

GGN Annual Report 2024

1. About the Geopark

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

Year of designation: 2015



Elementary student exchange between Hong Kong Geopark and Mt. Apoi Geopark

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: 9,024 (recorded at the Geopark Visitor Center)
- Number of Geopark Events: 39 (including events organized by the administrative body and cooperative organizations)
- Number of Geopark Educational Programs: 27 (number of lessons conducted at local schools)
- Number of Geoparks Press Releases: 12 (town publications/geo-topics: 12)

3. Geopark Activities

Major Achievements in 2024

- Updated 1 Geopark tourism signboard
- Held routine presentations for residents and training courses for town workers and Geopark guides
- Planning of two new geotourism programs
- Mt. Apoi Geopark Guides' Association conducted guide training activities in Toya-Usu UGGp
- Updated a section of the Geopark Visitor Center exhibits
- Started a monthly newsletter for local staff introducing national and international Geoparks
- New stamp rally in cooperation with Mt. Apoi Geopark, to commemorate the newly designated Hidakasanmyaku-Erimo-Tokachi National Park

Contribution towards GGN – Networking and Participation

- Hosted a 3-day exchange tour with students from Hong Kong UGGp in July 2024 (communicated to GGN)
- Promotion of UNESCO/GGN International Days, GGN, and APGN territories on Mt. Apoi Geopark's social media platforms (Facebook, Instagram)
- Participated in the following meetings/conferences:
 - APGN's "Let's Do It" online meetings (4 meetings in 2024)
 - GGN Online Workshop on SDGs
 - GGN Online Workshop on Geopark Gastronomy
 - APGN Online Workshop on SDGs
 - In-person exchange with another GGN territory (Hong Kong UGGp)
 - Hybrid exchange between Japanese Geoparks and another GGN territory (Finland)

Management and Financial Status

- Stabilized budget and undergoing business development as planned. The 2024 FY (April to March) budget: 7,459,000 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 fields 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.
- Began offering subsidies for certified geopark products

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 School and Junior High School.

- Holding regular nature walk events around the vicinity of the Mt. Apoi Geopark Visitor Center
- Extension of a conservation network for the Mt. Apoi Alpine Flora Conservation Measures Project
- Implementing special conservation measures for coastal rock formations

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.
- Extension of the comprehensive partnership agreement with Mt. Apoi Fan Club
- Extension of the comprehensive partnership agreement with Hotel Apoi Sanso
- Extension of the comprehensive partnership agreement with Hokkaido University Field Science Center for Northern Biosphere, including matters related to the Geopark.

Promotional Activities

- Updated and reprinted the Geopark pamphlets and leaflets.
- Held various Geopark awareness-raising lectures and training sessions
- TV programs, newspaper, and magazine articles are used to promote the UNESCO status of Geopark and its territory.
- Held a joint panel exhibit in collaboration with national Geoparks and the Hokkaido government (location: Hokkaido Administrative Office), held events in cooperation with the Hokkaido Museum and Hokkaido Geoparks (Mikasa City), Geopark promotional activities (Sapporo City), Geoparks in Japan traveling exhibit (Samani Town)

4. Contacts

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