

GGN - Geopark Annual Report 2020

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)



Elementary and Secondary Education Bureau of Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) awarded Muroto High School. (Won gold prize of Global High School Meetings 2021 *See the top item of Major Achievements)

2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staffs: 13 Geopark including 2 geoscientists

Number of visitors: Muroto Global Geopark Center: 44,304 Guided Tour: 1,436

Number of Geopark events: 21 by management body, 11 by cooperative organization

Number of school classes realize Geopark educational programmes: 56

Number of Geopark press release: 65

3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

Major achievements in 2020

- Highly recognized Muroto High School students' community contribution activities to achieve sustainable community development by utilizing global Geoparks network
- Creating a series of video titled "Local Voice under COVID19 Pandemic" to enhance resilience in local community

- Enlarge an animal survey team in the Geopark including school children and local residents, which results are shared with an educational tour on wild animal ecosystem in the Geopark
- Coordinating an online class on deep sea at Muroto High School with live streaming video showing correlation between ocean topography and deep-sea animals, lectured by a local fisherman
- Special Exhibition on local traditions, festivals, and lives in collaborating with Conservation Team of Muroto UGGp
- Implement a certification system of assistant geologists among local residents completing a series of experiment classes

Contribution towards GGN - Networking and participation

- Participation in the 1st APGN Week and creating a video on Earth Day 2020 with local resident
- Actively participating and co-organizing APGN online exchange meeting, “Let’s Do It” as a facilitator (February 2020 to present)
- Participation in 1st and 2n GGN Digital Forum as well as the APGN CC meeting
- Online exchange projects using SNS with Langkawi UGGp

Management and Financial Status

- Formation of the 4th Muroto Geopark Action Plan (2020-2024) after a series of discussions with local residents and committee members
- The financial status of the geopark is stable, with a total operating budget for FY2020 is JPY 62,720,900

Geoconservation

- Regular geosite monitoring implemented by Conservation Team of Muroto UGGp and finding large-sized cetacean fossils and exhibiting it at Muroto Global Geopark Center
- Re-evaluate and update criteria on geosite designation

Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)

- Development a new workation-tour program in collaboration with local tourism-related business owners and local guides in Muroto UGGp
- Holding online guided tours for university seminar classes in cooperation with geopark guide association
- Instructors training course for a study tour program on geohazard risk management
- Holding a trial learning tour on environmental conservation to contributing to the achievement of the SDGs, funded by Ministry of the Education.

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

- Re-evaluate and improve a study tour program on geohazard risk management for hosting school excursion trip at Tsunami Evacuation Shelter in Muroto UGGp

- Regular online exchanges between Muroto High School and high schools in other UGGps and Aspiring Geoparks in Japan
- Review “Muroto City’s Earthquake Evacuation Management Manual” in terms of geology and topography by Muroto High School Disaster Mitigation Committee
- Supporting river animal survey at Shiina River organized by a children community club

Strategic partnership

- “Muroto Sea Breeze Project,” developing a new product made of alien species in collaboration with Conservation Team, Muroto City and a private food inspection company
- Appointing two researchers (marine mammalogy and palaeoichnology) as partner researchers

Promotional activities

- Development of a new tourism promotion video focusing on new geo-activities in Muroto UGGp
- Publishing Muroto Geopark Newsletter every month including an article written by local residents
- Frequent update of the Muroto Geopark web site, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube channel

4. CONTACTS

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