

Program of Treasure Stones : Making an original rock specimen using a virtual geotour -

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We developed a making a rock specimen combined technique of a virtual geotour. To practice this program, a presentation file explaining highlights of geosites, rock samples and an original sheet which put on rock samples. To finish the program within 30 minutes, we limited 5 geosites in explanation and number of rock samples was 10. We carried out this program at Science Agora, which is a big scientific festival holding at Nihon Kagaku Mirai Hall in recent 2 years.

Participants of the program was mainly school students. They selected their favorite stone samples put them on the original sheet with a bond. In the virtual geotour, we explain not only rocks and landscapes but also relationship rock and people, histories of geosites and local foods using local special products. In 2012, we carried the program out with Shimonita Geopark and 151 participated (Sekiya, 2013). In 2013, 129 persons participated the program nevertheless a number of participates was limited. This program was almost popular with participants and received the Science Agora Award in 2012. Furthermore, this program became the fifth place in all programs by a guest popularity vote in 2013.

This program can be carried out regardless of a place, if machine parts and a place are set. And because people participating in this program have many families, various age groups can publicize the highlight of the Geopark. If participates get interests for the geopark, it is expected the increase of tourists of geopark area. In 2014, we hope some of geoparks join the program in Science Agora.

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