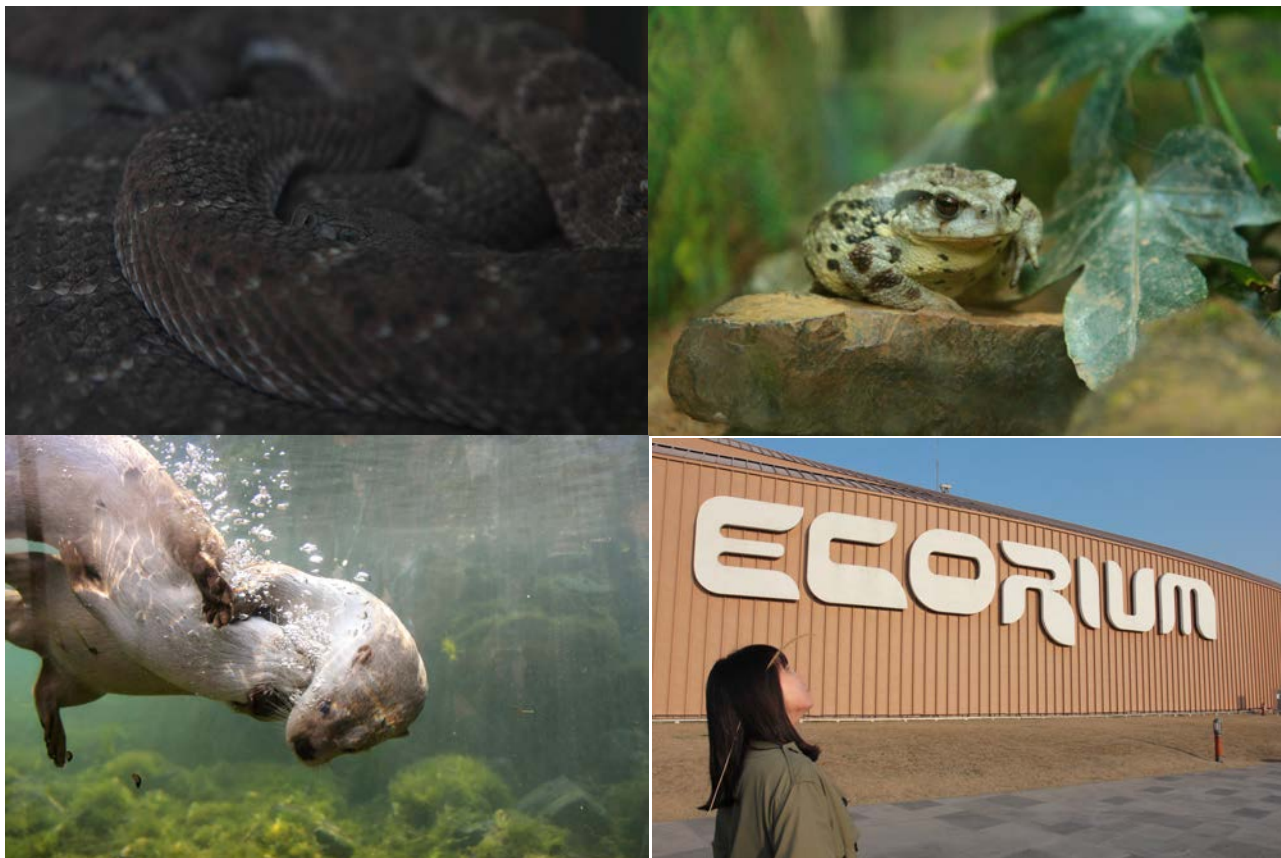


Fig. 3: The Ecorium hosts 5 different biomes (tropical, desert, Mediterranean, temperate and polar) as well as part of their representative flora and fauna.

On March 20th, Yena Kim drove me to Seocheon and I gave a talk at NIE the following day, entitled: “Testing infection-risk avoidance in Primates”. Researchers from different sections came, in addition of Pr. Choe who made his time between two interviews to listen to my talk. I received constructive comments that I am now applying in my current research.

Main outcomes:

From the interaction with the Biodiversity Foundation team and Sanha Kim, the level of interest and curiosity for citizen science and conservation has impressed me. It gave me ideas to share with our groups in Iran and I could see the progress of the culture box project (exchange of items and ideas between Roots & Shoots groups in Korea and in Iran).

From the National Institute of Ecology visit, I have learnt the capacity that such place has to offer for research and education. I have also taken note on perspectives and suggestions for my future research.

Part of my impressions and experience in Korea was related in the introduction part of Pr. Choe’s interview for The PrimateCast (#41; <http://www.cicasp.pri.kyoto-u.ac.jp/news/podcasts/jae-choe>).

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6. Others

Acknowledgements: I would like to thank PWS and Pr. Matsuzawa for supporting this trip; Ms. Yena Kim for organizing all the meetings and visits, for driving me all around and for being such a valuable friend; Dr. Sanha Kim for his time and translation at the Biodiversity Foundation; and Pr. Jae Choe for making time to meet and have dinner despite his very busy schedule.



Fig. 5: Dinner with Pr. Choe and Yena Kim on my last evening in Seocheon