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Citizen involvement research activities and its effects in Itoigawa Geopark.

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¹Itoigawa Geopark, ²Fossa Magna Museum

Itoigawa Geopark had joined in Global Geoparks Network in August 22, 2009. Many activities on promotion, education and research have been done before the Fossa Magna Museum had opened. One of the most remarkable features of these activities is citizen involvement research activities.

There are diverse rocks in age and formed environment in Itoigawa Geopark. In paleontology, there are seamount type limestone of Paleozoic, shallow marine to terrestrial clastic rocks of Mesozoic and deep to shallow marine clastic rocks of Cenozoic, and many fossil localities are in Itoigawa Geopark. In mineralogy, there are jade and rare mineral localities. In petrology, there are rocks from non-metamorphic rocks to eclogite facies rocks. Finding new minerals, rare or new species of fossils are cooperated with citizens in Itoigawa Geopark. For example, one of new minerals named Itoigawaite first found by a citizen. A new species of Paleozoic brachiopoda *Daviesiella omiensis* also found by a citizen. Museum curator had supported a citizen to research whale, shark and brachiopoda fossils.

Not only in geology, but biodiversity is high caused diverse topology from coast to alpine area in Itoigawa Geopark, and research activities cooperated with citizens are done in biology and ecology.

The following effects can be expected by research activities.

- Constant renewal of geo-stories which are foundation of Geopark.
- Increasing of tourist to Itoigawa, increasing of repeater, and its economic effect.
- More people have interest in Itoigawa Geopark, and have interest in earth science.
- Citizens know that they can make contributions for Itoigawa Geopark, and more citizens cooperate with curators.
- Make notable results in research activities, and people in Itoigawa are proud and have love for their hometown.

As I mentioned above, research activities is so important that it acts as a source of power to promote Geopark activity.

Keywords: Itoigawa Geopark, research activities, citizen, effects