

Let us enjoy Geo-Tetsu - Second proposal of Geo-tours through Train Windows, Gomen-Nahari Line

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1. Aims of Geo-Tetsu activities

Succeeding the last year's presentation (Kato et al., 2009), we will present Geo-Tetsu this year too. The activity of Geo-Tetsu recommends Geo-tours through train windows. The word "Tetsu" contains meaning of the abbreviation of railway in Japanese, and of the generic name of railway fans. In Japan, railway is the commonest transportation system, everybody loves to ride trains. Geo-Tetsu offers the chances to get contact with the geoscientific features observable through train windows. So we make a point of selecting Geo-Tetsu courses where people can see representative geoscientific phenomena through train windows. They are better accompanied by walking paths accessible at the stopovers alongside the railway routes. A first proposal of Geo-Tetsu JR Dosan Line in Shikoku began to start last year with our promotion. We introduced the line together with many Geopoints and its history, in various times and places, like in poster sessions of academic meetings and Open House of the Fukuda Geological Institute, and in a lecture of Science Cafe, from children to grown-ups. The Geo-Tetsu, as a new tool of dissemination of earth sciences to the public, makes people's eyes direct to geosciences, or eventually toward natural sciences. Here we propose the Geo-Tetsu of Gomen-Nahari Line as the second project.

2. Gomen-Nahari Line, the second project of Geo-Tetsu

(1) Abstract of the Gomen-Nahari Line

The Gomen-Nahari Line runs along the Pacific Ocean from Gomen Station at Nankoku City to Nahari Station at Nahari Town in the Eastern part of Kochi Prefecture. It is 42.7 km in total distance, and is the newest railway route in Shikoku that opened in July 2002. This line was planned originally as a route from Tokushima Prefecture to Kochi Prefecture by way of Cape Muroto in 1922. After many complications its part was opened as the Gomen-Nahari Line by third sector Tosa Kuroshio Railway in 2002. Therefore, the old and new technology coexists together, and then many engineers and railway fans are attracted to the facilities of this railway. This line plays an important role as a traffic base toward the east area of Kochi Prefecture. "MANGA" characters designed by Takashi YANASE at each station give us an additional charm to this line. Furthermore, Open Deck Car Type 9640 is a big charm for Geo-Tetsu tour.

(2) Rich sight-seeing resources of Gomen-Nahari Line

The Gomen-Nahari Line runs from almost central coast of the Tosa Bay toward the Muroto area located on southeastern tip of Shikoku on the Pacific Ocean. This line crosses the Chichibu terrane and the Shimanto terrane, and offers an opportunity to find the well documented accretionary complexes in the Geo-Tetsu tour. You can find colorful pelagic-derived rocks like red, white, green, brown, and black at outcrops of the Tei melange around the Nishibun fishing port. Some coastal locations are characterized by sea cliffs, abrasion platforms, sea caves, and notches due to Holocene coseismic uplift and so that called "Fossils of the Earthquake". One of the sea caves named Ioki-Do is also famous of the growing of the fern declared as natural monument. You can

view marine terraces from a distance. Around Tonohama, the valuable outcrop remains assemblage of fossils (shell, coral, and shark's teeth etc). The Gomen-Nahari Line is built as the elevated rail road, and then many stations can play an important role as the Tsunami evacuation place. You can touch the advancing system of the disaster prevention around Gomen-Nahari Line to defend the human activity from natural disaster.

Arriving at the terminal Nahari Station, you are exactly at the entrance to the Muroto Geopark. We recommend you to extend your travel to Cape Muroto, and feel the valuable dynamic geological processes.

Keywords: Geo-Tetsu, Gomen-Nahari Line, Tosa Kuroshio Railway, Muroto Geopark, Geo-tour, Geopoint