

# GGN - Geopark Annual Report 2021

## 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)**



Making Muroto UGGp sheet of postage stamp designed with photos taken by local citizens for celebrating 10th anniversary of GGN designation and selling it nationwide (\*Ten pictures in the bottom part can be used as a postage stamp to send letters all over Japan.)

## 2. GEOPARK FIGURES

**Number of Geopark staffs:** 12 staffs including 2 geoscientists

**Number of visitors:** Visitor Center (Muroto Global Geopark Center): 52,025 Guided Tour: 2,744

**Number of Geopark events:** 23 by management body, 22 by cooperative organization

**Number of school classes realize Geopark educational programmes:** 52

**Number of Geopark press release:** 57

### **3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES**

#### **Major achievements in 2021**

- Organizing “Science Café” in hybrid format to share research results of Muroto Geopark Research Grants with local citizens
- Holding a special exhibition on local traditional dance performances for inheriting local culture
- Verifying the presence of Japanese squirrel (*Sciurus lis*) in the Geopark area as a result of collaborating research project with a zoologist, an advisor of Muroto Geopark Promotion Committee
- Achieving an award for Muroto UGGp Conservation Team’s project, developing a new geo-product by an environmental conservation NPO, auspice of the Prefectural government

#### **Contribution towards GGN - Networking and participation**

- Participating in the Digital 9<sup>th</sup> International Conference on UNESCO Global Geopark in Jeju, South Korea (4 staff) and in the 3rd GGN general assembly
- Publishing a joint paper with 2 UGGps on holistic interpretation of Earth heritage in Geopark areas
- Continuously participating in APGN online exchange meeting, “Let’s Do It” as one of the facilitators
- Nominating the special advisor of Muroto UGGp to become a GGN Executive Board member
- Contributing to the GGN newsletter with an article of Muroto UGGp

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

- The financial status of the geopark is stable, with a total operating budget for FY2021 is JPY 51,982,500
- Reviewing pricing plans of study-tour programs and achieving increase of revenue from the tour

#### **Geoconservation**

- Holding study meetings with local citizens to raise awareness of geological heritage and geosites around communities
- Using thin-sections made of rocks in the area and other Geopark areas for children’s deeper understanding of local geoheritage

#### **Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)**

- Co-organizing a photo-walk tour around the representing geosites in the Geopark area, guided by a nature photographer and geopark staff  
Organizing a guide training course on the topic of TORE (Thematic, Organized, Relevant, and Enjoyable), an interpretation theory and increasing by 4 new guides

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

- Actively participating in “Research Project on Nankai Trough Earthquake Contributing to Advancement of Disaster Risk Management,” commissioned by Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) to develop new educational contents on disaster reduction
- Launching cross curricular educational programs based on Geopark at Kochi Prefectural Muroto high school
- Holding a special class on making a map in summer vacation targeting elementary school children

## **Strategic partnership**

- Signing a partnership agreement with Kochi Prefectural Muroto High School with the aim of geopark education improvement
- Coordinating online high school exchange classes with high schools in Langkawi UGGp for celebrating International Earth Day and International Day for Disaster Reduction

## **Promotional activities**

- Making a new promotional VR video for a cruise tour showing marine ecosystem and traditional fishery
- Winning the 2<sup>nd</sup> place of “The International Anti-Slip Sand Championship,” hosted by Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology; it was broadcasted on YouTube as a series of videos from August to December which successfully promoted Muroto UGGp and its gabbro as one of geological features
- Frequent update of the Muroto UGGp website and social media

## **4. CONTACTS**

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