

GGN Annual Report 2017

1. About the Geopark

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

Year of designation 2015



Local geo class – looking and feeling Apoi's rocks

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: 17,649 (recorded at the Mt. Apoi Visitor Center)
- Number of Geopark Events: 49 (including events sponsored by the Geopark, and collaborative events with other organizations)
- Number of Geopark Educational Programs: 14 (held at local schools)
- Number of Geopark Press Releases: 9

3. Geopark Activities

Major Achievements in 2017

- Hokkaido Geopark Working Group: Geopark Learning Exchange for Elementary Students, Guide Learning Exchange (held at Mikasa City), etc
- Hometown and Geo-Study, routine workshops for the local residents
- Participated in the J-CAP Capacity Development Project, Research Observation at Toya Caldera and Usu Volcano Geopark
- Mt. Apoi Geopark was chosen to host the 2018 JGN National Conference
- Planning an information session for the local residents in preparation for the national conference

Contribution towards GGN – Networking and Participation

- Participated in the APGN Symposium; 1 oral presentation, interacted with Geoparks from other areas.
- Attended various JGN conferences (each event included a poster presentation and information exchange) and meetings.

Management and Financial Status

- Established a “Guide Book Revision Committee” working group within the management organization (Samani Town), and improving communication by overcoming divisional barriers.
- Stabilized budget and undergoing business development as planned. The 2017 budget: 11,941,000 JPY (fiscal year from April 2017 to March 2018)

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.
- Implementing a plan to protect the aging “Samani Mountain Road.” Conducting an academic survey (measurements, excavation, geology, etc) and to create an official report. The results of the survey proved that there is historical value associated with the road, and it has been decided that the road will be declared a national cultural asset (historical landmark) next year.

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 disaster risk reduction lectures in regards to previous flood damage, 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.
- Exhibition of Japanese Geopark Guidebooks (held at the Samani Public Library)

4. Contacts

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