

# GGN Annual Report 2019

## 1. About the Geopark

Geopark Name: Mt. Apoi Geopark, Japan (Asia Pacific Area)

Year of designation: 2015



The ceremony to commemorate 100,000 visitors to the Visitor Center

## 2. Internal Structure of the Geopark

- Geopark Staff: 5 full-time staff, 2 geological experts (including 1 botanical curator), 1 Coordinator for International Relations
- Number of Visitors: 17,481 (recorded at the Geopark Visitor Center)
- Number of Geopark Events: 44
- Number of Geopark Educational Programs: 13
- Number of Geoparks Press Releases: 6

## 3. Geopark Activities Major Achievements in 2019

- Revalidation of UGGp
- The number of visitors to the visitor center exceeded 100,000.
- Hometown and Geo-Study, routine workshops for the local residents
- “Samani Mountain Path” (the Geopark’s Historical Site) is designated as the 100 best historical path of Japan (designated by Agency for Cultural Affairs)
- “Tojuin Temple” (the Geopark’s Historical Site) is designated as the Hokkaido

Heritages: “The three Edo Shogunate temple in Ezo (Hokkado).

#### **Contribution towards GGN – Networking and Participation**

- Participated in the 6<sup>th</sup> APGN Symposium; 1 oral presentation and 1 poster session.
- Attended various JGN conferences (each event included a poster presentation and information exchange) and meetings.

#### **Management and Financial Status**

- Stabilized budget and undergoing business development as planned. The 2019 budget: 11,735,000 JPY (fiscal year from April 2019 to March 2020)

#### **Geo-conservation Efforts**

- The plan to conserve the alpine plants is under academic review. Regular participation in the Apoi Environment Academic Committee Meetings and study meetings. Accompanying and supporting the associated field research, making preparations for a display concerning cultivating alpine plants at the base of the mountain.
- Conservation initiatives go on to restore diminishing alpine flower field by removing the encroached Japanese white pine.
- Testing the method that collects alpine plants seeds and germinates efficiently to increase the number of alpine plants cooperating with the seeding company.

#### **Sustainable Tourism**

- Planning and implementing sustainable geo-tours, in cooperation with local shops and restaurants. Participating in tourism-business meetings.

#### **New Education Programs on Geo-conservation, Sustainable Development and Disaster Risk Reduction**

- Continued support of the Samani Junior High School’s “Mt. Apoi Dream Project” (preserving and raising alpine plants) and other Geo-study related educational programs.
- Starting a curriculum series of Sustainable Development held thorough the Elementary School and Junior High School.
- We invited experts and fisherman to give lectures on the impact of changes in the marine environment on fisheries. Also, we held a beach combing.

#### **Strategic Partnerships**

- Continued support for the comprehensive partnership agreement with the local bank, Hidaka Shinkin Bank, for community development.
- Partnership between the Visitor Center and Apoi Sanso (tourist hotel) which provides discount coupons.
- Continued support for the comprehensive partnership agreement Hokkaido

University Field Science Center for Northern Biosphere to jointly investigate the condition of the ocean and the effect it has on the area.

**Promotional Activities**

- Updated and reprinted the Geopark pamphlets and leaflets.
- Held several speeches and lectures promoting the Geopark during the previous year.
- TV and radio programs, newspaper and magazine articles used to promote the UNESCO status of the Geopark and the territory.
- Panel exhibition and promotion with Hokkaido Geoparks (Toya-Usu UGGp and national Geoparks) and Hokkaido Prefectural Museum in Sapporo (prefectural capital city, 1.9 million population)

4. Contacts

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