

Be a Researcher Tour in BIWAKO

びわ湖の研究者になろうツアー

特定非営利法人国際学生ボランティア協会
International Volunteer University Student Association
京都外国語大学
Kyoto University of Foreign Studies
3rd 伊藤佐恵子 Saeko Ito (Presentation leader)
3rd 田邊有香 Arika Tanabe (Tour project leader)
1st 劉昱泰 Yutai Liu (International student from China)

Hello, everyone. We are belonging to IVUSA, and students from Kyoto University of Foreign Studies.

Today's members are we three, I am Saeko Ito, here is Arika Tanabe, and here is Liu Yutai. The tour title we propose today is 'Be a researcher tour in BIWAKO'.



Decreasing Field experiences

Let's Go to Nature!

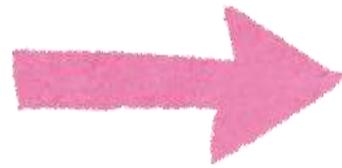
What can we do for lakes?
We, human being, should take an action of environmental protection with all generations in order to save and recover water resources.
Then we decided to target on children who will lead for the next generation.
However, in recent years, the children spend most of their time in classrooms, in addition, the opportunities to try some experiments or to touch the real nature in local area are decreasing.
In this situation, what 'we' can do for them is to give the opportunity that children can learn about environmental issues with university students in nature.

☆What is the eco-tourism?

Children realize the value of local water resources
with their inquisitive minds
(探求心)



Children in the local area



Experience in Nature



Experiments



Be a Researcher Tour in BIWAKO

We see the eco-tourism as 'the tour to make children aware of the value of local water resources'.

Then we plan our 'be a researcher tour in BIWAKO' targeting to children in Shiga prefecture.

This tour is a workshop that focuses on water topics such as local rivers, lakes, or tap water. It includes fieldworks and experiments that children and university students work together.

We can provide a learning opportunity for children to realize the value of local water resources while having fun.

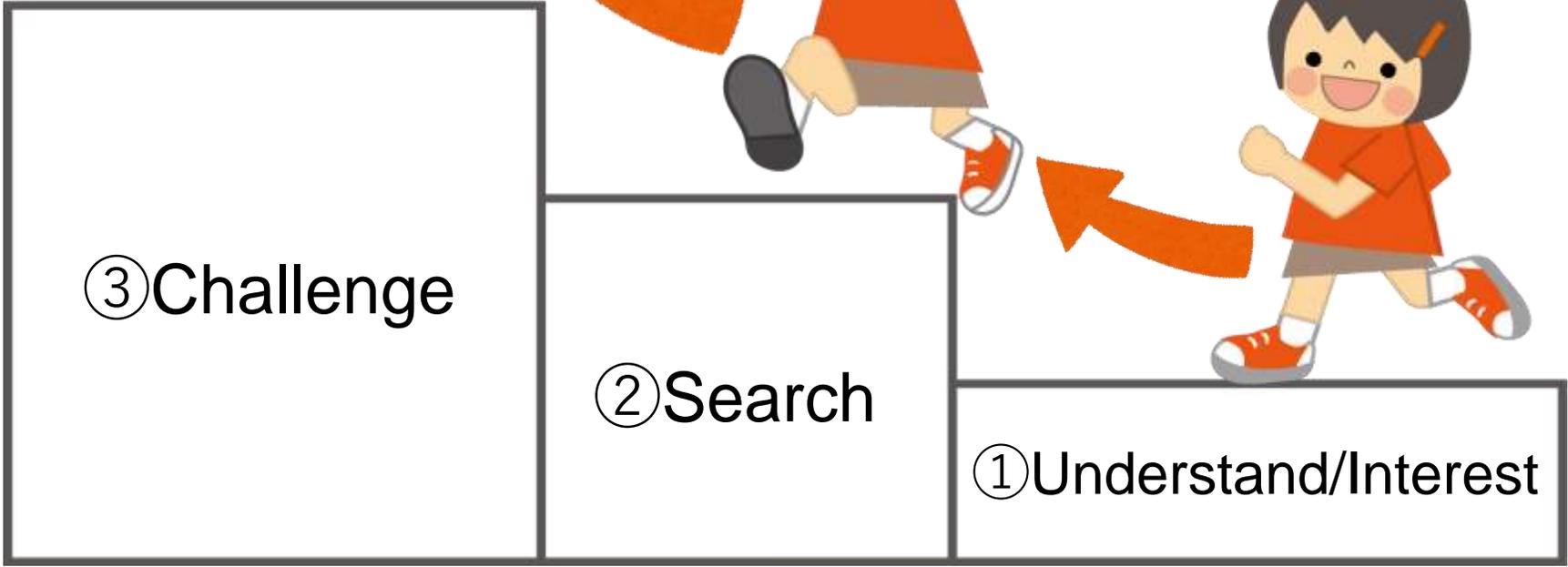
The experience will lead the children to love and protect Lake Biwa.



