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2017 Symposium: Wildlife Tourism in Japan

Sunday April 9th 13:30 ~17:00

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DATE: 13:30-17:00 Sunday 9th April 2017

VENUE: Meiji University's Surugadai Campus, Global Front, Global Hall

※ 3mins walk from JR Ochanomizu station (Ochanomizu Bridge Exit)

ADDRESS: 1-1 Kanda-Surugadai, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 101-8301

CONVENORS: Meiji University's International Collaboration Office together with
Meiji University's Governance School of Graduate Studies and
The Nature Parks Research Association

FREE ENTRY: Pre-registration is not required, sign in at the Front Desk on arrival.

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CONTENTS: Although modern life restricts our daily connections with nature and wild animals, the inherent desire to see animals in both wild and captive settings has instigated a flourishing wildlife tourism industry estimated to total 12 million trips annually at a growth rate of 10% per year (Curtin & Kragh, 2014; Newsome and Roger, 2013). The intrusion of humans into the lives of these animals, however, presents many challenges with regards to minimizing disturbance of species and habitats, managing tourist expectations and behaviour (Curtin, 2010), and promoting sustainability and conservation. This event outlines i) why animals capture our imagination; ii) how the lives and performances of animals become agents and co-constituents of tourist experiences; iii) the spectrum of wildlife tourism opportunities; and iv) the dilemmas of managing these touristic encounters with wildlife (Moorhouse et al., 2015). The symposium brings together an Anglo-Japanese panel with expertise across both applied and academic fields. Case studies will be introduced from Hokkaido (Sapporo to Shiretoko), Amami Oshima and the Nagano snow monkeys in order to shine a light on the current management practises, opportunities and dilemmas surrounding wildlife tourism.

PROGRAM:

13:30	Introductions
13:35 ~ 14:30	“The call of the wild: opportunities, practices and dilemmas of wildlife tourism” Susanna CURTIN (Bournemouth University)
14:30 ~ 15:00	“The current state of wild animal feeding and visitors attitudes in suburban forests” Tetsuya AIKOH (Hokkaido University)
15:00 ~ 15:30	“Wildlife tourism in Amami Oshima: Conservation promotes sustainable tourism” Takahiro KUBO (Japan’s National Institute for Environmental Studies)
15:30 ~	Interval
15:45 ~ 16:15	“Onsen-loving snow monkeys: Jigokudani wild monkey park” Haruko MASUO (NIGN / Shinshu University)
16:15 ~ 16:45	Q&A session and panel discussion, facilitated by Makoto NAGAHATA (Meiji University) with Thomas JONES (Ritsumeikan APU)

※The primary language for this Symposium is English. ※※ Program subject to alteration.

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Profile of Speakers

Susanna CURTIN is Senior Lecturer in Tourism Management and a Researcher in Wildlife Tourism at Bournemouth University in the UK. Her main areas of expertise and interest lie in the field of consumer behaviour and the management of wildlife tourism. She has written articles on the emotional and psychological benefits of taking a wildlife holiday, memorable wildlife encounters, how wildlife tourists attend to and perceive wildlife, and the importance of tour leaders in the responsible management of wildlife tourism. <http://staffprofiles.bournemouth.ac.uk/display/scurtin>



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Tetsuya AIKOH is Associate Professor at the Research Faculty of Agriculture of the Hokkaido University. He teaches landscape architecture and planning. His research interests are planning and management of recreational areas and protected areas.

<http://researchmap.jp/read0180117>

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Takahiro KUBO is a Researcher in the Biodiversity Conservation Planning Section at Japan’s National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES). His research interests lie in the application of environmental economics to improve wildlife and park management. He’s particularly interested in understanding trade-offs among conservation, reduction of human–wildlife conflicts and recreational activities in & around protected areas. <http://kubotaka.wixsite.com/blog/english>



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Haruko MASUO has 15 years experience as a government-licensed tour guide. She is a representative of NIGN (Nagano Interpreter/multi-lingual Tour Guide Network) and coordinator of international student exchange at Shinshu University. Haru is also a board member of NPO NINJA (Nagano INbound to Japan) Project, promoting inbound tourism across the Nagano area which includes the world-famous Snow Monkey Park. www.unique-nagano.com/aboutus.php

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Makoto NAGAHATA is Professor at Meiji University’s Graduate School of Governance Studies. After graduating from the University of Tokyo, he completed a master’s program at Sophia University before working for 14 years at a Japanese NGO with development projects in S. Asian countries. In 2004, he helped establish Asian Community Center 21 (ACC21), an NPO that facilitates community development networks of practitioners and policy makers in both Japan and LDCs. He also facilitates JICA training courses on participatory community development. http://www.acc21.org/index_english.html



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Thomas JONES worked from 2011-2017 at Meiji University’s Graduate School of Governance Studies. He has just been appointed Associate Professor at Asia Pacific University in Beppu, Oita. Originally from the UK, his research focuses on environmental policy, specifically nature-based tourism at national parks and other protected areas.

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ACCESS:



1-1 Kanda-Surugadai, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 101-8301

- 3 minutes on foot from JR Ochanomizu Station (Chuo/Sobu Line and Subway Marunouchi Line,
- 5 minutes on foot from Shin-Ochanomizu Station (Chiyoda Line)
- 5 minutes on foot from Jimbocho Station (Subway Mita, Shinjuku, and Hanzomon Lines

http://www.meiji.ac.jp/koho/campus_guide/suruga/access.html

ENQUIRIES: nparkjapan@gmail.com