

FLYWAY CHILDREN'S EXCHANGE PROGRAM

PHASE 1



22 DECEMBER 2024 FUKUOKA
2 MARCH 2025 OKINAWA
22 JUNE 2025 GANGHWA

【Organizer】 Team SPOON



【Co-organizers】 Wetland Forum, Ecohub Moolseal,
Manko Waterbird and Wetland Center, Yatsushiro Bird Club, Japan
Black-Faced Spoonbill Network



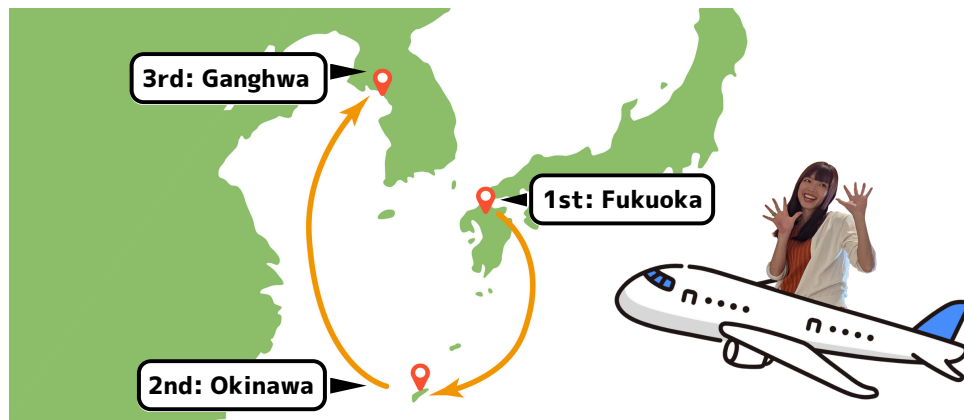
About Team SPOON

Since 2015, Team SPOON has been creating connections between individual BFSs and people, as well as among people. Those who become a SPOON member will be given a ring that mimics the foot ring of the BFS individual of choice. We hope that by wearing the ring, members will cherish BFS and its habitat. In addition, we send a weekly newsletter to SPOON members. Through these actions, we hope to create a society where people recognize the importance of BFSs flying in peace and wish to pass it on to future generations.

What is Flyway Children's Exchange Program?

This event brought together children living along the Black-faced Spoonbill's flyway through an online platform. Its purpose was for children to learn about each other's natural environments and cultures, and to build friendships across regions.

For each of the three sessions held, Team SPOON Secretariats visited a different location: Fukuoka, Okinawa, and Ganghwa. Each location served as the main venue for the day, with children from the other regions joining online.



Children from Fukuoka, Yatsushiro, Okinawa, and Ganghwa participated in this program and introduced themselves and their local wetlands to each other. The participants are children who usually participate in activities led by the cooperating groups listed below.

OUR CO-ORGANIZERS

This project was made possible by the cooperation with working groups listed below. Through the cooperation, we aimed to create a network of working groups in each region.

- **Moolseal(Ganghwa, Republic of Korea)**
Civic group based in Ganghwa Island, working on conservation of wetlands and waterbirds such as BFS.
- **Wetland Forum (Fukuoka)**
Civic group working on conservation of Fukuoka's urban wetlands and environmental education.
- **Manko Waterbird and Wetland Center (Okinawa)**
A Ramsar Wetland • Environmental learning facility for Manko's nature.
- **Yatsushiro Bird Club (Yatsushiro)**
Local bird club conducting birdwatching and conservation work.
- **Japan Black-Faced Spoonbill Network**
Network of groups and individuals for BFS research, conservation, and information sharing.

1st Session

22 Dec 2024

Main Venue: Fukuoka



Introducing Wajiro Wetland Let's Introduce Ourselves!

Participants introduced themselves, sharing their interests and favorite creatures. Everyone was curious about each other, and cheers erupted when they saw friends with same interests. They were able to recognize that despite living in different areas and speak different languages, they are friends with shared adoration for BFS.

2nd Session

2 Mar 2025

Main Venue: Okinawa



Introducing Manko Wetland Let's Ask Questions!

