

Report on the 2nd Japanese Geoparks Network Conference 2011 in Toya-Usu Global Geopark

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The Second Japanese Geoparks Network Conference 2011 in Toya-Usu Global Geopark (abbr. JGNC2) was held in the resort city Toyako-Onsen, Toyako-cho, Hokkaido, Japan during September 29 through October 1, 2011. This was the great challenging opportunity for the Toya Caldera and Usu Volcano Global Geopark (abbr. TUGG) to summarize the state of the art of the past 3 years efforts since the TUGG certification (one of the three first GGNs in Japan) in 2009.

Learning from the previous pioneering first JGNC1 in Itoigawa Global Geopark in 2010, the Organizing Committee (chaired by T. Maya, the Toyako-cho Mayor) established the Executive Committee of JGNC2 led by the Chairman S. Mimatsu, and three Sub-Committees (Science SC led by N. Oshima, Welcome SC. led by M. Ano, and Geotour SC. led by Y. Ogawa).

Various programs were executed prior as well as during the JGNC2. Detailed descriptions can be examined in the final "Report of the 2nd Japanese Geoparks Network Conference 2011 in Toya-Usu Global Geopark" (JGNC2 Executive Committee, 87p., 2012).

Main events were consist of (a) 4 Section Meetings (1. Geoparks and Tourism, 2. Geoparks and Geohazards, 3. Geoparks and Education, and 4. Geoparks and Guides), (b) 4 Pre- and 4 Post Geotours, (c) Poster Session (86 posters), (d) Photo Exhibition, (e) Kids Programs (geo-festival and kids geotour), (f) Symposium (lectures by H. Okada and N. Oshima, Convenor M. Watanabe), (g) Invited Special Lecture by S. Kuramoto and Discussions (K. Ito, S. Mimatsu with S.K.) and (h) various JGN business meetings. 671 individuals were participated during the conference, and 800 for main event (symposium and lectures).

Early last year, we Japanese experienced awful natural disaster, the East Japan Tsunami Hazard on March 11, 2011, so, we offered a moment of silent prayer for the victims at the Opening Ceremony, and various considerations were placed through the program. In conclusion, in the final "Toyako-Usuzan Declaration" in October 30, 2011, we emphasized (a) further sustainable development through geo-tourism, (b) hazard mitigation efforts through educational activity, (c) creating safety culture on the basis of historical efforts, and (d) collaboration and further development of GGN/JGN.

Keywords: toya, usu, geopark, volcano, co-existence, disaster preventi