

Miike Wild Bird Forest Guide Map

Ministry of the Environment,
Kyushu Regional Office,
Ebino Ranger Station



Miike Wild Bird Forest

In the Miike Wild Bird Forest, located at the eastern end of Mount Kirishima (the collective name of the mountains of Kirishima), you can see wild birds in the evergreen forest during every season. 115 hectares in size, covering about 4 kilometers and including the largest crater lake in Mount Kirishima (depth of approximately 100 meters), it opened as the first nationally designated wild bird forest in 1972. In addition, the Mount Kirishima area that includes the Wild Bird Forest, has been designated as the Kirishima-Kinkowan National Park because of its beautiful scenery, and is properly preserved.

What is a "nationally designated Wild Bird Forest"?

Created in order to provide a comfortable environment to wild birds and further their protection. By observing the birds in their natural habitat, people are able to cultivate sentiment and raise their understanding and awareness of wild birds. There are four of these locations across the country. (Hokkaido: Shirogane, Aomori: Tsuta, Nagano: Karuzawa, Miyazaki: Miike)



Miike in the Spring

● The Nature of Miike

The Miike Wild Bird Forest is an evergreen forest that consists of oaks, tabunoki, and other trees. There are 151 recorded species of birds in the forest, including rare species such as the pitta. It is possible to observe a variety of birds through the four seasons by walking along the hiking trails. Also, Miike has become a valuable wintering ground for winter birds, and from late October to early March, you can observe the winter birds, which consists mainly of ducks. During the newly green season from late April to mid May every year, you can admire the view of the blue lake and a beautiful evergreen forest adorned with colorful sprouts.



● The largest and deepest crater lake of the Kirishima Volcanoes

Miike is a crater lake that was formed a volcanic eruption about 4600 years ago. This eruption is believed to be the largest eruption at Kirishima of the eruptions that are currently known. Although you cannot tell by looking, it is a bowl-shaped law, and the water suddenly becomes very deep.

Since you can see many geological heritage sights such as the unique geology and terrain of the volcanic area, Mount Kirishima, which includes the Miike Wild Bird Forest, and its surrounding areas certified as a Japanese Geopark in 2010.



Let's take a look at the nature of lake Miike!

Bird Watching

Bird watching is one way to easily observe nature. When you encounter a bird, take care not to frighten it and carefully observe its characteristics. Let's take notes of the things that we've seen and other things such as bird calls, and record what sort of birds there are.

● Inventory



Binoculars

Easiest to see through with a magnification of 7-10, with magnifications above that, it begins to blur and things become difficult to see.



Wild birds encyclopedia

I recommend a pocket-sized encyclopedia that is easy to carry around. Go to the bookstore and pick the encyclopedia that is right for you.



Field Notes

It is nice to have a pocket-sized notebook in order to sketch the birds that you observe and those whose names you do not know.

● Observation point

▶ Calls

Start by closing your eyes and listening, record the number of times you heard the bird call and the direction from which you heard it.

▶ Body color, shape

Birds with clear body colors or patterns are easy to tell apart. You can also tell the characteristics of the bird from the frame and tips of the wings when it is flying, and the shape of the tail.

▶ Size

Using other familiar birds, make estimates, such as, "smaller than a sparrow," or "bigger than a crow." Compare it to lengths in the encyclopedia.



Bird-watching party

Forest bathing, hiking

The area around Lake Miike is made of forests rich with 100 years old trees broad-leaved evergreens such as the Quercus gilva and deciduous broad-leaved trees such as Fir-Kaya.

One can enjoy forest bathing while hiking all year round through the scenery of the four seasons, fresh green in the spring, dark green in the summer, and the colored leaves in the fall.



Water activities

In this crater lake, one can observe the unique shore line (crater wall) and view waterfowls up close. The view of Takachihonome from across the surface of the lake is superb.

There are also rental boats available at Oji harbor within Lake Miike.

