

Pan Africa News

The Newsletter of the Committee for the Care and Conservation of Chimpanzees, and the Mahale Wildlife Conservation Society



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Pan Africa News publishes articles, notes, reviews, forums, news, essays, book reviews, letters to editor, and classified ads (restricted to non-profit organizations) on any aspect of conservation and research regarding chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes*) and bilias (*Pan paniscus*). Contributors are requested to write in English and the papers except forums, reviews and essays should usually be 1,500 words or less. Articles and notes will be peer-reviewed by at least one appropriate expert on request of the *PAN* editorial staff.

Manuscripts should be formatted as DOC or RTF files and submitted by e-mail to: pan.editor@gmail.com
Photos and figures should be formatted as JPEG or GIF files and sent separately by e-mail attachments.

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Editorial

This special issue of *Pan Africa News* is dedicated to Professor Toshisada Nishida who passed away in June 2011. As readers may be aware, he was the first editor-in-chief of *PAN*, and devoted his life to the study and conservation of wild chimpanzees. We asked those who knew him very well, both from Japan and overseas, to contribute their memories of Professor Nishida. These people include senior and junior colleagues, friends, and Professor Nishida's students who have conducted research on chimpanzees at Mahale.



We were fortunate to have opportunities to accompany Professor Nishida in the field. He followed chimpanzees doggedly at Mahale for nearly 50 years. We learned a great deal about chimpanzees from him. We enjoyed being with him, admired him, sometimes were bit bewildered by what he said, and laughed a lot with him. Here, we share some recollections. These stories add to his legacy, and will inspire future research and our efforts to conserve chimpanzees.

We thank those who helped us translate some contributions originally written in Japanese to English. We are also indebted to Professors John C. Mitani and William C. McGrew, who read these translations and edited the English.

The Passing of Professor Toshisada Nishida Lamented

Masao Kawai

Professor Emeritus, *Kyoto University, Japan*

When I heard the news of Nishida-san's passing, I was overwhelmed by grief. What a great loss! The word 'loss' came to me in two senses. First, I believed that he himself regretted the 'loss' of his own life deeply. I heard that he was brooding over several writing plans. He wanted to produce some original papers using his enormous data

about the chimpanzees he had studied for 50 years with all his heart. Furthermore, he was preparing to compile all his longtime accomplishments into a lifework English-language volume. I can hardly imagine how deeply he regretted having to go on his last journey without realizing such plans. However, he conquered the pain of cancer and completed "*Chimpanzees of the Lakeshore: Natural History and Culture at Mahale*" to be published at the end of this December by Cambridge University Press. I hope that this lessened his disappointment of not being able to write more.

Secondly, the 'loss' of Nishida-san meant a great loss to primatology not only for Japan but also for the world.

His passing cannot be mourned too much. He was a pioneer in the study of wild chimpanzees. Since 1965, he maintained research at Mahale, Tanzania, and accumulated accomplishments unique to his team, rivaling another longtime chimpanzee researcher, Dr. Jane Goodall whose work at Gombe is well known. He published many excellent papers, for example, on patrilineal structure of chimpanzee society, political strategy among males, and scientific documentation of newly discovered cultural behaviors. He was awarded the Leakey Prize and the International Primatological Society Lifetime Achievement Award. In addition, he served as President of the International Primatological Society. These honors tell how highly he was esteemed internationally.



In 2004, he took up a new position as Executive Director of the Japan Monkey Centre (JMC). JMC is the place where Japanese primatology started and serves as a symbol for our discipline. I strongly recommended him as the best person for this position. The JMC hosts the World Primate Zoo and conducts museum activities such as social education, collection and preservation of materials, research, primate conservation, and publication of the international journal, *Primates*. Nishida-san, who had been eager to spread knowledge about primatology, took on his position energetically like a fish in water. Above all, his greatest achievement as Executive Director of the JMC was to enhance its international activities enormously. He advanced the research project for great ape conservation by the Ministry of Environment and set up the executive office of Great Apes Survival Project Japan Committee (GRASP-Japan) in JMC.

His strong mind commands my profoundest admiration and respect. He had to fight against a serious disease but successfully fulfilled his responsibilities as Executive Director of JMC, performed international activities, and continued to write vigorously. He trained many excellent students. I hope that they will collaborate in maintaining the chimpanzee research station at Mahale, and succeed as Nishida-san would have liked by advancing the project dynamically. May he rest in peace.

(English translation by Kazuhiko Hosaka)

Tribute to Prof. Toshisada Nishida

Vernon Reynolds

Oxford University, UK/Budongo Conservation Field Station

I first met Prof. Nishida (“Toshi” as we came to know him) on a visit to the Mahale Mountains chimpanzee project which I made in the late 1970s. I met up with my colleague Yuki Sugiyama in Dar es Salaam and we travelled across Tanzania to Kigoma. There we were supposed to meet a boat from the chimp project which would take us down Lake Tanganyika to Mahale. But it turned out that the boat’s outboard motor was broken. We waited a few days during which we met Toshi and spent some time with him, talking about his work and the Mahale chimpanzees. Eventually I made it to the project where I met the team and the chimps. I did not know it, but I was quite seriously ill with hypothyroidism at the time and my lack of energy surprised the Japanese researchers, but they were kind enough to give me a slow and considerate field assistant to accompany me in the forest. I think we only met Toshi once during that trip, but owing to the thyroid problem I don’t remember much about it.

Over the years, at conferences in Japan and elsewhere, I met Toshi again many times and was always impressed by his friendliness and total dedication to the cause of chimpanzees. I read his book on the Mahale chimpanzees, indeed it was given to us at one of those big IPS conferences in Japan.

Another occasion I remember well was in Paris, where a number of chimpanzee project leaders took part in a meeting at UNESCO headquarters to try and create a new category of “World Heritage Species”, with the apes as the first species in that category. We had good discussions in which Toshi took a leading role. He was also good fun to be with in the little restaurants where we stopped during the days in Paris.

Above all he will be remembered for his work on the chimpanzees of the Mahale Mountains, a field site he set up and which continues to thrive at the present time. Only those who have set up a field site know how much work is involved, and Toshi was an indefatigable field worker who set the highest standards for his students. I recall him as a man who had that rare quality of acute observation without which it’s impossible to be an astute fieldworker, and finally as a man who combined a firmness of purpose with a friendly outlook and disposition.

We at Budongo are all sorry to lose him, and send our condolences to his family.

