

GGN - Geopark Annual Report 2019

1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

Geopark name, country, regional Network: Muroto UNESCO Global Geopark, Japan, APGN

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

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



Muroto High School student representatives visited Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark (the visitation was one of the three-year collaborative educational programs)

2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staffs: 17 staffs including 2 geoscientists

Number of visitors: Muroto Global Geopark Center: 75,758 Guided Tour: 5,417

Number of Geopark events: 30 by management body, 34 by cooperative organizations

Number of school classes realize Geopark educational programmes: 49

Number of Geopark press release: 74

3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

Major achievements in 2019

- Achieving a designation of deep marine bivalve fossils at Mitsu Coast as municipal cultural property by Muroto High School students

- Launching a three-year collaborative educational program with Muroto High School and local community
- Developing new tours in mountainous area by local business owners and farmers

Contribution towards GGN - Networking and participation

- Participation in the 6th APGN Symposium (2 staff and a vice principal of Muroto High School)
- Participation in the Regional Course on UNESCO Global Geoparks 2019 held in Langkawi (1staff)
- Dispatching an on-site evaluator to an aspiring UNESCO Global Geopark
- Contribution to the GGN newsletter with articles on Muroto UGG
- Receiving two Langkawi UGG staff visit and discussing on future collaborative activities
- Building a network between high schools in domestic UGGs for comparison regional studies

Management and Financial Status

- Carrying out projects stated in the 3rd Action Plan by Muroto Geopark Promotion Team members
- The financial status of the geopark is stable, with a total operating budget of JPY 44,453,287 for FY2019

Geoconservation

- Establishing fossil conservation system at coastal area designated as Quasi National Park
- Monitoring geosites with local guides and partner institution staff every month and updating a geosite database according to the result
- Completing a conservation plan for Areas with Cape Muroto Sub-Tropical Vegetation and Coastal Vegetation Community with Muroto City and Muroto City Board of Education

Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)

- Developing a new experience-based geo-cruise tour under the theme of marine ecosystem
- Operating several new tours with different concepts adjusting to each target
- Holding beach clean-up activity included in a field excursion
- Conducting two guide training courses collaborated with partner guide associations

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

- Holding series of environment classes at a local elementary school
- Holding Science Café with researchers who gained Muroto Geopark Research Grant
- Holding two SDGs events for locals with local panelists and invited lecturers

- Holding a study meeting with locals on evacuation shelter by Conservation Team members
- Receiving International Association for Gondwana Research field excursion on Earth heritage

Strategic partnership

- Initiating a three-year collaborative research project on geohazard risk management coordinated by Kochi University
- Appointing five researchers (Geology, Geography, Human Geography, and Taxonomy) who gained Muroto Geopark Research Grant as partner researchers

Promotional activities

- Releasing articles on Facebook by Muroto Geopark promotion team members
- Holding a promotion event at Kochi Aeon Mall with the Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology (JAMSTEC) and the National Youth Outdoor Learning Center under the Collaboration Partnership Agreement
- Publishing Muroto Geopark Newsletter every month

4. CONTACTS

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