

GGN - Geopark Annual Report 2016

1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

[Geopark name, country, regional Network] Unzen Volcanic Area, Japan, APGN

[Year of inscription / Year of the last revalidation] 2009 / 2013

[Representative Photo] (from the most important event this year)



Exchange activities of students between Hong Kong and Unzen UGGs in Hong Kong UGG.

2: GEOPARK FIGURES

[Number of Geopark staffs] 18 staffs including in 4 geoscientists

[Number of Visitors] 102,733, which is number of visitors of Mt. Unzen Disaster Memorial Hall (a core facility of Unzen UGG) in 2016.

[Number of Geopark events] 9 (3 times of Geo-Marche, 2 times of walking events with a trail and 2 times of promotional events of UGGs in Japan at the Conference).

[Number school classes realize Geopark educational programmes] 43 (22 elementary schools, 7 junior high schools, 14 high schools in Nagasaki Prefecture)

[Number of Geopark press release] 134 (accumulate number published on the main two local newspapers; Shimabara Press (59) and Nagasaki Shinbun (75))

3: Major achievements in 2016

- Tatsuishi, which is a geosite with geological significance of Unzen Volcano, was designated to Natural Monument of Minamishimabara City on March 31st.
- Exchange activities of students between Hong Kong and Unzen UGGs on July 27th.
- Sistering Arrangement with Hong Kong UGG on August 1st.
- “Music Geo-Café” which is a cultural event collaborating with music, folk tales, photos and geosciences on November 12th.

Contribution towards GGN - Networking and Participation

- Participation in the “UNESCO Global Geoparks Celebration Forum –Towards the new age of geoparks-” held in Hakusan-Tedorigawa Geopark, Japan (January 23rd-24th).

- Participation in the 7th International UNESCO Conference on Geoparks held at English Riviera UGG and enforced poster presentations (September 21st-24th).

Management and Financial status

- The Council of Unzen Volcanic Area Geopark composes 31 members involving in administrative offices, conservation organizations, tourism associations, universities and so on. The finances for Unzen UGG are contributions from three cities within the Shimabara Peninsula. Total budget has arranged flexibly depending on cost of projects.

Geoconservation

- “Geosite-Cleaning Project” was carried out at three geosites in Minamishimabara City.

Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)

- Geotour using an amphibian bus sponsored by Shimabara City.
- Reception for the school trip of high school students of Secondary School attached to Faculty of Education, the University of Tokyo (July 6th).
- Geotour for local inhabitants to Aso UGG (November 23rd).

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

- Remote class about active volcanoes and geohazards for elementary school students of Takamori elementary school in Aso UGG (February 11th) using Skype.
- Educational geotour “Let’s learn quantities of liquid using hot and cold spring water” for elementary school students in Unzen City (July 16th).
- “Shimabara Disaster Prevention Private School” on December 4th. Geoscientists and inhabitants who suffered the disasters caused by the latest eruption of Unzen Volcano shared their experiences to local children and their parents.

Strategic Partnership

- Guide Association of Minamishimabara “Arima-no-sato” became member the Council of Unzen Volcanic Area Geopark.
- Federated Association of Plumbing Corporation in Nagasaki Prefecture presented a donation to the Council to contribute to improvement of visibility of Unzen UGG.
- International exchange of geopark guides between Jeju and Unzen UGGs during June 25th-27th and November 21st-24th.
- Public offering of Subsidy for Academic Research of Unzen UGG. Research Group of Miyazaki University studied the relation local traditional foods and geoheritages utilizing the subsidy.

Promotional activities

- An omnibus-style monthly seminar “Geopark Seminar” for local inhabitants.
- The “Geo-Marche”, which is the market selling local products and processed foods using local products.

4: Contacts:

Manager:	Shin'ichi HIRAYAMA	staff1@unzen-geopark.jp
Geologist:	Marekazu OHNO	staff3@unzen-geopark.jp