

Present situation and issues of the Tateyama Kurobe Geopark after Yellow card

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Tateyama Kurobe Geopark is a Japanese Geopark composed of 9 municipalities in eastern Toyama prefecture and a part of Toyama bay. The features of our Geopark are 4000 meters difference in elevation from the top of Tateyama mountain range with 3000 meters above sea level to the Toyama Bay with depth 1000 meters. Our Geopark was proposed by mainly researchers. The management organization was established by local businesspersons and supported by local governments. Therefore, it is a unique Geopark in Japan that is operated by NGO. Tateyama Kurobe Geopark is operated in cooperation with municipalities, universities and museums. In recent years, more local people, companies and private groups are active about Geopark. The role of Geopark in the region is gradually increasing. However, the result of the Japanese Geoparks revalidation process in 2018 was Yellow card (conditions attached). The main indications are four points as follows (1) difference in recognition about Geopark among participant in Geopark activities, (2) conservation plan and conservation activities are unclear, (3) lack of visibility in major tourist routes and few Geopark signs, (4) difficult explanation. We make and fulfill an improvement plan getting advices from the Japanese Geopark Committee. In this paper, we report activities and issues of the Tateyama Kurobe Geopark considering the results of the revalidation process.

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