

GGN - Geopark Annual Report 2023

1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

Toya-Utsu UNESCO Global Geopark, Japan, Asia Pacific Geoparks Network

Year of inscription / Year of the last revalidation: 2009/2023



Extension of the Nishiyama foot walking trail, 13 April 2023

2. GEOPARK FIGURES (between April 2023 and March 2024)

Number of Geopark staff: four

Number of visitors: 4.1 million for one-day trip, 875 thousand for overnight stay

Number of Geopark events: 31

Number of Geopark programmes at school: 36

Number of press releases: 24

3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

Major achievements in 2023

- The Nishiyama foot walking trail was extended, allowing visitors to observe disaster remains, craters, and traces of crustal movement from a closer distance.
- Installed six interpretation panels.
- Geopark Adventure Tour programmes (guided tours of Geopark's restricted areas) is under development: On-site verification was conducted to ensure that the planned tour routes are safe, well-conserved, and kept from unauthorized entry. Three monitor tours were also conducted, visiting Old National Route 230, Mt. O-Utsu, and Mt. Utsu crater floor.
- Mr Hata Yoshiaki from the Secretariat Office gave a lecture on volcanic disaster prevention efforts at the general meeting of the Japan's Parliament League for Volcanic Eruption Prediction and Countermeasures, consisting of officials from the Cabinet Office and other related ministries and agencies.
- The BI (brand image) graphics were renewed to improve the visibility of the Toyako-Utsu UGGp.

Contribution towards GGN -Networking and participation

- Mr Kagaya Nire and Mr Kaneta Koki from the Secretariat Office participated in the 10th UNESCO Global Geoparks International Conference held in Marrakech, Kingdom of Morocco.

Management and Financial Status

- The 2023 action plan was proposed to and approved by the general meeting.

Geoconservation

- As UGGp contribution to reducing the sale of geological products, Mr Kagaya led the Japan Geopark Network "Working Group on Communication to Reduce Geological Material collection and sales". The working group shared information and published a brochure.



Brochure "Save the Memory of the Earth"

- Maintains geosites on a voluntary basis by weeding the Nishiyama foot and other trails once a year.
- Shares views with the Education Promotion Committee on the conservation and sustainable use of geosites.
- Shares views with the Resident Committee on geosite conservation.

Sustainable Tourism (Geotourism)

- Installed 23 signboards to warn mountain hikers to keep off the prohibited areas.
- Developing guided tours in which the entry of restricted areas is allowed, by providing a list of certified tour guides who meet specific requirements.

New educational programs on geoconservation, sustainable development and disaster risk reduction

- Conducted a Volcano Meister certification exam - six applicants passed. There are now 70 Volcano Meisters in total.
- 27 disaster risk reduction programmes were conducted for local schools by Volcano Meisters.

Strategic Partnerships

- Eight local businesses were certified as Geopark partners. Interview articles of four organizations appeared online and in free papers, introducing their profiles (people, products/services, activities) to the readers.

Promotional Activities

- Two UGGps and four Japanese Geoparks in Hokkaido organised the "Come on Everyone! Hokkaido Geopark Exhibition 2024" event at a commercial facility in Sapporo, promoting the charms of volcanoes and disaster risk reduction efforts.
- Provided information on the UGGp at the "Hokkaido Geopark Festival," through experiential activities for families, poster display, and pamphlet distribution.

4. CONTACTS

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