

Supports for research and knowledge sharing with local residents in Yuzawa Geopark

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1. Yuzawa Geopark Promotion Group

Japanese national Geopark is designated by the Japan Geopark Committee (JGC) based on the statutes of the International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme and the operational Guidelines for UNESCO Global Geoparks. The guideline stipulates that a UNESCO Global Geopark must contain geological sites of international significance, which is confirmed by the peer-reviewed, published research. The scientific value of the site and landscape is also highly important in Japanese Geoparks, thus we need continued researches by scientists. Since it is impossible to conduct all these researches by an organization to promote geopark alone, we must request cooperation from scientists. Members of JGC and scientists related to each geopark have already provided some scientific supports. In order to gain the cooperation from more scientists, the organization should support research activities.

There is system that Yuzawa city bear 300,000 yen expenses of research about Yuzawa Geopark. A total of ten scientists have utilized the system. If scientists research at Quasi-National Parks in Japan or the places are designated as a national monument, they have to file some applications with the organization responsible for those locations. In order to allow scientists to conduct research on the site smoothly, we assist them to file the applications. It follows that we could not get only research subjects but also development of relationships with them.

We must share the research results with local residents. A research presentation was held in February 2018 in Yuzawa Geopark. Although many local residents said that the content of the presentation was interesting, there were some opinions that it was difficult to understand. There are varying some interpretations of the research results, thus we have to consider how to explain various interpretations. In this presentation, we will discuss about the method of promotion of the researches and the utilization of research results in Geopark.

Keywords: Yuzawa Geopark, Supports for research, knowledge sharing, Japanese Geopark, development of relations between Geopark and Scientists