

GGN – National Fora/Committees Annual Report 2021

1. IDENTITY

Japan Geopark Committee, **Japan**

<https://jgc.geopark.jp/en/> e-mail: jgc@geopark.jp

Year of inscription: March 2021-January 2022

2. MEMBERS (same as in the previous year)

1. **Chair:** Mr. Setsuya Nakada, *National Research Institute for Earth Science and Disaster Resilience*, e-mail: nakada@bosai.go.jp (Geology)
2. **Vice-Chair:** Ms. Ikuko Miyahara, *Miyagi Gakuin Women's University*, miyahara@mgu.ac.jp (Human Geography, Tourism specialist)

Members:

3. Ms. Jagoda Woloszyn, *Oki Islands UGGp*, jagoda@oki-geopark.jp (representative of UGGPs in Japan)
4. Mr. Marekazu Ohno, *Mt. Chokai & Tobishima Island Geopark Promotion Council*, m-ohno@chokaitobishima.com (representative of the National Commission for UNESCO)
5. Ms. Sumiko Kubo, *Waseda University*, sumik@waseda.jp (Geography specialist)
6. Ms. Nobu Kuroda, *University of Tsukuba*, kuroda.nobu.fw@u.tsukuba.ac.jp (Cultural Heritage)
7. Mr. Yoshiki Saito, *Shimane University*, ysaito@soc.shimane-u.ac.jp (IGCP Japan representative)
8. Ms. Tomoko Shibao, *UNESCO Asia Culture Center (ACCU)*, shibaotomoko.ichikawa@gmail.com, (UNESCO activity)
9. Mr. Hisanari Sugawara, *Gunma Museum of Natural History*, sugawaragmnh@gmail.com, (Geology and Museology)
10. Mr. Yuichiro Tanaka, *Geological Survey of Japan (AIST)*, y-tanaka@aist.go.jp, (representative National Geological Institute)
11. Ms. Atsuko Niina, *Tohoku University of Community Service and Science*, niina.geo@gmail.com (Human Geography, Indigenous Heritage)
12. Mr. Jun Hashizume, *Niigata Prefectural Museum*, hashizume.jun@pref.niigata.lg.jp (Archaeology, Museology)
13. Mr. Shuichi Hasegawa, *Kagawa University*, hasegawa.shuichi@kagawa-u.ac.jp (Engineering Geology)
14. Mr. Masaru Yamaguchi, *NHK Broadcasting Culture Research Institute*, yamaguchi.m-fw@nhk.or.jp (representative of press agencies)
15. Mr. Tsunao Watanabe, *Japan Wildlife Research Center*, wtsunao@gmail.com (representative of nature environment)
16. Mr. Mahito Watanabe, *Geological Survey of Japan*, mht.watanabe@aist.go.jp, (Executive Board Member of GGN)

Observers:

- Japanese National Commission for UNESCO (Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology)
- Ministry of the Environment
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry
- Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism
- Agency of Tourism
- Agency for Cultural Affairs

- Forestry Agency
- Japan Meteorological Agency and Cabinet Office

3. ACTIVE APPLICATIONS

Active application in your country:

No new application in 2021. However, originally scheduled evaluation mission for Hakusan-Tedorigawa Aspiring UNESCO Global Geopark for the 2020 application was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In addition, there were no revalidation missions in 2020 and 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic (originally scheduled are for Itoigawa UGGP and Unzen Volcanic Area UGGP in 2020 and Izu Peninsula and Oki Islands in 2021).

Territories that we are advising:

1. Toya-Usu UGGP, Mr. Toshiharu Maya, info@toya-usu-geopark.org, <https://www.toya-usu-geopark.org/english/>, since 2008
2. Itoigawa UGGP, Mr. Toru Yoneda, geopark@city.itoigawa.lg.jp, <http://geo-itoigawa.com/eng/>, since 2008
3. Unzen Volcanic Area UGGP, Mr. Ryuzaburo Furukawa, info@unzen-geopark.jp, <http://www.unzen-geopark.jp/en-top>, since 2008
4. Sanin-Kaigan UGGP, Mr. Hisajiro Kannuki, geopark@pref.hyogo.lg.jp, <https://geopark.sakura.ne.jp/en/>, since 2010
5. Muroto UGGP, Mr. Soichiro Ueta, info@muroto-geo.jp, <https://www.muroto-geo.jp/en/>, since 2011
6. Oki Islands UGGP, Mr. Kosei Ikeda, info@oki-geopark.jp, <http://www.oki-geopark.jp/en/>, since 2013
7. Aso UGGP, Mr. Yoshitaka Sato, info@aso-geopark.jp, <http://www.aso-geopark.jp/en/about/>, since 2014
8. Mt. Apoi UGGP, Mr. Teruaki Araki, apoi.geopark@samani.jp, <https://www.apoi-geopark.jp/english/>, since 2015,
9. Izu Peninsula UGGP, Mr. Yutaka Kikuchi, info@izugeopark.org, <https://english.izugeopark.org>, since 2017

4. ACTIVITIES

4-1. Outline of JGC

The Japan Geopark Committee (JGC) is the organization set outside the Japanese National Commission for UNESCO (NATCOM) but certificated in 2016 by the NATCOM as the organization having the responsibility to nominate the UGGp and performing related tasks. JGC works to promote the Geopark activity and conduct the publicity of Geoparks in Japan, closely with the Japanese Geoparks Network (JGN) which includes 9 UGGps, 37 national Geoparks, and 10 aspiring national Geoparks as of January 2022 (Figure 1).

