

How to make stories of geosites –link between visible and non-visible information

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Geosites in a Geopark have information as to earth's activities necessarily. If all visitors who visited at geosites have knowledge about earth science, they could understand the academic values of geosites easily. However, people who has enough knowledge of earth science is not so much, and furthermore, it is difficult that let many people (mainly inhabitants) understand the values of geosites using only earth scientific information. Because most of people (especially inhabitants) don't show interest in academic and unfamiliar earth scientific information.

Information in Geosites can be divided into two groups; visible and/or touchable one and non-visible one. Representatives of visible one are landscapes (topography), color and textures of strata or rocks and so on. Some of culture, legend and living customs are also visible and/or touchable one. On the other hand, representatives of non-visible one are names, ages of strata or rocks and processes of their origin. Historical information linking up with the Geosites is also divided into non-visible one. In general, almost visitors have seen and enjoyed only visible information at Geosites. However, when they understand non-visible information about geosciences and histories including in Geosites and recognize the link between non-visible and academic information, they could get strong impressions about Geosites.

Many people tend to be more familiar to local history, culture, local legend and living customs than geoscientific information. Thus, it is effective that first we introduce of historical and cultural highlights closely related to geosites, and then explain how their lives are affected by earth's activities. This explanation sequence would bring inhabitants smooth recognition of link between their lives and earth's activities and proud for their hometown.

This poster shows how to connect visible information (landscapes, color and textures of strata or rocks) with non-visible one (especially earth's activities, local histories, cultures, traditions and customs) using geosites in Unzen Volcanic Area UNESCO Global Geopark, and discusses how to make stories at geosites.

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