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Coexistence between and Human and The Ever-changing Earth

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¹Toya Caldera and Usu Volcano Geopark

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. Even today, this uniqueness can be illustrated at several volcanically active sites where visitors can observe the movement at first hand. Moreover, visitors can learn about the history of cohabitation of the moving earth and human. At Toya Caldera and Usu Volcano Geopark, there are precious fauna and flora living in its conserved forest and within its abundant water resources. These fauna and flora have experienced and adapted to volcanic activities in the region, and are the living exhibit of evolution and the vigor of nature. Hence, it is crucial to conserve these resources and learn from nature, as well as to sustain and inherit the environment to future generations. Since 2000, the community has continuously promoted initiatives of ecomuseum with consolidation of local residents, municipalities, administrative agencies and academic experts. This corporation conducted initiatives that help to achieve sustainable community development in this region, which the community believed that these efforts would help them in preparing for the next possible eruption. These made efforts were made, in order to increase geological, environmental, and disaster awareness, as well as progression of geotourism and sustainable development. Toya Caldera and Usu Caldera Global Geopark will actively participate in GGN initiatives and contribute to the development of geoparks by disseminating the experience of disaster education and history of living with volcanoes.

Keywords: Geopark, Toya Caldera, Usu Volcano, Volcano, Coexistence