

# GGN Annual Report 2020

## 1. About the Geopark

Geopark Name: Mt. Apoi Geopark, Japan (Asia Pacific Area)

Year of designation: 2015



Guided tour of a new geosite, “Crossing Plate Boundaries.”

## 2. Internal Structure of the Geopark

- Geopark Staff: 4 full-time staff, 2 geological experts (including 1 botanical curator), 1 Coordinator for International Relations
- Number of Visitors: 10,009 (recorded at the Geopark Visitor Center)
- Number of Geopark Events: 31
- Number of Geopark Educational Programs: 17
- Number of Geoparks Press Releases: 6

## 3. Geopark Activities Major Achievements in 2020

- Established a new geosite and installed 2 new signboards
- Hometown and Geo-Study, routine workshops for the local residents
- Held a special exhibit “The Amazing Flower – Hidakaso”
- Added 3 products as official Geopark Certified Products

- Made improvements to exhibits in the Samani Folk Museum and Visitor Center

#### **Contribution towards GGN – Networking and Participation**

- Participating in APGN's "Let's Do It" online meetings
- Exchanged rock samples and guidebooks with other APGN territories (San'in Kaigan)

#### **Management and Financial Status**

- Stabilized budget and undergoing business development as planned. The 2020 budget: 6,100,000 JPY (fiscal year from April 2020 to March 2021)

#### **Geo-conservation Efforts**

- A plan to conserve the alpine plants is under academic review. Regular participation in the Apoi Environment Academic Committee Meetings and study meetings. Accompanying and supporting the associated field research, making preparations for a display concerning cultivating alpine plants at the base of the mountain.
- Ongoing conservation initiatives to restore diminishing alpine flower field by removing the encroached Japanese white pine.
- Testing a method to collect alpine plant seeds and effectively germinate to increase the number of alpine plants while cooperating with the seeding company.

#### **Sustainable Tourism**

- Planning and implementing sustainable geo-tours, in cooperation with local shops and restaurants. Participating in tourism-business meetings.

#### **New Education Programs on Geo-conservation, Sustainable Development and Disaster Risk Reduction**

- Continued support of the Samani Junior High School's "Mt. Apoi Dream Project" (preserving and raising alpine plants) and other Geo-study related educational programs.
- Starting a Sustainable Development curriculum series for the Elementary School and Junior High School.
- Holding regular nature-walk events around the vicinity of the Mt. Apoi Visitor Center
- The geopark promotion council staff submitted a written report about a turning point in the Mt. Apoi Alpine Plant Conservation Measures project that has been ongoing since 2016.

### **Strategic Partnerships**

- Continued support for the comprehensive partnership agreement with the local bank, Hidaka Shinkin Bank, for community development.
- Partnership between the Visitor Center and Apoi Sanso (tourist hotel) which provides discount coupons.
- Continued support for the comprehensive partnership agreement with Hokkaido University Field Science Center for Northern Biosphere to jointly investigate the condition of the ocean and the effect it has on the area.

### **Promotional Activities**

- Updated and reprinted the Geopark pamphlets and leaflets.
- Held several speeches and lectures promoting the Geopark during the previous year.
- TV and radio programs, newspaper and magazine articles used to promote the UNESCO status of the Geopark and the territory.
- In the city of Sapporo there is a shared panel exhibit and other promotional activities occurring in collaboration with other Hokkaido geoparks (Lake Toya and Usu Volcano, national parks), the Hokkaido government, and Hokkaido University.

#### **4. Contacts**

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