

# Japan Geoscience Union Meeting 2011

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## Toya Caldera and Usu Volcano Global Geopark Welcomes You to the 2nd Japan Geopark Network Convention Sep.29-Oct.1, 2011

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Toya Caldera and Usu Volcano Global Geopark is located in the southwestern part of Hokkaido. Most of the areas spread over Date City, Toyoura Town, Toyako Town and Sobetsu Town. It covers also western part of the Shikotsu-Toya National Park. Annual tourists counts approximately 6,870,000 (5.2% of the total in Hokkaido), and foreign lodgers are approximately 200,000 (10% of the total), in 2009.

The 2000 eruption of Mt. Usu caused great damage in the area. Since then 4 municipalities, Date, Toyako, Toyoura and Sobetsu have been promoting the concept of an "Eco Museum" as a reconstruction effort under the main theme "Living Together with Ever-Changing Earth". Under this program, municipalities and Government constructed facilities, information center and geo sites, and people participated various programs including field study tours.

It was the time of creation of new program "Geopark" in the world. Because the main concept between world geopark and our eco-museum are so similar, we made a decision to switch the program into Geopark. "Toya Caldera and Usu Volcano Geopark" was born in 2007, and on August 22, 2009, it was finally designated as the member of the Global Geoparks Network, the first of the three in Japan.

At Toya Caldera and Usu Volcano Global Geopark, you can enjoy the spectacular works of nature - caldera lake "Toya", Nakajima and Usu volcano, and learn about the close relationship between our lifestyle coexisting with the nature since the Jomon-Ainu Era. There are many attractive sites and opportunities learning at museums (volcano, prevention disaster, shell-mound of aboriginal Jomon people, natural environment, etc), and enjoying trails, guided tour. The volcano's gift treasure - hot springs and delicious marine and farming foods will also welcome your visit here.

We introduce a new system of "Volcano Meister", as a part of man power enrichment program. 16 members presently assigned as a Volcano Meister and are participating in various geopark activities.

The 2nd Japanese Geoparks Network Conference will be held in the Toya Caldera and Usu Volcano Global Geopark during Sept. 29 to Oct. 1, 2011. We are looking forward your attendance, and asking you a favor for advices and comments.

Keywords: toya, usu, geopark, volcano, co-existence, disaster prevention