

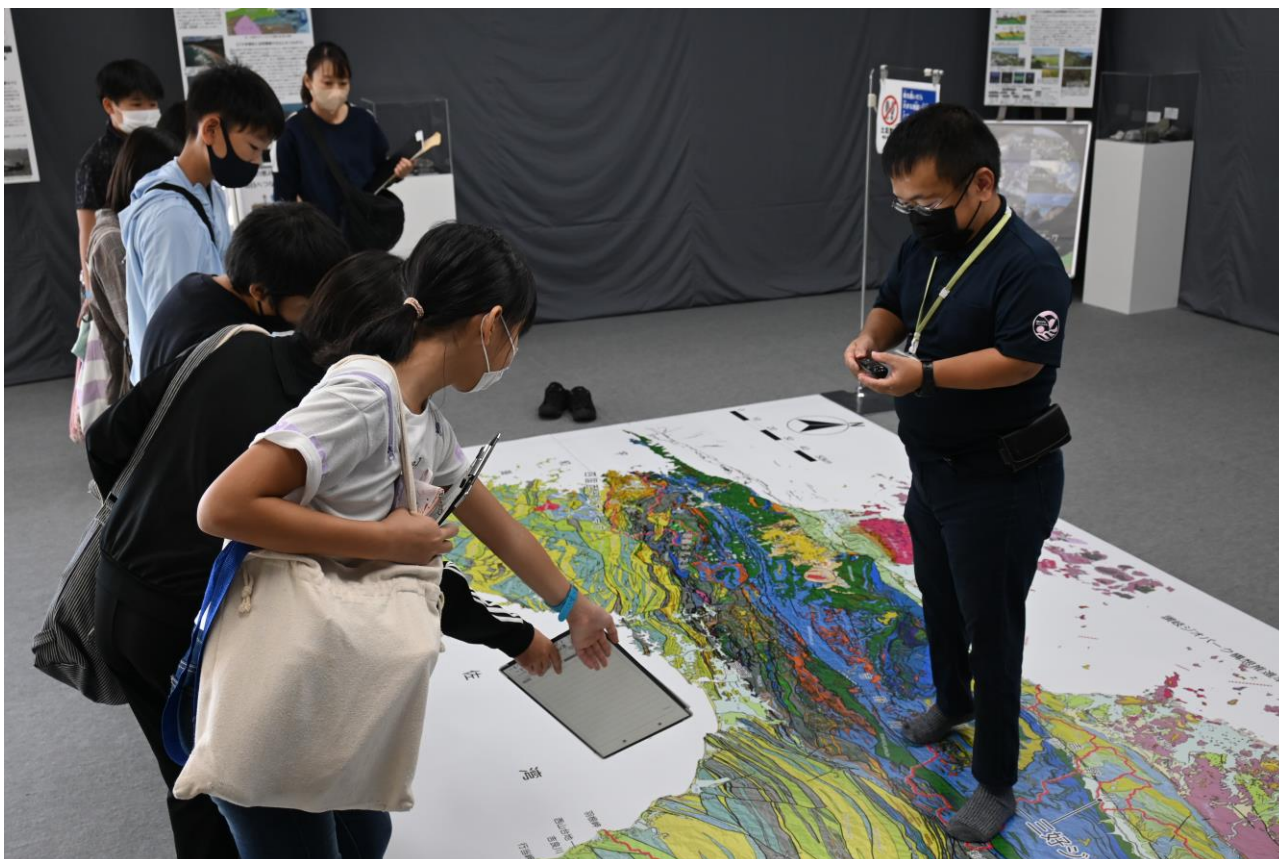
GGN - Geopark Annual Report 2022

1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

Geopark name, country, regional Network: Muroto UNESCO Global Geopark, Japan, Asia Pacific Geoparks Network

Year of inscription / Year of the last revalidation: 2011 / 2019

Representative photo with caption (from the most important event this year)



Special exhibition on International Geodiversity Day, held at Muroto Global Geopark Center from October to November. Local students learned about the unique geodiversity in Muroto and how it has impacted the nature, culture, and lifestyle here.