Children asked questions to get to know each other even better. Many questions were asked, including "What do you like about BFS?" "What is a creature unique to your area?" and "What do you like to study?"

How Do We Say BFS?

Children learned how to say BFS in Korean, Japanese, and Ryukyuan.

3rd Session

22 Jun 2025

Main Venue: Ganghwa



Introducing Ganghwa Wetland Let's Name the BFS Chicks!

The children first watched a video of BFS chicks and shared their thoughts. Then they brainstormed name ideas at each venue, and presented them with their meaning. The name for the three newborns were decided after they exchanged their thoughts. The names will be officially registered.





Nice to Meet You, Our Flyway Friends!



Wajiro Wetland, Fukuoka
It is a sandy tidal flat located in the east of Hakata Bay. Known as one of the largest tidal flat in the Sea of Japan Coast, although located in the city, it is visited by many waterbirds.

Mae Rivermouth Tidal Flat, Yatsushiro
It is located in the mouth of Mae River, which flows into the Yatsushiro Sea after being diverted from Kuma River. It plays an important role as a point of transit for migratory birds and as a habitat for various organisms.

22 DECEMBER 2024

FUKUOKA

1ST SESSION

Participants: 19 people
(5 from Fukuoka, 2 from Yatsushiro, 5 from Okinawa, and 7 from Ganghwa)



Introducing Wajiro Wetland

My favorite thing about tidal flats is collecting shells of Asian blue crabs.

You can harvest clams in the spring and it's delicious!

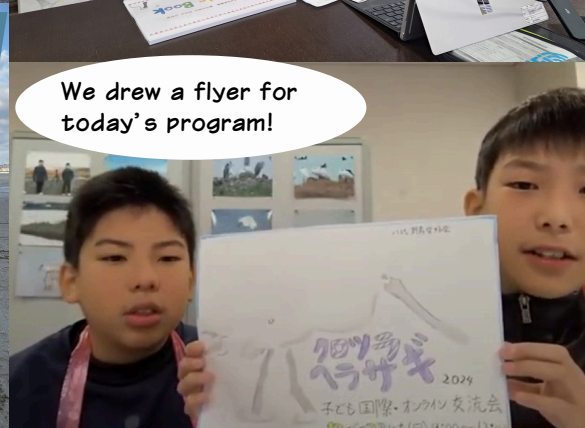


We Drew a BFS on Wajiro's Tidal Flat

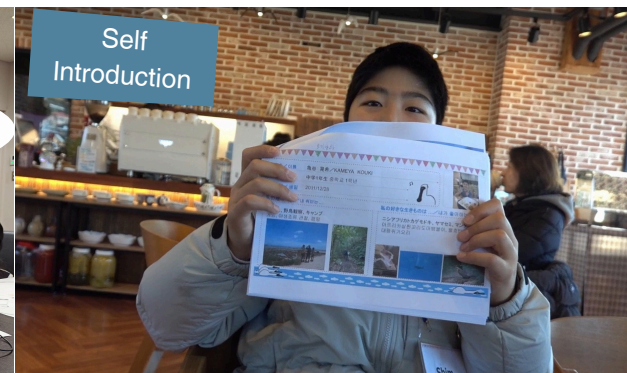


Introducing Yatsushiro's Mae Rivermouth Tidal Flat

It's fun catching mudskippers in the tidal flat.



We drew a flyer for today's program!



