

GGN - Geopark Annual Report 2021

1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

Toya-Usu UNESCO Global Geopark, Japan, Asia Pacific Geoparks Network

Year of inscription / Year of the last revalidation: 2009/2019



Left: lapped our brand image graphic on the 13 post boxes in the whole area of the geopark.

Center: displayed the graphic on the all, 54 of the postal car in the Geopark.

Right: the stamp sheets which designed geopark's harvests are on sell.

Brand-image-up project for the world after pandemic by the collaboration with post office.

2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staffs: 4 staffs (plus 1 geologist will be working from April 1, 2022)

Number of visitors: 2.7 million for a day trip, 551 thousand for stay (during April 2019 - March 2020)

Number of Geopark events: 55

Number of school classes realize Geopark educational programs: 32

Number of Geopark press release: 25

3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

Major achievements in 2021

- In the post office and Geopark collaboration project, which was carried out as a brand-image-up project to the world after the Covid-19 pandemic, Geopark information kiosks were set up in the eight post offices in addition to the above.
- An additional 20,000 copies of the Geopark walking map series (3 types of volcano, history/culture, and nature) were printed and distributed to information facilities.
- We have renewed 15 geopark's general information boards, 6 interpretation panels. These include proper and integrated geopark's name and area boundary.
- We held two lectures about picture book dealing with indigenous Ainu's place names, published in 2021 as a program to support local intangible heritage and indigenous languages.

- We renewed interpretation panels in the "Exhibition of the UGGp and Harvests of the Earth" in Toyako Tourist Information Center.
- The opening ceremony was held of the new museum "Nakajima Island and Lake Forest Museum" which includes the UGGp exhibition.
- About 600 downloads of the Geopark Outdoor Learning Textbook series from the Geopark's website.

Contribution towards GGN - Networking and participation

- Participate digital 9th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geopark, Jeju. In collaboration with the UGGp region in Japan, we introduced our practices for the post-Covid-19 pandemic in this region.
- One staff (Nire Kagaya) participate in the UGGp Digital Course, which have been held from June 7th to 20th.

Management and Financial Status

- Approved about the 2021 Action Plan and the budget at the council general meeting.

Geoconservation

- We checked the current status of all sites based on a "Sites Monitoring Sheet" that using index of tourism/scientific/educational value, safety, risk of loss, and ease of approach.
- Exchange the opinions about site's conservation and sustainable using at the education promotion committee meeting.
- Discuss about conservation activities of geopark at the Residents/Guides Committee meeting.
- Weeding of the Nishiyama trail and other geo-sites annually with volunteers to conserve geosites continually.

Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)

- The "Geopark Smart Stamp Rally" was held under the covid-19 pandemic with a non-contact event system using a smartphone. A total of 687 participants arrived at checkpoints on 12 trekking routes during 40 days.

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

- The Volcano Meister (disaster risk reduction leader and geopark guide) certification examination was carried out in November, and 3 examinees passed. There are a total of 57 volcano meisters.
- The council send Volcano Meisters 24 times to the disaster risk reduction education program of local schools.

Strategic partnership

- Our Geopark will have a sister-geopark partnership with Leiqiong UGGp, China. Both chair persons signed on the letter of Intent about our future partnership on 21st April 2021 (during APGN week).

Promotional activities

- We provided an article for the magazine "Monthly Educational Travel" distributed to domestic travel agencies and schools. We introduced our program that related to SDGs and disaster risk reduction on the article. (The article appeared at the effective beginning part of the magazine)
- Exchange the opinions about the promotion plans after pandemic using new Geopark's materials and infrastructures with geotourism/administrative committee.

4. CONTACTS

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