

# GGN - Geopark Annual Report 2022

## 1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

**Geopark name, country, regional Network:** Unzen Volcanic Area UNESCO Global Geopark, Japan, Asia Pacific Geoparks Network

**Year of inscription / Year of the last revalidation:** Inscription 2009 / Last Revalidation 2021-2022\*  
(\*UNESCO's field mission was delayed for 1 year from originally-scheduled 2021 to September 2022 and the revalidation was approved by the UGGp Council in December 2022)



Observing Geosites from the Sea by Riding SUPs (stand-up paddleboards) in the 56th Geopark Class, 27 Aug. 2022

## 2. GEOPARK FIGURES

**Number of Geopark staff:** 22 staff members including 6 geoscientists (of which, 5 staff members including 1 geoscientist are engaged exclusively in Geopark management).

**Number of visitors:** 77,276 visitors to the paid zone of the Gamadas Dome (Mt. Unzen Volcano Museum), increased by 18.2% from 65,373 in 2021.

**Number of Geopark events:** 6 events held directly by the Secretariat of the Council of Unzen Volcanic Area Geopark. 20 events held by the Gamadas Dome. As of 28 February 2023, the number of events held by other member organizations of the Council in 2022 is not available yet, since their activity reports for Japanese fiscal year 2022 (April 2022 – March 2023) will be submitted to the Secretariat in April 2023.

**Number of school classes realize Geopark educational programmes:** 69 classes for 39 schools (40 classes for 26 elementary schools, 8 classes for 7 junior high schools, 19 classes for 5 senior high schools, and 2 classes for 1 university).

**Number of Geopark press release:** 11 press releases, 14 news on the official website, 26 Facebook posts, and 140 articles in newspapers (70 in the Shimabara Press; 39 in the Nagasaki Shimbun; 31 in other newspapers).

### **3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES**

#### **Major achievements in 2022**

- Received a Green Card on the evaluation for four-year revalidation by the UNESCO Global Geoparks Council (in the seventh session on 7-9 December 2022).
- Managed to conduct a larger number of Geopark events, school classes and tours than previous years by preparing more outdoor activities and also thanks to slowly but gradually stabilizing COVID-19 situations.

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

- Participated in the APGN Coordinating Committee Meeting (6 Sep.).
- Participated in the 7<sup>th</sup> APGN Symposium (7-10 Sep.).
- Participated in the APGN Let's-Do-It meetings (8 Mar. and 15 Nov.).
- Attended the International Geopark Webinar in Conjunction with Earth Day 2022 "Invest in Our Planet", organized by Langkawi UGGp, Malaysia (25 Apr.).
- Contributed an article and photos to the GGN publication "Geoparks & Oceans".
- Contributed photos and descriptions of 5 selected geological sites to the GGN's promotion for the Geodiversity Day (posted on GGN's Facebook on 5 Sep.).
- Joined the promotion for the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction (IDDRR), initiated by the GGN Working Group on Geohazards, and disseminated the information on our Geopark's recent DRR activities via Facebook (13 Oct.).
- Contributed information and photos to the UNESCO's upcoming book about UGGp.

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

- No change in the management structure of the Council of Unzen Volcanic Area Geopark, while the status of one of 6 full-time staff members of the Secretariat of the Council was changed to a part-time advisor in April 2022.
- Financial status has been stable, with regular budgets allocated by the 3 cities constituting the Geopark territory.
- Total income was 25 million JPY and total expenditure was 21 million JPY for FY2022.

#### **Geoconservation**

- Monthly patrolling of trails at Mt. Unzen-Fugendake was conducted in rotation by the member organizations of the Council.
- Participated in the training on the methods to maintain trails for ecosystem restoration organized by the local ranger office under the Ministry of the Environment.
- Cleanup and weeding events were carried out by various local organizations at geo-sites.

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

- Educational tours for 31 schools (4 elementary schools, 14 junior high schools, 11 senior high

school, 2 universities) from outside the region, with a total of 5,083 students, were arranged by the Shimabara Peninsula Tourism Bureau, and 22 of them were guided by the geo-guides.

