

What is "Sustainable development" in terms of Geopark -Through Local People's Storytelling in Muroto-

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In Geoparks of Japan, 'global status' started to become brand. However, getting the global status is not the final goal of Geoparks because it is expected for the concept of Geopark should be practiced sustainably. It is, therefore, important to imagine how the projects are going on after the global status given. Also, public administration and media care only about how Geopark contributes to economic development in the area. However, the visible data does not show all the result of Geopark projects.

Misunderstanding of the term 'sustainable development', one of the key concepts of Geopark project, causes the above situations. Today, the term is well known. It is discussed and practiced in many fields and it will give the global society some clues when we think about the social development (not only economic but also culture or people's way of thinking).

Even the term is a key for Geopark projects, not many people fully understand the concept. In Geoparks in Japan, the term has not yet discussed adequately. Moreover, the term itself is not known by public administration and even people who actually work to popularize Geoparks. They simply recognize Geopark as local revitalization; therefore, they just care for nothing but economic efficiency and the visible data.

This presentation will aim to consider the effective way of 'sustainable development' for local people in Muroto. It will show you several examples how local people think about the Geopark and development. This presentation will finally give my point of view on 'sustainable development' which has been nurtured through the interaction with local people so far.

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