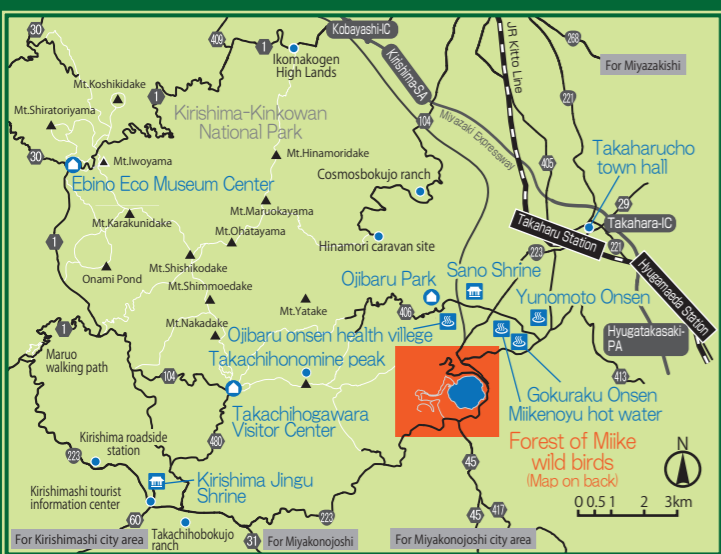


Campsite

At Miike Camp Village located at the lakefront of Lake Miike, there are cottages and bungalows, permanent tent facilities, a shower building, and a fully equipped kitchen. You can also bring your own tent and enjoy camping outdoors. Enjoy spending a relaxing time surrounding by the spacious nature of Lake Miike.



Vicinity map



Encyclopedia of the creatures of Lake Miike

● Wild birds

 <p>Size 27cm</p> <p>Ruddy Kingfisher</p> <p>Has features of a golden body and a thick, red beak. Catches aquatic life by diving into the water.</p>	 <p>Size 18cm</p> <p>Fairy Pitta</p> <p>Has a large head and stocky body type. Its feathers tinged with rainbow-colors are mysterious. Simply listening to its call is good fortune.</p>	 <p>Size 30cm</p> <p>Paradise Flycatcher</p> <p>Has special characteristics of a long tail and cobalt blue color around the eyes and beak.</p>
 <p>Size 16cm</p> <p>Blue-and-white Flycatcher</p> <p>A bird with a beautiful voice that is Azure from head to tail. Catches insects while flying among the trees.</p>	 <p>Size 13cm</p> <p>Narcissus Flycatcher</p> <p>Has special characteristics of a pleasant voice and beautiful colors. Has fast movements and wing strokes, insect eater.</p>	 <p>Size 14cm</p> <p>Red-Flanked Bluetail</p> <p>Orange on the sides, when lights hits its back, a beautiful blue color is reflected.</p>
 <p>Size 16cm</p> <p>Yellow-throated Bunting</p> <p>The black and yellow patterns on the crown of its head and face stand out.</p>	 <p>Size 49cm</p> <p>Eurasian Wigeon</p> <p>Has a gray bill with a black tip. Males show a distinctive cream-colored forehead and crown. Feeds mainly on aquatic plants and insects.</p>	 <p>Size 68cm</p> <p>Northern Pintail</p> <p>Has a brown head with a white chest, and a fine grey brown pattern on its body. Does headstands on the water surface and eats water plants and insects.</p>

 <p>Size 10cm</p> <p>Wren</p> <p>Brown body with a short tail that curls up. Searches for insect prey on the ground.</p>	 <p>Size 13cm</p> <p>Long-tailed Tit</p> <p>Has the characteristics of a long tail and a round body. Eats small insects, sap, and fungi.</p>	 <p>Size 13cm</p> <p>European Nuthatch</p> <p>Bluish gray from the back to its head. Elongated beak.</p>
 <p>Size 29cm</p> <p>Japanese Green Wood Pecker</p> <p>Jaw and top of head is red, yellow back, and a black pattern on its belly. Looks for insects while climbing trees.</p>	 <p>Size 17cm</p> <p>Common Kingfisher</p> <p>Characterized by vivid cobalt-blue plumage. Hovers briefly over the water before diving to catch fish.</p>	 <p>Size 20cm</p> <p>Grey Wagtail</p> <p>Characterized by bright yellow underparts. Like other wagtails, it walks while bobbing its tail feathers.</p>

● Animals

 <p>Size 150cm</p> <p>Japanese Deer</p> <p>Often chirps, "fee" in the autumn breeding season. Eats grass and bark.</p>	 <p>Size 60cm</p> <p>Japanese Badger</p> <p>Lives in mountains and forests, digging burrows for shelter. A member of the weasel family that feeds on earthworms, insects, fruits, acorns, and similar foods.</p>	 <p>Size 130cm</p> <p>Wild boar</p> <p>Prefers habitats near water, in addition to the roots of plants and fruits, also eats earthworms and insects, and also river crab.</p>
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● Trees

