

Virtual Geotours in Mine-Akiyoshidai Geopark Plan

OBARA, Hokuto^{1*} ; YAMAGATA, Tomoko¹ ; WAKITA, Koji²

¹Mine-Akiyoshidai Geopark Promotion Council, ²Yamaguchi University

1. Introduction

The geopark activities in Mine-Akiyoshidai area located in the middle western part of Yamaguchi Prefecture have been based on "**Mine-Akiyoshidai Geopark Plan**" decided in last April. We give a presentation about Virtual Geotours along Geostories in our area.

2. Theme

The theme of this plan is "**The history of the earth and the life to breathe on the karst plateau: For harmony between the nature and culture**". There is the karst plateau "Akiyoshidai" largest in Japan in our area central part. The Akiyoshidai limestone plateau where a limestone pillar and a doline (Conical hollow) are seen in consists of the coral reefs about 300 million years ago. The Akiyoshidai has been used in picking grass and cultivation as a place of the common land of neighboring inhabitants than old times. In Akiyoshidai, grassland is maintained for several hundred years by performing mowing and igniting regularly. This theme was set under the following ideas; the inhabitants and tourists know the history and the present of Akiyoshidai, and connect local nature and culture with the future.

3. Geosites and Geostories

We set 34 Geosites, 3 base facilities, and 11 related facilities. We will determine a maintenance plan about the Geosite in future. The base facilities are placed to become the focal point of geopark activities, while the related facilities are places to introduce local nature and culture. Geostories are composed of 5 past big events in geologic time scale and 1 thinking about the local future.

Keywords: **Mine-Akiyoshidai Geopark Plan**, Akiyoshidai, karst plateau, geopark, Mine City, Yamaguchi Prefecture