

# GGN - Geopark Annual Report 2016

## 1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

Mt. Apoi UNESCO Global Geopark (Japan, Asia Pacific Geoparks Network)

Year of inscription: 2015



Local geo class – looking and feeling Apoi's rocks

## 2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staffs: 7 staffs including 1 geological expert and 1 curator (botany)

Number of Visitors: 18,674 (counted at Mt. Apoi visitor center)

Number of Geopark events: 25

Number school classes realize Geopark educational programmes: 12

Number of Geopark press release: 6

## 3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

### Major achievements in 2016

- On 27<sup>th</sup> February 2016, hosting a Mt. Apoi Forum to discuss the conservation of Mt. Apoi's alpine plants, 600 participants, and starting 3-year (2016-2018) restoration of natural monument project which subsidized menu from agency for cultural affairs. We organized and cooperated with related experts' member.
- Support and cooperation of a special exhibit entitled 'Let's go to Geoparks!' held in Hokkaido museum and related parallel events (July-September). Collaboration with other 4 Geoparks in Hokkaido through the year: elementary school students exchange program with Toya Caldera and Usu Volcano Geopark, and local guide training in Shirataki Geopark etc.
- We held some home town public workshops regularly for local residents.
- Participation in the 'capacity development to stimulate networking activities between geoparks in the Asia-Pacific region' project as a planning project staff.
- Increase the number of visitors; the area has increase tourist visited a Visitor Center and users of local guide service.

### Contribution towards GGN - Networking and Participation

- Participation in the two representatives meetings GGN 1<sup>st</sup> Ordinary General Assembly and APGN Coordination Committee that were organized at English Riviera UNESCO Global Geopark. In the 7<sup>th</sup> International Conference on UNESCO Global Geopark, we made 2 presentations (1 in poster) of Geopark progress and communicated with other Geoparks for future collaboration.
- Participation in the several JGN related forums, conferences, training courses with appropriate presentation and had profitable information exchange.

### **Management and Financial status**

- Organize working groups the members' from related Geopark management department and function as sessions to improve internal communication.
- Stable and planned budget. In 2016 budget: 11,170,000 JPY (Fiscal Year from April 2016 to March 2017),

### **Geoconservation**

- Hosting the several geo-conservation committees and study meetings of the 'Mt. Apoi Nature Restoration Expert Panel' (set up 2015). Supporting and accompanying the associated field research.

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

- Planning and implementation of sustainable Geo-tours collaborate with local businesses.

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

- Continued support of Mt. Apoi Dream Project (preserving and raising alpine plants) undertaken by Samani junior high school students, including related geo-education and meeting with educational institutions to set a sustainable educational program (elementary school and junior high school).

### **Strategic Partnership**

- Started new comprehensive partnership agreement with local bank; Hidaka Shinkin Bank for community development.
- Partnership with Visitor Center and hotel which provides discount coupons.
- Continued comprehensive partnership agreement with Hokkaido University Field Science Center for Northern Biosphere to jointly investigate the sea conditions and these impacts.

### **Promotional activities**

- Editions of a new promotional leaflet in different languages (English, Chinese, Korean).
- Several speeches and lectures promoting Geopark was held during the last year.
- TV and radio programs, newspaper and booklet articles to celebrate and promote the UNESCO status of Global Geopark and the territory.
- Continued the produce of promotion Geopark goods and renewed some signboard after designation as UNESCO status.

### **4. Contacts:**

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