Self Introduction



22 DECEMBER 2024

1st

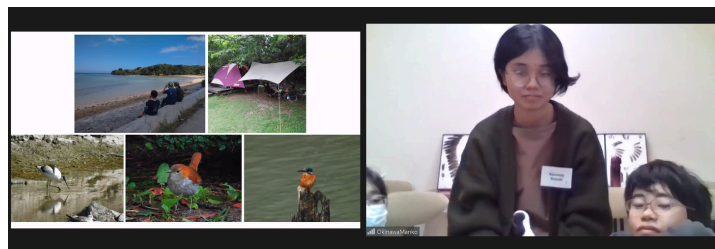
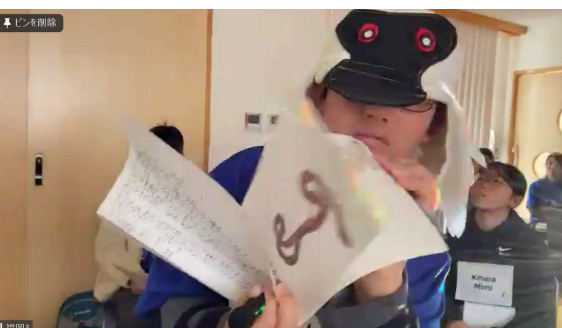
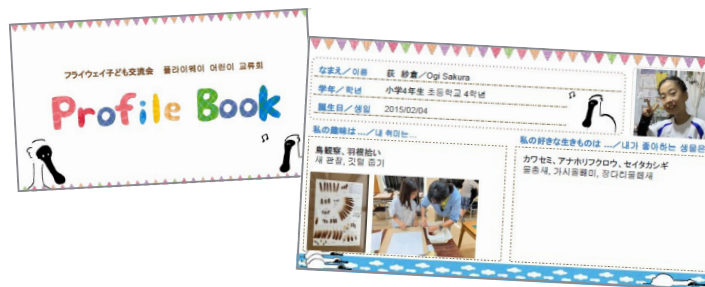
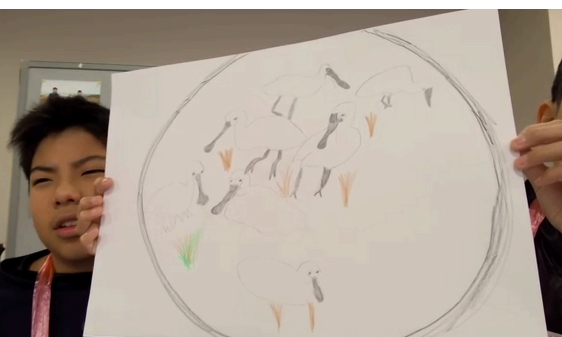
Program

- Introduction of Wajiro and Yatsushiro wetlands
- Let's introduce ourselves!



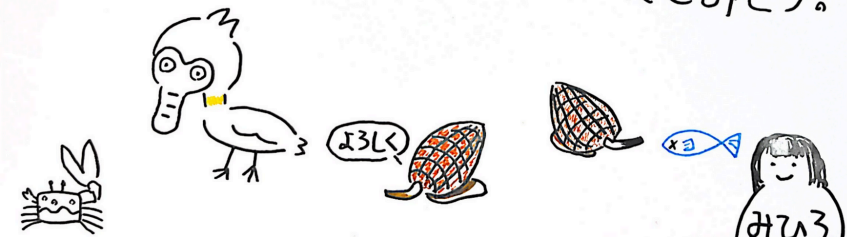
The children were nervous at first, but they tried their best to introduce themselves, sharing their hobbies and favorite creatures. Some of the children brought things they wanted to present, prepared a video, and showed their own drawings. They carefully listened to others talking. They were pleased when they found something in common, or surprised when there was something unexpected. We could tell that the children wanted to get along with each other.

