

The fantastic relations between Itoigawa Global Geopark and Sasayuri (*Lilium japonicum*) which traveled in the universe

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City flower, tree, bird, and stone

In Itoigawa City, Niigata with the Itoigawa Global Geopark (IGGP), city flower, tree, bird, and stone are enacted.

Of course, the city stone is jade. Lily named Sasayuri (*Lilium japonicum*) chooses the city flower, King fisher (*Alcedo atthis*) chooses the city bird, as for a stone, and, as for the city tree, beech is chosen, respectively.

Sasayuri in the IGGP

The flower "Sasayuri" of Itoigawa is endemic lily in Japan which represents Japan as *Lilium japonicum* of a scientific name shows. The Sasayuri was widely distributed over the hills and fields south of central Honshu, and although it was not a specialty of Itoigawa, especially Itoigawa residents loved Sasayuri from the lovely figure and decent tone.

Riding on space shuttle Endeavor on November 14, 2008, the seed of Sasayuri of IGGP came out to the universe.

After the seed went the earth around 4080 times in 255 days in International Space Station, it rode on Endeavor again with an astronaut, Dr. Koichi Wakata, and returned to the earth on July 31, 2009. On September 10, 2009, seed of Sasayuri has returned to IGGP again.

Why could Sasayuri from Itoigawa go to the universe? There were many dramas intricately related to the mountain of the Itoigawa global geopark, the sea, underground resources, a human being, a company, a university, etc.

Cosmo Flower 2008 Mission

The JAMSS planned the Cosmo Flower 2008 Missions in order to promote the interest over people's universe. This mission carry seeds of a flower familiar for a Japanese to the Kibo ISS module, and return and raise it into the earth again. As seeds of the flower carried to the universe, 16 plants were chosen from Hokkaido to Okinawa. 14 cherry trees were chosen. Except the cherry tree, Kosumire (*Viola japonica*) from Tsukuba City, Ibaraki Prefecture and Sasayuri (*Lilium japonicum*) from Itoigawa Global Geopark was carried to the universe.

Dr. Ken Ono and Tsugami Shindo mountain trail

From Mt. Nagatogayama mountain to the Sea of Japan did not have a mountain trail. Dr. Ono thought that he would make the mountain trail. He and his collaborators completed the mountain trail at last over the time for ten years in 1971.

The way almost made from human power was named Tsugami Shindo mountain trail. This mountain trail became very famous.

Mr. Yoichi Hasegawa's visit

One day, Mr. Yoichi Hasegawa visited Ono. Mr. Hasegawa of the mountain lover considered writing of the novel dealing with Tsugami Shindo.

The talk of the Sasayuri revival which Dr. Ono is tackling in the talk stopped at the heart.

Although Sasayuri was seen ordinarily in the hills and fields in Itoigawa, in recent years, the number was becoming fewer.

Dr. Ono thought that he would increase Sasayuri in biotechnology.

Mr. Hasegawa was a promoter of the Cosmo Flower 2008 Missions. He decided to add Sasayuri from IGGP to the flower brought to the universe.

If Dr. Ono is not in IGGP

If there is not Dr. Ono, there is not Tsugami Shindo mountain trail, and Sasayuri did not go to the universe. Dr. Ono worked in the limestone mine in Itoigawa. The mountain trail was not made when there was no limestone here. The department of science and engineering, Waseda University, from which Dr. Ono graduated was founded for the fund which Mr. Meitaro Takeuchi of-

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ferred. The mine which Mr. Takeuchi was managing is the Hashidate gold mine in Itoigawa. Possibly Dr. Ono was not in Itoigawa without the Hashidate gold mine. After all, if there was neither the Hashidate gold mine nor a limestone, Sasayuri from IGGP will go to the universe!

Cosmo Sasayuri's bloom

In Sasayuri's transition ceremony, the local schoolchild sang a "Furusato" and "Jupiter". The sprout of the seed was tried and about 600 inner 26 piece seeds budded. It is said that it becomes around 2014 that the Cosmo Sasayuri makes a flower bloom. The Cosmo Sasayuri will be valued forever in IGGP. The tale will surely be told for a long time in IGGP.

Keywords: *Lilium japonicum*, Itoigawa, Cosmo Flower 2008 Mission, International Space Station, Hashidate Gold Mine, Tsugami Shindo