



IRIOMOTE INSIGHT:

Ecological Ethics

## **Natural Resources:**

Iriomote possessed abundant natural resources especially for mangroves, which covered most kinds of Japanese endemic species. In fact, I got an intimate feeling to mangroves since I grew up by a sea bay which had a large mangrove ecosystem as well. But I was particular by this-time experience cause it was my first time got to discover mangrove from canoeing. By canoeing, we were not only simply look at the plants that the god of nature raised, but the whole circular and balanced system existed between us. And it was no doubt that if it wasn't with such a great group of people, the discovery in Iriomote wouldn't be so adventurous and exciting.





## **Cultural Diversity:**

Through the presentation that we had from last Friday, we showed our different aspects of opinion through own personal cultural insight. And again, for me, Taiwanese, the most shock from this journey would still be their attitude to preserve the environment and keep the peaceful balance between human and nature. For the long time, when it comes to "preservation" or "environment- friendly", human tends to exclusively pick out themselves as outsiders to examine the environment. However, in Iriomote what I saw was seeing protecting environment as daily routine and fuse it into their bones as a part of them. In the meanwhile, look back to Taiwan, who located so closed to Iriomote, had a endemic species, leopard cats (protected wild animal). Comparing leopard cats in Taiwan to Iriomote cat, the former one was still in danger despite a lot of aggressive action in preservation. However, due to the human activities such as driving in their living areas, the tragedies of hitting leopard cats still happened frequently. "How to solve the dilemma between

human activities and natural protection?" was still a great lesson we need to learn from Iriomote people.



