

Promotion of the earth science utilizing the Geopark “Making the stone specimen in Hakusan Tedorigawa Japanese Geopark”

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In recent years, due to the declining birthrate, aging of society, and fewer interests of science, new leaders in the field of the natural science has been decreasing. On the other hand, extreme weather with severe damages has increased in recent years. Therefore, it is necessary to develop human resources not only of researchers and engineers with interests of natural science but also of citizens with understanding and knowledge of natural environment.

The Ishikawa Geological Survey Association, the Hakusan Tedorigawa Geopark Promotion Council, and Kanazawa University have organized the event entitled “Making the stone specimen in Hakusan Tedorigawa Japanese Geopark” for elementary school students and their parents since 2017. This event utilizes a field of the Geopark, aiming to make children, as the next generation, have interests in nature and natural science through activities in the field.

On Saturday 20 October 2018, the 35 pairs of children over fourth grade in elementary school and their parents selected by lottery participated joined the event. After learning stones, formation processes of those and how to distinguish them, they collected stones and made the stone specimens with Japanese and foreign students and others using hammers, loupes, and medicinal liquids. From the results of the questionnaire answered by the children after the event, we recognize that the children showed the high curiosity of the stone and the nature, experienced the difficulty and the pleasure of learning the nature. Based on the questionnaire, we verify the learning level of the contents and the explanation of the activity and reflect it in future activities. We are planning to continue this event, as well as trying new attempts to tackle the curiosity of children.

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