Reminiscences of Our Student Days

Kosei Izawa

Professor Emeritus, Miyagi University of Education, Japan

For seven years (1961–1968), after I was admitted to the Department of Zoology, Faculty of Science, Kyoto University, until I completed my doctoral course, Nishida-san and I were together in the same lab, as if we had eaten out of the same pot all the time. During that period,

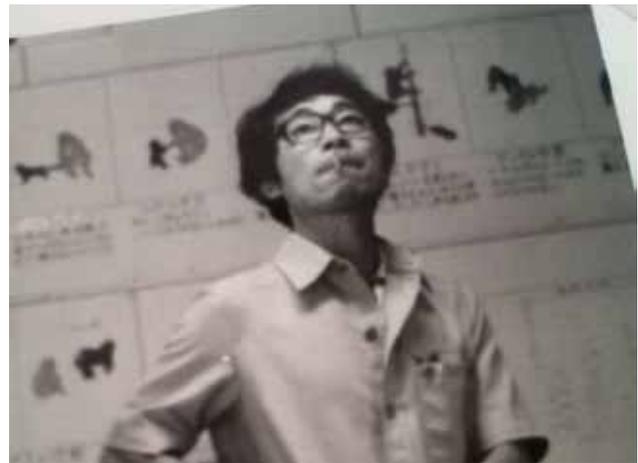
Nishida-san was always several steps ahead of me both at work and privately, and I recall that I just followed his lead as if it were my lifestyle. Nishida-san was my best friend, whom I could not help admiring.

We had another contemporary at the lab, Takayoshi Kano-san, and Prof. Junichiro Itani was our supervisor. According to Sugio Hayama-san, an assistant professor at that time, one day at a drinking party, Prof. Itani told him about us three who had just started to study monkeys, "Well, Hayama, among these three, Nishida has a restless, academic turn of mind, Kano is a droll genius, and Izawa is a stubborn guy who is proud of his physical strength. Don't you think so?" When I heard this, I thought that he had fairly made the point!

Nishida-san chose Formosan macaques as the study species for his senior thesis in 1962. The monkeys had been released by the Japan Monkey Centre on Nojima Island, an uninhabited small island in Mikawa Bay. He intended to compare the Formosan macaques with the more well-studied Japanese macaques. I once stayed with him on this lonely island, so as to help him for 2 weeks when two typhoons passed by in succession in early September. We stayed in a small storehouse with wall-to-wall monkey feces. Our light was a candle. Our meal was a soup of limpets and barnacles from the sea, because the typhoons prevented the supply boat from getting to the shore. One night, he gave me a detailed explanation of the differences in male behavior between the two species. He was already quite familiar with Japanese monkeys, although he had not yet studied them. I clearly remember how amazed I was by his rich knowledge through his industrious reading of many papers, together with the terrible smell coming from the monkey feces there.

His study of male behavior bore fruit as his master's thesis, as is known by primatologists. He challenged daringly the theory of social structure in the Japanese monkey, which was thought to have been established. He revealed that solitary males (*hanare-zaru*) were a normal stage of the male life cycle; at that time, they were thought to be evicted males (*murahachibu-zaru*) or losers in fights for top-ranking status (*bosu araso*). Thus, he was the first to realize that monkey troops were not closed. It was more than 10 years after his epoch-making study that I somehow was able to contribute to the critique of the then-established theory of social structure in Japanese monkeys.

In March 1963, just after we finished our senior theses, Nishida-san and I made a 3-week expedition to search for "monkeys of the northern limit" (*hokugen no saru*), which was still mysterious at that time, in the southwestern part of Shimokita Peninsula. This project was carried out in collaboration with a film crew from the NHK TV program, "Japan Nature" (*Nihon no shizen*). Both filming and research were successful. Then Prof. Itani told us to compile a report, in order to apply to the Agency for the Cultural Affairs of Japan for designation of the monkeys as a natural monument. After the hard work of completing the report, while I was so tired and getting some alcohol for a break, Nishida-san, who did not drink at the time, was checking the designation process for all natural monuments in Japan. Moreover, he looked into and even memorized the laws and government ordinances concerned with natural monuments. Therefore, when we went to the Agency for Cultural Affairs, I remember that he was so persuasive that the officer in charge almost stammered. This memory of negotiation was definitely



my starting point for conserving Japanese monkeys and at the same time for taking measures against their damage to agriculture and forestry.

In 1965, we both went to East Africa, for doctoral study of wild chimpanzees. After so many fruitless challenges, Nishida-san finally succeeded in provisioning chimpanzees and revealed many intelligent behaviors such as tool use. His findings were truly amazing, but I had to wait many more years until I succeeded in provisioning capuchin monkeys, the so-called "Chimpanzees of South America", and revealed some of their intelligent behaviors.

Nishida-san is known to have discovered that chimpanzees have a clear-cut unit-group even as they range daily in a fission-and-fusion manner and that their society is patrilocal. Again, this preceded my similar findings on the social structure of spider monkeys, done long after my capuchin research.

In this way, my stories about him are endless, for, as I have mentioned, Nishida-san was the person who always forced me to follow his steps.

This was the case even in job-hunting. While he was studying Formosan monkeys on Nojima Island, he already was thinking seriously about his future employment. Indeed, he once took an employment exam of the Asahi Shimbun Company (one of the leading daily newspaper companies in Japan). I thought his aptitude as a potential newspaper reporter had been fully utilized in preparing for the negotiations with the Agency for Cultural Affairs to make "monkeys of the northern limit" a natural monument. Of course, he found a job earlier than I. When he was hired by the University of Tokyo, I suddenly felt insecure of my future. At that time I had not outgrown yet the feeling of being a student. Now I recall it with nostalgia.

Ditto for marriage. In the summer of 1963, our first year in the master's course, one of our supervisors, Prof. Jiro Ikeda, took us on a training program for museum curators, where we did an archeological excavation in the suburbs of Misawa City, Aomori Prefecture. It was a one-week joint program with other universities, such as Rikkyo University and Tokyo Women's Christian University. While I was happy just talking with charming female students from Rikkyo University during our free time, Nishida-san found his ideal woman among the intelligent, gentle, but obviously strong-minded students of Tokyo Women's Christian University. By the end of the training, he already had a conscious wish to marry her and he kept to it during all the time in Africa. He carried through his love and after coming back from Africa, he at last mar-

ried the lady, Miss Haruko Kitayama. So for marriage, he again left me behind.

I vaguely believed that I would precede him in only one thing: entering the next world, for I have indulged in over-eating and over-drinking wherever I stayed, in Japan, Africa or the Amazon, without learning anything. That contrasted greatly with Nishida-san, but he preceded me even in this.

For me, he was an invaluable and truly great friend.
May his soul rest in peace.

