

**MARCH, 2017**

**Members of the eighth group of short-term student volunteers take part in the Obihiro-JICA Paraguay Volunteer Team Partnership Program**

Four OUAVM students worked tirelessly on the Project to Strengthen Small Dairy Farmers in Itapúa Department, Paraguay (FOPROLEI), which was launched in academic year 2012. These were Kanoko Watanabe and Minoru Ochiai, both in the first year of a Master's Program, and Wakaba Yutani and Chihiro Oka, both juniors at the School of Agriculture. They arrived in Paraguay on February 27 and began working in earnest on March 3 based in Coronel Bogado, located in Itapúa Department in Southern Paraguay.

Every day, they left the hotel before dawn and joined OUAVM graduate students and alumni who had worked there as JICA Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers. Upon arrival at dairy farms, they observed how local dairy farmers milked cows early in the morning while it was still dark and conducted surveys from the four perspectives of milking hygiene, animal feeding, reproduction management and farm management.

The students compared the data they collected with those previously gathered, and reported the results when they visited the farms again at a later date (see the photo below).

The survey data showed the results of those daily farmers' efforts to improve their performance. The farmers expressed their appreciation to the students for their reports.



OUAVM students on their way to report on their survey results.