

Fossil investigation and educational activities as a geopark campaign: Hakusan Tedorigawa Geopark.

HIBINO, Tsuyoshi^{1*}, HASEGAWA, Takashi²

¹Hakusan City Board of Education, ²Kanazawa University

Hakusan Tedorigawa Geopark in Hakusan City, Ishikawa Prefecture was authorized as a Japanese geopark in September, 2011. The main subject of this geopark is "Mountain, River, Sea, and Snow ? life-nurturing journey of water". Sacred mt. Hakusan and the surrounding area are covered with heavy snow in winter. Hakusan City has variety of water environment. White snow, which symbolizes Mt. Hakusan, gradually melts after early spring and finally reaches to the sea. The journey of the water from the mountain to the sea creates the nature, life, geography and human culture of this area reflecting blessings of water. Geologic and hydrodynamic processes involved in this area, and cultural history based on such nature compose our Hakusan Tedorigawa Geopark.

The fossil investigation of the Tetori Group has long been continued as educational and academic purposes. "Kuwajima Fossil Bluff" is the main target of the investigation and assigned to be an important geopoint of this geopark. The long history of fossil investigation from late nineteenth century makes us to realize that the bluff is the "birthplace" of Japanese geology and paleontology. Now geopark activity is expected to act as an out-reach window of the investigation results.

In spite of the academic and geopark-related importance, the Kuwajima Fossil Bluff and its investigation, how it relates with the main subject of the geopark is not clear for people. However, it benefits from other standpoint. The bluff can relate "water journey" with erosion, transportation and sedimentation processes, and can let the visitors realize the importance of water as a major "geo"player. Location of Kuwajima Fossil Bluff in front of Tedor Lake surrounded by mountains and streams works as excellent geopoint for such geostory.

During the recent project of fossil investigation, a volunteer party "Kuwajima fossil investigation party" has been considerably contributed. Seminars and communication for the members with paleontologists has often been organized to keep their higher motivation. This activity is also expected to provide nurturing system for geologists and paleontologists in the making.

Keywords: geopark, "Kuwajima Fossil Bluff", fossil investigation