

O022-P08

Room:Convention Hall

Time:May 23 16:15-18:45

## Shimonita town trying for Geopark

The council of geopark<sup>1</sup>, yasuyuki kanai<sup>3</sup>, hideo suzuki<sup>2</sup>, Tomohiko Sekiya<sup>2\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>The council of geopark Shimonita, <sup>2</sup>The Shimonita town board of education, <sup>3</sup>The council of geopark Shimonita

1) The central Sanba River metamorphic rocks and the Chichibu Meso-Paleozoic stratum, which continues along the central line to Kyushu.

2) The Nenashi-Yama (rootless mountain) Group includes Atokura Krippe, which was selected as one of the 100 most important geological phenomena in Japan.

3) The Shimonita Tectonic Line has a rich geological structure that is said to hold the key to explaining the process of the Japanese archipelago's formation.

4) Motojuku Cave in Saimoku formed around 900 million years ago.

5) The magnificent projection of the Kanto Loam Stratum's top lies 10 meters deep and an impressive 200 meters wide.

Many of Shimonita's geological phenomena are concentrated within a circumference of 10 kilometers, so you observe everything within a very short distance; there is no place in the world that you can see these phenomena other than Shimonita.

In addition, Mt Myogi and Mt. Arafune are very odd and uniquely shaped mountains. Even if you do not know much about geology, you can simply enjoy the experience of hiking these distinctive structures and viewing the exceptional scenery.

In Gunma Prefecture, there is a popular card game called Jomo Karuta that highlights Shimonita's internationally famous products such as negi (Japanese green onions) and konnyaku, as well as its wealth of tremendous mountains and geological formations.

Recently, Shimonita Town has been expanding PR efforts based on the slogan "Negi and Konnyaku Geopark".

From April 2010, the Geopark Implementation Committee will expand its central headquarters into the old Aokura Elementary School. In the future, all questions that people have about the Shimonita Geopark can be directed to the committee at the Aokura headquarters.

Until now, Shimonita Town has been a very interesting and fascinating place only

between geological researchers and their staffs, but now the town wants to promote and explain these magnificent places to the general public by making a plan to train Shimonita locals to be guides for visitors and by creating events that everyone can easily participate in and enjoy. The whole town of Shimonita is very excited about the potential of getting UNESCO Global Geopark recognition.

Keywords: Geopark, shimonita town, Krippen