

Impressions of the presentation of Minakami Municipal Niiharu Elementary School, 5th grade students

[To the children]

- It was very good that the students explained the details of the nature of their town in an easy-to-understand way. It was great that they set their own issues and thought about how to solve them. Each student spoke clearly, and their presentation was very easy to listen to.
- I learned the attractiveness of Niiharu at the beginning of the presentation. I would like to go there. The students explained not only the names of living things and plants but also what they studied in the field in detail, which made it easier for me to understand and be interested in them. I learned that the Akaya Project affected golden eagles and their local ecosystem. I have never known about this project, so I want to check it out myself. In addition, the way to utilize golden eagle wood was well-considered.
- The attractions of Niiharu were clearly described and conveyed. It was very good that the students explained creatures, plants, tourist spots, and their attractions in an easy-to-understand way based on their research and study. The presentation and slides were very good and were very easy for me to understand.
- I think it was good that the students actually visited the Akaya Forest as a field trip to conduct a site survey. They also introduced the rocks, plants, and animals of the forest in detail. I was able to deepen my understanding of the Akaya Forest. They also studied the differences in the distribution and classification of animals depending on altitude. I thought it was good that they identified the characteristics of the golden eagle and studied its ecology. It was good that they thought about the problems and solutions related to wood that were generated in the process of making hunting grounds for golden eagles.
- I think that the exploration and presentation highlighted the "creation of a school in harmony with the environment." It was very good that the students talked about things related to the research content at the beginning of the presentation, which made them smoothly get on to the main topic. I did not know about the Akaya Forest, but I learned a lot from this presentation. I was very impressed by the way they proactively learned about biodiversity, which is a very complex and difficult issue. It was very good that they thought about how to solve problems by themselves and how to use wood based on its characteristics.
- I think it was a good idea to research the Akaya Forest and think about biodiversity based on the research. I also think it was a good idea to consider the use of wood generated in the Akaya Project. I think that they would find new ways of using wood by making products using wood.
- In Niiharu, there are various attractions, such as hot springs and nature. It was great that the students actually went to the Akaya Forest and learned a lot about the forest, such as plants, mushrooms, and animals. They also talked about a test site for restoring the artificial forest to the natural forest. I think restoring to the natural forest would be difficult once it has become an artificial forest, but I was glad to know that such activities are carried out. I hope the activities go well. There were some issues with golden eagle wood, but it was great that they understood the characteristics of the wood and tried to use it and that they could think and act proactively.
- It is very good that through the Akaya Project the students work to conserve golden eagles and think and act independently about biodiversity. I also think that the activities are very friendly to the environment because the method of using wood generated to conserve golden eagles is also considered.
- I was very surprised at the idea of cutting down trees to create hunting grounds for golden eagles in this age when deforestation is likely to become a problem. However, I understand that this will result in the conservation of golden eagles and biodiversity. I could sense the enthusiasm of the students for the SDGs when I saw them thinking in detail about how the trees cut there can be used in the school and community. I hope many people will learn about golden eagle wood.
- It was wonderful that they focused on the "good points of their community" and created a project to conserve them. Thanks to their clear explanation, I could understand what it takes to prepare

the living environment for golden eagles, related issues, and how to solve them. I would like to use paper made of golden eagle wood.

- The characteristics of Niiharu were described in an easy-to-understand manner, and photos, images, and colors were effectively used in the presentation slides, which made the presentation very easy to listen to. I think it was great that the challenges were set in consideration of SDGs. I think it is also great that the students even set new challenges.
- I learned that there are many plants and organisms in the Akaya Forest and that the Akaya Project is being implemented to conserve their biodiversity. I think making various things using cut golden eagle wood is good because it leads to the utilization of cut wood, as well as public relations activities of the region.
- It was good to know that the students investigated what efforts are being made and what they can do to conserve biodiversity. It was also good that they considered the use of wood obtained from thinning to secure hunting grounds for golden eagles on their own, which led to a new perspective.
- It was very good that the students researched and learned about regional attractions. I also think that the presentation was persuasive because the students researched and studied the forest and actually went there. Furthermore, it was great that they made a presentation without using a manuscript. I could not believe that the presentation was made by 5th-grade students!
- I learned the importance of knowing the story of maintaining the ecosystem and of encouraging customers to purchase products after they understand the appropriate price. It was also good that the students found the issues by themselves. I hope that they proactively take action so that they can think about how to solve the issues and who they can approach to make a change about the issues.

[To the teachers and staff members]

- I think that it is often the case that people do not know much about the nature of the region they live in. First of all, I think it was wonderful that the students realized that they could not answer questions about the nature of their region. I thought it was amazing how they had researched in detail the animals living in the Akaya Forest depending on altitude and the vegetation of the forest. The descriptions of the presentation slides were also easy to understand. Also, I saw them answering very politely to the questions at the exchange session and found that they had researched carefully.
- I learned that the students' activities focused on the Akaya Project, an initiative to explore the nature close to them. They think about the issues that the people involved in the project are facing from the perspective of what they can do. I believe that they generated free ideas that adults cannot. In the presentation, I heard the phrase, "Use golden eagle wood after understanding its story." I think the phrase means that the wood is not just wood but contains the thoughts of many people in carrying out their activities. I am looking forward to seeing how the children understand the story and how they will work together in the future.
- Until now, I had only learned about the activities of elementary schools in Nagano, but today I listened to the presentation of Niiharu Elementary School and had a valuable opportunity to learn about initiatives and the environment outside Nagano. In the presentation, the students mentioned that they knew the Akaya Forest, but could not explain in detail about it, which made them carry out the activities. In fact, while listening to the presentation, I realized that I knew the names of places in my region, but could not explain about the specific things, plants, and animals in the region. I was particularly impressed by the fact that the students of Niiharu Elementary School did not just conduct a survey on these issues but broadened their perspective to address the issues that the local community does not deal with and made contributions from the viewpoint of SDGs. It is considered that other regions also have problems related to forests. I think that it was a wonderful initiative, as the children living in the region tackle local issues and disseminate them to people outside the region. This would contribute to the regions that have similar issues. Thank you very much.