

GGN - Geopark Annual Report 2023

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 / 2023



Caption: Muroto High School students preparing Opuntia Cacti, an invasive species in Cape Muroto, in various dishes. Working alongside the Muroto UGGp, these efforts are a sustainable approach to protecting the local environment.

2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staffs: 13 staffs including 2 geoscientist(s)

Number of visitors: Visitor Center (Muroto Global Geopark Center): 57,984; Guided Tour: 2,897

Number of Geopark events: 27 by management body, 21 by cooperative organization

Number of school classes realizes Geopark educational programmes: 50

Number of Geopark press release: 37

3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

Major achievements in 2023

- In collaboration with the Geopark Conservation Team, Muroto High School students developed dishes such as smoothies utilizing the eradicated invasive Opuntia Cactus.
- High school students from Langkawi UGGp visited the Muroto Geopark and held various exchanges with Muroto High School students.
- A visiting delegation from Padjadjaran University in Indonesia engaged in various exchanges at the Muroto High School and Muroto Global Geopark Center.

Contribution towards GGN - Networking and participation

- Muroto High School students visited the Langkawi UGGp.
- Regular participation in the APGN "Let's Do It" virtual meetings (Coordinator of Int. Relations as facilitator).

- Participation in the 10th International Geoparks Conference (2 staffs)

Management and Financial Status

- The financial status of the geopark is stable, with a total operating budget for FY 2023 of JPY 46,893,000.

Geoconservation

- Implemented coastal clean-up activities in collaboration with the Kochi Clean-up Project to coincide with World Ocean Day.
- Conducted *Geo-Bata* meetings (local discussion meetings) for the purpose of designating new Geopark Sites (1 region).

Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)

- Developed and commercialized guided tours, including mountain-hiking tour and old castle remains adventure, in collaboration with local residents.
- Conducted guide-training courses with added curriculum on each Geopark guide.

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

- Organized experiential workshops based on disaster records in collaboration with the Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology (JAMSTEC).
- Held workshops for children on creating three-dimensional maps as part of the “Summer Crafting Challenge.”
- Conducted workshops for community members to explore GeoStories during “summer seminars”.

Strategic partnership

- Signed a collaboration agreement with the National Research Institute for Earth Science and Disaster Resilience (NIED) and JAMSTEC on enhancing disaster resilience.
- Held exhibitions and ceremonies for connecting earthquake detection cables based on the above agreements.
- Collaborated with NIHONGO Muroto to hold cultural exchange events on overseas cultures.

Promotional activities

- Organized exhibitions in collaboration with domestic UGGp regions.
- Held exhibitions focused on plants.
- Continued conducting touring exhibitions in the national geopark regions of Tosashimizu and Seiyo, following last year’s activities.

4. CONTACTS

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