

[JJ] Oral | O (Public) | Public

[O-06] [JJ] Geoparks in Japan -Lesson to be learned from the failure-  
convener:Noritaka Matsubara(Graduate School of Regional Resource Management, University of Hyogo),  
Chairperson:Yayoi Ichihashi(Sado City Board of Education), Chairperson:Hokuto Obara(Mine-Akiyoshidai  
Karst Plateau Geopark Promotion Council), Chairperson:Noritaka Matsubara(Graduate School of Regional  
Resource Management, University of Hyogo), Chairperson:Mahito Watanabe(Institute of Geology and  
Geoinformation, National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology), Chairperson:Hiroko  
Imai

Sat. May 20, 2017 3:30 PM - 5:00 PM IC (International Conference Hall 2F)

Japanese Geoparks have a lot of good practices from various Geopark

activity since 2009, we could share which good experiences and good practices.

It was a process of trial and error, because Geopark does not have a standard type.

In this session, we will present and discuss those failures we learned.

---

[O06-04] Changes in Shimokita Geopark: REJECT inspired people

\*Satoshi Ishikawa<sup>1</sup>, Kazuhiko Hirata<sup>1</sup> (1.Council for promotion of Shimokita Geopark)

3:30 PM - 4:00 PM

[O06-05] Is Geopark indispensable for Izu Oshima

– How has geopark settled and transfused to communities of Izu  
Oshima–

\*Rika Usui<sup>1</sup> (1.Izuoshima Geopark Promotion Committee)

4:00 PM - 4:30 PM

[O06-06] Necessary attitude to enforcement of Geopark activities

\*Marekazu Ohno<sup>1</sup> (1.Unzen Volcanic Area Geopark Promotion Office)

4:30 PM - 5:00 PM

## Changes in Shimokita Geopark: REJECT inspired people

\*Satoshi Ishikawa<sup>1</sup>, Kazuhiko Hirata<sup>1</sup>

### 1. Council for promotion of Shimokita Geopark

The reject in 2014 drove citizens get interested in geopark activities. The certification in 2016 is the result of enthusiastic social movements which is aroused by the reject and frequent coverages. We will show the change process and social movements, and seek future vision.

Keywords: Geopark, social movement, reject

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

\*Rika Usui<sup>1</sup>

### 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 personal, 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

## Necessary attitude to enforcement of Geopark activities

\*Marekazu Ohno<sup>1</sup>

### 1. Unzen Volcanic Area Geopark Promotion Office

Main purpose of Geopark activities is sustainable development of local communities because local heritages existing in the communities are conserved if the communities are maintained. Stable financial system is necessary to maintain the local communities and its stability is ensured by activation of economic activities with expansion of domestic demand and with geotourism activities in the territory. Guarantees of local (geological, biological, historical and cultural) “heritages” are carried out by the continuous researches by researchers and/or scientists and the values obtained by them are popularized to inhabitants through educational activities. These activities (conservation, researches, education, tourism and economic activities), therefore, should be enforced positively with relevance, necessity and systematically by organizations or stakeholders that join in the geopark activities. These Geopark’s activities will bring construction of sustainable local communities and conservation of local heritages in the territory.

If local people who belong to organizations relating to geopark activities (inhabitants, administrative staff, researchers etc.) understand a perspective of geopark activities and recognize their position in the perspective, geopark activities would be performed in the territory with good mood. In order to keep mutual understandings among related organizations to geopark, it is necessary the system to keep motivations of inhabitants, administrative staff, and researchers etc through sharing information by regular meetings and network.

The remarks mentioned here is not special but a matter of course. If local people who are concerned geopark activities do not understand what geopark activities are clearly and find out their significances, it would be difficult to construct a sustainable local communities and conservation of local heritages using the system of Geopark. I would like to introduce the situation of Unzen Volcanic Area UNESCO Global Geopark after receiving an Yellow Card from Japan Geopark Committee in the presentation.

Keywords: Unzen Volcanic Area UNESCO Global Geopark, Sustainable development, Local communities