(English translation by Noriko Itoh)

Short Tribute to Prof. Toshisada Nishida

William C. McGrew

Cambridge University, UK

Many will write of his scientific and academic achievements, which were great and many. Others will write of his commitment to Mahale, its chimpanzees, and its conservation. Here I wish to recall the pleasure of his company and his friendship, in a couple of personal memories:

Only three primatologists attended both Wenner-Gren meetings on The Great Apes (1974, Burg Warstein, Austria; 1994, Cabo San Lucas, Mexico): Prof. Jane Goodall, Prof. Nishida, and myself. At the first one, he and I were almost the youngest persons there; at the second one, we were almost the oldest. We both occasionally enjoyed a celebratory alcoholic beverage. Laurie Obbink reminds me that after dinner on the first night at Cabo, Prof. Nishida bowed politely and asked her, "Please, where can we drink more?" She obliged, and we raised our glasses, more than once.



One time during one of the Understanding Chimpanzees conferences in Chicago, I took him to Wrigley Field to see the Cubs play. He admitted to not being a real baseball fan, though he recalled that his father had taken him to games. He paid attention during the play, and was appreciative of the atmosphere of that grand old stadium, but seemed a bit restless. It turned out that what he really wanted to do was stock up on souvenirs, such as baseball hats, pennants, etc., especially to do with Sammy Sosa (a

famous Cub homerun hitter of that era). He did so, and we came away, with arms full.

Such are the small memories that never fade.

Recollection of Nishida-san: His Days at the University of Tokyo

Ryutaro Ohtsuka

Japan Wildlife Research Center, Japan

I remember that it was late autumn of 1969 that I met Nishida-san for the first time. He came to see the room of the ecological anthropology group. He had been recently hired as a research associate in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Tokyo. Nishida-san arrived to take up the position in December of the year, and was promoted to Lecturer and Associate Professor afterwards. He worked in the same department until March, 1988. Thus, he taught at the University of Tokyo for over 18 years, or longer than the period he taught at Kyoto University.

Nishida-san joined the room occupied by the ecological anthropology group, which included the late Dr. Reizo Harako (doctor's course), Dr. Jun Takeda, and me (master's course). Only a few other research students and undergraduate students occasionally spent time in the room, since the ecological anthropology group had just started. We conducted a survey of the fishing communities and *matagi* hunters, but nobody had investigated the primates. It was only for four months that I was with Nishida-san in the Department of Anthropology, because the following April I became a research associate in the Department of Human Ecology at the University of Tokyo. However, the buildings were near to each other and we met frequently even after that.

Harako-san was a master of the room in the ecological anthropology group. He had been a surgeon but was attracted to the Pygmy people in Africa and was determined to learn anthropology. He was already over 30 years old then. Harako-san was a dominant personality, and Nishida-san was influenced by him. Talking over drinks was one habit instilled in us by Harako-san. At first, Nishida-san did not seem to understand why we went out to drink almost every day, but the frequency with which he joined us gradually increased. In fact, Nishida-san seemed to be more concerned about food than *sake*. Anyway, he ate a lot. Harako-san also encouraged Nishida-san to play *go* under his instruction. Nishida-san also became an avid player of the game. I will mention this again later. Let me add that Harako-san had a position of research associate in the Laboratory of Physical Anthropology, Kyoto University, for about eight years beginning in August, 1970.

Nishida-san often took postgraduate and undergraduate students to go to Mt. Takago on the Boso peninsula, Chiba Prefecture, to observe a troop of Japanese macaques, which was not fed by people any more. I also sometimes accompanied them. I remember that Nishida-san changed when he was there: he was full of vitality and walked very fast in the mountains. After Nishida-san began to work in Department of Anthropology, the number of postgraduates who majored in ecological anthropology increased. For instance, Dr. Taizo Iwano and Dr. Mariko Hasegawa (Hiraiwa), who specialized in primate ecol-

ogy, came to take an active part in the investigation at Mt. Takago.

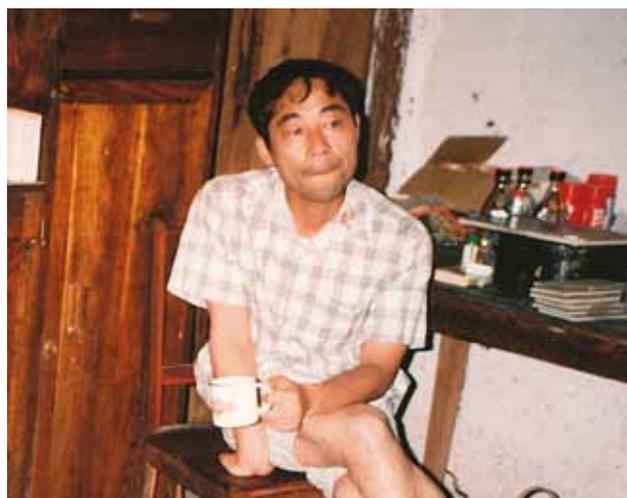
Let me turn back a little. Nishida-san and I began to collaborate to write books starting in 1972. We worked together to write the “*Ecology of Humankind*” (Volume 25 of ‘*The Course of Ecology*’) of Kyoritsu-Shuppan (collaboration of three people, including Dr. Jiro Tanaka) and in the selection and writing of the items of “animal sociology”, “zoogeography”, and “human ecology” in the ‘*Dictionary of Ecology*’ (Prof. Makoto Numata ed.) of Tsukiji-Shokan. There were three authors of the ‘*Dictionary of Ecology*’; the late Professor Junichiro Itani was the first author, followed by Nishida-san and me. However, we two, Nishida-san and me, came to write it entirely. At one point, we began to meet without the *go* board to concentrate on writing.

There were various things that I learned from Nishida-san in those days. One was to publish books as well as in journals. First of all, he taught me the importance of conducting original research. We had a strong tendency to put value only on papers at the University of Tokyo, but many people including me came to value the publication of academic books as a result of Nishida-san’s influence. Another thing that I learned from Nishida-san is that one’s research should make complicated problems easier to understand. This point might reflect, in a sense, a difference in academic traditions between Kyoto University and the University of Tokyo. Anyway, I have always kept this point in mind when collecting data and analyzing them.

