

# GGN - Geopark Annual Report 2017

## 1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

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

**[Year of inscription / Year of the last revalidation]** 2009 / 2013 / 2017

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



Exchange of students between Fung Yiu King Memorial Secondary School, Hong Kong and Koka High School, Minamishimabara City.

## 2. GEOPARK FIGURES

**[Number of Geopark staffs]** 18 staff members including 4 geoscientists

**[Number of Visitors]** 76,526, which is number of visitors of Mt. Unzen Disaster Memorial Hall (a core facility of Unzen UGG) in 2017.

**[Number of Geopark events]** 8 (4 environmental events, 2 monitor tours for travel agencies, an inspection for geopark supporters and an original geopark class at a public hall).

**[Number school classes realize Geopark educational programs]** 60 (26 classes in elementary schools, 10 in junior high schools and 24 in high schools)

**[Number of Geopark press release]** 169 (accumulate number published on the main local newspapers; Shimabara Press (105), Nagasaki Shinbun (44) and others (20) )

## 3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

### Major achievements in 2017

- Contest for original design of a “geopark polo shirt” by local high school students.

### Contribution towards GGN - Networking and Participation

- Participation in the “CGN-JGN exchange event” on September 10<sup>th</sup> -13<sup>rd</sup>.
- Participation in the Jeju World Heritage Global Forum 2017 held in Jeju UGG, Korea

(September 11<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>) as a representative of a sistering geopark.

- Participation in the 5<sup>th</sup> Asia-Pacific Geoparks Network International Symposium held at Zhijindong UGG (September 21<sup>st</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>) and carried out an oral presentation.

#### **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 are contributions from three cities within the Shimabara Peninsula.

#### **Geoconservation**

- Geosite-Cleaning Project continued by local people and geopark guides at five geosites.

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

- Walking geotour for the school trip of high school students of Secondary School attached to Faculty of Education, the University of Tokyo (June 28<sup>th</sup>).
- Geotour for local inhabitants in Amakusa Geopark (November 23<sup>rd</sup>).

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

- Starting of research program of local heritages by “Glocal Course” at Koka High School in Minamishimabara City from April.
- Some public halls in Unzen City started geo-science events for school students. They learnt scientific concepts and natural environment through scientific experiments.
- “Shimabara Disaster Prevention Private School” was held by geoscientists and inhabitants who suffered disasters caused by the latest eruption of Unzen Volcano to share their experiences to local children and their parents.

#### **Strategic Partnership**

- Research groups of Kyoto, Nagasaki and Saga Universities studied tectonic geology, quality of groundwater and historical episodes in the geopark territory utilizing Subsidy for Academic Research of Unzen UGG.

#### **Promotional activities**

- Continuous enforcement of a monthly “Geopark Seminar” for local people.
- Beginning of publication of the monthly official newsletter “Geo-Dayori” from December.

#### **4: Contacts:**

Manager:	Yoshinori MATSUO	staff1@unzen-geopark.jp
Geologist:	Marekazu OHNO	staff3@unzen-geopark.jp