

**January, 2019**

**#27 SSH Taiwan Science Study Trip (Jan. 8 ~ Jan. 11, 2019)**

This was the 4<sup>th</sup> study trip to Taiwan! Twelve students participated in the program this year. They were 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students in the Science and Mathematics Course. They had worked on their research, and prepared for their English presentation for Taiwanese students. The topics are following:

- 1. Change of the Sound by the Condition of the Paper Gun <Physics>**
- 2. The Present Situation and Succession of the Remaining Vegetation in the Chibana Castle Ruins <Biology>**
- 3. The Condition of *Chrysiptera cyanea*'s Attacking Behavior <Biology>**
- 4. Relationship Between Cycads and Mud Dyeing <Chemistry>**
- 5. Antibacterial Action of Citrus Fruits <Chemistry>**
- 6. Soils and Plants – Adjusting pH from Familiar Materials - <Earth Science>**

● Day 1

Visiting Changgong High School. This boy's school was established in 1922. Having 3000 students and 240 teachers and staff, the school was huge! We were so impressed to see the teachers and students waiting in front of the school gate, to welcome us. They prepared our table very nicely, and kindly put the fancy gift bag, name cards, and tapioca milk tea! What a warm hospitality! That was more than enough to make us relaxed, even though we were a bit nervous. Here are some comments from Kyuyo students:

☆ Changgong students' English was very fluent, and easy to understand because they were speaking with passion to convey their ideas and thoughts. I was so grateful for them because they were trying hard to listen to us. I realized it was much better to speak without looking at my script than reading it.

☆ My partner student is very interested in Japanese. He belongs to a club in which they discuss international issues. He sometimes watch Japanese serial dramas such as *Hanzawa Naoki*. He likes an actor Sakai Naoto, who performed the main character of the drama. So he wants to study law at Waseda University, where Mr. Sakai studied.

● Day 2

We visited the National Taiwan Science Education Center in the morning. We enjoyed a lot of experimental exhibition related to physics, chemistry, biology, and earth science. In the afternoon, we visited the Affiliated Senior High School of National Taiwan Normal University. We had poster session with Taiwanese students, which was the main purpose of this study trip. Mr. Allen, the coordinator for the program and English teacher, and the students were kindly waiting for Kyuyo students to welcome and took us to the classroom. The main square of the school was decorated with red



ornaments for *Shunsetsu*, the Chinese New Year. It was very beautiful. At the reception, Kyuyo students sang a Taiwanese song “Nice to Have You,” originally sung by a Taiwanese male singer Crowd Lu, in Chinese. Then we started poster session. Here are some of Taiwanese students’ presentation topics: *IOT Painting Auto Machine*, and *Effects of root anatomy and Fe plaque on nutrients uptake by rice seedlings grown in solution culture*.

Here are some comments from Kyuyo students: ☆ Taiwanese students were very passionate to explain their research. I couldn’t come up with any questions, but they were kindly explain in easier way so that I could understand. ☆ The school touring time was very fun! The Taiwanese students bought me a snack and juice at the school cafeteria. They were so kind. ☆ Some of the students had visited Japan and they knew about Japan a lot.

### ●Day 3

We had an excursion to Yielieu Geopark. Yehliu is a cape of about 1,700 meters long, and it is a special district scenery with various shapes of rocks such as candle shaped rocks, and pot shaped rocks. We took a field research with three of post-graduate students from NTNU, the National Taiwan Normal University.

☆”I found the urchin fossils interesting. They existed hundreds thousands years ago and now we can see them on the surface of the rocks. I was moved by the power of nature.”

In the afternoon, we went back to Taipei and visited NTNU. In the Chemistry Department, Dr. Lin kindly gave us a lecture of his latest project, which is make an eco-frindly chemical fiber. The lecture was very exciting and we found it interesting. Many questions were asked by Kyuyo students.



After that, we were led to a laboratory room, where Ms Chen, dpctral student gave us a lecture first in English, and let us have an chemistry experiment to make a slime. Students looked a bit nervous at first, but they asked questions to Ms. Chen for instruction and they successfully could make their own slime. ☆ “I was very interested in Dr. Lin’s lecture.

