

GGN - Geopark Annual Report 2016

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

Representative Photo (from the most important event this year) (See attachment)

Kids Programme; Learning fault at the Kumamoto Earthquake seminar

2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staffs: 3 people including 1 geoscientist

Number of Visitors: Base Facilities of Aso Geopark area;

- Aso Volcano Museum:56,940 (-75% y/y) • Yu-Station:117,589(-30% y/y)
- Michinoeki Aso (Aso Eco-Museum):1,061,775 (-25% y/y)
- Minamiaso Visitor Centre:19,246(-28% y/y)

Major Geosite: Daikanbo:453,369(-38% y/y)、 Nabegataki Fall:153,389(-20% y/y)

Oshitoishi-no-oka: 16,000(-55% y/y), Ikeyama Spring: 312,347(-14% y/y)

*Total numbers of visitors decreased hugely due to the Kumamoto Earthquakes y/y.

Number of Geopark events: 24

Number school classes realize Geopark educational programmes: 23

Number of Geopark press release Web news: 49 / Facebook uploads: 500

3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

Major achievements in 2016

○The Kumamoto Earthquake seminar for local community hosted by Japanese Geoparks Network, Seismological Society of Japan and Aso Geopark Promotion Council on 18 August. About 150 people joined to understand what happened, what is known, and how to live with nature. The seminar was hosted together with Earthquake workshop for kids and family.

○Junior Geoguide Programmes hosted by our cooperated organization, National Aso Youth Friendship Centre in December

○Drawing up Aso Eco-tourism Promotion Low

Contribution towards GGN - Networking and Participation

○Attended the UNESCO Global Geopark Memorial Forum in Hakusan in January

○Attended the UNESCO Global Geopark Memorial Symposium in Tottori in February

○Attended Geopark Niigata International Forum in Niigata in July

○Attended the 7th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks, English Riviera Geopark, UK in September

○Participated Japanese Global Geoparks-Asia Pacific Geoparks Network Forum, Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark, HK via internet in December.



Management and Financial status

○Nomination of the new manager of Aso Geopark Promotion Council.

○ Budget decrease of 10,000,000 JPY (810,000EURO) due to the Kumamoto Earthquake. Municipal subsidy used for rebuilding the region.

Geoconservation

○Survey on the entire Aso Geopark sites after the 2016 Kumamoto Earthquakes.

Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)

○Hosted Eco-Tourism Workshops to raise awareness of sustainable tourism towards community.

○Produced Kyushu Geoparks Map together with other 7 Japanese Geoparks in Kyushu, Japan

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

○Training Geopark guides to deliver story of the Kumamoto Earthquakes and disaster risk reduction.

○Subsidy for local University students to nurture regional researchers.

Strategic Partnership

○Continuous partnership agreement with Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark

Promotional activities

○Hosting Aso Geopark Brand Campaigne to promote regional productions in January.

Calling for the 3rd applications to Aso Geopark Brand Products in December.

○Participated Kumamoto Geological Day for kids to experience geo-labo in August.

○Supported by Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark to feature impacts of the Kumamoto Earthquakes by HK medias in September

○Supported Aso Volcano Museum to introduce learning materials to schools and educational organizations in December.

4. Contacts:

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