

Japan-China Comparison of the Role of Museums in Lifelong Education——To consider the role of education in geoparks

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Whether the role of education that a geopark should fulfill in response to social demands is an issue that cannot be ignored. Geoparks play a very important role not only in Japan but also in China, where lifelong education systems are currently being developed. To examine the role of geoparks in lifelong education, we first look at museums in Japan and China, which are similar to geoparks and are thought to have accumulated examples of lifelong education initiatives.

In Japan and China, there are significant differences like management system and the public perception of the museums. Compared with Japan, where education was spread earlier, education was not yet sufficient in China due to its historical influence. Museums are one of the solutions to that problem. Therefore, in 2008, the Chinese government tried to increase the number of visitors by giving free admission to museums through a grant from the central finances.

Because of these differences, it is thought that the role of each museum in Japan and China in the lifelong education system will be different. Therefore, we will investigate and organize the efforts of the museums on lifelong education in Japan and China.

This time, first, summarize policies and regulations on museums on the websites of each museum and MEXT of Japan (and the Ministry of Education of China) and analyzing previous research on museums and lifelong education. Find out what kind of activities they are doing (especially in social education) and what kind of characteristic efforts they are doing. Based on that, we compare the history of Chinese and Japanese museums and the policies implemented, and summarize the differences in their roles in lifelong education, and examine how they can be applied to the role of geoparks in lifelong education.

Keywords: Geopark, Lifelong education, The role of education in museum, Japan-China Comparison