

GGN - Geopark Annual Report 2016

1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

Name of the Geopark: Oki Islands UNESCO Global Geopark (Japan, Asia Pacific Geoparks Network)

Year of inscription: 2013 / **Year of the last revalidation:** to take place in 2017

Representative photo: Oki Islands UNESCO Global Geopark Festival which attracted around 4,000 visitors (Matsue City, 24.04.2016)



2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staffs: 9 including 1 geology specialist & 1 nature specialist

Number of Visitors: 124,035

Number of Geopark events:

- Geopark-organized events: 8
- Geopark-organized lectures for local community and field work tours: 31

Number school classes that realize Geopark educational programmes:

- Oki High School: compulsory course for 1st and 2nd year students, elective course for 3rd year students
- Lectures at elementary, junior-high and senior-high schools conducted by geopark lecturers: 38

Number of Geopark press release:

- Newspaper articles containing geopark information: 18
- Magazine articles introducing the geopark: 3

3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

Major achievements in 2016

- Led Japanese delegation during APGN Experience Sharing Week (Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark, 14-21.12.2016)
- Participated in planning and organizing the UNESCO Global Geoparks Celebration Forum (Hakusan Tedorigawa Japanese Geopark, January 2016)
- Implemented educational program developed with Ministry of the Environment
- Certified 5 geo-guides (Intermediate Guide; Level 2)

Contribution towards GGN - Networking and Participation

- Participated in UNESCO Global Geoparks Celebration Forum (Hakusan Tedorigawa Japanese Geopark, 23-24.01.2016)
- Participated in Geoparks Niigata International Forum (27-29.07.2016)

- Participated in 7th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks (English Riviera UNESCO Global Geopark, 27-30.09.2016), GGN General Assembly (30.09.2016), and APGN Coordinators' Meeting (27.09.2016)
- Coordinated communication between Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark and Japanese geoparks before and after an exchange programme with Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark and other Japanese geoparks (APGN Experience Sharing Week, 14-21.12.2016)
- Established exchange with Geopark Kielce (an aspiring geopark from Poland)

Management and Financial status

- Management was conducted by the Oki Islands UNESCO Global Geopark Promotion Committee, which is composed of 45 cooperating organizations.
- Managed own finances and independent budget. Main source of capital were funds contributed by four municipalities of the Oki Islands and Shimane Prefecture.

Geoconservation

- Organized beach cleaning events
- Developed 3D image of one of the geosites (Candle Rock)

Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)

- Conducted tourism market survey
- Conducted geotours and activity programmes in cooperation with Tourism Associations and Guide Associations
- Conducted 'Oki Adventure Islands Programme' for children from Shimane Prefecture in cooperation with Shimane Prefecture
- Developed an audio guide system (to be utilized from 2017)
- Commenced sale of geotour packages in cooperation with Yomiuri Travel Service

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

- N/A

Strategic Partnership

- Oki Nature Museum – cooperated to create explanations and signboards utilized in the museum
- Shimane AQUAS Aquarium – established partnership, cooperated on exhibition about Oki Islands UNESCO Global Geopark in the Aquarium (to be held from April 2017)

Promotional activities

- Created a comic book for local residents explaining the Basic Plan of the Oki Islands UNESCO Global Geopark
- Created aerial footage of the geopark to be utilized for promotional activities
- Held Oki Global Geopark Seminar (Tokyo, 20.02.2016)
- Held 'Oki Adventure Islands Programme' for prefectural children in cooperation with Shimane Prefecture
- Held Oki Islands UNESCO Global Geopark Festival (Matsue City, 24.04.2016)
- Held 'Geopark Symposium' in municipality of the geopark
- Enhanced methods to spread information using social media (Facebook, Youtube)
- Re-designed and increased the number of geopark advertisements on public buses
- Published article introducing the geopark in GEO ExPro Magazine

4. CONTACTS

Manager: Kazuhiro Nobe, e-mail: nobe@oki-geopark.jp

Geologist: Masanori Hirata, e-mail: hirata@oki-geopark.jp