- The Shimabara Peninsula Cycling Tourism Project has been launched by the Shimabara Peninsula Tourism Bureau, with support from the Nagasaki Prefectural Government, and a Bicycle Rental Campaign and various new events were organized jointly with tourism departments of the 3 cities in the region.
- Walking events at 2 Olle trail courses were organized by tourism departments of 2 cities.
- Live-streamed a virtual tour by a geo-guide from Obama Hot Spring area during the Central Governments' Public-Visiting Day for Children in Tokyo.
- 4 interpretive panels at geo-sites were updated and 1 welcome panel was renovated.

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

- Organized the 11<sup>th</sup> Exhibition of Elementary and Junior High School Students' Independent Research Works on the Unzen Volcanic Area UGGp, and a total of 44 research works were displayed (27 by elementary school students and 17 by junior high school students).
- Held the 11<sup>th</sup> Contest of High School Students' Research Presentations on the Unzen Volcanic Area UGGp, and a total of 50 students of 9 teams from 3 high schools participated.
- Under the Unzen Volcanic Area UGGp Academic Research Grant Program, provided grants to 2 researcher teams of 2 universities for research projects on workcation and spring water quality in our Geopark.
- The "Disaster and Reconstruction Fieldwork" program of the Gamadas Dome was conducted for 5 groups (3 local governments, 1 high school, 1 travel agency) of 78 participants.
- 3 kinds of traveling exhibitions were organized by the Gamadas Dome: 1) Photos of the Jeju Island's Nature and Geology Created by Volcano (at 2 venues); 2) Recalling the 1991 Mt. Unzen-Fugendake Eruption Disaster on the Occasion of the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Opening of the Gamadas Dome (at 5 venues); 3) Japan as a Country with Major Meteorological Disasters (at 1 venue).
- Delivered special lectures to introduce the Geopark for 120-150 undergraduate students of Department of International Tourism at Nagasaki International University.
- Conducted special sessions to introduce the concept of Geopark and various UGGp areas in the world at the English-Day-Camp event for 56 local students of the 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grades to enhance their interest in international issues and stimulate the motivation to learn English.

### **Strategic partnership**

- Signed an official collaboration agreement with a local high school (the Shimabara Industrial High School) for the 2022 academic year (April 2022 – March 2023) to provide support in the research class on local tourism for the final-year students as well as educational inputs for all

the students.

- Provided year-round cooperation to a local high school (the Koka High School) in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year students' group research projects on local issues for the 2022 academic year.
- 27 corporates and 109 individuals are registered as the Geopark Supporters.
- Participated in the regular meetings of Working Groups for Tourism Strategies of the Unzen City, particularly the WG on bicycle tourism.
- Held the quarterly meetings for better collaboration among the Gamadas Dome, the Shimabara Peninsula Tourism Bureau, and the Secretariat of the Council of Unzen Volcanic Area Geopark.
- Attended 20 meetings for drafting the mid-term plan of the Japanese Geoparks Network as a core member of its Mid-Term Planning Committee.

### **Promotional activities**

- Produced the Simplified-Chinese version of our Geopark's leaflet and printed 10,000 copies, as the 5<sup>th</sup> language version of the leaflet, adding to previously-produced 4 languages (Japanese, English, Korean, Traditional-Chinese).
- Redesigned and updated the official website of the Geopark, and made it available in 5 languages (Japanese, English, Korean, Traditional-Chinese, Simplified-Chinese).
- A bi-weekly featured radio program giving a live talk about the highlights of our Geopark was broadcasted on NBC (Nagasaki Broadcasting Company) in January-April.
- A regular TV program exploring various geo-sites in our region was broadcasted 2-3 times per month on a local cable TV station (Himawari Television).
- A 1-minute quiz program on the Geopark is run by a local radio (FM Shimabara) and a cable TV station (Cabochoa Television) every day.
- An article on topics related to the Geopark is regularly published in the monthly bulletins issued by 3 cities in our region.
- A local geoscientific story of the Geopark is regularly published in the monthly newsletter issued by the Heisei-Shinzan Nature Center.
- About 280 Geopark-designed polo shirts were sold.

## **4. CONTACTS**

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