

GGN - Geopark Annual Report 2020

1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

Geopark name, country, regional Network:

Aso UNESCO Global Geopark, Japan, Asia-Pacific Geoparks Network

Year of inscription / Year of the last revalidation: 2014 / 2018

National Route 57 and Japan Railway has recovered from severe damage by Kumamoto earthquakes in 2016 thus, the access routes for visitors from all over the world have been greatly improved.



The JR Hohi Line reopening ceremony on August 8, 2020 at Aso station.

2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staffs: 9 staffs including 5 geoscientists

Number of visitors: 7,491,840

Number of Geopark events: 38

Number of school classes realize Geopark educational programs: 78

Number of Geopark press release: 8, Web news 15

3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

Major achievements in 2020

- A lecture course to study geological, cultural and historical heritage of Aso UGGp was given at two local high schools (118 students attended, 15 hours courses in total). The presentation on learning by the students was held at the end of the course (February,2021).

Contribution towards GGN - Networking and participation

- Joined in APGN online meetings to share the information.
- Introduced a display of the process of the restoration approach from Kumamoto earthquakes in 2016 for the International day for disaster risk reduction.
- Displayed a poster of international Mountain day.

Management and Financial Status

- Labor costs and office expenses are covered by both the budget from local government and the investment profit by Aso Design Center. Project expenses are covered by national and prefectural governments.

Geoconservation

- Inspected the conservation status such as its safety and security, convenience and information signboards of all Geosites and updated those results.
- Held a meeting to share the information of the public projects of the governments to consider the balance of the restoration from Kumamoto earthquakes and the conservation of Geological heritage.

Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)

- Setting up a lava tunnel and ranch, cycling tour cooperated with local tourism industry and guides. Try to use some of the tour price to support maintaining grasslands.

New education programmes on geoconservation, sustainable development and disaster risk reduction

- Made a rock map discovered in Aso UGGp as educational materials and use it on educational programmes or events.
- Started a lava tunnel tour sponsored by the association of the local hotels.
- Held Aso regional guide-interpreter education course and certified some guide-interpreters.

Strategic partnership

- Got certified by the Agency for Cultural Affairs and started reforming projects of the management body and cooperative organization.
- Supported to Aso Tateno Gorge Tourism Promotion Council founded for promoting the tourism of the Geosite and reconstruction of the area.
- Held the information sharing meetings of our projects three times a year. It brought strong relationship with our local governments.
- Subsidized and cooperated into Aso Geopark Guide Association and helped their educational programmes and events.
- Having strong partnership with Ministry of the Environment, prefectural government, the promotion council in Aso city.
- Sponsored junior geo-guide lecture course for elementary school students and sent our coordinators of geographical features and nature, culture in Aso UGGp.

Promotional activities

- Exhibited a promotion booth of geopark events.
- Organized symposiums regarding calderas and earthquakes.
- Promoted geopark activities on many advertisements, websites and SNS.

4. CONTACTS

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