

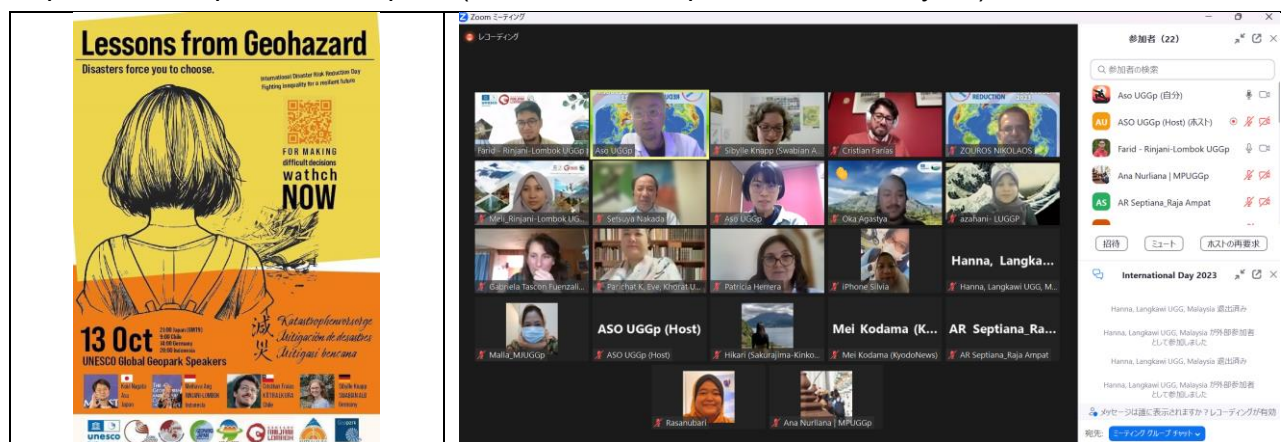
GGN - Geopark Annual Report 2023

1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

Geopark name, country, regional Network: Aso UNESCO Global Geopark, Japan, Japanese Geoparks Network)

Year of inscription / Year of the last revalidation: 2014 / 2022

Representative photo with caption (from the most important event this year)



Aso hosted an online meeting on IDDRR 2023 day after The 10th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks in Morocco. Experiences and information from Aso, Rinjani-Lombok, Swabian Alb, and Kutruakura were shared with participants from Langkawi and Raja-Ampat and more.

2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staffs: 4 staff including 1 geoscientist

Number of visitors: Aso had 176,8253 overnight stays and approximately 9,092,108 visitors.

Number of Geopark events: 4

Number of school classes realize Geopark educational programmes: 30

Number of Geopark press release: 14

3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

Major achievements in 2023

- Participated in an exhibition at the Asia-Pacific Water Summit (held in Kumamoto City), where leaders of various countries gathered, and made a presentation on Aso UGGp's water conservation efforts to the President of Tuvalu and others.
- A partnership agreement was concluded with the Oguni Town Forestry Association as a result of ongoing activities. And accepted a school excursion from the Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark.

Contribution towards GGN - Networking and participation

- In order to implement projects in collaboration with the GGN members, which has been a challenge for Aso, MOUs were signed with Ijen, Rinjani-Lombok, and Impact Crater Lake.

And with Swabian Alb, we have an inter-office agreement for future collaboration and are discussing the project.

- In cooperation with the Earthquake Museum KIOKU, the new base facility of the Aso Geopark, we held an exhibition on the Moroccan earthquake earlier than anywhere else and collected donations. This exhibition spread within the JGN and was able to communicate the current status of Morocco to the Geoparks in Japan.
- Aso Geopark held a collaboration meeting at IDDRR2023 in a partnership agreement with IGEN. In addition, Aso invited IJEN to the International Research Institute for International Study on Eruptive History and Informatics held in Japan to share information among researchers.

Management and Financial Status

- P Labor costs and office expenses are covered by both the budget from the local government and the investment profit by Aso Design Center. Project expenses are covered by national and prefectural governments. In addition, the eight municipalities that make up the Aso Geopark Promotion Council have decided to permanently add another 3 million yen per year for the purpose of raising staff wages.

Geoconservation

- Collaboration with the Ministry of the Environment to share information on the conservation status of the national park.

Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)

- The impact of the corona pandemic is gradually disappearing, and last year the number of geotours conducted was 62+ 2 caldera tours = 64, with 669 geotour participants + 15 caldera tour = 684

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

- In collaboration with Kumamoto University and National Youth Friendship center, we developed a disaster prevention learning program and provided approximately 20 13-18 year old students with two days and one night of learning.
- Managed Aso Junior Geoguide with university students for the establishment of Youth Forum.

Strategic partnership

- Signed a partnership agreement with Oguni Town Forestry Association. In addition, discussions are underway to conclude agreements with the IT College in Minamiaso Village and the Kumamoto Earthquake Disaster Museum.

Promotional activities

- A PR event in collaboration with the Oguni Town Forestry Association was held at a bookstore in a large shopping mall outside the Aso area.

- In collaboration with the National Aso Youth Friendship Center, educational promotions were conducted in Fukuoka.
- The fact that Morocco's experience of the disaster was conveyed to local newspapers, television, and Jiji Press was an opportunity for people all over Japan to learn about the UNESCO World Geopark.

4. CONTACTS

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