

## **Field Trip Report to Khamikochi and Matsumoto**

Aung Zaw Oo (D-1)  
Department of Biological Production Science  
United Graduate School of Agriculture

On Friday, October 28, 2011, I went on a Field Trip to Kamikochi & Matsumoto, Nagano prefecture with FOLENS and IEAS members. We started the trip at 7:00 am by bus from TUAT and arrived at National park round about 11:30 am. We walked around the lake and observed its environment. The scene of the lake was very beautiful with tame wild ducks surrounded by forest and mountains on one side. There was an active volcano still heating on the other side of the lake. On some mountain, there were some wide carters due to volcanic explosion. The appearance of the water in the lake was very clean but polluted with some chemicals due to so many visitors every year according to the Ozaki Sensei's explanation. One of the main reasons of pollution is the sewage water discharge from the treated plant into the river. But, according to the volunteer's saying, the water coming from the mountain was very clean so that I tried to drink it with hand. This was the first time in Japan drinking stream water naturally. It was very cold, good taste and refresh the mind. We walked along the river under the shade of the forest for 40 min to the bus stop. We had lunch beside the river. After lunch, we entered the national forest with local guide man (volunteer). He explained the history, situation and present condition of the forest. This was my first experience entering inside the forest in Japan. Walking under the shade of forest, feeling the nature environment was amazing time in the life. I realized that it was very difficult to conserve nature condition and rehabilitation of the forest. At night we stayed at wooden house near the river. We made fire, sat around it, cooked curry and rice together, sang a song, and chatted a lot. It was unforgettable movement for us to have fun in such a place.

At 29th, 8:00 am, we took the bus for sericulture memorial place, Matsumoto castle and Wasabi farm. On the bus, one of the professors gave 10 min lecture about the history of the sericulture production in Japan. He explained that sericulture production was very famous in this area in the past. But there was no sericulture production due to labor cost. We entered the Matsumoto castle for one and half hours and observed about the history of the castle with local volunteer. We continued our trip to Wasabi farm and arrived there round about 12:30. I tried one wasabi mixed potato fried (Wasabi koroake) and one wasabi ice cream. It was delicious with good smell and taste of wasabi. And then we observed about the wasabi growing farms. It was interesting that wasabi can grow only on the sand and small stone gravels with clean running water. At 3:00 pm, we returned to TUAT and then we arrived at 7:30. All in all, it was very productive trip and gained a lot of knowledge for sustainable life.