### ●Day 4

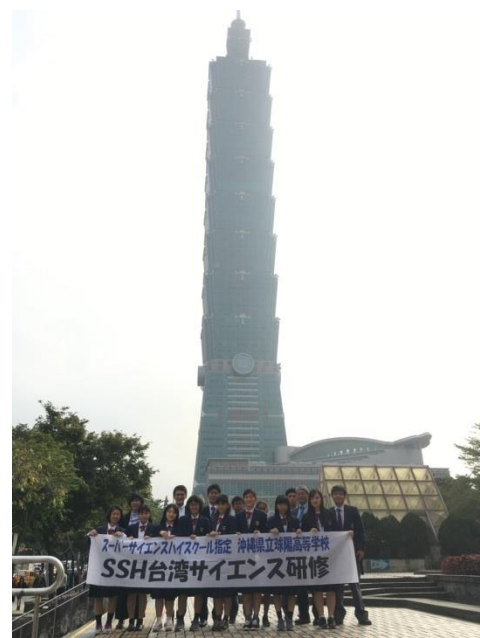
We visited Taipei Zoo! After al the poster presentation and lectures, we were relaxed and could enjoy as much as we could. They presented eight outdoor exhibitions and seven indoor exhibitions. Among them what we got excited the most were Koalas and Pandas! They were so cute and looked like a atuffed animal. It was too bad that we had only three hours. Altghough we enjoyed the zoo very much, we still thought we should have had more than one day to look around in the zoo!

☆ "I felt myself enjoying science not studying at the National Taiwan Science Education Center." ☆ "I was touched by the hospitality mind of Taiwanese people. I want to be like them when I have an opportunity to have guests from overseas." ☆ "I realized the difficulty to convey an idea to someone during a presentation. I learned how to use eyes, gestures, not only English. I want to make my presentation which is easy to understand for audience." ☆ "I was not so confident in speaking English.

However, as I tried to talk, I began to feel confidence a bit, and words and phrases gradually came out, which was amazing experience."



We will have the program next year, so please be ready to sign up!



## Students' Reports

In this trip, we mainly exchanged with local high school students through poster presentations in English. I presented my research of the relationship of cycads and mud-dyeing. At first, I was nervous and couldn't speak well. But the Taiwanese students were not shy at all and did their presentation in English with confidence. Among those presentations, I was especially interested in their amino acid research. I was glad because I could exchange information about research with each other. I would like to use those information for my future research.

We also had opportunities to visit a science museum, Taipei Zoo, and Yehliu Geopark. At those places, we were able to deepen knowledge of various fields of science. They were very valuable experiences. Through the trip, I realized Taiwan having developed in economic, educational and medical aspects much more than I thought. I want to study English further so that I can catch up to their level.

**Saya Kosoko**

Early in the New Year, the SSH Biology members and I left Okinawa for Taiwan with the purpose of exchanging with Taiwanese students, and visiting laboratories and scientific institutions.

First, I was impressed by the assertiveness of Taiwanese students when communicating using English, and during the panel discussion, I became aware of that each student always asked some questions about my presentation so I thought they wanted to understand our research deeply. Furthermore, their presentation was refined that I could guess that they had practiced many times with ease.

Second, I cannot forget when I visited the entomology museum in Chenggong High School, in which many butterfly specimens were displayed. The museum exhibits a precious collection of them with specific explanation for each species. Since the explanation was written in Chinese, I wished I had been able to understand Chinese.

In conclusion, I am glad to participate in this study trip because I could interact with foreign students and exchange opinions with them. Also I could learn about Taiwan deeply.

