

# GGN - Geopark Annual Report 2019

## 1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

**Geopark name, country, regional Network:** San'in Kaigan UNESCO Global Geopark (Japan, APGN)

**Year of inscription / Year of the last revalidation:** 2010 / February 2019

Representative photo with caption (from the most important event this year)



Workshop of making 'rock specimen sample'



APGN student exchange program in Hong Kong

## 2. GEOPARK FIGURES

**Number of Geopark staffs:** 15 staffs (including 1 geologist and 3 academic experts)

**Number of visitors:** 1,959,797 (18 core facilities including museums and visitor centers)

**Number of Geopark events:** 31 events held by the San'in Kaigan Geopark Promotion Council, 129 events held by nine local municipality governments

**Number of school classes realize Geopark educational programmes:** 127 classes at elementary school, 2 classes at junior high school, 6 classes at high school, 7 classes at university

**Number of Geopark press release:** 16 releases held by the Promotion Council; 246 releases held by nine municipality governments

## 3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

### Major achievements in 2019

- We had a celebration of 20th anniversary of the Oriental White Stock Facility which has been home for the project of sending the Stock return to the wild life and also has been the base for the various Stock related projects. It gave very good publicity to let people know about the activities of the local people working for the regional development considering how to live together with the Stork in the rich nature. It also raised awareness of local people to make effort living in harmony with nature.

- After Shin'onsen town, Kami town, Iwami town and Tottori city were designated as the Japan Heritage ('Kirin Lion Dance' (Place of bringing happiness dancing of sacred animal Kirin)'), the town is becoming more widely known in Japan and abroad through active networking with neighboring areas for regional revitalization.

### **Contribution towards GGN - Networking and participation**

- The partnership activities with the Lesvos Island UGGp, sister Geopark, was developed. A total of 14 members of San'in Kaigan UGGp, consisting of high school students, teachers and member of the council, joined the educational program prepared by geo-sites, museums and universities, and high school student exchange program was, also, held. The member of council participated in programs to learn about management of geopark. It is learned that management of geopark was conducted by designing by researcher and museum and by proceeding of dissemination of learning and social return. In addition to them, the ceremony of the 10th anniversary of sister geopark was discussed.
- Contributed to the development of Geoparks in Asia-Pacific region in cooperation with the International Cooperation Working Group of JGN. For example, accepting visit by Satun UGGp for UGGp revalidation and a presentation was, also, given at seminar in UGGp of Thailand about holding APGN symposium.
- Two students were sent for APGN students exchange program in Hong Kong UGGp. This helped to increase motivation of geopark study in local school and activation of networking with other UGGp.
- Active effort was made to improve Geopark activities by posting best practice to GGN newsletter.
- The activities of San'in Kaigan UGGp, how much local people are committed to geopark activities, were shared by people of the world through the presentations made by few speakers including operator of activity and the guide of famous Genbudo Cave.
- As an evaluator revalidation mission, one academic expert (Dr. Noritaka Matsubara) was sent to two UNESCO Global Geoparks, Reykjanes UGGp/Iceland, Luberon UGGp/France.

### **Management and Financial Status**

- Local governors who are major sponsor of San'in Kaigan UGGp started discussion about reviewing current employment system for the establishing sustainable council system.
- For reflecting the opinions of local people and local group each local area was visited for exchanging opinion for the Action Plan which is revised each 4 year.
- In the 10th anniversary of San'in Kaigan Geopark, conference was held to share dream and challenge at the point of each position and individual level as well as awarding ceremony for distinguished people in the contribution to the Geopark. All stakeholders unified the direction to cooperate and motivate for the future.

- In addition to the budget for the promotion Council (FY2019: 53,350,000yen), the nine constituent local government set budget for Geopark activities (FY2019:349,192,000yen in total). The fiscal year is from April 2019 to March 2020.

### **Geoconservation**

- Together with SDGs awareness raising, we contribute to reduce Marine Plastic Litter, world-wide problem, through forum and exhibition. Some council staffs who are making efforts on a individual level is also giving lecture to raise awareness.
- In international academic magazine, research about Geosite (Mt. Kannabe) was appeared. The researcher had researched about Mt. Kannabe Geosite since 2011 after winning the Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research of San'in Kaigan UGGp. The research increased the value of the Mt. Kannabe Geosite in the world.
- Picked up illegal dumping on the road to prepare new trail course.

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

- New tourism on bicycle has been started because three different bicycle events has collaborated as one San'in Kaigan Geopark event. This event focuses on enjoying gourmet and geological features.
- On request from ordinary people, we started to distribute 'Geo Card' issued by JGN. This card introduces unique elements in geological features such as rocks and joints.
- In annual event of Japan for people who work for regional activation in this year, Geopark guide hosted the event and made PR how guide could contribute to regional revitalization.
- New cruise on small fishing boat has started. Unique tour such as going through sea cave and taking closer look of valuable rocks attracts more tourists in cooperation with other local business.
- New project to make textbook which activity guide can use in outdoor field is completed. To make visitors enjoy based on professional knowledge, academic professionals such as biologist and geologist were cooperated in this project.

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

- Developed workshop learning material, 'hand sample'. All generation especially children can make hand specimen of San'in Kaigan UGGp to understand how each rock is formed and related to people's life.
- Core facility focusing on mainly education program has renovated exhibition, and also installed new experiment. In honor of 10th anniversary, better learning opportunities can be offered to visitors.

### **Strategic partnership**

- Working together with neighboring Geopark (Oki UGGp and Shimane Peninsula and

Shinjiko Nakaumi Lagoon National Geopark). For example, holding joint seminar for Geopark guide, and setting up joint PR booth at local event.

- Cooperation with regional Junior Chamber who make effort to establish better local community in the view of SDGs achievement.

#### **Promotional activities**

- Revise San'in Kaigan UGGp website for better PR
- On national newspaper, one of the guides attended APG symposium posted an article about APGN to make people understand San'in Kaigan UGGp activity. That also raised awareness of Geopark.
- Formal San'in Kaigan Instagram has started. We put interpretation to understand San'in Kaigan on selected pictures which visitors took in the area. New attractions are spreading to the world.

#### **4. CONTACTS**

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