

京都大学若手人材海外派遣事業 ジョン万プログラム  
研究者派遣プログラム

英文報告書

提出日：平成 25 年 3 月 27 日

1. 渡航者 (日本語)			
氏名	半谷吾郎	採択年度	平成 24 年度
部局	霊長類研究所	電話	
職名	准教授	メール	
研究課題名	旧世界霊長類の群集構造と資源制限の比較研究		
海外渡航期間	平成 24 年 12 月 11 日～ 平成 25 年 3 月 15 日		
渡航先 (英語表記)	国名：Canada 大学等研究機関名：McGill University 研究室名等：Department of Anthropology and McGill School of Environment 受入研究者名：Colin A. Chapman		
<b>2. 渡航の報告 (英文)</b> 渡航先の研究環境、研究者との交流、研究発表の状況等、渡航中の滞在経験について英語(500～1000 語)で記述して下さい。受入研究者と撮影した写真や研究発表で用いた図等について、可能な範囲で別添として提出して下さい。ページ数については増加してもかまいません。 この報告は、ジョン万プログラムの成果として、京都大学ホームページ(英文)などに掲載されることがあります。			
<p>I had an opportunity to stay at McGill University, Montreal, Canada, for three months from December 2012 until March 2013, supported by the John Mun Program of the Kyoto University. My host was Prof. Colin Chapman, who is a well-known primate ecologist, and runs a long-term study on primate community in Kibale, Uganda, which I have regarded as a model of my study on the primates in Yakushima, Japan and Danum Valley, Borneo. Actually, I was going to be a member of his lab in 2006, as a JSPS overseas post doc. (Un)Fortunately, I got a job as an associate professor at Kyoto University just a month before the departure, so I needed to abandon the chance to stay there at that time. It was natural for me to decide to go to Montreal when I knew about the program.</p> <p>The main activity that I did in Montreal was to write a paper to assess the impact of fruit- and leaf-eating by primates on forest ecosystem. Colin recently published a paper that suggests primate leaf-eating can affect some tree species negatively, based on the long-term data on forest tree species composition. In my paper, I directly estimated the amount that primates ingested and compared it with the leaves and fruits that were produced by the forest. In contrast to Colin's paper, I found that primates in Yakushima can have only a negligible impact on forest leaf production, which could be explained by the difference in primate biomass between Kibale and Yakushima. I have written up the first draft during my stay in Montreal. Colin took an advisory position in this paper, and the</p>			

manuscript is now under reviewed by a journal.

Unfortunately Colin could not come to work so often due to his health problem, but I could come to know his lab members, having desks in the same room. Although they were only in the second/third year graduate students, they are really productive and have already published nice papers in peer-reviewed journals. I invited them to my house, and they invited our family to their house. Surprisingly, two of them are planning to come to Japan in this year and one of them applied a small-grant program of my institute (Primate Research Institute) for the collaboration with my colleague. I was a chair of the examination committee of the grant program, so I was very surprised to find a name of my roommate in the list of the applications! I am really looking forward to seeing them in Japan.

One thing I wanted to do in McGill was to see how the lectures for undergraduate students are going on there. In Japan, I read an essay by a young Japanese scholar teaching Japanese history at Harvard. I was astonished how active the Harvard students are; they are willing to, not only participate the discussion, but also do many kinds of hard activities in front of, or with many other students, such as making a map of ancient Kyoto, making podcast and movie, etc. In Japan, I always feel difficulty in making students even to say something during the lecture, which is an opposite situation from Harvard. At McGill, I attended three lectures provided by the Department of Anthropology and Department of Biology. Actually, lectures themselves were not so different from the one I do in Kyoto. Lectures were mostly uni-directional; teachers talk, students listen. What was surprising for me was that more than half of the students bring their laptop into the classroom to take notes. Some already had the slide pdf. This would enable them to have the lecture very efficiently, but not necessarily so in reality. Some (not few) students just wrote down the text what is shown on the screen, and once they finish, they switch to Facebook, check e-mail, browse internet shopping, etc. One of the lecturers once talked to me how difficult to make the 'kids' to stop Facebook and concentrate on the lecture. Students were certainly more active, and they do not hesitate to interrupt the talk to make questions. However, I cannot say which is a 'better' attitude, or which students one can learn more effectively, between Kyoto and McGill.

Using the opportunity to stay in the North America (which was a first time for me), I also visited Boston and New York to see primatologists there. I visited four institutions (Boston University, Harvard University, Rutgers University, City University of New York). I did discussion on data management at a long-term study site, seminar presentation, lectures for undergraduate students, and learn methods of tannin assay and urinary analysis. These would be immediately useful for my own study, but more important thing is that we could come to know personally and can talk about future collaboration. Some of them are the same generations of mine, and we knew each other only through the paper.

We could confirm that we share many interests together and can be a lifetime collaborator.

Although not academic, I would also like to mention the friendship that our family (my wife, 7yr son, 3 yr daughter) made during the stay in Montreal. Kids are a great tool to make friends in abroad and they opened up many new worlds that I would never notice if I stayed there by myself, such as struggling students at the Montreal Japanese Hoshuko School, the efforts of the parents to manage it, how children grow up in a multilingual environment in Montreal (many speak both French and English), and the way to enjoy the long-lasting Canadian winter, which becomes almost -30 degree Celsius! In fact, my Canadian friends warned me that Canadian winter offers the best situation for lone overseas researchers to get depressed. My kids never allowed me to be so. I believe we can never do a good work without enjoying the stay and loving the place, in particular in abroad. I really thank the funding agency, my own university, which made me possible to travel with my family; that was the real reason I could make this visit extremely successful.