**Jiei Tamae**

We visited a Chenggong High School on the first day. First, student introduced me to Chenggong High School in Japanese and English. Next, I introduced myself and exchanged souvenirs. This high school is in Taipei city and it is a boy's school of 3,000 students. This high school is the fourth smartest school in Taiwan and also this high school has the largest insect museum in Asia. We invited students who are hospitality professionals called White Knights. They explained each insect in English and it was very easy to understand. The most memorable thing in the explanation was the morpho butterfly. Morpho butterfly seems to reflect light because its wings have a structure that glows scientifically. In the way, thorough the SSH science training in Taiwan, I was able to raise awareness about language, science, and different cultures. I would like to very thank Ms. Taiko Uechi and the people who supported me a lot in this SSH science training.

**Kirari Kosaka**

I was glad that I participated in the SSH Taiwan Science Study Trip because I learned a lot of things in this program. We exchanged with Taiwanese high school students through mainly poster presentation about our research in English. My research topic was "the present situation and succession of the remaining vegetation in Chibana Castle ruins." I was very nervous to make a first presentation, and I also found it difficult to do in English although we had practiced many times. I was surprised that Taiwanese students were not only good at speaking English, but also they had excellent presentation skills. In addition, they knew a lot of things, having a lot of topics to talk about. Their communication competence was superior. Their learning attitude inspired me a lot. Other than the scientific studying experiences, I learned different culture and way of life through this program. I want to be more active in studying and learning new things.

**Mai Kawamitsu**

I have two reasons why I participated in this training. First, I wanted to improve my English ability. Second I would like to compare the nature of Taiwan and that of Okinawa. In addition, I want to make the best use of the study trip experience for my research.

I do not have any confidence in my English before I participated in this training program. At the end of the first day, I regretted because I could not communicate with Taiwanese students. So I practiced to give presentation and discussed some points with my friend. And the next day, I tried to speak to the Taiwanese students eagerly. And I became able to speak with confidence little by little.

What I was impressed is their diligence. Their English ability was so good. I found they had earnest attitude toward studying. On the last day, we went Taipei zoo. We enjoyed watching animals and studying ecology of Taiwan. I feel that Taiwan's nature was very beautiful. Taiwan has indigenous nature. It look like Okinawan nature.

Finally I appreciate my teachers and family for giving me this opportunity, and I want to share how Taiwan is good to visit with the people around me.

**Yudai Moromizato**

I could learn many things and gain precious experiences through the SSH Science Study Trip to Taiwan.

First, I could be more active in speaking English. I learned not to be afraid of making mistakes when I made a presentation in the poster session, and I could have a good time with Taiwanese students. Second, I could gain scientific knowledge. I went to the National Taiwan Normal University, Insect museum, Yehliu Geopark, and so on. I learned a variety of things in the field of science and found mysterious phenomena and interesting studies there.

Finally, I learned about Taiwanese society, cityscape and culture. There are three types of ethnicities and a lot of delicious foods like tapioca milk tea and tagline in Taiwan. Also, there are many Japanese companies like Family Mart, TOYOTA, and so on.

In conclusion, I am determined to study science harder and gain specialized knowledge, and also study science-related English and expand my vocabulary from now on. I want to deeply understand advanced studies and foreign researcher's studies in the future.

**Rin Tamashiro**

I learned a lot of things in the SSH science study trip to Taiwan. In the beginning, when I spoke English, I couldn't find the word. It was very difficult for me. But, most of Taiwanese students spoke English very well. They were trying to use Japanese as well. I was influenced by them. So I learned importance of trying new things and realized the importance of becoming positive. For that reason too, I want to study English hard. Also, I had an awareness of science. But, I had the SSH science study trip to Taiwan, I came to like science more and more. So, I knew the many good points of Taiwan. For example, there are beautiful cityscapes, kind peoples and delicious foods. I want to visit Taiwan again. I was able to gain many valuable experiences. I was lucky to participate in this trip to Taiwan.

