

XXIII International Primatology Society Congress, Kyoto, Japan

By Ong Kay York & Henry Bernard

We participated in the 23th International Primatology Symposium held from the 13th to the 18th of September 2010 in Kyoto University, Japan. This trip was kindly sponsored by the ASIAN-Hope program, which was managed by Primate Research Institute of Kyoto University.

The theme for the congress was "Quest for Coexistence with Non-human Primates". In the opening speech given by the chairman of the organizing committee, Professor Yamagiwa Junichi, he mentioned that throughout the world, habitat destruction, poaching, disease transmissions are among some of the critical problems which threaten a large portion of non-human primates. This is especially the case in developing countries where human population frequently clashes with primate community. Prof. Yamagiwa urges all participants to exchange up to date information in order to come out with new insights to handle such problem. He also read out the welcoming note written by the Prime Minister of Japan.

Every morning during the six days period of the congress, a plenary lecture is given by invited speakers who are at the front line of each of their own respective fields. After the plenary lecture, the presentation session begins. The congress occupies 9 lecture halls in the Kyoto University campus where presenters are divided into different sessions depending on their field ranging from ecological to molecular study. Each session runs simultaneously and participants are free to choose to attend whichever session they prefer according to the schedule provided. There are a total of 922 presentations by primatologists from all over the world either by oral or poster.

Two students from the institute presented their current research. Ong Kay York presented his MSc project entitled "Mitochondrial DNA Comparison of Long-Tailed Macaque (*Macaca fascicularis*) between Sabah Mainland and Islands" in the Population Genetics session on the 14th of September while another student Mr. Joseph Tengah presented his PhD project entitling "Ecology and Behaviour of Proboscis Monkey (*Nasalis larvatus*) in Mangrove Habitat of Sabah, Malaysia" in the Feeding Ecology session on the 15th of September.

Six days of congress ended with lots of hand shaking, name card exchanging and advises from primatologists from different places of the world. Participating in this congress is definitely fruitful and encouraging. We are certainly looking forward for the next congress which will be held in Mexico in 2012.



At the entrance of lecture hall



Professor Yamagiwa Junichi giving welcoming speech



Gate of Kyoto University



Kyoto University landmark, clock tower