We Created a Profile Book and Shared it with Participants

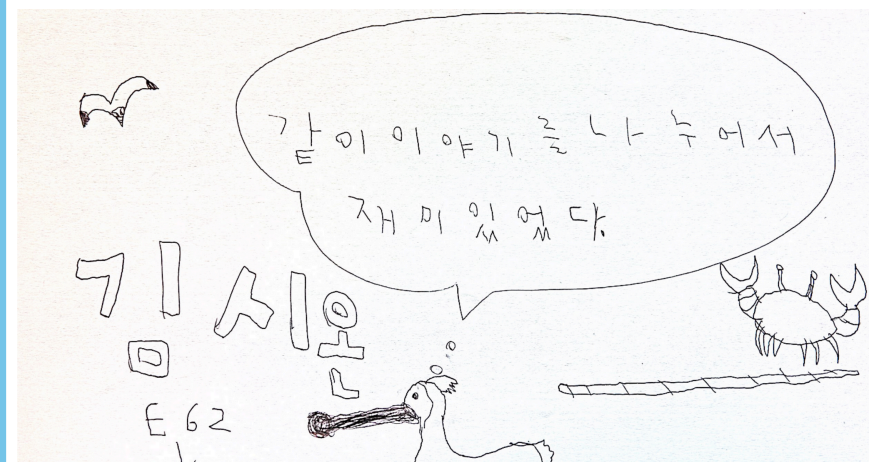


Children's Comments

しゅみは、みんなバラバラだけど
クロツラヘラサギが好きとか鳥が好き
という共通点があっても、今日の活動
にさんかした人たちのことをしりたいと思い
ました。次にあうのがとても楽しみです。



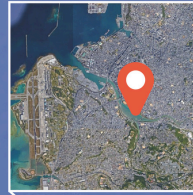
I want to know more about the people who participated in today's program because even though we all had different hobbies, we all share the love for birds and BFSs. I am looking forward to seeing them again. (Mihiro, Fukuoka)



It was fun talking together.
(Zion, Ganghwa)

Scan the QR code for more
comments →





Manko, Okinawa

This approximately 58ha tidal estuary spans across Naha City and Tomigusuku City. It is located at the confluence of Kokuba River and Noha River. The tidal flat appears with the change in tides, and it coexists with diverse environments such as mangrove forests, reedbeds, and brackish water. Designated as a Ramsar site in 1999, endangered species such as BFS and Saunder's gull have been spotted in Manko. Located within the city, it is also used as a place for relaxation and recreation by the locals.

2 MARCH 2025

OKINAWA

2ND SESSION

Participants: 18 people
(4 from Fukuoka, 2 from
Yatsushiro, 5 from Okinawa,
and 7 from Ganghwa)

Introducing Manko Wetland



"Sanshin" a Traditional Instrument



Introducing Okinawa's Local Food



Ganghwa is famous for sweet potatoes and radishes



In Yatsushiro, there is a big citrus called "Danpeiyu" that is about the size of my head



Fukuoka is known for strawberries called "Amaou." It's served in school lunches.



What is a food unique to your region?



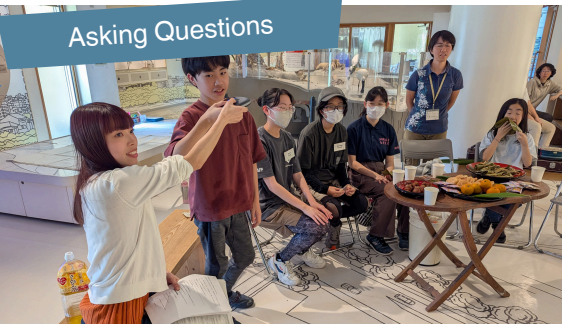
2 MARCH 2025

2nd

Program

- Introduction of Manko wetland
- Let's ask questions!
- How do you call BFS ?

Asking Questions



We gathered questions from participants beforehand, and sorted them by region. From them, each venue decided on which question to ask. Various questions like about organisms or food were asked. Due to time restrictions, we had the children answer the questions that couldn't be answered in the sessions, and shared the answers afterwards.

How Do We Call BFS?

The children taught each other what BFS is called in their region. We learned that BFS is called "Jeo-eo-sae" in Ganghwa, "Kurotsura-herasagi" in Fukuoka and Yatsushiro, and "Kuro-ibirasaji" in Okinawa. We also learned their meanings, and pronounced each of them together.

How BFSs are called in each region & their meaning

- "Jeo-eo-sae"(Ganghwa): named from BFS shaking its bill
- "Kurotsura-herasagi"(Fukuoka & Yatsushiro): A heron with a black face and a rice paddle
- "Kuro-ibira-saji"(Okinawa): A heron with a large black rice paddle



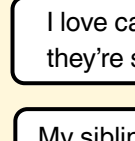
Questions from Children



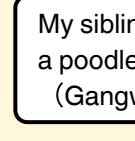
When I first saw Chaetopterus cautus, I was surprised at its appearance. Are there any funny looking organisms in your area? (Fukuoka)



Are you guys a dog person or a cat person? I'm a cat person. (Yatsushiro)



