

# GGN - Geopark Annual Report 2024

## 1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

**Geopark name, country, regional Network:** Muroto UNESCO Global Geopark, Japan, Asia Pacific Geoparks Network

**Year of inscription / Year of the last revalidation:** 2011 / 2023

**Representative photo with caption (from the most important event this year)**



Muroto High School students wrote, directed, and performed the play “The Formation of Land” at local kindergartens. It was well received by the children and featured in various media outlets.

## 2. GEOPARK FIGURES

**Number of Geopark staffs:** 17 staffs including 1 geoscientist

**Number of visitors:** Visitor Center (Muroto Global Geopark Center): 53,248 Guided Tour: 2,856

**Number of Geopark events:** 6 by management body, 17 by cooperative organizations

**Number of school classes realize Geopark educational programmes:** 66

**Number of Geopark press release:** 36

## 3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

### Major achievements in 2024

- Made a partnership agreement (MoU) with the Ciletuh-Palabuhanratu UGGp, visiting the site with Muroto High School (MHS) students for an exchange program and the signing ceremony.

- Conducted a drama play titled “The Formation of Land,” performed by Muroto High School students, at all kindergartens in Muroto City.
- MHS students gave an oral presentation at the 8th APGN Symposium held at Non Nuoc Cao Bang UNESCO Global Geopark.

### **Contribution towards GGN - Networking and participation**

- Participated in the 8<sup>th</sup> APGN Symposium in Non nuoc Cao Bang UGGp with six participants, including three high school students, and delivered three oral presentations.
- Participated in the international intensive course on UNESCO Global Geoparks 2024 in Lesvos (one staff).
- Participated in the international seminar on Sarawak Delta Aspiring UNESCO Global Geopark (one staff as a guest speaker).
- Participated in the 5th APGN Week, collecting waste along Cape Muroto with 18 volunteers.
- Participated APGN online exchange meeting, “Let’s Do It!”
- Dispatched two high school students and one teacher to Hong Kong UGGp for a student exchange program, accompanied by two staff members from Muroto UGGp.
- Organized an online student exchange with Hong Kong UGGp and Langkawi UGGp.

### **Management and Financial Status**

- The financial status of the Geopark is stable, with a total operating budget for FY 2024 is JPY 53,813,000.

### **Geoconservation**

- Conducted Geo-*Bata* meeting (local discussion meeting) to facilitate communication with a local community (Hinata).
- Launched an initiative titled “Let’s Clean up Muroto!” to encourage a citywide cleanup activity with residents.
- Implemented a coastal clean-up activity in conjunction with International Mother Earth Day.
- Implemented the “Opuntia Cactus Removal at Cape Muroto” initiative with a community volunteer group once a month.

### **Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)**

- Developed and Implemented “A Cape Muroto Hiking Tour” by utilizing the Ohenro (Pilgrimage) Paths.
- Conducted guide-training courses, resulting in the certification of two new guides.
- Held cycling and tidal play-instructor training courses, certifying two new cycling instructors and

one tidal play instructor.

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

- Conducted “Geopark Study” classes at four elementary schools and three junior high schools in Muroto City, reaching a total of 83 pupils and students.
- Conducted a workshop titled “Magari\*-laboratory” for children. “SDGs in the Tide Pools” was to learn about the relationship between the oceanic environment and human life by marine creatures and ocean debris. “Thin Section Workshop” was designed for children to create thin sections and observe how rocks are formed, while considering the formation of Muroto’s land.  
(\*Magari is the mascot of Muroto UGGp, featuring a turbidite pattern.)
- Conducted “Guide-training” lessons for the first-year students at Muroto High School. Following the training, the students served as tour guides for guests, including those from Cambodia.
- Provided workshops for elementary school children on disaster preparedness and risk reduction during “Disaster Preparedness Camp,” organized by National Institution for Youth Education.
- Participated as a panelist in a breakout session of the UNESCO Co-creating the Future Platform Youth Forum held in Tokyo, and presented disaster mitigation education initiatives by MUGGp.
- Three geopark-related programs were offered during the “Summer Seminar” by or under the guidance of two geopark specialists, as organized by the Summer Seminar Committee: 1) MHS students held a workshop with the Indonesian community to introduce Indonesian culture, in response to the growing Indonesian population and the upcoming partnership with the Ciletuh-Palabuhanratu UNESCO Global Geopark (UGGp); 2) MHS students led a session on disaster mitigation in collaboration with a geopark geologist; 3) A geopark specialist also led a session exploring the Muroto Geopark.
- Co-hosted community events for local residents in collaboration with the community centers to help revitalize the community.
- Participated in the Shikoku ESD Forum (Education for Sustainable Development in Shikoku, one of Japan’s four main islands) as a guest speaker, presenting on international geopark exchanges that contribute to community development.

### **Strategic partnership**

- Signed a collaboration agreement with the Ciletuh-Palabuhanratu UNESCO Global Geopark (CPUGGp) to organize student exchanges and to share ideas on topics such as promotion, tourism, and disaster preparedness. As the first step of this collaboration, three students and the principal of Muroto High School participated in the first international exchange program organized by CPUGGp and Muroto Geopark.

- Organized a student exchange program with a domestic UGGp, sending three Muroto High School students and one teacher to Itoigawa UGGp, accompanied by two staff members from Muroto UGGp.
- Participated as a panelist in a panel discussion held during the inauguration ceremony of the newly designated Miyoshi National Geopark.
- Collaborated with NIHONGO Muroto to hold cultural exchange events and provide language learning opportunities one to twice a month.
- Co-hosted a plant study seminar titled “Dandelion Survey Seminar” in collaboration with the Makino Botanical Garden.
- Held a “Science Café” where scientist selected for academic research funding shared their research findings by with the local community.

#### **Promotional activities**

- Appointed three Muroto UGGp Youth Ambassador from among Muroto High School alumni who has participated in exploratory activities related to the Geopark.
- Participated in the traveling geopark exhibition '*Journey Through Earth Time*,' organized by Itoigawa Geopark and the Fossa Magna Museum, and hosted accompanying exhibitions and a talk show at the Muroto Global Geopark Center in conjunction with International Geodiversity Day.
- Set up a booth to promote the importance of native species protection by selling okonomiyaki (Japanese savory pancakes) made with the removed Opuntia cactus, the invasive species at Cape Muroto.
- Introduced Muroto Geopark Activities through the monthly "Muroto Dayori" newsletter issued by Muroto City, the Muroto Geopark website, Facebook, X, and Instagram.

#### **4. CONTACTS**

**Manager:** Mr. Toru ONISHI (info@muroto-geo.jp)

**Geologist:** Dr. Yoshihiro KAKIZAKI (ykakizaki@muroto-geo.jp)