

San-in Coast aiming at the Geopark

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The San-in Coast is aiming at the authorization as Geoparks. It is a region of the rocky coast extending over about 80 km in EW direction and facing to the Sea of Japan which covers Kyoto, Hyogo and Tottori prefectures. Although it was not successful but the voluntary group of the district once tried for the certification of the San-in Coast as a World Heritage of natural property. However, their activity now expanded to the community-wide activity from the grassroots to authorize the San-in Coast as a Geopark. Because, we consider that it is very important not only to appeal its scientific and cultural values to the local people but also to serve for the creation of innovative enterprises and new jobs by generating geotourism by authorized geopark which have a world-wide meaning as a pedagogical tool for environmental education.

Until now, we have been functioned to generate involvement of a non-scientific audience to promote their interest on the scientific and charming value of the San-in Coast through the symposium, publication of literature and CD-ROM (It was introduced at the Second International Conference on Geoparks held in Ireland). For the future activity, we are planning the following actions.

1.Goal of the San-in Coast Geopark

The San-in Coast Geopark serves to foster local-economic development like geotourism by utilizing geological, geomorphological and cultural resources of the area. This has a direct impact on the area for environmental education and sustainable regional socio-economic development.

2.Potential geopark

The San-in Coast area involves important assets such as National Natural Monuments and National Places of Scenic Beauty. The cooperation with these heritage sites as a geopark shall stimulate in finding new capable potential and value of the area.

3.Organization running geopark

A liaison conference of local government has started from last year and it should be enlarged in the future to involve public authorities, local communities, private interests, and both research and educational bodies in the area.

4.Active plan

- 1) gathering of the existing geological, geomorphological and cultural literatures and collection of supplementary materials
- 2) establishment of the cooperation system between organization running geopark and universities, academic society, NPO, and government offices concerned
- 3) Preparation for the proposal

5.Future theme

- 1) Promoting system of Japanese Geoparks
- 2) Explore research groups for geoscientific disciplines
- 3) Cooperation between different groups
- 4) Establishment of an agreement on geopark among local authorities and the local population
- 5) Establishment of own policy for sustainable regional economic development
- 6) Budget
- 7) Arrangement of the administrative authority and its head office

The San-in Coast is a unique place to be able to observe a mosaic geological and geomorphological processes relating to the birth of Japanese Islands from both the land and sea. We have no parallel place to recall again the feeling of awe and respect for nature.

The San-in Coast Geopark has a potential to establish network with those of the continental area by the theme of the construction of the Sea of Japan in the future.