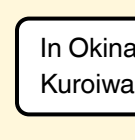
I love cats and I currently have three of them. I like that they're soft to the touch. (Ganghwa)



My sibling and I both prefer dogs. Our aunt has a poodle, and we had fun playing with it. (Ganghwa)



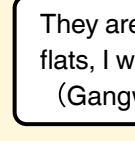
I have Schlegel's Japanese gecko as a pet. When I went to Okinawa, I found a gecko on a restaurant wall. Let me know if there are any wild geckos in your area. (Ganghwa)



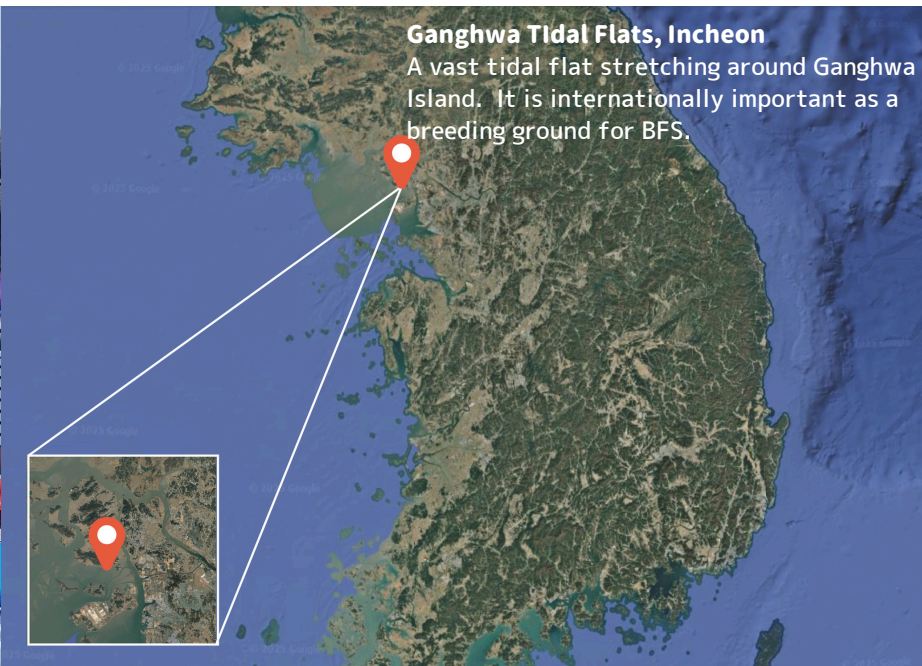
In Okinawa, there's an endemic species of gecko called Kuroiwa's ground gecko. They are super cute. (Okinawa)



How many Reticunassa festiva are there? (Fukuoka)



They are in Ganghwa as well. Next time I go to the tidal flats, I will make sure to observe carefully and take a photo. (Ganghwa)



