

OES005-06

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A future view of the Unzen Volcanic Area Geopark and the problems in present

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¹Unzen Volcanic Area Geopark

A root as a Geopark in the Shimabara Peninsula

The conference of 'Cities on Volcanoes 5th' held on 2007 in the Shimabara City became one of the big advantage for the beginning as the geopark. The international conference accepted several hundreds of participates from abroad. It was successful by hard works of scientists and administrations, local volunteers. It became a chance of discover the local charms. We are making full use of original experiences of the volcanic eruption and the international conference to the geopark.

The promoting office of the Unzen Volcanic Area Geopark

The promoting office for the approval of a member of Global Geopark Network was formed in Feb., 2008. It consist of members from local governments and tourism facilities, museums and guide organizations etc..

The office was done preparation of the information guide and preservation of the geosites. And also, The making courses of geotours was done. Training for guides also is continuing.

Examination and assignments by GGN

The judges of GGN checked the subjects below.

1. The check of the level as a geopark
2. The preservation of the geosites.
3. The activities of geo-tourism
4. The local industry making use of geo-resources

After the judge, We became a member of GGN and was got out the same assignments.

Members of GGN are checked about the level of geopark once during four years. If the geopark will not have a sufficient level, the geopark will not be a member.

Future vision of our geopark

It is not sufficient of making a simple network in present. There are many geosites and museums for example, Mt.Unzen Disaster Memorial Hall and Mt.Unzen visitor center in our geopark. The geopark may be a good tool connected many institutions in future. We believe that the geopark will be a big force for continual development in our region. We are also thinking that the aim of geopark is the education and preservation for the nature, and next sightseeing. We would like to make efforts that the big wave from the education of elementary and junior school will be generated. And we hope that the waves will move a wheel with continual developments.