While Nishida-san was a Lecturer and an Associate Professor between the 1970’s and 1980’s, Dr. Tadashi Tanno from the Laboratory of Physical Anthropology at Kyoto University, Dr. Shun Sato, and the late Dr. Satoshi Horai served as research associates in the Department of Anthropology. On the other hand, Harako-san moved to Kyoto University, as mentioned above. All of these personnel changes promoted strong ties between the Laboratory of Physical Anthropology at Kyoto University and the Department of Anthropology and the Department of Human Ecology at the University of Tokyo. Nishida-san kept working hard as a teacher at the University of Tokyo, and as a consequence, there was a surge of interest by students majoring in ecology. Some of them later went on to establish the Association for Ecological Anthropology (The Society for Ecological Anthropology of today).

Finally, let me tell a story about the 11th social gathering of the teachers of the University of Tokyo on February 22, 1988. The president of the University, Wataru Mori, and his special advisor (vice-president) Akito Arima also attended. The theme of the gathering was “Overseas scientific research.” Nishida-san talked about his investigations of wild chimpanzees in Africa. I talked about my research on human ecology in Papua New Guinea, and Dr. Masanori Aoyagi of the Faculty of Letters talked about his excavations of archaeological sites of Roman architecture. A campus newsletter at that time described that Nishida-san gave his talk with some touches of humor and that it was received quite well. Thus, Nishida-san left a lasting impact on the development of overseas scientific research at the University of Tokyo, before he left for Kyoto in March.

The end of my recollection is about the game of *go*, which Nishida-san began to play at the University of Tokyo. We have a lot of lovers of game of *go* among the members majoring in ecological anthropology in Kyoto



University and the University of Tokyo. We still organize a *go* tournament twice a year to remember Professor Itani and Harako-san. Of course, Nishida-san was one of the key members. One should be unyielding when playing the game of *go*, and the unyielding spirit of Nishida-san was considerable. Therefore, it is regrettable that it will not be possible for us to face Nishida-san again at the board. On July 9 this year, we held a “*Go* tournament in memory of the late Prof. Toshisada Nishida” in Nagoya, and offered condolences in appreciation for his longtime companionship.

Now I put down my pen. On behalf of all his senior and junior colleagues and *go* companions at the University of Tokyo, I wish to express our sincere gratitude to Nishida-san.

(English translation by Takahisa Matsusaka)

Tribute to Professor Toshisada Nishida

Hosea Kayumbo

University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Professor Toshisada Nishida will be very much missed by staff and students of the Department of Zoology and Wildlife Conservation of the University of Dar es Salaam. He often visited the University of Dar es Salaam on his way to Mahale, Kigoma. He used to interact freely and amicably with staff and students of the Department, to whom he freely gave lectures and conducted seminars. His contributions, however, extend well beyond his role as a mentor.

A quiet but warm, perceptive and acutely intelligent individual, Nishida’s lifelong commitment to research on chimpanzees in Africa, stemmed naturally from his interest in people. He particularly emphasised the desirability of engaging with local people. He was very much liked in Mahale. News of his arrival spread quickly throughout the communities living around the National Park. For the field staff who continued to record and collect data while he was in Japan, he would bring many presents—watches, T-shirts, pictures, school books, etc. On one occasion, in August 2001, Professor Kapepwa Tambila, who is from one of the Mahale ethnic (tribes) groups and I accompanied Nishida to Mahale. One evening the local field

workers and local people from a nearby village organized a *ngoma* party for us. They ate, danced and drank to celebrate Nishida's arrival. The local people and the Japanese researchers became very excited when Professor Tambila, one of their own, joined the dance and moved about with incredible agility, singing the songs they thought he did not know.



Nishida's concern was not confined to chimpanzees and the threat to their forest habitat. He was very much concerned with the poverty of the local communities living around the Park. He and I therefore thought we could make a small gesture to the local people to indicate that we understood their plight. So in 2000 we decided to build a primary school in one of the neighbouring villages called Katumbi on the shores of Lake Tanganyika. Funds were donated by well-wishers and friends of Mahale in Japan as well as by the Government of Japan. Construction by the villagers themselves started in January 2001 and was completed in May 2002 at a cost of US dollars 32,757. A proposal has now been put forward to add a secondary school and name it **Professor Toshisada Nishida School**. He once confided in me and said: "You know Kayumbo; in Mahale there is so much to do so few of us to do it, and so little time to do it"

Having worked in Tanzania for more than forty years, Nishida was not worried by the occasional inaccurate reporting of some local newspapers on Mahale, so long as the bounds of good taste and scientific probity were not overstepped.

Nishida-san and Tongwe

Makoto Kakeya

Professor Emeritus, Kyoto University, Japan

In 2011, the year we have suffered an unprecedented earthquake, a tsunami, and an accident at a nuclear power plant, we have lost Nishida-san. He was always concerned about the ongoing destruction of nature and devoted himself to the protection of the great apes. The loss of nature has coincided with an increase in the number of nuclear power plants. I recall the safari when I first visited the Tongwe villages with the late Professor Itani and Nishida-san in 1971; I now think that this time marked the turning point for these changes. At that time, Itani-san was 45,

Nishida-san was 30, and I was 26 years old. Forty years after that, Japan's practices to achieve modern civilization have finally led to undermine the life and mind of the Japanese, and Nishida-san passed away.

In 1971, we conducted two safari surveys together. In the first journey, we climbed Mt. Sisaga, one of the main peaks at Mahale, and made a survey of the villages near the Nyenda Plateau in the south-western part of the Tongwe Land. In the second one, we headed to the Mibanga Village to the east of the innermost Nkungwe Bay through the Lwegele River. I remained at the Mibanga Village to continue my research on the nearby villages. Meanwhile, Itani-san and Nishida-san moved further east to Mt. Ipumba and visited the Busungwe Village where people subsisted by hunting large animals. After their visit they enthusiastically related tales about Busungwe, which was really representative of the life of Tongwe people in the depth of the wilderness (which I confirmed myself in a later visit). We experienced many things and unforgettable moments during these safaris. In the first one, we followed the policy of Itani-san who loved to walk at a swinging trot, with minimal food and equipment. In the second safari, Nishida-san was in charge of food. Perhaps because the safari was longer and with more people, he brought along sufficient food, including two chickens. Although Itani-san teased Nishida-san about his "luxurism" compared to his own "minimalism," this may have been the Nishida-style not to trouble inland people about food.

Itani-san and Nishida-san's contrast was also seen in their Swahili language. Itani-san freely used his proper, but not so rich, vocabulary and was a joy to hear. Nishida-san, on the other hand, with his long experience in Tanzania and linguistic talent, spoke fluent Swahili and collected accurate and quantitative information.

