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Chichibu, "The Cradle of Geology in Japan", and Geopark

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Chichibu district, having various kinds of geosites and many places where pioneer and important researches on the geology of the Japanese Islands were carried out, is called "The cradle of geology in Japan". For instance, the researches by E. Naumann, Ohtsuka Sen-ichi, Kotoh Bunjiro and Harada Toyokichi are well known. Chichibu district also has made a contribution to upbringing many geologists like Miyazawa Kenji and other students. Saitama Museum of Natural History plays an important role of the center of extramural studies, succeeding to traditional role

of the two ancestral museums.

Nagatoro (rock terrace composed of crystalline schists), Youbake (large outcrop composed of middle Miocene sedimentary rocks), places related to "Wadou" (native copper or Kieslagar) and so forth are the famous geosites in Chichibu district.

The Chichibu Geopark Promotion Council, composed of one city and four towns and related groups, was established in February 2, 2010. We plan and carry out various events such as geologic excurtions or lecture meetings related to geoparks intending diffusion and enlightenment inhabitants in Chichibu district on geoparks.

Keywords: Chichibu, the cradle of geology in Japan, geosite, Rock Terrace in Nagatoro, Youbake, Miyazawa Kenji