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Working and achievements of the Itoigawa Geopark as the first Japanese Global Geopark

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Itoigawa Geopark is one of the first Japanese Global Geopark along with Toya Caldera and Usu Volcano Geopark (Hokkaido) and The Unzen Volcanic Area Geopark (Nagasaki). We has been working on the improving the Geopark with the advice from GGN mission and Self-Evaluation items.

We feel that both learning and tour system are expected from high-standard Geopark and they are basically should be supported by the spontaneous citizen or groups in Itoigawa.

It can't be accomplished in the very short term but we learn a lots through these experiences.

1. Power of being a Global Geopark

Itoigawa Geopark has the main geological center "Fossa Magna Museum". After the acceptance to the GGN membership, number of visitors have been increased about 10,000 and the sightseeing bus tour was full with tourist compared to the last year.

2. Commemoration Events

By holding the commemoration events, such as a contest of finding interesting tones, memorial lectures and the announcement of official Geopark mascot, more and more people recognized the name Geopark and its power.

Achievements of spontaneous citizens and groups

Geo-coupon, Guided Geopark Train (joint event with JR Oito line), Festival in the brick burn, Geopark-cup (Junior football club), original Geo-products development

3. Work of Geopark Council and Office

Official Geopark test, Itoigawa Geopark Newsletter, establishing of Official Geopark guide system and products labeling system, broadcast and publication by TV, radio, newspaper, magazine and internet), Geopark exhibit (joint exhibition with Nihon Univ. and Spa resort), Geopark stamp, sistering with Hong Kong Geopark.

4. Management body

The management body "Itoigawa Geopark Council" consists of representatives of several groups and organization and has many branches. To action more speedy, special working group has been established to tackle the immediate work.

Keywords: Itoigawa Geopark, Global Geopark, citizen's activities