

## Activities of GASSAN GEOPARK PLAN

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### 1. Association for Promotion of Gassan Geopark

Mt.Gassan (1,984 m) is located in the Dewa mountain range, nearly at the center of Yamagata prefecture. It has two different looks; gentle from the east, but rough from the west. The cliff on its western side causes strong winds and snow clouds in winter, and that results in the deep accumulation of snow rarely seen anywhere else in the world.

The heavy snow is a burden to people who live around Mt.Gassan. Along with geology, the plentiful water produced from snowmelt is a major cause of landslides. This part of the country is a notable landslide-prone area. On the other side, snow contributes to people there, becoming pristine water that refreshes the agricultural lands in summer. We live with these gifts from Mt.Gassan.

Natural features of Mt.Gassan such as heavy snow, strong winds, and landslide-prone geology may be disastrous, but lead to rich ecosystem and fruitfulness of this area. Therefore, people have been revering the mountain as a symbol of religious belief called "Dewa-Sanzan Sinko (Faith in the three mountains of Dewa)". The Association for Promotion of Gassan Geopark was formed in March 2015, and is composed of Tsuruoka city, Shonai town, Nishikawa town, Ohkura village and Tozawa village in Yamagata prefecture. The purpose of our activity is to acknowledge the values of our life, culture and nature in our area and to be proud of our lives. We think it is important for continuing existence of our cities.

As a first step of our activities, we did workshops and fieldworks with Ministry of the Environment to value our local resources one more time. And then, we did a workshop involving 5 cities to share these results. In addition, we gave lectures to be a Gassan Geo Guide with a help from Yamagata University. And now, we are going to accept inbound Geo-tour from Southeast Asia and other parts of Japan.

At this poster-session, we are going to present our activities and the results of Gassan inbound geo-tour.

