

GGN - Geopark Annual Report 2017

1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

Geopark name, country, regional Network: ASO UNESCO Global Geopark (2014, JAPAN, APGN)

Year of inscription / Year of the last revalidation: 2014

Representative Photo: The Kumamoto Earthquakes seminar held for local residents at Kurokawa community in Minami Aso village (2017/08/20)



2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staffs: 5 staffs including 1 geoscientist (also the curator of the Aso Volcano Museum)

Number of Visitors: Main facilities of Aso UGGp area; Aso Volcano Museum 34,654 (61% y/y), Michinoeki Aso(Aso Eco-Museum) 1,171,395 (110% y/y), Minami Aso Visitor Center 17,025 (85% y/y), Yu-Station 120,807 (103% y/y). Major geosite; Daikanbo 724,300 (160% y/y), Nabegataki Fall 220,840 (131% y/y), Ikeyama Spring 312,584 (114% y/y)

Number of Geopark events: 44

Number school classes realize Geopark educational programmes: 59

Number of Geopark press release: 29 and Web news 25, FB upload 100, Local PR magazines 18, etc.

3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

Major achievements in 2017: ›Conducted geo-tours to visit some sites damaged from the Kumamoto Earthquakes in 2016 with the significant contribution geo-guide members ›Organized/conducted Aso guide training courses (67hours in total) and obtained 30 new certified Aso geo-guides as members to promote our activity ›Prepared a peeled cross section sample of an active fault, found in the Aso caldera after the

quakes, and added it to exhibition of the Aso Volcano Museum in cooperation with the Museum, Kumamoto University, Aso Geopark Guides Association, and other related organizations ›Prepared an eco-friendly cycle tourism courses and maps as an option for visitors to enjoy Aso ›Won the Eco-tourism Award from the Ministry of Environment

Contribution towards GGN - Networking and Participation: ›Participation in 5th Asian Pacific Geoparks Conference in Zhijindon, China ›Hosted students visited us from Hong Kong Geopark

Management and Financial status: ›2 new staff member join in the council office; A support staff who has been involved in Aso Geopark activities from the beginning and also hold position as the assistant chief of the Tourism Division at Aso City and the other staff who supports an international matters ›The labor costs and other office expenses are covered by an operational profit of the fund Aso Design Center has and budgets provided from the municipalities. The project expenses are covered by national and prefectural subsidies

Geoconservation: ›Prepared a peeled cross section sample of an active fault to conserve remains of the earthquakes ›Held information sharing meetings regarding construction plans in the geopark area with government ›Held a clean-up walking event

Sustainable tourism (Geotourism): ›Conducted geo-tours to visit sites damaged from the quakes ›Held meetings with government regarding the Ecotourism Promotion Overall Concept ›Promotion of cycle tourism

New Education programmes on geoconservation, sustainable development and disaster risk reduction: ›Co-sponsored 2017 Disaster Prevention Educational School Trip Symposium ›Cooperation with prefectural office regarding the Earthquake Museum Concept ›Development of a new educational program after the quakes

Strategic Partnership: ›Development of a new educational school trip program themed “disaster prevention” after the quakes in cooperation with the prefectural office and the Aso volcano Museum ›continuous partnership agreement with Hong Kong UGGp ›Promotion through private companies such as installation of geopark signs and wrapping busses ›Conducting cooperation projects and information sharing meetings with Kyushu regional geopark group

Promotional activities: ›Hosted the 3rd period Aso Geopark Brand Certification Contest ›Conducted Aso guide training course ›Set a geopark promotion booth at events held in and outside of Aso ›Hosted lectures regarding calderas and earthquakes ›Monthly published articles about our activities on local promotional magazines ›Provide information and write articles for various magazines ›PR through our website and SNS

4. Contacts **Manager/Geologist:** Shin'ichiro Ikebe, info@aso-geopark.jp