

# Characteristics of geopark evaluation system as seen from the field evaluation reports by the Japan Geopark Committee

\*Masahito Yamada<sup>1,2</sup>, Shinichi Sugimoto<sup>3</sup>

1. Board of Education, Choshi City Hall, 2. Choshi Geopark Promotion Council, 3. Sanriku Geopark Promotion Council

## 1. Introduction

The concept of Geopark arose in the mid-1990s as a response to conserve and enhance value of areas of geological significance in Earth history. Later in 2004, with the support of UNESCO, European Geoparks and China Geoparks came together to create the Global Geoparks Network (GGN). In Japan, the Japan Geopark Committee (JGC) was established as a domestic judging organization in 2008. The JGC conducts evaluation to join Japanese Geoparks Network (JGN), assessment of activities at geoparks belong to JGN, evaluation of candidates for new accession belong to the GGN. Domestically, seven regions were first certified as Japan Geopark in December 2008, and now there are 43 geoparks (of which eight regions are from UNESCO global geopark).

The JGC has undergone evaluation of domestic geoparks over nine years, and the results have been published on the web. In this research, we analyzed what are the features we can see in JGC evaluation reports.

## 2. Method

We conducted text mining using results from 2009 to 2016 at each geopark from the JGC's evaluation reports. We used KH Coder, a free software.

We arranged the evaluation reports as follows. First of all, as a first stage, it was divided into three categories: JGN new evaluation, JGN revalidation, and GGN candidate. As a second stage, we classified them among the categories according to the year in which the evaluation was conducted. As the third stage, we classified it by region for each year.

We examined whether there are distinctive words in each of the three categories of the first stage. Also, we examined whether there were characteristic words transition along the timeline. We also examined the co-occurrence relation of the characteristic words.

## 3. Result

JGN new evaluation, JGN revalidation, GGN candidate appears distinctive words, respectively. Also, characteristic words were found to have changed along the timeline.

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