2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staffs: 15 staffs including 2 geoscientists

Number of visitors: Visitor Center (Muroto Global Geopark Center): 56,724 Guided Tour: 3,657

Number of Geopark events: 23 by management body, 11 by cooperative organizations

Number of school classes realize Geopark educational programmes: 63

Number of Geopark press release: 45

3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

Major achievements in 2022

- Co-organizing High School Student's International Symposium on UNESCO Global Geopark

with Kochi Prefectural Muroto High School (MHS, hereafter): nine high schools and eight different regions participated in the Symposium under the aim of establishing a sustainable local community

- Appointing two Muroto UGGp Youth Ambassadors among MHS alumni who have participated in exploratory activities related to the Geopark. One of them worked at the Muroto UGGp office as an intern in August.
- Revising Muroto UGGp Research Grant-in-Aid System from the perspective of gender equality—with items to promote the recruitment of female researchers being newly added

Contribution towards GGN - Networking and participation

- Co-organizing a joint education program with Langkawi UGGp and Satun UGGp, titled “Geopark Sistership Exchange Program,” held in Langkawi. MHS students joined the program and exchanged ideas with other participants from other two UGGps.
- Publishing an article on Muroto’s traditional fishing technique in “Geoparks & Ocean,” a document commemorating the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development
- Participating in the 7th APGN Symposium in Satun UGGp with seven personnel, including three high school students, and giving four oral presentations
- Ms. Kana FURUSAWA, a Muroto Geopark Promotion Committee special advisor, has been contributing network activities as one of the GGN Executive Board Members and as an APGN Vice Coordinator.

Management and Financial Status

- The financial status of the Geopark is stable, with a total operating budget for FY 2022 is JPY 59,639,600.

Geoconservation

- Updating Muroto UGGp Conservation Guidelines for ensuring a system to protect and conserve geological heritage with local communities
- Developing the Geological Map Leaflet, which shows Muroto’s unique inverted triangle topography’s formation processes and how they have resulted in the diverse climate, industry, and lifestyle features in the Geopark. It raises awareness to both local residents and visitors of local geoheritage conservation.

Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)

- The total sales of tourism section of 2022 surpassed that of the 2020 sales by three times thanks to a newly launched Educational Tour on Environment and Disaster Prevention, targeting school students
- Improving a conventional guided tour designed for universal accessibility as a joint project with Muroto High School students; developing 1) a guided tour for visually-impaired persons, and 2) a virtual tour in sign language

- Collaborating with Kochi Prefectural Division of Local Tourism and Kochi Prefectural Makino Botanical Garden to manage a guide training course specializing in local vegetation

New education programmes on geoconservation, sustainable development and disaster risk reduction

- Holding the first online exchange class at Sakihama Elementary School with Mine Akiyoshidai Japanese Geopark, showcasing each area's geodiversity on International Geodiversity Day
- Holding a series of classes on earthquake process at Muroto High School who then later shared that information with Langkawi UGGp, contributing to disaster mitigation measurements in Muroto for International Day for Disaster Reduction
- Launching an experience-based learning project with the aim of sustainable local development at Sakihama Junior High School: 2nd-year students developed a bento lunch box menu using local ingredients and an effective sales promotion. They learned that "Geopark" was a good tool to add more value to their products.

Strategic partnership

- Developed the "Muroto UGGp Partnership Agreement Guidelines" which provides a clear process and criteria for organizations in becoming a partner, as well as clarifies the roles and responsibilities of partners
- Signing an MoU with a local organization, Think Sustainability Project, in April, to co-host a health promotion event called "Beach Stretch." Muroto Geopark Promotion Committee subsidized half of the participation costs for participants who stayed to help clean up the beach after the event.

Promotional activities

- Filming local resident's lives as a documentary footage under the video series title of "Muroto Voice." Local residents engaging in diverse industries have been featured as "stars" of each video (<https://x.gd/Cx9J8>)
- Holding a pop-up exhibition of Muroto UGGp at Kochi Mirai Science Center, located in the largest city in the Kochi Prefecture, where Muroto's rock samples and poster presentations regarding local culture and lifestyle formed in Muroto's natural environment were displayed
- Local high school students opened a photo exhibition at Muroto Global Geopark Center with the aim of showing "the real Muroto UGGp" through their photos which capture their regular lives in surrounding nature.

4. CONTACTS

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