

Message from Coordinator

Column 2. Mt. Fuji or Mt. Fiji??? (1990)

Some of you might know that Mt. Fuji was officially registered as the World Cultural Heritage of UNESCO in 2013.

I wondered when was “u” replaced by “i” in Mt. Fuji?

We climbed Mt. Fuji up to the fifth stage for conducting the field evaluation in the JICA remote sensing technology program for the first time in 3 years. Though we had less snow than we expected in that winter, we still could find some snow remaining between the fifth and the sixth stage in the trail. I still remember that the trainee from Fiji was so pleased to touch and see the snow for the first time in his life. He even wrote “Mt. Fiji (instead of Mt. Fuji)” in the snow with his finger. In addition to that, he had a slip as soon as he had stepped on the slope without knowing it was slippery to walk on the snow! As a result, he suffered cuts and abrasions to his knee under the torn pants. There’s no need to worry. He had a big smile on his face with pointing his injured knee and said to us cheerfully. “Look, it’s my souvenir from Mt. Fuji!”