

Is Geopark indispensable for Izu Oshima –How has geopark settled and transfused to communities of Izu Oshima–

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1. Izuoshima Geopark Promotion Committee

Izu Oshima Geopark was approved as a member of Japan Geopark Network in September 2010, but was assigned in 2014 as “pending approval with conditions”. This is primarily because weak support from Izu Oshima town in terms of organization, finance and man power precluded high credibility and sustainability for the next term geopark activity in 2014-2017.

Since this severe evaluation, our geopark organization made both intensive and extensive improvement for sustainability of a regional community through geopark activity in terms of employment of specialist personnel, developing education and learning curriculum for skill up geotourism guide quality, implementing workshops and learning programs, formulating basic concept and plan of geopark, and so on. These efforts enabled us to have a formal approval for the third term of activity from 2017.

Keywords: Geopark, Revalidation, Human resources, Sustainability