Regular meetings of JGC are held three times a year for nominating candidates for UGGp, designating national Geoparks, which are aspiring UGGp in future, and performing related tasks written in the UNESCO operational guidelines.

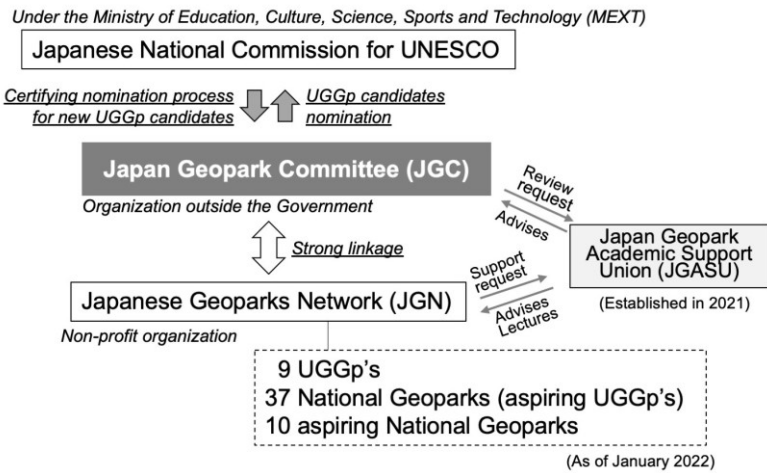


Figure 1: Relationship among Japanese National Commission for UNESCO (NATCOM), Japan Geopark Committee (JGC), Japanese Geoparks Network (JGN) and Japan Geopark Academic Support Union (JGASU).

4-2. Meetings (March 2021-January 2022)

The regular JGC meetings were held on May 29, 2021 (42nd meeting), September 25, 2021 (43rd meeting), and December 22 (part 1 of 44th meeting), January 5 (part 2), and January 28, 2022 (part 3), all in online. Two UNESCO Global Geoparks (Aso and San'in Kaigan UGGPs) whose revalidation missions are scheduled in 2022 were advised both online and on sites by the committee in the 2011 fall (JGC Advise Missions). In addition, totally 14 areas were assessed in the same way by JGC as new evaluation and revalidation under the Japanese own system. As a result, 3 new national geoparks (Tosa-Shimizu in Shikoku, Tokachidake in Hokkaido, and Goto Islands (Shimogoto Area) in Kyushu) were designated. Eleven (11) national geoparks were revalidated with green cards. As a result, there are 46 geoparks, including 9 UNESCO Global Geoparks and 37 national geoparks in Japan (Figure 2).

Progress reports of Aso and San'in Kaigan UGGPs prepared, reflecting our advisory mission reports in the 2021 fall, were confirmed by the committee members as possible as they can during December 2021-January 2022, and were sent to UNESCO under the endorsements by the committee and Japanese National Commission for UNESCO in the end of January 2022.

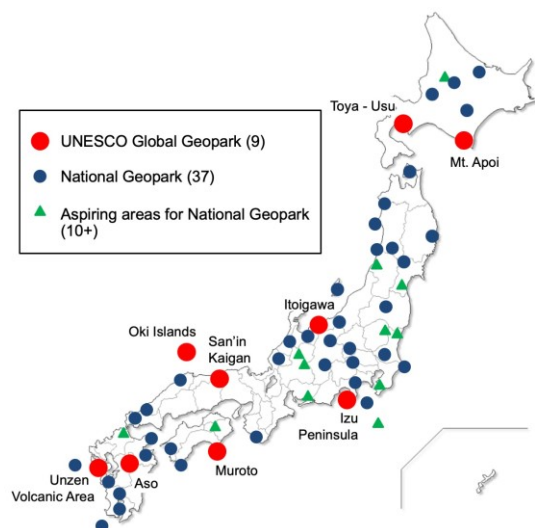


Figure 2: Distribution of UGGPs and National Geoparks with the aspiring areas in Japan, as of January 2022.

4-3. Other activities (training courses, consultation meetings, etc)

The following events in Japan were organized by JGC.

- 1) Training for JGC/JGN members on UNESCO associated schools and ESD initiatives on March 3, 2021
- 2) JGC online field training in the San'in Kaigan UNESCO Global Geopark on March 4-5, 2021.
- 3) Training for JGC/JGN members on UNESCO Global Geoparks on July 1, 8, 15 and 20, 2021.
- 4) Advanced consultation of application for UGGp and national geopark, held on October 3, 2021 online, was attended by 6 national geoparks and 5 areas attended this meeting as the aspiring UGGPs and national geoparks, respectively.
- 5) JGC-JGN joint online meeting on evaluation standards on January 29, 2022.

(S. Nakada, in February 2022)