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Volcano gifts from the south: conception and preparation for the Izu Peninsula Geopark

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The Izu Peninsula, located on the northernmost tip of the Philippine Sea plate, is a terrestrial part of a volcanic massif (Izu block) formed by the subduction of the Pacific plate. The Izu block drifted by the northward motion of the Philippine Sea plate and collided with Honshu at about 1Ma. After the collision, terrestrial volcances continue to erupt and active crustal movements deform the topography of the Peninsula.

On March 28, 2011, 7 cities and 6 town offices, Shizuoka Prefecture, tourist associations, branches of national administrations, and local NPOs organized the Izu Peninsula Geopark Council and started to prepare for the establishment of the Izu Peninsula Geopark.

The main theme of the Izu Peninsula Geopark "Volcano gifts from the south" consists of the following five subthemes: (1) A volcanic massif drifted from the south and collided with the Japanese mainland, (2) Geological basement originated from submarine volcanoes, (3) Large terrestrial volcanoes after the collision, (4) An active monogenetic volcano field and crustal movements associated with ongoing accretion, and (5) Local society and culture developed by the geological benefits and disasters.

The Council is preparing various items such as geosites, seminars for geoguides and general residents, textbooks and leaflets, and geotours.