

# GGN - Geopark Annual Report 2016

## 1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

Toya Caldera and Usu Volcano UNESCO Global Geopark (Japan, Asia-Pacific Geoparks Network)

Year of inscription / Year of the last revalidation: 2009 / 2013



Volcano Meister qualification examination 2016

## 2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staff: 5

Number of visitors: 7.6 million (April 2015 - March 2016)

Number of Geopark events: 41

Number of school classes realize Geopark educational programmes: 22

Number of Geopark press release: 30

## 3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

### Major achievements in 2016

- Eighteen promotional booths with pamphlet holders, installed at local hotels, tourist information centres and bus/train stations, which showcase the attractions of the Geopark.
- "Let's Go to the Geopark!" exhibition, co-hosted with the Hokkaido Museum: Hokkaido-based Geoparks (Toya-Usu UGG, Mt. Apoi UGG and three JGN members) PR event, with more than 59,000 visitors.
- 1,843 downloads of the Geopark Outdoor Learning Textbook series from the Geopark's website.

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

- The 7th International UNESCO Conference on English Riviera UGG: Gave three oral presentations and one poster presentation, as well as one presentation on the Volcano Meister system and efforts to preserve disaster remains during the disaster risk reduction workshop.
- Membership for JGN's Capacity Development Project (JCaP): Engaged in three JCaP programmes; and invited representatives from UGG aspiring regions in Thailand, Malaysia and the Philippines to four meetings, sharing the expertise of JGN.
- Presentation on the Toya-Usu UGG and GGN activities to five groups from foreign/domestic UGG aspiring regions and three overseas trainee groups invited by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

### **Management and financial status**

- Council meetings to discuss the 2016 Action Plan.
- A meeting of municipal mayors to discuss a strategy for making a sustainable management body.

### **Geoconservation**

- A scientific advisor meeting to discuss a new geo-site list, the geoconservation policy and the sustainable use of each site.
- Collaborative weeding of the former Toyako Kindergarten, Mt. Donkoro Observatory Outcrop and other geo-sites with residents, to share ideas on seamless geo-sites conservation.

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

- A meeting with residents/guide committees to design a guide training program.
- Geopark partner/Volcano Meister training programmes (five times).

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

- An educational committee meeting to discuss a support plan of Geopark educational programmes for local schools.
- Publication of Outdoor Learning Textbook, "Quiz Disaster Damage Prevention", which is available online and shareable between teachers and guides.
- Educational exchange programmes with Mt. Apoi UGG (three times).
- Three Volcano Meisters certified.

### **Promotional activities**

- A geotourism/administrative committee meeting to make promotion plans.
- Individual or joint promotional campaigns (seven times altogether) with the Noboribetsu-Toya Broader Tourism Council, the Hokkaido Tourism Organization and other JGN members.
- Geopark resource promotion for disaster risk reduction to schools and travel agencies, with a package of outdoor learning textbooks and Volcano Meisters' guided tours.

## **4. Contacts:**

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