

GGN - Geopark Annual Report 2017

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:** 2017 (official results in 2018)

Representative photo: Oki Islands UNESCO Global Geopark Festival which attracted around 6,000 visitors (Matsue City, 04 July, 2017)



2. GEOPARK FIGURES

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

Number of Visitors: 123,928

Number of Geopark Events:

- Geopark-organized events: 9
- Geopark co-organized events: 5
- Geopark-organized lectures for local community and field work tours: 48

Number of School Classes that Incorporate 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: 41

Number of Geopark Press Release:

- Newspaper articles containing geopark information: 16
- Articles in the local newsletters published by municipalities: 14
- Magazine articles introducing the geopark: 2

3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

Major Achievements in 2017:

- Participated and assisted in organizing the first visit and exchange programme between the CGN and JGN (JGN Office in Tokyo, Itoigawa, San'in Kaigan and Oki Island UGGps in Japan; 11-19 April, 2017)
- Organized the Oki Islands UNESCO Global Geopark Festival, which attracted around 6,000 visitors, an increase of 2,000 people compared to last year's turnout (04 July, 2017)
- Hosted a field trip for the 15th International Symposium on Geo-disaster Reduction (26-27 August, 2017)
- Participated and assisted in coordinating the Japanese delegation during the second exchange programme between CGN and JGN (China University of Geosciences, Arxan and Fangshan UGGps; 12-17 September, 2017)
- Started implementing a Geopark Certified Product System, Geopark Product Development Support Programme and Geopark Package and Design Support Programme
- Certified 7 geo-guides (Intermediate Guide; Level 2)
- Certified 35 geopark supporters and 10 geopark supporting facilities

Contribution Towards GGN - Networking and Participation:

- Ongoing exchange and carrying out an exchange visit with the Geoland of the Holy Cross Mountains

- Geopark, an aspiring geopark from Poland (29-31 July, 2017)
- Participated in the 5th Asia Pacific Geoparks Network Symposium (Zhijindong Cave UGGp, 19-22 September, 2017) and APGN Coordinators' Meeting (18 September, 2017)
- Participated in and supported the 'Capacity Development to Stimulate Networking Activities Between Geoparks in the Asia-Pacific Region' project of the Japanese Geoparks Network (24-29 October, 2017)
- Proposed the creation of a new GGN Working Group (Island Geoparks Working Group)

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 the four municipalities of the Oki Islands and Shimane Prefecture.

Geoconservation:

- Co-organized beach cleaning events
- Cooperated with the Ministry of Environment on removal of invasive species
- Developed a video that introduces and explains the unique ecosystem of the Oki Islands
- Created 56 geopark site records (geosites, nature sites, cultural sites)

Sustainable Tourism (Geotourism):

- Conducted a tourism market survey
- Conducted geotours and activity programmes in cooperation with tourism associations and guide associations
- Conducted the 'Oki Adventure Islands Programme' for children from Shimane Prefecture in cooperation with Shimane Prefecture
- Continued to develop the audio guide system (currently being checked and reviewed by rental car companies)

New Education Programmes on Geoconservation, Sustainable Development and Disaster Risk Reduction:

- Created a picture-story show related to the Oki Islands Geopark (the unique ecosystem of the Oki Islands) targeted at young children
- Commenced an exchange programme with one of the Hong Kong UGGp Schools, which visited the Oki Islands UGGp and carried out an exchange with the local high school (20-22 March, 2017)

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 (held from April to September 2017)
- Shimane Museum of Ancient Izumo – established partnership, cooperated on exhibition about obsidian from the Oki Islands (to be held 23 March – 16 May, 2018)
- Sanbe Shizenkan (Shimane Nature Museum of Mt. Sanbe) – established partnership, cooperated on exhibition about the Oki Islands in the museum (to be held in autumn 2018)

Promotional Activities:

- Held the 'Oki Adventure Islands Programme' for prefectural children in cooperation with Shimane Prefecture
- Held the Oki Islands UNESCO Global Geopark Festival (Matsue City, 04.06.2017)
- Enhanced methods to spread information using social media (Facebook, Youtube, Homepage)
- Created a Chinese version of 'Look! Learn! Protect! Oki Islands UNESCO Global Geopark' comic book
- Created a new design for the geopark guide map (Japanese and English)
- Created a new map that introduces the shrines of the Oki Islands (Japanese)
- Granted subsidies for the development of 2 new geopark products and 3 packaging designs

4. CONTACTS

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