

# **Sustainable Energy Field trip to Iida and Ina Cities**

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On 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> December 2011, I had a good opportunity to participate and spend two days for field trip with international professor of the E&R base and a partner university of FOLENS and FOLENS students. The core of this field trip is on sustainable energy strategies to learn about challenges of local communities for local generation of energy for the local consumption. This is my first time to learn about sustainable and renewable energy and visit Iida and Ina cities, Nagano Prefecture. I was impressed the scenery along the road which was very wonderful. There were several activities on this field trip. In the bus, all of us introduced ourselves and share ideas from this field trip which allow me to know new FOLENS students and staffs and gained several ideas. Besides these, the mini-lectures about Iida city, basic of energy, and biomass were provided by TUAT/FOLENS faculty members and students. We visited several places and gained a lot of information about the energy sources for local communities such as solar energy for generation electricity, mushroom bed waste, wood waste, and wood pellet for boiling, and hydro power energy for electricity.

My most interested strategy is about “Ohisama Shinpo Energy” which promotes energy shift from communities in collaboration with local people and government. Iida city is blessed with an abundance of sunshine; therefore the solar power generation was rapidly promoted for the use of natural energy and friendly environment by this company and its cooperation. This project was funding by environmentally conscious citizens. While I visited this area I found that the houses and the private school with solar panels on their roofs are common sight. The most impressive strategies are not only about the vision of the president and the collaboration among cooperative companies, government, and local people, but also providing education to young generation. This is a good model for sustainable energy which can be developed in other communities.

From this field trip, I noticed that sustainable energy could be apply from several energy sources such as solar, water, or biomass. It depends on the location and local natural resources. In addition, the vision of leaders and people in the community is important then the education and communication about sustainable energy strategies is necessary. Therefore, I should learn and consider more about environmental issues and sustainable energy strategies for the future.



The solar panel on the roofs of Kanae Mitsuba Nursery



The information about solar energy transferred to children in Kanae Mitsuba Nursery