

1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

Geopark name, country, regional network: Oki Islands, Japan, Asia Pacific Geoparks Network

Year of inscription: 2013 / **Year of the last revalidation:** 2017

Representative photo:



Oki High School students present their research and community engagement project during the APGN Symposium.

2.



Bookmarks with information about the invasive plant species.

GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staffs: 9 including 1 geology specialist & 1 nature specialist

Number of Visitors: 52,417

Number of Geopark events:

- Geopark-organized events: 6
- Geopark-organized lectures for local community and field work tours: 26

Number of school classes realizing Geopark educational programmes:

- Oki High School: compulsory course for 1st and 2nd year students, elective course for 3rd year students
- Lectures and field work tours at elementary, junior and senior high schools: 61

Number of Geopark press releases:

- Newspaper articles containing geopark information: 10
- Articles in the local newsletters published by municipalities: 5

3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

Major achievements in 2019:

- Supported Oki High School students in preparing for and participating in the APGN Symposium, where they introduced their research and community engagement project on an invasive alien plant species
- Created and carried out a geopark training course for guides who can provide guiding services in foreign languages
- Organized a Senior High School Essay Contest in English for all four islands, which was the first time the contest included all islands in the geopark

Contribution towards GGN - networking and participation:

- Participated in conference of geoparks from the Chugoku-Shikoku-Kinki areas of Japan (27-31.01.2019)
- Coordinated and carried out an online exchange between a local junior high school and a school in Hong Kong UGGp (19.02.2019)

- Co-organized and carried out an exchange programme with San'in Kaigan UGGp and Shimane Peninsula and Shinjiko Nakaumi Estuary Japanese Geopark (12-14.04.2019)
- Participated in workshops held by Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark (12-16.04.2019)
- Participated in a Japanese Geopark Network training course held in Choshi Japanese Geopark (28-29.05.2019)
- Received and coordinated visits from two geopark schools of Hong Kong UGGp (09-11.04.2019, 31.07.-04.08.2019)
- Participated in the 6th APGN Symposium (02-08.09.2019) and APGN Coordinators' Meeting
- Participated in the National Conference of the Japanese Geoparks Network (01-05.11.2019)
- Participated in a Joint Workshop on 'Capacity Development Focusing on Geopark Development and Evaluation' held in Thailand (03-09.12.2019)
- Served as a leader of the Island Geoparks Working Group

Management and financial status:

- Management was conducted by the Oki Islands UNESCO Global Geopark Promotion Committee, which was composed of 45 cooperating organizations.
- Managed own finances and independent budget. Main sources of capital were funds contributed by the four municipalities of the Oki Islands and Shimane Prefecture.

Geoconservation:

- Continued the 'Subsidy for Oki Islands UGGp Academic Research' Project (11 studies were selected)
- Cooperated with the Ministry of Environment on a joint booth during a local environment-related event (17.02.2019)
- Cooperated with the Ministry of Environment on an event for the removal of invasive species (09.03.2019)
- Coordinated local events for the West Japan Dandelion Survey in Nishinoshima Town and Okinoshima Town (12.05, 18.05.2019)

Sustainable tourism (geotourism):

- Created a training course and carried out lectures and field work for candidates planning on becoming guides in foreign languages

New Education programmes on geoconservation, sustainable development and disaster risk reduction:

- Created a picture-story show related to the Oki Islands Geopark (the unusual rocks of the Oki Islands) targeted at young children. This is the second picture-story show created by the Promotion Committee; the first presents the unique ecosystem of the Oki Islands.

Strategic Partnership:

- Ministry of Environment, Oki Ranger Station – removal of invasive plant species, and marine litter projects

Promotional activities:

- Carried out promotional activities on social media (Facebook, Youtube)
- Granted subsidies for the development of 3 product packaging designs
- Published a quarterly newspaper *Oki Times* that is distributed widely within the geopark area
- Participated in a fair organized by BSS Radio and TV (21.09.2019)
- Geopark-themed wrapping of a bus bound for the ferry ports connecting the mainland Japan to the Oki Islands

4. CONTACTS:

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