**What can I do
for Lake Biwa??**



探求心ちゃん
Inquisitiveness
chan



The children can try three steps through this 'be a researcher tour in BIWAKO'.
The first step is to get children interested in and understand about Lake Biwa's attractive features through various experiences in this tour. Then they will notice some issues in Lake Biwa.
The second step is getting start to research about causes and solutions like 'what can I do for Lake Biwa??'.
And for their future challenges, final step is to grow their spirit of on-going inquiry minds, and to gain knowledge and skills that are uniquely their own.

A photograph of a classroom where several children have their hands raised, indicating they want to speak or answer a question. The scene is brightly lit, likely from a window on the left. The text 'What we expect...' is overlaid in the center of the image.

What we expect...

What we are expecting through this tour?

Firstly, it is to give the children who participate in the tour an opportunity to appreciate water resources and to stimulate their inquisitive minds.

In addition, the tour involves the cooperation of local adults, so we expect to raise the environmental awareness of the entire community.

It is hoped that this will lead to a better environment for the lake, river, and surrounding area, as well as new solutions to environmental problems.

Let's make your original filtration system bottle!



Pouring dirty water into the bottle he made



Trying to make the water clean



Presentation of their ideas



Interview with people working at the water treatment plant

Next, I would like to introduce the details of the tour. The first of these tours was held in March of this year in Otsu City, Shiga Prefecture.

The theme of the first tour was tap water. The topic was how the water we usually drink is cleaned, and we gave the children an experiment to build a filtration system.

The upper two pictures show the experiment. The children were asked to think about what, how much, and in what order to use stones and sand from the riverbank, sponges, tissues, and other prepared items. Even if they couldn't succeed at first, the children were absorbed in the trial-and-error process, saying, "This was bad," or "Next time, I will use this."

After the experiment was over, they presented the results and their thoughts as shown in the photo number 3. We college students thought that filtration equipment should use only natural materials, but we were surprised to see that some children thought that sponges would absorb dirt, while others used tissues and masks as filters. After that, we interviewed people who work at the water purification plants. The photo number 4 shows the scene. Some children actively asked questions and some wanted to actually visit the water purification plant.

