

Coexistence between human and the ever-changing earth

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[1] Toya Caldera and Usu Volcano Geopark

The Toya Caldera and Usu Volcano Geopark is a unique region which has a wealth of characteristic geological relics in a relatively compact area, starting with the 110,000 year old Toya Caldera to the 10,000 to 20,000 year old Mt. Usu, as well as the recent history of eruptions, currently reaching nine eruptions since 1663. In addition, the uniqueness can be illustrated at the volcanically activities sites which are continuing even now, and the visitors can see the movement first hand. Moreover, visitors can learn the history of cohabitation of the moving earth and human.

So far, by utilising local resources, the region has promoted geo-tourism, and became one of the most prominent tourist destinations in the country.

At the proposed Toya Caldera and Usu Volcano Geopark, there are precious fauna and flora living in the conserved thick forest and abundant water resources. These fauna and flora have experienced and changed by the volcanic activities in the region, and are the living exhibit of evolution and vigor of nature. It is crucial to conserve these resources and learn from nature, as well as to sustain and hand over the environment to future generations.

Since 2000, the community has continuously promoted the initiatives of ecomuseum with consolidation of local residents, municipalities, administrative agencies, and academic experts. By cooperating with related agencies, the site hopes to conducted initiatives which will help to achieve sustainable community development at this region. We also believe that these efforts will help prepare for the next possible eruption.

The ideology of the Global Geopark Network (GGN), is one of which we, as a community, share deeply. We believe that the affiliation to GGN would be an objective recognition nationally and internationally, which could encourage further participation and engagement of local residents to the active and sustainable management of the region. We have made efforts up to this day, in order to support geological, environmental, and disaster education, as well as progression of geotourism, and sustainable development. We would be honoured to actively participate and extend these efforts as a member of GGN, as well as contributing to the development of Geoparks by disseminating the experience of disaster education and history of living with volcanoes.