I am now keenly aware that I managed to complete my study of the Tongwe people only because of the tutelage of these two quite different individuals. The Tongwe people have supported chimpanzee research and have given us tremendous folk knowledge about the animals and plants at Mahale. As the research went on, we step-by-step gained knowledge about the everyday wisdom, culture, and society of the Tongwe, who lived adaptively in the midst of the wilderness. We have become fascinated by these people and our respect for them became deeper and deeper. It was this sense of respect that bonded the three of us.

Recalling these 40 years, I would like to express my heartfelt condolences to the spirit of Nishida-san.

(English translation by Michio Nakamura)

Short Tribute

Christophe Boesch

Max-Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Germany

It is with great sadness that I have learned about Professor Toshisada Nishida's death. This announcement brings me back to 1999 when I was with him in the Mahale Mountains comparing the hunting behavior of the chimpanzees with those of the Tai chimpanzees. We stayed for 2 months together in the field and he was kind enough to allow me to share his meals in the evenings. But what made these moments so special were the dis-

cussions we had everyday on chimpanzees. I was very curious about understanding differences in the behaviour between the two populations and we spent hours together passionately discussing leaf-grooming, tool use, social ranks and hunting strategies. Two passionate people discussing their passion through the long nightly hours!

Tribute

Linda F. Marchant

Miami University, USA

Professor Toshisada Nishida's research on the chimpanzees of the Mahale Mountains, Tanzania, first came to my attention in *The Great Apes* (1979) volume based on a Wenner-Gren Conference held in 1974. The quality and depth of his chapter included his ground-breaking insight into the social organization of *Pan troglodytes*. At that time I did not imagine that I would be so fortunate as to work with him on its sequel, *Great Ape Societies* (1996), based on another Wenner-Gren Conference held in 1994 and organized by Professor Nishida and Professor William McGrew. In the 20 years between those conferences and in the ensuing 17 years, Toshi produced a body of work that will stand as testimony to a consummate fieldworker.

In the last few years of his life, he had to cope with prolonged periods of illness but he persevered and completed his forthcoming book, *Chimpanzees of the Lakeshore: Natural History and Culture at Mahale*, Cambridge University Press, which will appear later this year. I had the privilege of reading several chapters of this book and in one of our e-mail exchanges I commented —

“Toshi, I had such pleasure in reading this chapter and many times I felt I was standing in Mahale watching ‘your’ chimpanzees as they live their remarkable lives. I especially enjoyed your stories of families, and sometimes I laughed out loud to read how perfectly you captured what it is like to be in a chimpanzee family.”

On February 23rd 2011, he replied and said “...your words are very encouraging”. He was racing against time to finish his book. I will miss Toshi, yet he will be with us, in this his final effort to share a lifetime of knowledge and love of the chimpanzees of the Mahale Mountains.

In the accompanying photo Toshi is with two of his favorite fellow ‘alpha-males’—Frans de Waal and Bill McGrew! This was on the occasion of an International



Symposium in March 2010, sponsored by “Hope-GM Lectures on Primate Mind and Society”, organized by the Primate Research Institute under the direction of Professor Tetsuro Matsuzawa.

Tribute

Richard W. Byrne

The University of St Andrews, Scotland, UK

In 1980, Toshisada Nishida was visiting Bill McGrew at Stirling when there was a *Scottish Primate Research Group* event in St Andrews: so naturally both were invited, and the supper afterwards happened to be hosted at my house. I was excited to meet Dr Nishida, but a little disappointed that after being introduced he did not converse. (I knew nothing then about traditional Japanese etiquette.) At the next international conference we both attended, I was therefore slightly amazed when Dr Nishida enthusiastically greeted me with a sheaf of papers he had brought specially for my interest, thanking me for the wonderful hospitality in St Andrews! In the subsequent conversation, I asked very hesitantly whether it might ever be possible just to visit his chimpanzee field site ... and partly misunderstanding my words, Toshi gave me permission to carry out a research study at Mahale! By now, I was totally thrown, but very pleased: I had never even seen a wild ape at that point, and only studied one monkey species. Of course, I worked diligently in the next two years to come up with some ideas, and my wife Jen and I were able to work at Mahale in 1984 on chimpanzee vocalization. It may not have been the most successful project, but led to my subsequent career studying great apes: for which I am profoundly grateful. I never knew whether Toshi realised his early slip, but we remained good friends, meeting often at conferences. His death is a sad loss.

Memories of Toshisada Nishida

John C. Mitani

Michigan University, USA

“Here, let me fix this.” Toshi eyed me suspiciously and quite warily as I began to dismantle the Honda generator at Kansyana camp. I had used the same kind of generator for many years in Borneo and knew how to repair them. I cleaned and fixed it quickly. Only later did Miya Hamai tell me that Toshi was more worried than I could have ever imagined. Apparently, there were old stories about how Itani sensei became upset over broken generators at Kabogo Point, the legendary site of his and Imanishi sensei's first effort to study wild chimpanzees along the shores of Lake Tanganyika.

Perhaps it was my ability to fix that generator during my first trip to Mahale that endeared me to Toshi. But I like to think there were other reasons. We both had an abiding passion for fieldwork, and came to respect each other for that. And while he came to trust me, I too trusted him unconditionally. In retrospect, some of that trust may have been misplaced. Like the time he convinced me to eat raw chicken in the field. He assured me that it

would be alright. After all, chickens were raised in a special way for such consumption in Japan, where they were a delicacy. But I doubt that the chicken we ate that night in Kansyana camp was raised in the same way in Kasiha village!



In the end, ours was a remarkable friendship. Those were in fact his last words to me in an email message he sent before he passed away. I wasn't aware at the time that this would be our last communication. Toshi was always quite stoic and never let on how much he must have been suffering, at least to me. I will remember his strength of character and the strength of our friendship, built on trust and mutual respect and admiration. I miss him greatly.

A Memory of Toshisada Nishida

Craig Stanford

University of Southern California, USA

I first met Toshisada Nishida in October 1991, when I visited him at his research camp in Mahale National Park. We had corresponded for some months and although I was relatively new in the chimpanzee research world, he graciously invited me to spend a week with him on a holiday from fieldwork at Gombe. To get to know him in the field and to tag along on his daily follows of the Mahale chimpanzees, with the team of assistants and students he had trained over the years, was truly awe-inspiring. One memorable wet day we sat watching the chimps doing a rain dance in a downpour so heavy I thought surely the hillside on which we sat would surely be washed away. Only when Dr. Nishida decided the weather would not allow further observations—by now streams of flood water were racing around our legs—did we return to camp. I learned that beyond his primatological wisdom, he knew which mushrooms were delicious and which were poisonous, and which fish from Lake Tanganyika made the best *sushi*.

