

A scientific education program conducted by linking with the geophysical field works at Tottori Sand dunes, San'in Kaigan

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The students in our university, in general, seem to be much interested in the subjects concerned with the Earth science field. As the result, introductory lectures related to Earth sciences aiming at mainly the first-year students are popular in our university. However, most of the students did not have any opportunities to have 'chigaku' classes in their high school : only a few percentage of the students have experienced 'chigaku' classes. We have faced some problems of the educational system to encourage students who want to know something about natural phenomena and the background.

The Earth Scientific research program supported by the local government has been started and carried out in order to clarify the subsurface structure, hydrological cycle and water environment at Tottori Sand dunes, one of the Geosites in San'in Kaigan Geopark. On the basis of the research discovery, geophysical fieldworks have also been conducted by strongly linking with the scientific education program, in partnership with the local government and the related organizations. This activity has following three purposes; (1) to be deeply impressed, feel fun and be relaxed by touching nature, (2) to be satisfied by understanding its theoretical background and (3) to realize by him/herself that it is important to attain his/her physical and mental growth through nature.

In this paper, I present some new observation results derived from the geophysical investigations at Tottori Sand dunes, Geosite in San'in Kaigan Geopark and introduce a scientific education program conducted by linking with them.

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