

GSC022-04

Room:301A

Time:May 23 09:15-09:30

## Environmental education by new sightseeing resources, "cloud sea at Mt. Tomamu" in Hokkaido, Japan

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Figure shows a sea of clouds overlooked from the terrace (1088m height) on Mt. Tomamu in Shimukappu, Hokkaido. It, Unkai terrace (Unkai mean sea of clouds in Japanese), was opened since 2005 (Mountain terrace named in 2005), when a staff maintaining gondola in sky slope awoke to value of the fantastic sea of clouds created by meteorological conditions in summer seasons with unique geographical position in Tomamu.

Here we report two practices using Unkai terrace. One is for tourists by an education program about clouds and another is for graduate students developing this program. Though these practices, we tried to solve problem of Unkai tours from just looking to more deep understanding.

(1) For general tourists trough the program about clouds We developed the program for parent and children studying clouds during two days with one night stay, with the special issue in newspaper "Eco-Chil" distributing all elementary students in Sapporo per month. We had story that participants investigate various characteristics of clouds instead of Sennin, a fictitious specialist, living in Tomamu. In program, participants studied them, though watching clouds, playing game and quiz about clouds and observing a sea of clouds on Unkai terrace, with enjoying. "Friendly to clouds" is the concept of our program; we expect that children hold their interesting to cloud, weather and natural environments after taking their home.

(2) For graduate students though developing a project in EPoCH course This is a practice in "course in Environmental Project Coordinator in Hokkaido"

staring May, 2010, in Graduate School of Environmental Science in Hokkaidou University. Cooprating with Hoshino Resort Tomamu Co.,Ltd provides students with learning how to proceed with social projects and to solve various difficulties in projects, though developing new educational program.

From these practices, we have realized to develop new tourism program not only just looking but also understanding and touching, using a sea of clouds as touristic resources by university-company collaboration, and to operate it by a tour sponsored by newspaper "Eco-Chil" in September, 2010. We will operate this program in summer 2011, as a practice in Practical Science for Environment in Graduate School of Environmental Science in Hokkaidou University.



Keywords: cloud sea, sightseeing, environmental education