

## New style of pilgrimage. (Chichibu Geopark activities.)

MIYAGI, Satoshi<sup>1\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>The Chichibu Geopark Promotion Council

Chichibu area is a small basin located in the west of the Kanto Plain.

It's easy to access from Tokyo and has rich natural environment. That's why so many people visit here.

Chichibu is famous as one of the industrial city thanks to the timber and the limestone which is a material for the cement, and plays a part in a modern Japan.

The sericulture also has flourished and famous for silk textile as "Chichibu Meisen".

In '70s, Chichibu changed from an industrial city to the countryside which soothes people with its rich nature, local festival, etc.

Historically, the cooper found in Chichibu offered to the Imperial Court in A.D.708, and many famous people such as Dr. Edmund Naumann came to Chichibu for their geologic field work.

Now, Chichibu is called the cradle of the Japanese geology.

In addition, Chichibu is well-known as one of pilgrimage, "Fudasho", in Japan.

Last year, in 2014, was a special year once every 12 years to open their principal objects to the public, and we offered new style of pilgrimage which was collaborated with Geopark.

These activities interested many people in Geopark.

Chichibu Geopark Promotion Council continues to provide various activities such as model courses to visit, videos, maps of Geo-sites, etc.

Keywords: Chichibu area, pilgrimage, Fudasho, the cradle of the Japanese geology

