

**Minutes of the 9th Nature Conservation Review Committee Meeting Focusing on Birds of  
Prey and Forests Concerning New Test Course Development by Honda Motor**

1 Date and Time

16:30 ~ 19:00 July 31, 2008 Thursday

2 Venue

New Mikura Conference room 306

3 Attendees

*5 committee members:*

Chair, Tatsuhiro Ohkubo — Professor of Faculty of Agriculture, Utsunomiya University

Member, Koichi Endo — Assistant District Leader of Tochigi Branch of the Wild  
Bird Society of Japan

Member, Kazumi Suemoto — Researcher, Natural History Research

Member, Mitsutake Hayashi — Chief Researcher, Tochigi Prefectural Museum

Member, Takashi Matsuda — Vice President, Nature Conservation Group of Ujiie

*16 organizing members*

4 Agenda

1. Confirmation of the previous (8th) meeting minutes
2. New R&D Center plan
  - 2-1 Progress of implementation of environmental conservation measures (reported)
  - 2-2 Results of mid-construction monitoring (reported)
3. New test course plan
  - 3-1 Environmental assessment procedures and the environmental conservation measures (reported, discussed)
  - 3-2 Progress of pre-construction monitoring (reported)
4. Wide area nature conservation measures
  - 4-1 Survey results and direction of implementation (reported, discussed)
5. Other

## Agenda

### 1. Confirmation of the minutes of the previous (8th) meeting and follow-up on members' input

The organizer reported on the minutes of the 8th meeting. Members didn't make any particular comments.

### 2. New R&D Center plan

The organizer explained the progress of implementation of nature conservation measures in the New R&D Center plan as well as mid-construction monitoring. Members exchanged views which are summarized as follows:

#### 2-1 Progress of implementation of environmental conservation measures

- Nothing in particular.

#### 2-2 Results of mid-construction monitoring

- Some species to be preserved are incorrectly ranked in the Red List. Is this a clerical error?

→ The organizer responded by saying that that is a clerical error which will be corrected.

### 3. New test course plan

The organizer reported on the assessment procedures for the new test course's impact on the environment and the environmental conservation measures. Members exchanged views which are

summarized as follows:

### 3-1 Environmental assessment procedures and the environmental conservation measures.

- There were no particular comments on the environmental assessment procedures.

- It was suggested that a plan for preparing a feeding station for goshawks be drawn up, just like plans were drawn up for other matters.

→ The organizer responded by saying that a plan will be drawn up.

- It was suggested to state that “aquatic biota are not so abundant” regarding the water quality of Biotope 2. Unless water quality is improved considerably, it would be difficult for *Genji* firefly (*Luciola cruciata*) and *Hanebiro Ezo* dragonfly (*Somatochlora clavata Oguma*) to survive.

→ The organizer responded by saying that the statement will be revised and that measures will be taken after water quality is fully examined.

- Is the size of the temporary site big enough for *Kasa* sedge (*Carex dispalata*) which is said to be planted throughout the biotope?

→ The organizer responded by saying that their quantity and temporary site will be looked into later.

### 3-2 Progress of pre-construction monitoring

- It is suggested that charts showing where buzzard-eagles are active be attached and that their habitat be organized in an easy-to-understand way.

→ The organizer responded by saying that such charts will be attached and that the habitat will be organized in this way and omissions dealt with as well.

- It is suggested that a wide area survey or a fixed point survey be conducted as a supplemental measure to deal with goshawks during August.

→ The organizer responded by saying that this matter will be considered and such a survey may be conducted.

- Considering the recent increase in the number of plant species to be transplanted, is the size of the area where they are planted big enough?

→ The organizer responded by saying that things will be dealt with in a flexible manner like decreasing the number of plant species to be transplanted depending on the size of the area where they will be planted.

#### 4. Wide area nature conservation measures

The organizer reported on survey results and the direction of implementation. Members' views are summarized as follows:

- The quick and positive responses regarding wide area nature conservation have been praiseworthy. More attention should be directed to details, however. It is suggested that the importance and urgency by region in the assessment statement be used as the base which is developed in turn to set regional themes and goals, and that matters are sorted out by determining which places to secure and what actions to take to achieve the goals. Preservation in areas other than the planned area needs more detailed investigation including scheduling because such preservation is a compensatory measure for the development of the new test course.

→ The organizer responded by expressing thanks as well and saying that due efforts will be made to deal with the matters pointed out above.

- A large U-shaped ditch runs along a downstream water channel in the Kamikawado Area. The alderwoods are home for families of *Bekko* Bees (*Cyphononyx dorsalis*) whose habitat is limited to these alderwoods as far as Tochigi Prefecture's records show. How the U-ditch will affect the bees is a matter of concern.

→ The organizer responded by saying that Sakura City will be consulted and results will be reported at the next meeting.

#### 5. Other

#### Next meeting

- It was agreed to visit the site in October and hold the next meeting in November.