**Kanai Nakama**

I learned the importance of communicating eagerly in the SSH science study trip to Taiwan. At first, I realized my English skills need to be improved. I didn't have confidence at all. At a Taiwanese high school, I was surprised because Taiwanese students are very good at English. However, I thought that nothing changes if I remained shy, so I tried to speak to Taiwanese students from the second day. In the poster session, I was able to do better than practice. Also, Taiwanese students were confident in their presentation, which inspired me a lot. On the third day, we went to the Yehliu Geopark, and we did field work with the assistance of Taiwanese postgraduate students. We asked Taiwanese college students to explain and saw many strata. In the afternoon, we visited the National Taiwan Normal University and listened to a chemistry professor Dr. Lin's lecture. It was difficult for me to understand that lecture and conduct experiment with English instruction, but it was a meaningful study trip as I did them while asking questions and having communication. On the fourth day, I enjoyed the zoo where Taiwan's unique animals were seen. Through this trip, not only I became interested in science, but also I could have good relationships with Taiwanese students.

**Hiroko ODO**

In the SSH Study Trip in Taiwan, I could have many of very good experiences. Those experiences enabled me to be interested in foreign countries more. It was my first trip to an Asian country. I felt a bit insecure. On the first day in Chenggong High School, I could not make a presentation well because I was nervous. Surprisingly on the second day in NTNU, not only I could make a better presentation than the first day but I was able to explain further information on my presentation. That was because I had decided to talk in a more positive way than the previous day. Also, I was excited when I went to Taipei Zoo because it had many kinds of animals. I saw a white rhino, pandas and many other animals including indigenous to Taiwan. I saw a white rhino and panda for the first time. In particular, the white rhino is an endangered species so I was happy to see it. Through the trip, I realized it is important for me to be able to speak English as a tool of communication. So I will study English even much harder to pass Eiken grade Pre-1 and I will become an international person!!

**Eigen Hirakawa**

It was my third time to go to Taiwan but it was my first time to have an exchange with Taiwanese students. During this trip, I was surprised by their English skills. They speak English fluently like native speakers. Some people were not, but they tried to listen and speak in English positively. I wish I could see their English class. In the poster session at the Affiliated Senior High School of National Taiwan Normal University, I had a lot of fun. They asked many questions about our research and presentation. I think it proves the success of our presentation. In that point, I think my presentation skills definitely improved. It was a great opportunity for me that I could go to National Taiwan Normal University because I was thinking to go to a university in Taiwan. When we had a chemistry lecture from a professor, I became more aware of my future. I highly recommend to apply and join this program to people who want to improve their speaking and listening skills of English.

or presentation skills, and people who are interested in going to a university in Taiwan.

**Mariah Shinjo**

I visited Taiwan for the first time in my life for a scientific research exchanging program. We went to two high schools in Taipei City, the National Taiwan Normal University, Yehliu Geopark, and so on.

Before going to Taiwan, I prepared for our presentation with my friends. We not only made a English poster and script in English, but also practiced singing a Chinese song to present for Taiwanese students and teachers. My research topic was about antibacterial action of citrus fruits.

I was very nervous when I was speaking during my presentation. Although I worried about whether I could make myself understood, I was able to enjoy having my presentation because Taiwanese students were listening attentively. I also was impressed to listen to their presentation. They were well-organized, with detailed experimental information and deeper consideration. When I talked with Taiwanese students, I was surprised because their English ability was not so different from that of ours. But they spoke English fluently. And some students were able to speak Japanese a little. I wished I could speak English like them. So now I am determined to study English harder.

I love Taiwan so much since I visited Taiwan in this program. I really want to visit it again!

**Kaori Takaesu**

This SSH exchange program was my first time to visit Taiwan. When I arrived in Taipei, I was really fascinated by its unique cityscapes. Then I gradually became interested in culture and people in Taiwan. First, we went to Chengong High School in Taipei to have poster presentation on our research. Chengong students were good at speaking English. I also was drawn into their presentations. They told us about their research very earnestly without script. I realized that “telling” is not just to talk. So this reflection became the new aim for the next day. On the second day, we went to National Taiwan Science Education Center and another senior high school. I think I could “tell” students our research better than the previous day. Moreover, I could ask some questions on their research. On the third day, we visited Yehliu Geopark. It was like an exotic world. On the final day, we went to Taipei Zoo. I saw pandas for the first time.

This trip was stimulating for me to notice many things to improve myself, and to realize different and interesting culture.

**Sakura Watanabe**