

Practical applications in the Tosashimizu Geopark Plan of site monitoring by local residents: Landform change of Sakurahama Beach

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In order to properly manage sites in the geopark, utilizing site monitoring surveys to understand site change over time is important. The Tosashimizu Geopark Plan Committee is at the center of all monitoring surveys in Tosashimizu and the fact that it allows for many different people to easily get involved and cooperate is an advantage. However, it can be said that the term and frequency of monitoring surveys has been inadequate. As a result, the scientific value of the geosites has become beset by problems. Therefore, the Tosashimizu Geopark Plan Committee has begun to supplement its informational database with pictures and research gathered by local residents of the respective geosites. In addition, local residents have been accumulating such data before becoming involved with geopark activities. It is an important role of the Tosashimizu Geopark Plan Committee specialists to teach local residents about the scientific value of their research.

The focus of this presentation, Sakurahama beach, is a pocket beach located in central Tosashimizu. It has been renowned as a place of scenic beauty since the Edo period. It is known that flat coasts such as Sakurahama beach are easily affected by human influence and environmental changes and local residents have been aware of the reduction of the beach area over time. Also, Sakurahama beach is a spawning ground that many living organisms temporarily inhabit. Consequently, detailed monitoring studies are highly significant. One local resident, Hirano Yorihiisa, takes photographs of the same area of Sakurahama beach almost every day. In those pictures, the changes in landform before and after typhoons, the change in granularity of beach sand over time, and loggerhead sea turtle hatchlings can be evidenced. This presentation will analyze the photographic records of Hirano Yorihiisa and discuss the future prospects for such research.

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