

Green Holiday in Taiwan

Guandu ● Keelung

Taipei

Gaomei

Taichung

1st

13th – 16th Sept.
2014

International conservation volunteer tour for swallows and wetlands

Green Holiday is quite a new concept for tourism developed by Wild Bird Society of Japan, which entails practical conservation work, lectures set up with NGOs and the local people. The project started from 2009 at 3 sanctuaries of WBSJ, expanded- international in 2014 as Green Holiday in Taiwan.

The main focus is Barn Swallows and wetland habitats, a common migratory bird in both Taiwan and Japan.

The 1st Green Holiday in Taiwan was held from 13th to 16th Sept 2014 at Guandu Nature Park (Taipei) and Chuhong Lake (Keelung). Japanese and Taiwanese volunteers have joined and cleaned up the ponds to protect foraging site for swallows.

The 2nd and 3rd Green Holiday in Taiwan, we moved our destination from Taipei to Taichung. We worked for the protection of wetland ecosystem in Gaomei wetland, Important Bird and Biodiversity Area in Taiwan. The participants have performed a high efficiency by clearing invasive plants "Smooth Grass (*Spartina alterniflora*)" spreading rapidly into Gaomei Wetland with local volunteers and university students.

We also visited 2 local schools, Gaomei Elementary School and Kuo Kuang Elementary School, which started swallow observation with students in spring 2015.

We observed swallow breeding on the street and discussed about swallow and our precious nature with lovely students.

Removing water lettuce at Chuhong Lake

Swallow roost watch at Wugu wetland

Volunteers' Voice



Pum Soontornkit
A volunteer from Japan

International Green Holiday brought together people of different ages, sexes, occupations and nations. It gave all of us chances to get our hands dirty and sweat from hard work, and by feeling, and touching our mother natures. It made us feel and realize why we need to save and preserve our environment and ecology together. The trip also helped us to appreciate the importance of natures and our ecology system naturally.

With many activities from field works, exchanges ideas and knowledges with local participants, we got so many chances to see many wild birds, dragonflies, butterflies and most impressively barn swallow roost. By working and seeing, we knew our work to save our natures and ecology were in fact, not for anyone else, but for ourselves, our future generations and our future environments.

I have gained so much from this trip, not just realized the importance of natures, but gained the priceless experience and friendship among the participants both Japanese and Taiwanese.

Work to save our environment can't be done just by one country, one person, and one time.

And we don't need to be physically strong to get involved in such program. The love of nature is by heart and passion in each individual.

Local voice



Kevin Wu
Wild Bird Association of Taiwan

Though it's only few days, we can feel their heart-felt joy for eco conservation. I was also glad to see them counting Barn Swallow and talking with students happily which increased the friendship between two countries.

Swallow nests observation with school children



David Wu
teacher, Kuo Kuang Elementary School

We watched Barn Swallow, the closest creature to people. We recorded their nesting, mating, hatching, breeding and training the chicks flying for independence. And some of them bred again for the second time. The process has fulfilled the teachers' as well as students' hearts of Kuo Kuang Elementary School. We also felt touched by the happy volunteers of Wild Bird Society of Japan came afar for conserving the habitat of Barn Swallows which inspired us the concept of conservation has no boundary and there is only one planet. Thank these Japanese friends' kind sharing and instruction. We believe it's fate that connects us.

3rd

18th – 21st Sept.
2015

Removing invasive plant at Gaomei Wetland



2nd

25th – 28th April.
2015



Cross communication with students



For the future



Now the concept of Green Holiday shared with Taiwanese volunteers and locally-based Green Holiday in Taiwan has started by Wild Bird Association of Taiwan and Ecotourism Taiwan at Gaomei Wetland, for the protection of wetland by removing Smooth Grass (*Spartina alterniflora*) and creating spaces for local plants. Many young people including university students are joining this activity and learning nature conservation.

Regarding to swallow observation by school children, the worksheets in this guidebook were translated into Chinese and used by Elementary Schools in Taiwan. It will be shared with conservation NGOs in mainland China for the use of swallow observation with school children in China.