

GGN – National Fora/Committees Annual Report 2020

1. IDENTITY

Japan Geopark Committee, **Japan**

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

Year of inscription: April 2020-March 2022

2. MEMBERS

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, *Unzen Volcanic Area UGGp*, staff3@unzen-geopark.jp (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*, i_j_hashi@hotmail.com (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:

1. Hakusan-Tedorigawa aUGGP, Mr. Noriaki Yamada, geopark@city.hakusan.lg.jp, <https://hakusan-geo.jp/en/>, 2020

Territories that you are advising:

1. Toya-Usu UGGP, Mr. Maya Toshiharu, 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. Kazuyuki Sakashita, 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 in 2016, set outside the Japanese National Commission for UNESCO (NATCOM) but certificated 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, 34 national Geoparks, and 13 aspiring national Geoparks as of March 2021 (Figure).

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 tasks shown in the UNESCO operational guidelines.

Under the Ministry of Education, Culture, Science, Sports and Technology (MEXT)

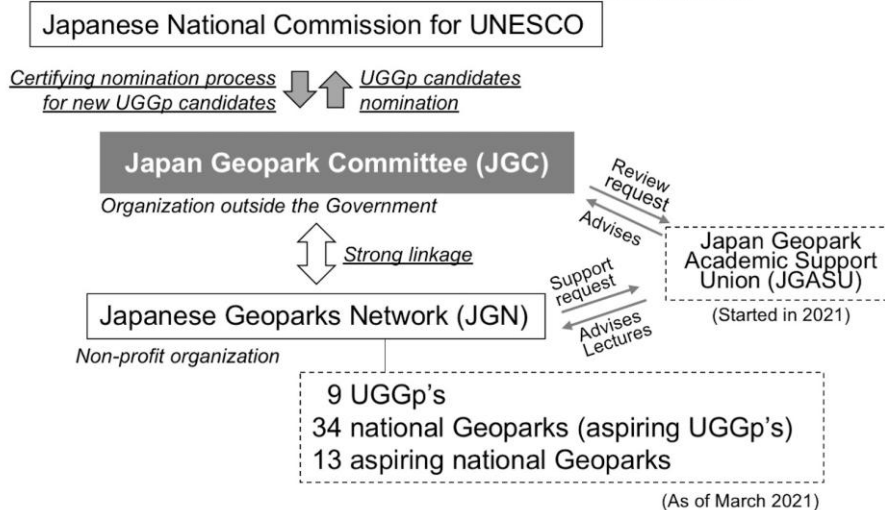


Figure: Relationship among Japanese National Commission for UNESCO (NATCOM), Japan Geopark Committee (JGC), and Japanese Geoparks Network (JGN)

4-2. Meetings (FY2019-2020)

1) Presentation by aspiring UGGp and national Geoparks on May 25, 2019

Presentation by Mine Akiyoshi Karst Plateau aUGGp and 2 aspiring national Geoparks (including 1 area extension) was carried out in front of the JGC members. These presentations with discussions have been opened on YouTube.

2) 36th JGC meeting on January 18, 2019

Following the JGC revalidation missions, 4 national Geoparks were accepted as green card and 2 national Geoparks as yellow cards.

3) 37th JGC meeting on October 3, 2019

Mine Akiyoshi Karst Plateau aUGGp was rejected to nominate as the national candidate, due to immaturity in the Criteria 1 and 7 of the section 3 in the UGGp operational guideline. Following the JGC evaluation missions, 1 aspiring national Geopark was rejected, and one area extension of national Geopark was deferred.

4) 38th JGC meeting on December 25, 2019

Following the JGC revalidation missions, 5 national Geoparks were accepted as green card and 4 national Geoparks as yellow cards.

5) 39th JGC meeting with the presentation by Hakusan-Tedorigawa aUGGp on June 1, 2020 (online)

New term of JGC started with the election of new chair and vice chair (FY2020-2021). The counter-measures against the COVID-19 pandemic were agreed, considering the comments to by the president and vice-presidents of JGN; it was decided that all the JGC missions are carried out in the way possible, taking into the account individual areas' conditions. In-situ mission on Japanese UGGps in the previous year of their UNESCO revalidation was positioned as the advice missions by JGC. The presentation of Hakusan-Tedorigawa aUGGp have been opened on YouTube.

6) 40th JGC meeting on October 21, 2020 (online)

Following the JGC evaluation mission on the Hakusan-Tedorigawa aUGGp, its recommendation to apply to the UGGp was decided. The recommendations were discussed

for 4 UGGp areas whose UNESCO revalidations are scheduled in 2021, based on the summer JGC advisory missions.

7) 41th JGC meeting on January 19, January 21 and February 5, 2021 (online)

Following the JGC revalidation missions, an expansion area of national Geopark is accepted. 8 national Geoparks were accepted as green card and 2 national Geoparks as yellow cards.

3. Other activities (training course, advisory meeting, etc)

The following events in Japan were organized by JGC.

- 1) Advanced consultation for aspiring UGGp and national Geoparks on November 1, 2019.
- 2) JGC-JGN joint meeting on evaluation standards in 2019 on January 31, 2020
- 3) Training of JGC Geopark evaluators in Itoigawa UGGp on February 8-9, 2020
- 4) Training course for new managers and experts on the basic Geoparks (1-4) on September 3-4, 2020 (online)
- 5) Advanced consultation for aspiring UGGP and national Geoparks in October 23, 2020.
- 6) JGC-JGN joint meeting on evaluation standards in 2020 on February 4, 2021 (online)
- 7) Training for JGC/JGN members on UNESCO associated school and ESD initiatives on March 3, 2021
- 8) Training of JGN Geopark evaluators in San'in Kaigan UGGp on March 4, 2021 (online)