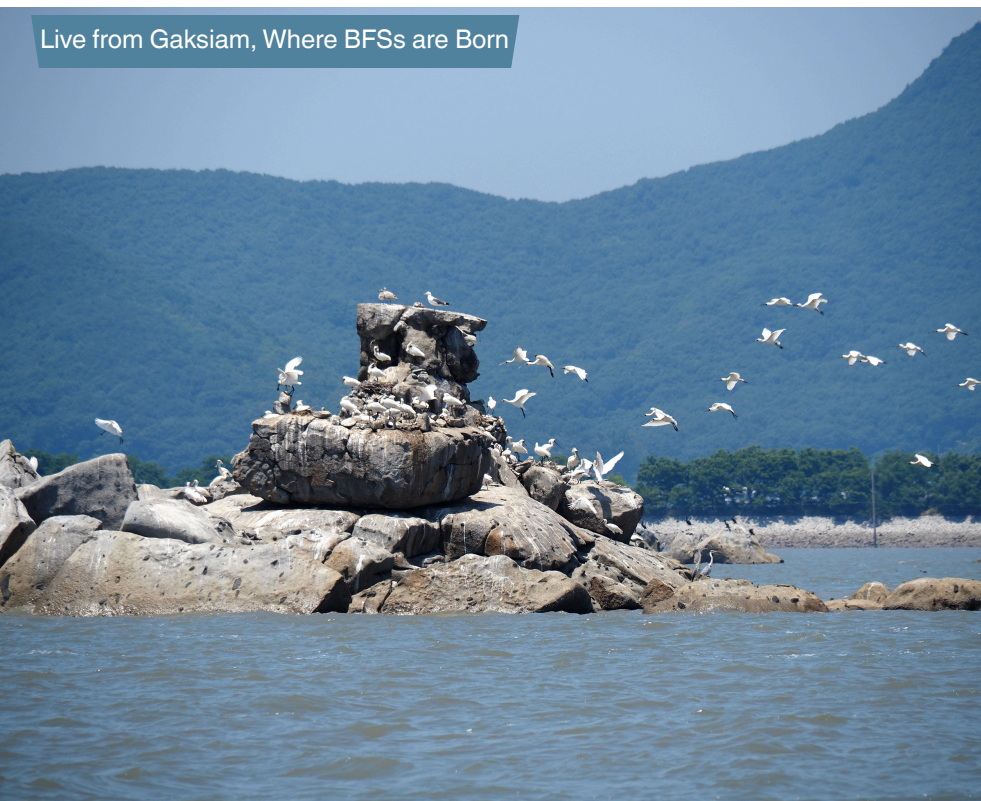
22 JUNE 2025

GANGHWA

3RD SESSION

Participants: 19 people
(6 from Fukuoka, 2 from
Yatsushiro, 4 from Okinawa,
and 7 from Ganghwa)

Live from Gaksiam, Where BFSs are Born



Live from the Boat



Introducing Ganghwa Tidal Flats
in Video



22 JUNE 2025

3RD

Program

- Introducing Ganghwa tidal flats
- Let's name the BFS chicks!

The children watched a video of BFS chicks and shared their thoughts. The children brainstormed name ideas at each venue, and presented them with their meaning. After they exchanged their thoughts, the following names were decided: "Fi-cheo-gi"(Ganghwa, F11), "Shiro"(Fukuoka & Yatsushiro, F12), and "Kang-gwa-a"(Okinawa, F13). The names will be officially registered.

We saw a video of BFS eggs hatch



We also saw a video of banding BFSs



They were all captivated by the videos



Comments from Children After Watching the Chicks

piyo-piyo(JPN) plump
small
pya-pya(KOR) bapjwo-bapjwo fuwa-fuwa(JPN)
(feed me! in KOR) BFS chicks and
chubby mohu-mohu(JPN) mothers look
yota-yota(JPN) CUTE different
They're trying moved me OO "gwa-a" (a
hard to hatch wonderful nickname in Okinawa
There will be more BFS in magical for something small
ten years poksin-poksin(KOR) and cute) new
Their bill looks like a rice They grow fast
paddle from birth They'll be flying in
small ride paddle no time

We named 3 BFSs together

K11



Name: Fi-cheo-gi
Origin : It comes from a Korean onomatopoeia "fi-cheok fi-cheok"(to shake). It is associated with how BFSs wade their bills from side to side to feed.

K12



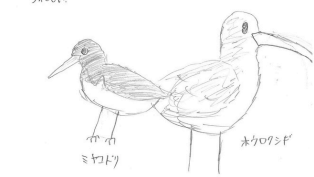
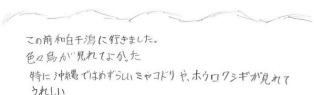
Name : Shiro
Origin: It was named after "jiro" in Wajiro and "shiro" in Yatsushiro. The "jiro" in Wajiro means white in Japanese, which is also pronounced "shiro." White is also the color of BFS's body.

K13



Name : Kang-gwa-a
Origin : "Kang" is named after "Gang" hwa and "Kan" koku(Republic of Korea in Japanese.) We added "gwa-a" which is a nickname in Okinawa for something small and cute.





たのしかり、にです！
 前回の交流で、カニファでは、ワロツラハラサキのヒサが
 ゆるときいていたので、東隣に東面をみることもできて、うれしかり
 です！また、ニクネームをつけるイ本もできて、とても良きしました
 この機会がなければ、つながることのたいいと聞かれて、うれしかり
 です。しつかり、また 会おう!!



