

Selecting potential geosites in the eastern Kii peninsula, Southwest Japan

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The aim of this presentation is to describe the geotouristic potential of the study area based on the presence of the Median Tectonic Line (MTL) in the region and set the basis for establishing geosites in the future.

Geologically important geosites has been picked up together with the sites of unique history and culture. The valorization of selected objects is ground on field studies and detailed petrographic analyses by using samples from rock exposures on the surface and boring cores.

The petrographic researches provides information about more precise surface trace of the MTL in the eastern Kii peninsula, which can be used as the most attractive point of geological trips in this region, including Ise Grand Shrine (Geku).

This work also focuses on the lack of geotouristic infrastructure that could make available all their advantages for educational purposes. Protecting and using geosites offers various important opportunities for communities including local economy development and providing employment.

In addition, establishing a tentative geotouristic course in the region could increase public awareness of geoscience education, protection and conservation important landscapes for future generations and help tourists to understand particular processes that shape our Earth.

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