 <p>Quercus gilva</p> <p>Means best oak with good material. Estimated to be more than 160 years old, it has been selected as the "Best one hundred giants of the forest"</p> <p>Tree height: 34-38m</p>	 <p>Japanese nutmeg</p> <p>The elongated leaves hurt if you touch them. The good, dense material is used as building materials and to make shogi boards.</p> <p>Tree height: 29m</p>
 <p>Distylium racemosum</p> <p>Representative species of the evergreen forest. There is often insect gall on the leaves (partially inflated due to parasitic worms).</p> <p>Tree height: 17-21m</p>	 <p>Litsea coreana</p> <p>The tree with a long life that becomes a mature tree. When it becomes a mature tree, the bark peels and becomes pattern like that of a doe.</p> <p>Tree height: 22m</p>
 <p>Soapbary</p> <p>Has beautiful yellow leaves in autumn. Includes the ingredient that makes foam in fruit, also known as sekken'noki.</p> <p>Tree height: 26-29m</p>	 <p>Japanese big leaf magnolia</p> <p>The large leaves that cluster at the end of branches are used for sushi wrapped in leaves. In May and April, its white flowers of about 15 centimeters bloom.</p> <p>Tree height: 15-20m</p>

Contact Information

- If you want to have some information of Kirishima, you should go to the visitor center.

Ebino Eco Museum Center	0984-33-3002
Takachihogawara Visitor Center	0995-57-3224
- If you notice any looting, poaching, or illegal acts

Police Division	110
Ebino Ranger Station	0984-33-1108
The Miyakonojo division of the Miyazaki District Forest Management Office	0986-23-4566
- Information about experiencing nature

Oku Kirishima Miike Camping Village	0984-42-4038
Miike Miyazaki Nature House for Youth	0986-33-1414
- Tourist guides, other inquiries

Takaharuchō Tourism Association	0984-42-4560
Miyakonojo Tourism Association	0986-23-2460

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Mt. Takachiho and Miike being seen from Parking area along Route 223

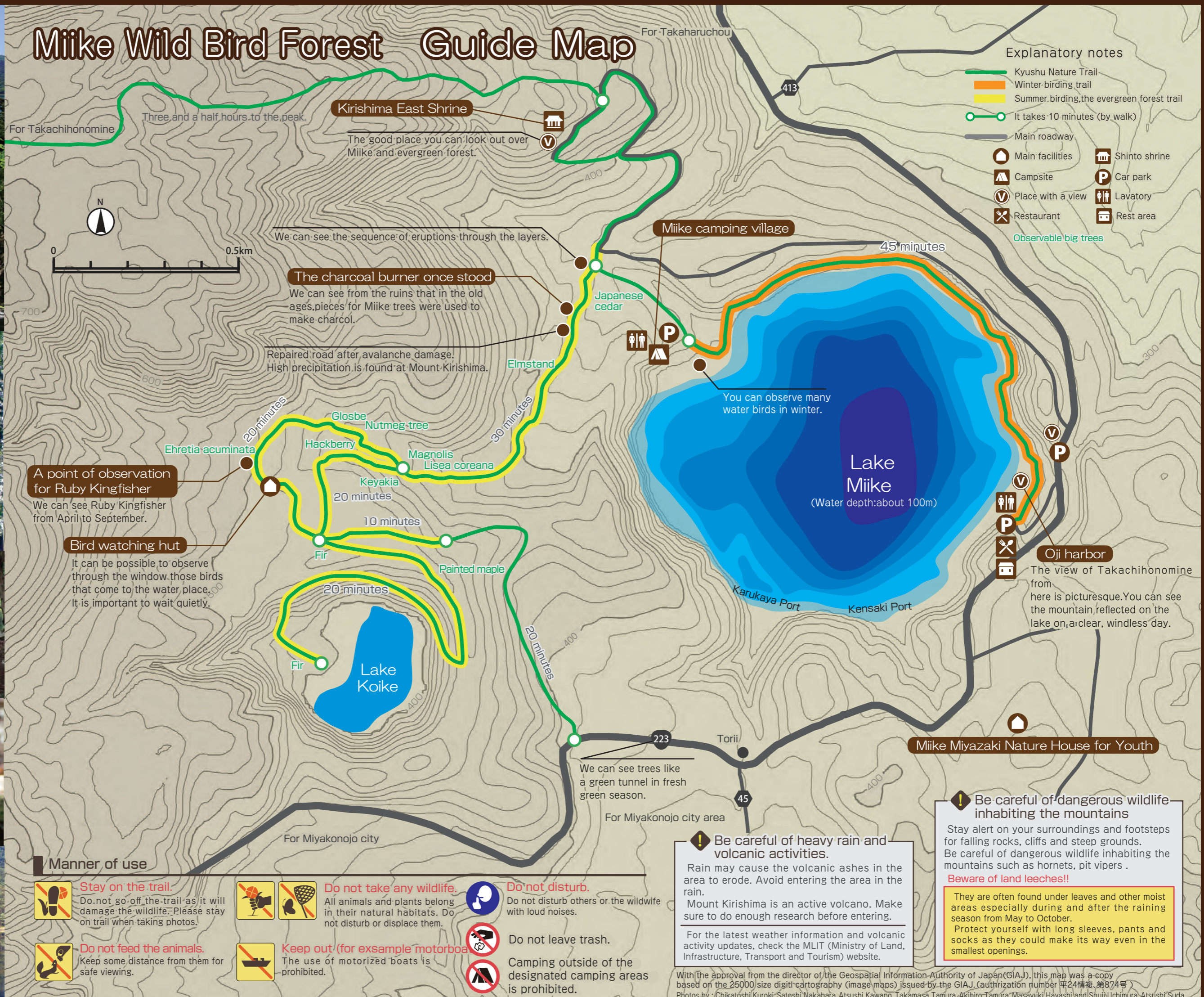
Season of Fresh green route 223 (from April to May)

