**Collaborative Science Education for Biodiversity Conservation Offered**

**by Kyoto’s Zoo, Botanical Garden, Aquarium, and Science Museum**

Masayuki TANAKA 1,2

1Center for Research and Education of Wildlife, Kyoto City Zoo,

2Wildlife Research Center, Kyoto University

\* taqbc665@city.kyoto.lg.jp

**Abstract**

Related facilities should cooperate with each other to aim for more effective science education for biodiversity conservation. Kyoto City Zoo (KCZ), Kyoto Prefectural Botanical Garden (KPBG), Kyoto Aquarium (KA), and Kyoto Municipal Science Center (KSC) are administered by different organizations and hence these institutions conduct very few collaborative activities. Four years ago, KCZ, KPBG, and KA concluded a comprehensive partnership agreement. KSC also became a signatory to this agreement a year later. Kyoto University, which is also located within the city’s limits, became an advisor. Since then, the educational staffs of each facility have jointly organized regular collaborative workshops at each facility. The educational activities of each partner facility are introduced to the public at such sessions. The institutions also share scientific knowledge and educational skills with one another. Participants at these workshops can ask questions about any living creature as experts in animals, plants, aquatic life, and insects are present during the sessions. Recently, Kyoto’s partner institutions have also started sharing necessary resources with each other. For example, KPBG provides pruned branches and KCZ utilizes these for the environmental enrichment of animal enclosures. In return, the zoo provides the botanical garden with compost made from elephant dung. Such practical collaborations often face difficulties in Japan, but after four years of resounding and continuing success, the partnering of four Kyoto institutions has proven that such comprehensive cooperation is sustainable.

**Keywords:** collaborative workshop, botanical garden, aquarium, science museum, biodiversity