

- Fifth graders, thank you for your presentation. Your efforts to protect the environment and not to waste resources are impressive. The presentations of the groups were related to each other and were easy to understand. It is particularly wonderful that at the end of the study you are thinking specifically about the issues of the town. I look forward to seeing with what concrete awareness you will be approach the environment as a result of your study. Please make use of this in your daily life.
- I learned for the first time about the Akaya project to restore biodiversity and create sustainable communities. I was surprised to hear that your activities including logging and aroma oil making are much more practical than my experiences at your age. It is very wonderful that you have extracted Minakami's issues out of these activities. Please keep sending out messages about the charm of Minakami.
- All presentations were very interesting. I was particularly impressed with the story of aroma. I was surprised to learn for the first time that aromas can be made from cut or discarded wood, and that lavender has a good effect on wounds. I want to try it myself, too. First-hand experiences are very invaluable, and they may lead to encounters that would shape your future. I hope you will continue to work hard and enjoy each activity. I'm glad to have listened to your wonderful presentations. Thank you very much.
- In order to maintain the environment for golden eagles, it is necessary to protect precious nature, isn't it? It is excellent that you are making good use of the felled artificial forest wood as a raw material for aroma oil and in this way not producing negative things. It is important to actively work on small things that you can do yourselves. I am from another part of Gunma and I used to visit Minakami-machi often. I would be happy if your activities spread the charm of Minakami-machi to many people.
- It is wonderful that the fifth grade elementary school students are working as one to achieve the seemingly lofty goals of restoring biodiversity and building sustainable communities. In particular, the part you mentioned about the importance of "having the townspeople better understand the SDGs" in the future is exactly the point that I emphasized in the university lecture in relation to the SDGs and forest conservation. Having people getting to know about the SDGs is definitely the first step. I, alone, can reach only a limited number of people in spreading the SDGs. However, if you, the students of Niiharu Elementary School, take up activities to spread the SDGs, it will spread out of the school to the families and to the entire communities. It would be wonderful if this was done.
- By giving thoughts about the relationship of the forest with yourselves and with animals, you must have been able to think about what you ought to face in nature in the future. I am sure you were able to think deeply about forests. I first thought the topics you dealt with might have been too difficult for you, but it is very good that you looked deeply into what resources really are and how to treat trees properly by having first-hand experiences.
- I understood very well how extensive a program you are engaged in for the nature of Akaya, such as golden eagles protection and forest thinning, in order to restore biodiversity and create sustainable communities. You thought about the ecosystem and found out wallows, animals, and plants that you don't normally see. What you learned in the science class must have been very helpful for these scenes. In addition, you talked about the activity to make aroma oil as a way to use the part of leaves and branches which are usually thrown away. I felt that it is a very wonderful activity that is friendly to the environment. You mentioned social and economic development as a future issue. The aroma oil production may be one of the solutions to address it. You may want to promote it as one of the charms of Minakami. Thank you very much for the presentation.