

Date: Sep 16th

Group: Suko

Today is such a busy day, the schedule is tight and all activities are really impressive. The first thing in the morning is the renovation of Dohyo, after 4 years of sumo wrestling suspended. That's the very first time we encounter Dohyo. The renovation is tiring but kind of interesting. Meanwhile, the girls were organizing the house and making food for lunch.



Afternoon, Mike introduced us to the fascination of the Amami jungle. The rainforest's biodiversity and endemic species make it a natural heritage site. Seeing Amami's endemic ferns and snake in person is lucky.



The most important part of the day is the Eve Festival. We got so lucky to have a licensed Hunter, the taste of wild boar is nothing compared. After the BBQ is the Amami dance, which is so fascinating everybody joins in. The lead dancer is also the drummer and is already 70 years old. Since few people could play the Amami drum (taiko), he has to play the whole time.



There are even more missing parts in the EVE Festival, due to the declining number of children, the part where little kids sit among the dancers and play is gone. The local Amami dialect is endangering now, native speakers are getting old, and not enough people to pass it on. The feeling of the whole community is so precious, that people don't lock their door or cars. This whole community is literally a family.