

GGN - Geopark Annual Report 2016

1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

Geopark name, country, regional Network: Muroto Geopark, Japan, APGN

Year of inscription / Year of the last revalidation 2011 / 2015

Representative Photo (from the most important event this year)



Special Tour of the Muroto UNESCO Global Geopark Deep Sea Expo 2016

2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staffs: 14 staffs including 2 geoscientists

Number of Visitors: Geopark Center: 84,276 / Guided Tour: 7,491

Number of Geopark events: 47 by management body / 10 by cooperative organization

Number school classes realize Geopark educational programmes: 32

Number of Geopark press release: 37

3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

Major achievements in 2016

- Muroto UNESCO Global Geopark Deep Sea Expo 2016
- “Geo Well Meeting,” Geopark community meetings in 7 different area
- Launch of new research programs with geopark guides, local people, local students
- Development of the new certification system for Geo-Guides

Contribution towards GGN - Networking and Participation

- Participation in the 7th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks
- Participation in the 1st Ordinary GGN General Assembly
- Participation in the APGN Coordination Committee meeting and Coordination of

- establishing APGN CC mailing list one month before the meeting
- Contribution to the GGN newsletter and GGN webpage with articles of Muroto UGG
- Coordination and participation in JGN Capacity Development Project (2016) as the Project Subleader

Management and Financial status

- Formation of the 3rd Action plan (2016-2019) after a series of discussions with local residents, committee members
- Financial status of the geopark is stable with operating budget for FY2016 totals JPY 51,457,000

Geoconservation

- Support for researchers applying for permits under Natural Park Act when collecting rock samples (gabbro) with advices regarding conservation of geological heritages. (Two cases; researchers from Kochi University and Osaka City University)
- Protection activities for endangered plants

Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)

- Operation of seasonal geo-tours, special tours in collaboration with some events
- Guide training courses with new certification system
- Development of new tours by geotourism promotion team members

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

- River research project collaborated with “After-school Programs for Children”
- “Geopark studies” of Muroto high school: students learned sustainable development through planning geo-tour with local people.
- “Go for It! Muroto Geopark Guide” for all the elementary and junior high schools in Muroto UGG with the increase of budget for educational field trips
- Development of a new program for hosting high school excursion trip from Tokyo in cooperation with geopark guide organization

Strategic Partnership

- Designation of a scientific staff as Kochi University Visiting Lecturer under the Collaboration Partnership Agreement of Kochi University and Muroto City
- Signing of a partnership agreement with National Youth Outdoor Learning Center with establishment of some joint events

Promotional activities

- Posting articles in the monthly city report
- Frequent update of Muroto Geopark web site, Facebook, Twitter
- Publishing Muroto Geopark Newsletter every other month

4. Contacts:

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