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Destination country : Taiwan

Receiving univ./institute : Academia Sinica

Period of study : 03/12/2015 ~ 25/01/2016

04/01/2016

Status of course/research progress (Enrolled in classes? : No)

In the first week, I had a discussion with Prof. Wen Hsiung Li and also his lab members about my research plan in Taiwan. I was introduced to their ongoing project of chicken and bird genome analysis. I had an opportunity to visit their laboratory and small bird captive facility that has an incubation machine to incubate eggs. The research group is interested in feather development during the embryonic stage. Since my main purpose for coming to Taiwan is for comparing the Next Generation Sequence (NGS) data of Cemani and Silky chicken, which has large data (~30GB), I need a computer that has large memory and capacity. However, my computer does not have enough capacity. Fortunately, Prof. Wen Hsiung Li allowed me to use the Biodiversity Research Centre's server for doing the NGS analysis. Furthermore, I had a chance to meet and discuss with Dr. Wen Lang Fan who conducted NGS analysis of Silky chicken. He is sharing his knowledge about analyzing the NGS data of chicken starting from calling the SNPs using SAMTOOLS/bcftools program software and then annotating the SNPs using ANNOVAR software.

Life situation

Life in Taiwan is comfortable since I got much assistance from Pei-Ju Chen, who is a SOKENDAI student in our Department, and her family, picking me up from the airport, giving me many foods, and helping with other things during my stay. I would like to say thanks to Pei-Ju Chen's family for their kindness since my arrival in Taiwan so that my life situation has become easy. Of course, I am also thankful for Prof. Wen Hsiung Li's lab members for providing me a desk, giving orientation to life in Academia Sinica, and other supports that have made me comfortable doing my research in Academia Sinica. Academia Sinica is located in Nangang district and it takes around 30 minutes by bus from Taipei city. Although it can be reached only 30 minutes from Taipei city, this city is very quiet. However, since it has a many students that live around Academia Sinica, I can find many restaurants near Academia Sinica, some of which provide halal and vegetarian food. Transportation is also easy and convenient; there are several buses with short time interval from Academia Sinica to Taipei city or MRT station.