

Application of GIS for geopark activity in Muroto UNESCO Global Geopark

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Geoparks and its significances are widely known to geological and geographical societies, but still unfamiliar to non-specialist people in Japan. Some visitors to Muroto UNESCO Global Geopark Center seem to expect a geopark to be the facility like amusement park or zoological park. The Muroto Geopark covers whole administrative area of Muroto city, and the "geopark center" is no more than a hub facility for geopark activities, including exhibition, education, scientific research, and administration. Geopark has a geographical space with a certain area and its whole image can be best illustrated by maps. Such geographical information of the geopark must be shared with geopark staffs, exhibited to the public, and always updated. It is presumably well managed with the GIS technique. In Muroto Global Geopark, the author conducts researches on coastal geomorphology, environment of wild animal habitat, tourism development, and geopark management. Field survey results will be plotted on the map together with topography, vegetation, and other National Land Numerical Information, using the GIS techniques. The GIS allows analyzing, sharing, and publishing geographical information quickly and efficiently at the every aspect of geopark activity.

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