

# Japan Geoscience Union Meeting 2011

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O022-P18

Room:Convention Hall

Time:May 23 16:15-18:45

## Current state of the Japan Geopark "Dinosaur Valley, Fukui Katsuyama Geo-park"-Mainly educational programs and activiti-

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Dinosaur Valley Fukui Katsuyama Geopark was officially recognized as a Japan Geopark in October 2009. Although this designation is quite recent, Katsuyama has actually been in the forefront of fossil research and education projects for over a decade. Countless valuable dinosaur fossils have been uncovered from local excavation sites and put on display at the Fukui Prefectural Dinosaur Museum, a world-class facility which serves as the heart of this Geopark. Surrounding the museum is the Katsuyama Dinosaur Forest, where the children's Fossil Dig Experience event has been held for over ten years through the cooperation of the city and local NPOs. Boasting over 50,000 participants from all over the country, the Fossil Dig Experience has established itself as one of the city's most prominent dinosaur-related programs. Working in collaboration with programs such as this, the Geopark Promotion Group based in Katsuyama City Hall strives to further develop the park in both its scale and its public awareness. In addition to maintaining the park's individual geosites and creating informational pamphlets, the Geopark Promotion Group has also begun holding Geotours and seminars as well as special lectures at schools. Dinosaur Valley's acceptance as a Japan Geopark has certainly increased citizen's awareness, however programs such as the Fossil Dig Experience program which rely heavily on volunteer support require new assistance from citizens as current volunteers continue to get older. Furthermore, finding new geosites for fossil excavation is another issue the Geopark Promotion Group is working on to take this geopark to its maximum potential.

Keywords: Geopark, Fossil, Geotour