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Chichibu basin.Peculiar climate in which it draws close to various geological features

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The Chichibu area is located on the eastern edge of outer zone in Southwest Japan. Neogene system and Quaternary system are piled on the bases of Sanbagawa belt, Chichibu belt, Shimanto belt and Sanchu graben. During the Miocene era, Chichibu was covered with the sea that stretched out to the east and marine sediments were piled up. Presently the east side was upheaved, and the mountains of Sanbagawa metamorphic rocks emerged from deep down underground. Chichibu was isolated from the Kanto plains.

Magma intrusion to the west caused contact metamorphism to limestones, etc. of Chichibu belt. This inheritance of the earth supported the living of the people in Chichibu.

Chichibu's basin is a big factor to brew the original climate of Chichibu.

The location of Chichibu affected the life of people there. Chichibu is near Edo or Tokyo. Many people engaged in forestry and the fuel industry for the city of Edo or Tokyo, and iron, limestone, and silk supported the living of people. Now a lot of tourists visit Chichibu as it is one of day trip spots from Tokyo.

Because of this, the modern geology of Japan chose Chichibu as the first field. Sedimentary rock, igneous rock, and metamorphic rock exist, and it provides with material that shows Palaeozoic, Mesozoic, and Cenozoic. It is a good field for the researchers and the students who research or study Geology because they can observe a basic element of Geology. This is why they call Chichibu "The Cradle of Geology in Japan".

For a long time, Iron deposit and limestone have been very important provisions for the people in Chichibu. Chichibu is beginning to change. Profound and huge industries are declining. Things that never used to be reflected are now in the spotlight. Phloxes of Hitujiyama hill, irises of Ryoukami, icicle of Ohtaki and autumn tints of Nakatugawa, etc. are healing a lot of people's hearts and minds.

Maples that survive in steep geographical features of Chichibu belt. Buildings where mulberry and silk are recalled. Ruins of Chichibu mining companies. Stone images made from stone of Chichibu. They are still valuable existence now. A lot of NPO groups are established, and the approach to satisfy a new demand is developed everywhere.

The Chichibu Geopark Promotion Council acts as a pivot of the movement. The catchphrase is "Geopark Chichibu." One city and four towns and related groups of NPO added the element of Geo to past activities, and they started new ones.

We considered how to make many people understand the feature of Chichibu Geopark. So we make posters and billboards plainly. Also we always thought as "12 year old kids can understand our posters and billboards."

-The relation between various geological features and geographical features is understood at one view.

-We represent geologic time "About ** years ago." Only few people can understand relative age.

-Geo site is the place where the minimum security precaution is needed.

-Minimum English is used.

-Even after the recognition of Geopark, we kept the possible design in our minds.

-We avoid introducing the fossil collection places.

-We made the A4 edition of the same design as the poster. The meeting of each group was printed on the table, aiming at its popularization.

-The supplementation explanation pamphlet is made.

The Chichibu Geopark Promotion Council was established in 2011. Various activities have been done since then. Poster making, paying for signboards, developing school education ..summary signboard installation.. old, and geologic excursion, etc. the special official arrangement, training association lecture meetings, and advanced inspected geopark..



Keywords: Chichibu, various geological features, basin geographical features, the cradle of geology, Chichi belt