

GGN Annual Report 2023

1. About the Geopark

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

Year of designation: 2015



Guide Association Training Session in Horomankyo Gorge

2. Internal Structure of the Geopark

- Geopark Staff: 2 full-time staff, 2 geological experts (including 1 botanical curator), 1 Coordinator for International Relations
- Number of Annual Visitors: 9,008 (recorded at the Geopark Visitor Center)
- Number of Geopark Events: 34 (including events organized by the administrative body and cooperative organizations)
- Number of Geopark Educational Programs: 23 (number of lessons conducted at local schools)
- Number of Geoparks Press Releases: 12 (town publications/geo-topics: 12)

3. Geopark Activities

Major Achievements in 2023

- Updated 2 Geopark tourism signboards
- Held routine presentations for residents and training courses for town workers.
- Implementation and planning of two new geotourism programs
- Established a Guide Association (April 15th)
- Updated a section of the Geopark Visitor Center exhibits

Contribution towards GGN – Networking and Participation

- Participated in the 10th International Conference of UNESCO Global Geoparks in Marrakech,

Morroco (Sept 6-9)

- Participation in APGN “Let’s Do It” online meetings (4 meetings in 2023)
- Two articles submitted to the GGN publication “Geoparks Going Green”
 - “The Mt. Apoi Dream Project” in September 2023
 - Teaching Indigenous Ainu Culture at Local Schools” in December 2023
- In-person exchange with another GGN territory (twice with Hong Kong UGGp)
- Online exchange with another APGN territory (Dak Nong UGGp, Vietnam)
- Promotion of UNESCO/GGN International Days, GGN, and APGN territories on Mt. Apoi Geopark’s Facebook page and newly created Instagram account

Management and Financial Status

- Stabilized budget and undergoing business development as planned. The 2023 FY (April to March) budget: 7,836,000 JPY (geo-promotion budget)

Geo-conservation Efforts

- Scientific study of alpine plant preservation methods. Held and participated in regular study sessions
- Ongoing conservation initiatives to restore diminishing alpine flower field by removing the encroached Japanese dwarf pine.
- Testing methods to collect alpine plant seeds and effectively germinate to increase the number of alpine plants while cooperating with the seeding company.
- Removing ocean trash along coastlines

Sustainable Tourism

- Planning and implementing sustainable geo-tours, in cooperation with local retailers and restaurants.

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.
- Continuing a Sustainable Development curriculum series for the Elementary and Junior High Schools.
- Holding regular nature walk events around the vicinity of the Mt. Apoi Geopark Visitor Center
- Establishment of a conservation network for the Mt. Apoi Alpine Flora Conservation Measures Project
- Implementing special conservation measures for rocks along the coastline

Strategic Partnerships

- Continued support for the comprehensive partnership agreement with the local bank, Hidaka Shinkin Bank, for community development.
- Partnership between the Tourism Information Center and Visitor Center to provide discount coupons.
- Establishment of the comprehensive partnership agreement with Mt. Apoi Fan Club (May 17)
- Establishment of the comprehensive partnership agreement with Hotel Apoi Sanso (May 17)
- Extension of the comprehensive partnership agreement with Hokkaido University Field Science Center for Northern Biosphere, including matters related to the Geopark. (Jan 16)

Promotional Activities

- Updated and reprinted the Geopark pamphlets and leaflets.
- Held several lectures promoting the Geopark during the previous year.
- TV programs, newspaper and magazine articles used to promote the UNESCO status of the Geopark and the territory.
- Joint panel exhibition in cooperation with National Geopark and Hokkaido Government, Hokkaido Museum Geopark Festival (location: Sapporo City) and promotional activities (location: Asahikawa City, Hokkaido)

4. Contacts

Manager: Hiroyuki TAMURA	apoi.geoprk@samani.jp
Geologist: Satomi KATO	apoi.gvc@iris.ocn.ne.jp