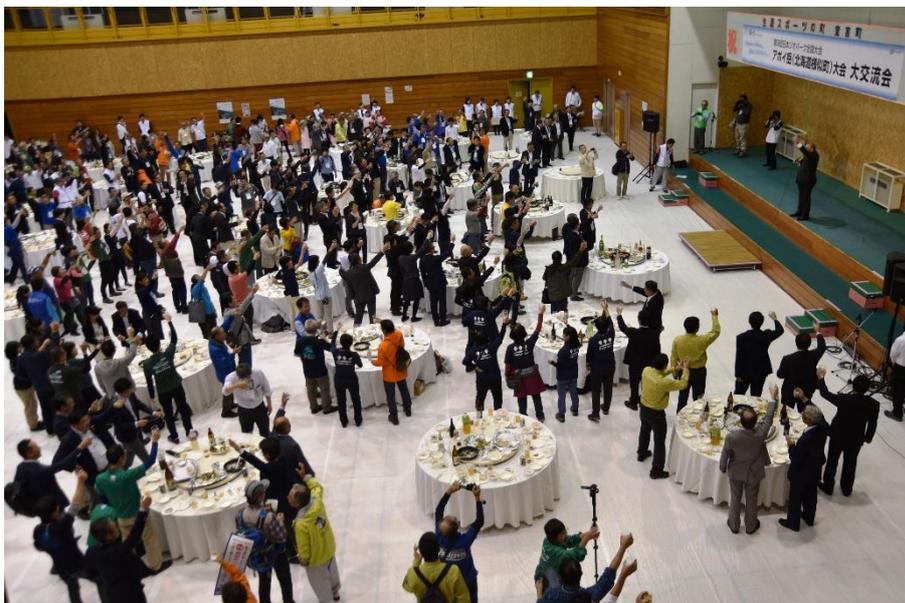


GGN Annual Report 2018

1. About the Geopark

Geopark Name: Mt. Apoi Geopark, Japan (Asia Pacific Area)

Year of designation: 2015



The welcome and greeting party at Japanese Geoparks Network National Conference

2. Internal Structure of the Geopark

- Geopark Staff: 5 full-time staff, 2 geological experts (including 1 botanical curator), 1 Coordinator for International Relations
- Number of Visitors: 15,436 (recorded at the Geopark Visitor Center)
- Number of Geopark Events: 51
- Number of Geopark Educational Programs: 14
- Number of Geoparks Press Releases: 8

3. Geopark Activities

Major Achievements in 2018

- Held 2018 Japanese Geoparks Network National Conference; 1,100 participants, staff and volunteers (Reported on the GGN newsletter 2018 issue 3)
- Hokkaido Geopark Working Group: Learning exchange for elementary students (Toya-Usu UGGp), Hokkaido Geopark Festival (held at Sapporo city)
- Hometown and Geo-Study, routine workshops for the local residents
- “Samani Mountain Path” (the Geopark’s Historical Site) is declared a national cultural asset

(historical landmark)

Contribution towards GGN – Networking and Participation

- Participated in the 6th GGN Symposium; 1 oral presentation, discuss the peridotite area exchange with Azores and Ciletuh-Palabuhanratu.
- Attended various JGN conferences (each event included a poster presentation and information exchange) and meetings.

Management and Financial Status

- Stabilized budget and undergoing business development as planned. The 2018 budget: 20,609,000 JPY (fiscal year from April 2018 to March 2019, including budget of JGN national conferences)

Geo-conservation Efforts

- The plan to conserve the alpine plants is under academic review. Regular participation in the Apoi Environment Academic Committee Meetings and study meetings. Accompanying and supporting the associated field research, making preparations for a display concerning cultivating alpine plants at the base of the mountain.
- Testing the method that collects alpine plants seeds and germinates efficiently to increase the number of alpine plants cooperating with the seeding company.

Sustainable Tourism

- Planning and implementing sustainable geo-tours, in cooperation with local shops and restaurants. Participating in tourism-business meetings.

New Education Programs on Geo-conservation, Sustainable Development and Disaster Risk Reduction

- Continued support of the Samani Junior High School's "Mt. Apoi Dream Project" (preserving and raising alpine plants) and other Geo-study related educational programs.
- Held preliminary meetings with the Elementary School and Junior High School about starting a series of Sustainable Development
- Disaster risk reduction lectures in regards to tsunami, jointly sponsored by Samani Town and the Geopark.

Strategic Partnerships

- Continued support for the comprehensive partnership agreement with the local bank, Hidaka Shinkin Bank, for community development.
- Partnership between the Visitor Center and Apoi Sanso (tourist hotel) which provides discount coupons.
- Continued support for the comprehensive partnership agreement Hokkaido University Field Science Center for Northern Biosphere to jointly investigate the condition of the ocean and the effect it has on the area.

Promotional Activities

- Updated and reprinted the Geopark pamphlets and leaflets.
- Held several speeches and lectures promoting the Geopark during the previous year.
- TV and radio programs, newspaper and magazine articles used to promote the UNESCO status of the Geopark and the territory.
- Panel exhibition and promotion with Hokkaido Geoparks (Toya-Usu UGGp and national Geoparks) in Sapporo (prefectural capital city, 1.9 million population)

4. Contacts

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