

# GGN - Geopark Annual Report 2017

## 1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

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

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



*The minister of environment awarded a guide association of the Muroto UNESCO Global Geopark. (Won Special Prize of 12th Ecotourism Awards)*

## 2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staffs : 12 staffs including 2 geoscientists

Number of Visitors: Geopark Center: 69,278 / Guided Tour: 6,966

Number of Geopark events: 58 by management body, 17 by cooperative organization

Number of school classes conducted by Geopark educational programmes: 49

Number of Geopark press releases: 123

## 3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

Major achievements in 2017

- Improvement of the inventory and assessment of the geosites
- Exhibition "Chikyū (Exhibition on an underwater, drilling vessel constructed for scientific research on the earth under the ocean)" and Lecture under the Collaboration Partnership Agreement of the Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology(JAMSTEC)
- An event celebrating geo-diversity and biodiversity in the Muroto Geopark and Research
- Hosting the Japan International Cooperation Agency(JICA) training program for Mongolian Science and Mathematics teachers
- Hosting field trips for scientists that participated in the 11th International Symposium on Kuroshio Science
- "Geo Well Meeting," Geopark community meetings in 7 different regions

Contribution towards the Global Geoparks Network (GGN) - Networking and Participation

- Participation in the 5th APGN Symposium
- Participation in the APGN Coordination Committee meeting

- Participation in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Regional Training Course on UNESCO Global Geoparks at the Langkawi Geopark
- Participation in the JGN Capacity Development Project to stimulate networking activities in the Asia Pacific region subsidized by Japanese National Commission for UNESCO (2017)
- Participation in the CGN & JGN Visit and Exchange Program
- Contribution of an article on Muroto to the Langkawi Geopark magazine and other exchanges
- Dispatching an on-site evaluator to an aspiring UNESCO Global Geopark

#### Management and Financial status

- Financial status of the geopark is stable with its operating budget for FY2017 which totals at JPY 49,101,163

#### Geoconservation

- Support for researchers applying for permits to collect rock samples under Natural Park Act, to be able to impart advice regarding conservation of geological heritages. (Osaka City University)
- Hold basic lectures about non-native plants(Alien Species) and protection projects for endangered plants

#### Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)

- Operation of 5 tours that run during all seasons of the year
- Operation of special tours in collaboration with some events
- Operation of seasonal geo-tours by geotourism promotion team members
- Conduct guide training courses

#### 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 have been learning about Muroto Geopark and created promotion tools for Muroto Geopark
- Disaster risk reduction program under the Collaboration Partnership Agreement of the National Youth Outdoor Learning Center

#### Strategic Partnership

- Appointment of specialist advisers in various academic fields (Geology, Biology, Botany, International relations)
- English training courses for guides in cooperation with the Open University of Japan - Kōchi branch

#### Promotional activities

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

#### 4. Contacts:

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