

STEPS Students Report

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During my stay in Lomonosov Moscow State University, I researched ecotourism in nature reserves in Russia, in order to compare them with the ecotourism in Shiretoko, Hokkaido.

At first, I studied Taimyr Peninsula, which is located inside of the Great Arctic Nature Reserve, because Prof. Mazurov and Prof. Pakina, who were my supervisors, have been involved in the research in this area. In their research, a pilot project of ecotourism was done along the Khutuda Biga River, which is in north-western part of Taimyr Peninsula. However, even now, it is very difficult to do an ecological tour because of the poor transportation system. We have to use a helicopter to approach there which is costly, otherwise it will take a long time, by using a boat. Then I found it hard to compare it with Shiretoko, because the situations are quite different from each other. We can reach the latter relatively easily, by using car.

Consequently, Prof. Pakina suggested that I should do an interview with Ms. Tatiana Kalishevskaya, who was in charge of ecotourism at Ecological Travel Center, and helped me make an appointment. I had an interview with Ms. Kalishevskaya, and she advised me to choose “кенозерский национальный парк” (Kenozero National Park). It is located in south-western part of Arkhangelsk region, because we can reach it by public transportation system, and it has some activities connected with the culture of the indigenous people there. Shiretoko has these characteristics, too.

Finally, I discussed this result with Prof. Mazurov and he told me the following things:

I do not have to choose a certain nature reserve to compare. I can consider other reserves, which are suitable for ecotourism.

It is necessary to consider the policy of field of conservation of the natural and cultural heritage in these areas. For instance, the policies of pollution, mass-tourism and so on

It is important to think about the possibilities of organizing ecotourism. For example, what kind of transportation systems are available or which season is suitable to visit.

The main points are the heritage and its management, in other words, preserving the heritage and showing it to people.

I wish I could have done field work, but it was impossible because there was no winter expedition during my stay. Instead, I went to St. Petersburg and visited the Russian

Museum of Ethnography and Kunstkamera to study the connection between the geographical characters and the cultures of the indigenous peoples in Russia.

Also, I attended some classes in the department and a conference held at another institute, but almost everything was spoken in Russian, so it was very difficult for me to understand. Fortunately, some Russian students helped me by translating the contents into English and writing them down on a notebook, during both the classes and the conference.

As for my cultural experience in Russia, it was thanks largely to Elizaveta Pan'kova, a Russian student in the same department. She helped me very much during my stay and took me to some interesting places. In addition, she introduced her friends who were living at St. Petersburg to me and they showed me around the city. It was a wonderful experience.



In 2017, I begin to study "Soundscape Ecology" at graduate school. It focuses on the relationship between a condition of ecology and the auditory properties of landscapes. I would like to combine what I have learnt in MSU with my future study.

It would be interesting to do research on soundscape in Russian nature. Personally, I am interested in the soundscape of the forest by the Kama River, where I.I. Shishkin, a great Russian painter, created many masterpieces. I think what he heard is fascinating and important, because it would be strongly connected with what he saw and painted.

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