

Geo-Caravan : Outreach Programs by the Museum in the San-in Kaigan Geopark

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San-in Kaigan Geopark is a widest geopark in Japan composed of six municipalities. Consequently, many public facilities for lifelong learning, information facilities and load side stations are scattered all over the geopark. Many guide groups and nature related groups use them as the basis of activities. Revitalization of such facilities and their cooperation is significant for the geopark activities together as one. But the lifelong learning is not very active in the most of facilities, because they are small and expert staffs are not sufficiently assigned. Therefore, it is hoped that the museum with many expert staffs and accumulation of data, exhibits and know-how to lifelong learning engage the geopark activities.

The Museum of Nature and Human Activities, Hyogo supports the lifelong learning activities organized in the San-in Kaigan Geopark. Outreach program of the museum composed of exhibitions, seminars and some events related to nature and culture in the San-in Kaigan Geopark, which is named Geo-Caravan, was held at 6 facilities in the San-in Kaigan Geopark during the last year. Most of exhibits in the Geo-Caravan are made easy to move and they are traveled from place to place every three or four weeks. Various programs such as lectures, workshops and symposium on the nature and culture, geo-tour and nature observation events around the facility, dance and music events and others are held depending on needs and requests. These programs are not so-called traveling exhibition held unilaterally by the museum, but are organized and performed by the cooperation among the staffs of facilities, active groups, administrative organ and the museum.

Geo-Caravan produces not only attracting visitors to facility but following effects.

- (1) Participants take an interest in nature and culture of geopark area.
- (2) Geo-Caravan assigns a field of activities to active groups in the area.
- (3) Hidden propulsive talents for the geopark activities are dug up through some events.
- (4) Planning and performing process of Geo-Caravan bring in cooperation each other.

Important role of museum is not only lifelong learning but advancement of cooperation among the facilities and people in the geopark.

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