

OES005-P09

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## Wide ranging activities of San'in Kaigan Geopark

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Since antiquity, the local residents of the San'in Kaigan region have shown exceptional zeal, stemming from their love for the local area, and have worked to conduct preservation and maintenance activities, in order to preserve the beautiful scenery of the region. In 1955, the national government recognized the beauty of the coastal features as well as the unique flora and fauna of the region, granting it quasi-national park status, and would later go on to grant it national park status in 1963, a designation which it still retains to this day.

The San'in Kaigan Geopark is truly a "Natural Museum of Geomorphology and Geology". Here, one can enjoy such sights as the diverse features of igneous rocks and sedimentary layers that date back 25 million years ago to the formation of the Sea of Japan, the widely varied geological features of the ria-type coast and sand dunes, etc., formed by sea-level changes and crustal movement, as well as a wealth of valuable geomorphic/geologic heritages. Since ancient times, the areas located within the Geopark have also played an important role in the daily lives of the local residents, and one can also learn about the unique culture and history of a people who have lived in such an environmentally diverse region.

By taking advantage of these unique characteristics, and by treating the San'in Kaigan Geopark region as a setting in which we can explore the future relationship between humans and nature, we hope to set a pace-setting example for regional development.

Though San'in Kaigan Geopark area spans 3 prefectures, we hope to further foster the growth of our continuous Geopark activities that are run by the local community by further coordinating our each area.

Keywords: San'in Kaigan, Geopark, Diversity, Wide ranging activity