Although I touched base with Dr. Nishida at the IPS Congress in Kyoto in 2010, not knowing he was ill at the time, my last vivid memory of him and his impact on our field is his retirement banquet and lecture, held in Kyoto in 2004. I was lucky enough to be among the group of foreign chimp-ologists invited to attend. We were treated royally. The highlight was observing the honorifics bestowed upon Dr. Nishida by so many hundreds of his aca-

demic peers.

The world has lost one of the greatest primatologists in the history of our discipline. We must be grateful for his enormous contributions and for the legacy he leaves to future generations of both Japanese and western students of animal behavior.

In Back of Nishida-san

Hiroshi Ihobe

Sugiyama Jogakuen University, Japan

I am writing this tribute at Mahale. I first came here nine years ago in 1995 and stayed with Nishida-san for several months. I was fortunate to have been able to conduct research at field sites with three famous Japanese fieldworkers. When I was an undergraduate student, I followed Itani-san to Kuchinoshima Island in Japan to study feral cattle. As a graduate student, I went to Wamba in the former Zaire and walked with Kano-san in the forests there to study pygmy chimpanzees. And I spent time with Nishida-san at Mahale. Each field worker has his style. Itani-san wrote "*Haiku*" in the field and showed it to me while observing cattle. Kano-san did not speak to me often, and I only followed him from behind as we walked in the forest. Nishida-san recorded how chimpanzee foods tasted by eating them. I think Itani-san and Kano-san were generalists and Nishida-san was a specialist. Nishida-san's interest was focused entirely on chimpanzees. He seemed to try to understand the environment through the eyes of the chimpanzees. All three fieldworkers, however, have common features. They did not teach me many things directly. Instead, I learned the way to conduct fieldwork by following them in the field. While following them, I observed their manners and experienced how to carry out fieldwork successfully. While I followed Nishida-san, I came to learn many important things about Mahale. His death has left a deep hole and is a big loss for Japanese primatology. I wish I could follow him from behind to Mahale once more because I still have to learn many things about there and about fieldwork. This, however, is an impossible dream for now. I can honor his soul by working hard to emulate him in the field, but it is too hard to equal him when it comes to fieldwork.

Short Tribute

Miho Nakamura

ANC Productions Inc./Kyoto University, Japan

Remember, he was speaking fast about the classification of Hominidae in the first class of primatology, I was just 20 years old then. Remember, he took a picture of a Japanese macaque showing threat while I was provoking the female, then I realized how much I get excited in the field. Remember, we climbed a cliff of the Mahale mountains only to discover a breathtaking view. We couldn't catch up the chimpanzees but he looked happy and satisfied with the view. Dr. Nishida, always young in spirit, loves to visit a new place as well as deepening his scientific knowledge.



Nkungwe as Majestic as in the Pioneering Days

Kazuhiko Hosaka

Kamakura Women's University, Japan

Time flies like an arrow. Twenty years have passed since I first stepped on the soil at Mahale. It was Nishida-san that introduced me to the wonderful world of chimpanzees.

My life as a chimpanzee researcher started the first ten days during which I followed Nishida-san closely. After finishing this apprenticeship, I began to observe my focal animals by myself, although we often tracked the chimpanzees together because both he and I followed the adult males who tended to be in close vicinity to each other.



I was inhibited and always nervous in front of my great supervisor, who was much older than me. Moreover, he spoke so fast that I could hardly understand him during conversations. However, once I became absorbed in the intriguing social relationships between males, he began to behave like a bug-hunting companion, instead of my advisor. For example, one day, we observed three adult males walking in single file, emitting a pant-hoot in chorus. Just after they called, they froze in unison with their legs lifted as if this had all been prearranged. They seemed to be listening to distant replies to their call. Nishida-san looked back at me, pointing to the frozen chimpanzees as if to say, "Look! How funny!" I remember his smile to this day and occasionally laugh about this event even now.

At that time, Mahale M-group chimpanzees were in the midst of a historic change. Ntologi, the famous alpha male had been overthrown. Kalunde, who led the coup, successfully ostracized Ntologi and maintained his new alpha status by manipulating the triangular relationships with the other two high-ranking males, Shike, the beta male, and Nsaba, the gamma male. The three were allies and rivals with each other.

However, the situation changed soon after Nishida-san left for Japan. Shike got seriously ill and disappeared, which meant that the stable triangle collapsed. Kalunde came to face frequent harassment by Nsaba, who was 10 years younger than him. Kalunde became so overwhelmed that he began to travel alone. But three weeks later, Kalunde displayed an act of behavioral flexibility that characterizes chimpanzees. Kalunde came back to the group with Ntologi, who he himself had ostracized. Ntologi regained the alpha position, with support from Kalunde. Nsaba could not challenge them as Kalunde and Ntologi formed the strongest alliance ever at Mahale. In the end, Nsaba had to settle for life as the beta male.

This series of events coincided with the disintegration of the Soviet Union. I described them in several letters that I sent to Nishida-san because I knew that he longed to hear about what was happening at Mahale. I also wanted to show him that I was carefully recording these historic events. Each time he received my letter, he responded very quickly to express his excitement. When I phoned him just after I returned to Japan, he said to me, "Thank you for your letters. I enjoyed them very much." Then, he paused for about three seconds and added, "*Yoku dekimashita!* (Very good!)" using a conventional praise for Japanese elementary school children. We met at Ochanomizu Station and he took me to a tempura restaurant. He treated me to *Ebitendon*, a bowl of rice topped with tempura prawns, his favorite dish.

In February 2007, two months after Nishida-san underwent an operation for rectal cancer, I met with him at the office of ANC Productions in Tokyo. I was asked to assist him and to help prepare his presentation. While we watched videos taken from 1989 to 1995, he reminisced about those times and said, "I enjoyed that time at Mahale the most." The chimpanzees of M-group were very well habituated, and there weren't many tourists. Under such good conditions, we could observe the political interactions between the adult males. I agreed with him and thought that I was very lucky to have accompanied him in those days.

In August 2009, Nishida-san visited Mahale after a two year absence. We departed from Japan together and stayed in Mahale for about two weeks. I had a feeling that this would be his last journey to Mahale. However, he was never sentimental but enjoyed his trip as usual.

For a couple of days after he reached Mahale, he tired easily. "I am tired," he said even after a 2 km trek from the Kanyana Research Station to the Ntale valley. But his strength improved each day. On the tenth day of his stay, he easily reached the Lubulungu, 4 km south of Kanyana, to observe chimpanzees cross the river to the south.

