

SAGA: An attempt to promote the welfare of chimpanzees and other nonhuman primates in Japan

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Over the course of my career, I have made parallel efforts to study chimpanzees in the laboratory in Japan and in the wild in Guinea. My work thus represents a holistic approach: it synthesizes complimentary approaches in order to better understand chimpanzees. In addition, it is my strong belief that field studies must be accompanied by conservation efforts. In January 1997, I launched the “Green corridor project” to connect the isolated forest of Bossou, Guinea to the Nimba mountains by planting trees in the savannah (<http://www.greencorridor.info/>). Similarly, laboratory work must be accompanied by studies of animal welfare and environmental enrichment. My colleagues and I established SAGA in November 1998 to promote the conservation, welfare, and noninvasive scientific research of great apes. SAGA stands for ‘Support for African/Asian Great Apes’ (<http://www.saga-jp.org/indexe.html>) and is the spiritual descendant of CCCC founded by Jane Goodall in Chicago in 1986. In the 1970s, about 150 chimpanzees were imported from Africa to Japan for hepatitis C studies. SAGA fought to prevent the use of chimpanzees in such invasive biomedical research. In return, on behalf of laboratory researchers, SAGA promoted the post-mortem utilization of chimpanzees. SAGA also initiated a project to maintain an online database of great apes in Japan: GAIN (<https://shigen.nig.ac.jp/gain/top.jsp>). In 2007 all biomedical research on chimpanzees ceased completely in Japan, thanks in part to extensive support from the public. We have spent the past 10 years seeking to

improve captive conditions for chimpanzees. We introduced new research facilities at Kyoto University that consist of an outdoor compound with high climbing frames and naturalistic fauna, as well as large adjoining enclosures that allow us to simulate the fission-fusion parties characteristic of wild chimpanzees. Such welfare enhancement attempts are gradually prevailing among the zoo communities as well, while we have also started managing a zoo by ourselves, the Japan Monkey Centre, since 2014 (<http://www.japanmonkeycentre.org/>). This talk will summarize my own efforts in research, education, and social outreach concerning chimpanzees and other nonhuman primates, with a special focus on welfare issues.

BIO

Current Position

Distinguished Professor, Kyoto University Institute for Advanced Study,
with Joint Appointment as Professor, Primate Research Institute of
Kyoto University

Coordinator, Leading Graduate Program in Primatology and Wildlife
Science, Kyoto University

General Director, Japan Monkey Centre

President, Academic Alpine Club of Kyoto

Editor-in-chief, *Primates*

Editorial Board, *International Journal of Primatology*

Editorial Board, *Animal Cognition*

Associate Editor, *Interaction Studies*

Board of Trustees, *Cambridge Center for Behavioral Studies*

Educational and Professional History

Major: Primatology, especially in establishing Comparative Cognitive

Science

April 2016- Distinguished Professor, Kyoto University Institute for Advanced Study, with Joint Appointment as Professor, Primate Research Institute of Kyoto University

December 1976 - March 2016. Primate Research Institute of Kyoto University (1976: Assistant Professor, 1987: Associate Professor, 1993: Full Professor, 2006-2012: Director)

1989. Obtained Ph. D Degree in Science, Kyoto University

March 1976. Obtained Master Degree in psychology, Graduate School of Letters, Kyoto University

March 1974. Graduated from Faculty of Letters, Philosophy major, Kyoto University

October 15, 1950. Born in Japan (Nationality: Japanese)

Research Summary

Matsuzawa has been studying chimpanzee both in the laboratory and in the wild. The laboratory work is known as "Ai-project" in the Primate Research Institute of Kyoto University since 1976: a female chimpanzee named Ai learned to use Arabic numerals to represent the number (Matsuzawa, 1985, NATURE). The field work has been carried out in Bossou-Nimba, Guinea, since 1986, focusing on the tool use in the wild. Matsuzawa tries to synthesize the field and the lab work to understand the mind of chimpanzees to know the evolutionary origins of human mind. He published the books such as "Primate origins of human cognition and behavior", "Cognitive development in chimpanzees", "The chimpanzees of Bossou and Nimba". He got several prizes including Jane Goodall Award in 2001, and The Medal with Purple Ribbon in 2004, The Person of Cultural Merit in 2013.

Please see the web site: <http://matsuzawa.kyoto/>