

Achievement and future challenges of Japan Geopark Committee

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The Japan Geopark Committee was established on May, 2008 to promote geopark activity in Japan. Since then the JGC authorized twenty-five areas as Japan Geopark and six areas as candidates for member of the Global Geoparks Network (GGN). Through these evaluation process, JGC basically adopt the guideline of the GGN but JGC also adding some ideas and criteria to make Geopark system more comfortably accepted in Japanese society. As a result of the evaluation criteria of JGC, Japanese geoparks have some distinct characters comparing to the European geoparks and Chinese Geoparks. The distinct character includes; management of the geoparks with less bottom-up style than European ones and more bottom-up style than Chinese ones, more emphasis on relationship between man, biosphere, hydrosphre and geosphere.

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