

To become a member of the Global Geoparks Network -Introducing the ongoing efforts of Sado City-

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Sado Island, 280 km in circumference, is surrounded by the Sea of Japan, located near the center of the Japanese Islands. Sado Island is characterized by having intact natural environments, typified by various coastlines including sandy beach, pebbly beach and rocky stretch. The farming of the island was officially recognized as Globally Important Agricultural Heritage System by the FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) in Jun 2011, while the Sado Mines have been in the tentative list of the World Heritage since 2010.

The main theme of the Sado Island Geopark is History of the Sea of Japan and Human Life in Gold and Silver Mine Island. Besides the geopark aspect, Sado Island has already been acknowledged by its valuable features. The farming of Sado Island was officially recognized as the Globally Important Agricultural Heritage System by the FAO(Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) in June 2011. Moreover, the Sado Mines have been taken in the tentative list of the World Heritage since 2010.

We have carried out public lectures introducing the nature and culture in Sado Island since 2010. More than 3000 persons participated in the lectures and they are candidates for geo-tour guides. Visitors to the Sado Island Geopark can understand the geological history and human history through a variety of geo-tourism activities.

We are preparing for being a member of the Japanese Geoparks Network in 2013, and then for taking part in the Global Geoparks Network in 2015. We set up 10 geosites which have their own attractive points. Our activities include setting of explanatory boards at each geosites, education of geo-tour guides and scientific research of selected geosites. We notice that the most important thing is to let local people recognize the value of Sado Island and to collaborate in establishing the Sado Island Geopark.

Keywords: Sado Island, Geopark, Sado Gold Mine, Globally Important Agricultural Heritage System, World Heritage