3日又支店とて遷りし。花をす。園中場所狭し。2日、
ふかしぬ。花をす。見守。2日は花をす。
花をす。2日。花をす。
花をす。2日。花をす。




⑦ みんな良い名前を考えています。いいと思います。

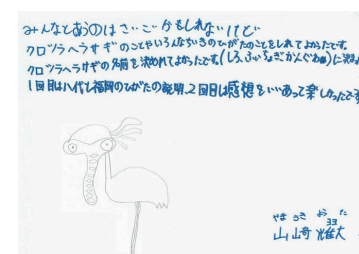
☑️メッセージ

3回という回数少ない回数だったけど、仲良くなれて良かったです。ロウウハウサギにより、仲良くなったので、これからは保全活動も情報班(ロウウハウサギの)を通じて干潟の環境を中でいこう!

おとこ



前回の交流で、わこフアでは、ワコツラハラササ + ホヒサ かみぎ
 れるとしていたので、実際に動画とみることで、うれしかた
 です！ また、ニックネームをつける イロもをきて、とても 興奮しました
 この 機会をいなければ、つながることのない人と聞かれて、うれした
 です。 しつつ、また 会おう!!



山崎 大雄

1 他のオセチ族の干潟の生物や鳥がわがで楽しかたです
 2 三回行ったに、みんなのことがわかったかわかりました
 3 福岡の子供たちと交流したけども面白かたです
 4 名前はしん、うさぎ、かみくちになりました。
 5 かみと成長してほしいと思います。



おかしさんばなをさがすふりてほしいな

100かん国へ時。そかん入時。そきたいと思ました。あと、これからノコサナヲサグハヤクニ
 くる所でさんらんで、きたらいいなと思ました。 おかし

今日休、みんなに会えてこれ以上に関係を深めた
と思います！

中々、これで70%くらいが飛べる地域での者と
交流はした事無かったので、**貴重な体験**に
なりました！

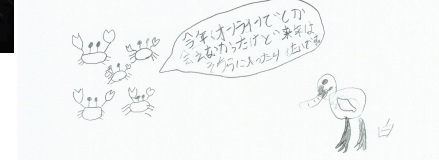
福岡、八代、そして江華の者に毛布で70%くらい
に会いに行きたいです!!!

その時は、また、会えたら会いましょう！

これから、このうちなりを大切に70%くらいを
見守りたいです！

武良 祐由

かんた



今日は久しぶりにみんなと会えてうれしかったです。ハイ代の二人ともじさいに会って少しの時間だったけど少し仲良くなれたと思います。カンファのみんなと沖糸壺のみんなとは、じさいに会えなかったけどいつか会ったらクロツウのこととかいろいろはなそうね。



いとも楽しかったぞ!!

[illegible]

0101

[illegible] 2123

For more
messages↓



Conclusion

The following outcomes were achieved through the program.

- Children with a sense of rootedness in their respective wetlands were able to connect as individuals and become friends across the flyway.
- Through realizing the BFS flyway, children were curious about areas where their new flyway friends live.
- Through understanding the differences and similarities with other areas, children became interested in their local region and its culture.

Through migratory birds, children empathize with nature far and near, and recognize that they are a part of that natural connection and can have an impact.

Messages from Co-Organizers

MOOLSEAL (MR. YEO)

I hope the three BFSs named together by the children of Japan and South Korea will each fly to Yatsushiro, Fukuoka and Okinawa.

MANKO WETLAND AND WATERBIRD CENTER(MS. TAIRA)

I would like to express my gratitude again for the opportunity of participating in this program. The children seemed very happy throughout the program. They seemed very inspired by the sights of BFSs in other areas and the chicks which can't be seen in Manko.

Through the three sessions, I felt their world gradually expanding as they think about and took interest in people with different backgrounds. I hope that they can one day meet and talk in person.



Published by Team SPOON

Date of Publication : July 2025

This project is supported by a grant from the Japan-Korea Cultural Foundation.