The laurel forest taken from the wildbird forest

Kirishima-higashi-shrine, one of the Kirishima-rokusha-gongen

Ruddy Kingfisher seen from Bird watching hut

Beautiful lake "Koike" reflected trees



- Explanatory notes**
- Kyushu Nature Trail
 - Winter birding trail
 - Summer birding, the evergreen forest trail
 - It takes 10 minutes (by walk)
 - Main roadway
 - Main facilities
 - Campsite
 - Place with a view
 - Restaurant
 - Shinto shrine
 - Car park
 - Lavatory
 - Rest area
- Observable big trees



A point of observation for Ruby Kingfisher
We can see Ruby Kingfisher from April to September.

Bird watching hut
It can be possible to observe through the window those birds that come to the water place. It is important to wait quietly.

Kirishima East Shrine
The good place you can look out over Miike and evergreen forest.

The charcoal burner once stood
We can see from the ruins that in the old ages, pieces for Miike trees were used to make charcoal.

Repaired road after avalanche damage. High precipitation is found at Mount Kirishima.

You can observe many water birds in winter.

Oji harbor
The view of Takachihonimine from here is picturesque. You can see the mountain reflected on the lake on a clear, windless day.

Manner of use

- Stay on the trail.** Do not go off the trail as it will damage the wildlife. Please stay on trail when taking photos.
- Do not take any wildlife.** All animals and plants belong in their natural habitats. Do not disturb or displace them.
- Do not disturb.** Do not disturb others or the wildlife with loud noises.
- Do not leave trash.**
- Do not feed the animals.** Keep some distance from them for safe viewing.
- Keep out (for example motorboat).** The use of motorized boats is prohibited.
- Camping outside of the designated camping areas is prohibited.**

Be careful of heavy rain and volcanic activities.
Rain may cause the volcanic ashes in the area to erode. Avoid entering the area in the rain.
Mount Kirishima is an active volcano. Make sure to do enough research before entering.
For the latest weather information and volcanic activity updates, check the MLIT (Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism) website.

Be careful of dangerous wildlife inhabiting the mountains
Stay alert on your surroundings and footsteps for falling rocks, cliffs and steep grounds. Be careful of dangerous wildlife inhabiting the mountains such as hornets, pit vipers.
Beware of land leeches!!
They are often found under leaves and other moist areas especially during and after the raining season from May to October. Protect yourself with long sleeves, pants and socks as they could make its way even in the smallest openings.

With the approval from the director of the Geospatial Information Authority of Japan (GIAJ), this map was a copy based on the 25000 size digital cartography (image maps) issued by the GIAJ (authorization number 平24情複_第874号)
Photos by: Chikatoshi Kuroki, Satoshi Nakahara, Atsushi Kawano, Takamasa Tamura, Akihiro Tamura, Masayuki Hayashi and Shuji Uchimura, Atsushi Suda