His main focus of study during this trip was play behavior of immature chimpanzees, but he enjoyed observing all aspects of chimpanzees and was curious as ever. In his last contribution to this newsletter, he reported "Puffy (nine year old female) showed 'nipple press' (one of the novel behaviors recorded in the 1990s) just as Alofu,

estimated to be her father, did.” This might be too small a finding to mark the finale of such a great chimpanzee researcher, but in a sense, it was indicative of the passion he always displayed when watching chimpanzees. He described this himself in a chapter of *The Great Ape Project* (1993), “Chimpanzees are always new to me!”

One day, we went on a safari to Katumbi and Buhingu in the northern area of the park. At that time, the Embassy of Japan in Tanzania was planning to build a dispensary in Katumbi. The main purpose of our safari was to hear the opinion of the Katumbi people, to inspect the building site, and to make a report to the Embassy. We visited Katumbi Primary School and met lively students there. This school was built by collaboration of the Mahale Wildlife Conservation Society and the Embassy under the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Projects (2001). But Nishida-san seemed shocked to see the wretched condition of the school and took many photos. There were only four teachers for over 800 students. There were not enough desks. The floors of the classrooms were full of holes.

While Nishida-san was staying in Kansyana, he was always in a good mood. Every night, he enjoyed a little beer with fish from Lake Tanganyika, tough chicken and goat. After dinner, we went on to the next routine, gossiping about chimpanzees and humans. For example, we exchanged our observations about the idiosyncratic ways different alpha males shared meat and copulated. We had a good time, occasionally bursting into laughter. Twenty long years seem to have erased my inhibitions.

On the morning of August 27, 2009, when Nishida-san left Mahale last time, only I saw him off at Kasiha Beach. In the old days, many inhabitants of Kasiha gathered to say farewell to researchers going back to their countries. Now that the park administration controls the people who can stay in the park, we could not expect such a scene. The boat full of eco-tourists picked up Nishida-san and steered its course northward. It soon drifted out of sight. He gazed at Kasoje Forest in front and Mt. Nkungwe behind, the highest peak in the Mahale Mountains chain. I can no longer ask him if he reminisced about the pioneering days he spent there 44 years before or if he planned to come again next year.

The Last Day with Nishida-san

Michio Nakamura

Kyoto University, Japan

On 27th May, 2011, about ten days before he passed away, I visited Nishida-san at his home. I visited him because I had received a message from him that he wanted to hand over several things about Mahale. Eventually, this visit became my last opportunity to see him alive.

I had not visited him for about a month then, as I had been busy in April and May occupied with teaching duties to new master course students. Nishida-san was much thinner than a month before and looked very small. When I arrived, he first apologized about staying in bed while talking to me. “I am deaf of one ear” told he. But he conversed logically and clearly.

He told me one by one, sometimes making a pause as if he was trying to remember everything that he needed to tell me, about long-term data of Mahale from the early

period, about his own data that had been input into computer but had not been published, and about his forthcoming English book “*Chimpanzees of the Lakeshore*” that became his final work. He was really a researcher until the very final stage of his life.

Finally, he expressed his concern about research assistants at Mahale. He asked me to think about supporting the post-retirement years of some assistants from the early days. I realized again how Nishida-san appreciated the contributions made by the Tongwe people for continuing the research at Mahale over 40 years.

Prof. Nishida and Ntologi

Noriko Itoh

Kyoto University, Japan

In 1995, I first visited Mahale. That was the year when Ntologi died. This happening left a vivid impression on me about Prof. Nishida: how deeply he was attached to chimpanzees and how deeply the local people understood it. When Ntologi was found dying in the forest, he did not hesitate to intervene between Ntologi and the other adult male who made several approaches. I was not aware how depressed he was when Ntologi died next morning and he collected necessary data from the body. But after finishing his tasks, he expressed his feelings and even said that he was discouraged from observing chimpanzees any more. I could not find any words for him. Ntologi died around 3AM and it was his wife that noticed the change in his condition, watching over him all night. Later, the wives of field assistants came to the camp together expressing their condolences to Prof. Nishida and his wife. Such an event happened only once in my memory. People understood Prof. Nishida’s attachment to individual chimpanzees, since he talked about chimpanzees to anyone pleasantly and passionately. I believe such local people’s understanding acted as the firm base for his accomplishments. I did not expect that we would lose our opportunity to hear his fascinating chimpanzee talks, often with a hearty laugh, so suddenly. There is another story about the death of Ntologi, but I keep it for later. May his soul rest in peace.

Dr. Toshisada Nishida and His Video Record of Chimpanzees

Koichiro Zamma

Great Ape Research Institute, Hayashibara, Japan

I am presently in the forest of Mahale, where I am writing this essay. Dr. T. Nishida is not here, but his habituated chimpanzees and field station remain.

In August 1999, Dr. Nishida brought me to Mahale for my first study of wild chimpanzees. This was when he started to use a digital video camera for his fieldwork. Since then, video data have become one of the necessities of his research. I also used a video camera and focused on grooming behavior as my main subject, but Dr. Nishida seems to have recorded everything about chimpanzees in Mahale. When he followed chimpanzees, he always used his video camera and recorded feeding, displays, hunting,

walking, play, and other behaviors. He always commented on the observed behavior and often let out a hearty chuckle, which was also recorded on the videotapes.

At first, he seems to have collected visual data to examine the regional differences in chimpanzee behavior. Later, he shifted his interests to the play of young chimpanzees and novel behaviors of Mahale chimpanzees, and the video camera proved to be an effective tool for this research. His accumulated visual data, and the data that Dr. T. Matsusaka and I obtained were collected and presented as an audio-visual ethogram of Mahale chimpanzees at his retirement party in 2004. I asked him to open the video ethogram, and he agreed. Subsequently, videos of chimpanzees in other areas were added with the cooperation of Dr. Crickette Sanz, Dr. David Morgan and Dr. G. Ohashi, and *Chimpanzee Behavior in the Wild: An Audio-Visual Encyclopedia* was published in 2010.

His chuckle in the DVD that comes with this book reminds me that he really enjoyed his fieldwork in Mahale and loved chimpanzees.



Dr. Nishida taking video of the chimpanzees of Mahale in 1999.

Tribute to the Memory of Dr. Nishida

Tetsuya Sakamaki

Kyoto University, Japan

“Don’t be stingy when food is available in the field.” This is one of the secrets that I learned from Dr. Nishida when I stayed with him in Mahale. I don’t remember if he told it to me in words or if he conveyed it with his actions. In either case, the importance of this lesson has increased as I have expanded my work to new or remote areas. I now know that special and delicious foods can be found in the field and that searching for and finding them brings tremendous joy, which leads to additional discoveries.

