**Inviting zoo-visitors to the natural habitat**

**-Advantages of an eco-tour conducted by a zoo-**

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**Abstract**

To promote the public education and awareness of the conservation of biodiversity in zoos, it would be beneficial not only to provide information about captive animals and their natural habitats but also to show them “real” natural habitats inhabited by wild animals. We organized the eco-tours for zoo-visitors, especially the participants of the consecutive lectures of primatology, and took them to the primate habitats, e.g., Japanese macaques in Japan and proboscis monkeys in Malaysia. Through such tours, we found some advantages of tours conducted by zoo. The participants can learn/observe animals from curators/zoo keepers such as life history of individual animals with their interesting episodes which are difficult to learn from animals in the wild. Thus, the participants can obtain necessity information on animals before the tour, supporting that participants sympathize with the animals and enhance their expectation for tours. After tours, zoo can provide many chances with participants to present their field experiences having in real natural habitats, at zoo events and exhibitions, which would be effective for both the participants and zoo-visitors to more deeply understand about animals with a link to their conservation.

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