Next Event

2022/10/30th

~Theme~

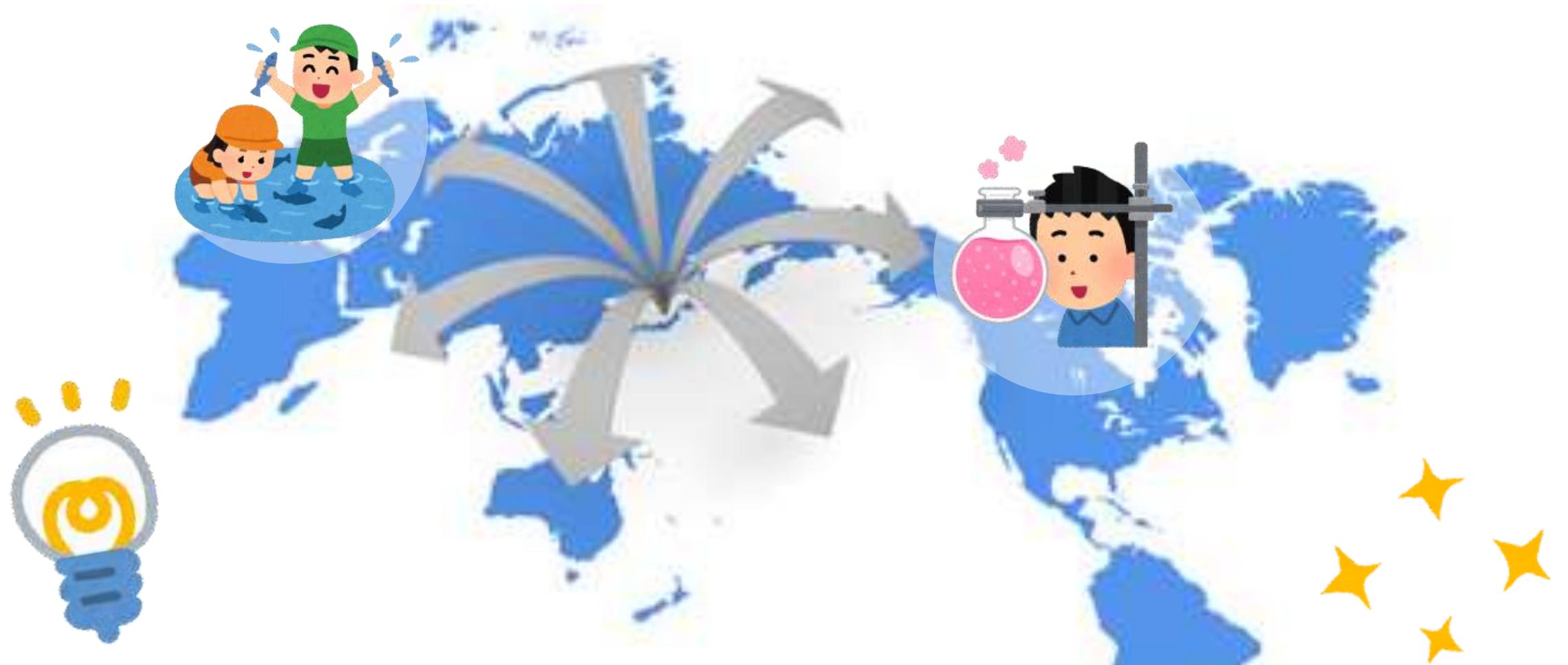
Research

Water and lives

under water

In Yanamune river

And more!!! A second event is scheduled for the 30th of this month.
 The theme of the next one is water and living creatures, and we will go to see the ecosystem of each river area.
 This is a workshop to think together about what kind of water environment is comfortable for living creatures to live in.
 In this way, this tour allows participants to actually experience what they are interested in from various angles.



The Possibility of our 'Be a Researcher Tour'

When I came to Japan, I saw the rivers in Japan are much cleaner than those in China, but there are still some drifting bottles or plastic bags in the rivers.

So, I think it is very necessary for everyone to participate in this kind of activities to experience water resources first-hand.

If people get involved in this project, everyone will pay attention to the water resources problems around them, solve the problems, and take practical actions. Step by step. This will have a big impact.

I'm really interest about this tour is not only about the water experience, but also is an idea it can be held anywhere in the country or abroad.

As a foreigner, thought this event hold at Shiga prefecture, but this project can also be spread to our Asian countries and even the whole world, through online seminar let everyone in the world through a tour like this.

Environments need us to understand, see, and feel, get involve in by our self, then we can make this world a better place.



Not Learn ‘for’ Nature

We Learn ‘WITH’ Nature

Thank you for your attention😊

This tour is not an event learning at your desks to protect nature, but this tour is a ‘tour’ learning together with nature. This is the end of the presentation of our "be a researcher tour in BIWAKO". Thank you very much for your attention.