Memories of Nishida-san

Takahisa Matsusaka

Kansai University, Japan

I deeply regret the passing of Nishida-san. About 5 years ago, I was greatly shocked when he told me that he had cancer. However, he continued his research; he kept returning to Mahale, publishing papers, and writing books. I was always overwhelmed by his endless enthusiasm and energy as a researcher on the front lines. Such zest for work gave me hope that somehow he might be able to overcome his illness.

I first met Nishida-san as an undergraduate student. His lecture “Anthropology” was one of the most interesting that I ever took at Kyoto University. Even though his passion sometimes “derailed” his talks, they remained exciting and fruitful. I was simply fascinated by his enthusiasm, and I did not hesitate to join his laboratory. I am deeply indebted to Nishida-san for whatever I have achieved. He allowed me to join his chimpanzee research project at Mahale, supervised my thesis, and helped me have a job at the Japan Monkey Centre. I was greatly honored to work with him on several studies on Mahale chimpanzees, such as those on cultural behaviors as well as the audio-visual encyclopedia (ethogram).

I have fond memories of the time I spent with Nishida-san at Mahale. I walked with him in the forest several times; I followed him while he video-recorded the chimpanzees, and I learned about them from his video narrations as well as how to observe them. It was really nice time to share our observations at the Kansyana base camp. When I described my observations to him, he always listened intently and gave other examples from his own experience or encouraged me to write about them. I also have unforgettable memories of special dinners with him, such as *sashimi* and *ryukyu* of “nkuhe” from Lake Tanganyika and *sukiyaki*. He never forgot to chill beer by wrapping the bottles with wet towels (We didn’t have a refrigerator at Kansyana). He once showed me how to cut and trim fish for *sashimi*, so that I could even enjoy *sushi* at Mahale. Having dinner with Nishida-san was always fun, since he made us laugh with jokes. I miss his smiling face.

At his funeral, I put a flower at his feet in respect for how long he had walked in the field and to represent all of his honorable contributions. I imagined that Nishida-san would walk again in the forest of Mahale, talking with the old Tongwe people, and meeting Ntologi, Kamemanfu, Chausiku, Masudi, and all the other chimpanzees whose legends Nishida-san recorded.

Tribute

Eiji Inoue

Kyoto University, Japan

As an undergraduate student at Kyoto University, I took an anthropology course by Prof. Nishida. I remembered that he showed us videos of chimpanzees several times during his lectures and he talked enthusiastically about them. I talked with him for the first time when I asked his advice on my graduation work in his laboratory. I was surprised that he recognized me. He said to me, “You

attended my lecture". As soon as I explained that I would like to study the paternity of Japanese macaques using DNA, he accepted my topic. In the laboratory, there was no experiment room, so he contacted the late Prof. Takenaka, who was one of the pioneers to develop the genetic markers for kinship analyses in primates. Thanks to them, I now study wild animals using behavioral and genetic analyses.

After I finished the paternity analyses of Japanese macaques, he invited me to research chimpanzees in Mahale. Although I did not have a strong yearning for research in Africa, I decided to join his project. His invitation opened the doors to research wild animals in Africa for me. My first visit to the Mahale forest was accompanied by Prof. Nishida. He gave me a lot of information on chimpanzees as well as names of plants they ate. It was just like introducing his family to me, and I was strongly struck by his love for the chimpanzees.

I was also impressed when I visited him with Mr. Matsumoto, a student staying at Mahale now, a few years ago. He explained how fascinating the research on wild chimpanzees could be and showed us several research topics which he would like to study. It was amazing that he was still motivated after his decades of great works. He had inexhaustible energy and passion with many interesting ideas. I can still remember his happy face when he talked about research on chimpanzees. I would like to continue my research, emulating his motivation for research and keeping various advices from him in mind.

Finally, I sincerely pray for him to rest in peace.

Two Memories of Nishida-san in Tanzania

Shunkichi Hanamura

Kyoto University, Japan

In October 15, 2005, for my first chimpanzee research at Mahale, which was my cherished wish, I flew to Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Because this travel was my first and solo foreign travel, I got excited and nervous. At that place, I met Nishida-san, who had just left from Mahale, and he gave a feast for me in his favorite "New Africa Hotel." During the dinner, he kept telling many funny stories about chimpanzees like a human comedic drama in his own swinging tempo. The talk helped relieve a lot of my tension about this travel by the time we said farewell.

In July 31, 2006, Nishida-san planned to arrive at Mahale again. By that time, I was used to the field and was devoted to my study on the chimpanzees. I was looking forward to walking with him in the Kasoge forest. Our research hut in Kansyana Camp which had collapsed in an earthquake was rebuilt in time for his arrival. The next day, however, I got a message that he postponed his trip owing to bad health. Thinking back now, this might have been the beginning of his cancer which was found out that October. From some days before July 31, the M-group chimpanzees began to gather but, from that day on, they dispersed again and I observed a few chimpanzees over the next several days. "Chimpanzees gathered to greet Mzee Nishida and dispersed in disappointment because they understood his absence," all our field assistants told me.

Running Down a Steep Trail

Agumi Inaba

Japan Monkey Centre, Japan

I am greatly indebted to Professor Nishida for the last ten years since 2001, when he hired me for a part-time job. Prof. Nishida fell ill during his official trip to Uganda in July 2006, and he was diagnosed with rectal cancer in October. He strongly regretted having overlooked the symptoms at an early stage. In June of the same year, we received the sad news from Mr. Hanamura, stayed at Mahale, that many M-group chimpanzees had died due to an outbreak of respiratory disease. "I was still prime when Chausiku disappeared (eaten by a lion in 1990)," he said, "but this time, I am greatly shocked and have lost the will to study after the disappearance of Opal, Miya, and Pinky." In August of the following year, 2007, I was given a chance to join him in the field. He was so energetic that I couldn't imagine he had undergone an operation at the end of the previous year. Once, he ran down a steep trail with some chimpanzees, blowing up a cloud of sand, and he left us behind in a matter of seconds. He said at the base of the mountain, "I never fell behind the chimpanzees!" He seemed to have recovered his self-confidence. However, the next year, his disease appeared to quickly advanced, and thus he began anti-cancer treatment. He concentrated on his work when he was in good shape, and then his last book, *Chimpanzees of the Lakeshore* was completed, accomplished through the dedicated cooperation of Prof. McGrew and others. Although I visited him frequently in his hospital room and his home to give his manuscript a final check, the last time I talked with him was on the telephone, two weeks before he passed away. I would like to thank Prof. Nishida for all that he gave us.



Waiting for chimpanzees, August 2007.

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