The connection between earth sciences and society by Geoparks - Results and issues in the past decade-

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10 years have passed since the Geoparks started in Japan and it has grown as a channel for linking earth science and society. In this session, we would like to look back on our activities and discussions of the past decade, and discuss the feature of Japanese Geoparks.

10 years history of Shirataki National Geopark

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The promoting activity of Shirataki Geopark had started from 2008 and has been registered as Japanese National Geopark (JGN) on the October 2010. However, in 2014, our region had become the conditionally registered Geopark. The reason for this evaluation was that the promotion council of Shirataki Geopark had been unworking.

In order to solve this problem, our region has set the new promotion council and created the working team that is composed of the 11 local residents. Furthermore, we have discussed “why our region promote the Geopark activity?” As the results, we have found that the Geopark is a useful activity for our region to develop sustainably and instituted the master plan for our future. These improvements were appreciated by the revalidation in November 2016 and our region rejoined the JGN.

In this presentation, we introduce the effect of Geopark activity for our region. Additionally, we also introduce our activity in the JGN national convention held at Mt. Apoi UNESCO Global Geopark.