

Supports for the Correct Understandings of Natural Disasters through Leaflets Provided in the Geoparks

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The Earth Communication Group, which has been organized by the Japanese Geoparks Network after the large earthquake and tsunami that occurred on March 11, 2011, makes leaflets in order to voice concerns regarding natural disasters and to convey correct information about the movement of the earth. We have already made two leaflets, namely, "tsunami" and "the mechanism of earthquakes".

First, three individuals started discussing the issue "tsunami" on March 12, 2011, through e-mail and Twitter. At present, ECG has 14 members who reside in various regions in Japan. They work as volunteers for ECG. Our personnel comprise geopark staffs, researchers, curators, office workers and administrative officers. We communicate with each other through a mailing list. The process of making a leaflet involves four steps, namely, deciding the issue, selecting the components of the leaflets, writing the text and drawing illustrations, and translating from Japanese to English.

Our leaflets have the following five characteristics:

1. They are written in simple language for the sixth-grade pupils of elementary schools.
2. A4 sized papers, with both side printed on, are used A4 is the popular page size in Japan.
3. A blank column is provided to enter the name of the geopark tour guide or facility.
4. You can freely download these files from the website of Japanese Geoparks Network (JGN website <http://www.geopark.jp/>).
5. These leaflets have been made in English for the benefit of not only the Japanese but also for people who cannot read Japanese.

Keywords: geopark, natural disaster, communication, twitter, mailing list