

GGN - Geopark Annual Report 2024

1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

Toya-Utsu UNESCO Global Geopark, Japan, Asia Pacific Geoparks Network

Year of inscription / Year of the last revalidation: 2009/2023



Geopark Adventure Tour: Mt.Usu Crater Basin Tour (24 July 2024)

2. GEOPARK FIGURES (between April 2024 and March 2025)

Number of Geopark staff: four

Number of visitors: 4.6 million for a one-day trip, 1.1 million for overnight stay

Number of Geopark events: 63

Number of Geopark programmes at school: 38

Number of Geopark press releases: 25

3. Geopark Activities

Major Achievements in 2024

- Organised the "Geopark Adventure Tour", one-day tours with high added value. There were 17 tours in 2024, including pre-tours.
- 26 August was designated as Japan's "Volcano Disaster Prevention Day". To commemorate this and to motivate the public to deepen their interest and understanding of active volcano countermeasures, four of the UGGp Volcano Meisters and Mr Hata Yoshiaki from the Secretariat Office gave speeches/lectures at the events and study sessions held throughout the country.
- The first Toya-Utsu Geopark Examination (Mt. Usu) was held on 27 March 2025.
- The Toya-Utsu Geopark Examination (Mt. Usu) Textbook was published online (PDF document), which is available on the official UGGp website. The textbook, prepared by the Council, summarizes the eruption history of Mt. Usu and disaster risk reduction efforts. It covers the scope of questions for the Toya-Utsu Geopark Examination (Mt. Usu). It is also expected that the textbook will be used

by the guides working at Mt. Usu, by local residents for disaster risk reduction studies, and by the schools and outdoor activity providers.

- Toya-Usu Geopark (Mt. Usu) Textbook, A4 size, 77 pages

Contribution to GGN - Networking and Participation

- Mr Kagaya Nire and Mr Kaneta Koki participated in the 8th APGN Asia Pacific Geopark Network Conference held at Cao Bang UGGp in Vietnam.
- Hosted 32 students (including 4 chaperones) from Marymount Primary School, located in Hong Kong UGGp.
- Mr Kagaya participated in the training session held at the Oki UGGp for three aspiring regions in Kyrgyzstan.

Management and Financial Status

- The 2024 Action Plan was proposed to and approved by the general meeting.

Geoconservation

- Maintains the geosites on a voluntary basis by weeding the Nishiyama and other trails once a year.
- Shares views with the Education Promotion Committee on the conservation and sustainable use of geosites.
- Shares views with the Resident Committee on the geosite conservation.

Sustainable Tourism (Geotourism)

- The Geopark Adventure Guide List (Mt. Usu) will be available in 2025, which will allow the guides on the list to take the tourists to the restricted areas of Mt. Usu.

New educational programs on geoconservation, sustainable development and disaster risk reduction

- Conducted a Volcano Meister certification exam - four applicants passed. There are a total of 72 Volcano Meisters currently.
- 33 disaster risk reduction programmes were conducted for local schools by Volcano Meisters.

Strategic Partnerships

- Held a joint workshop with Batool UGGp in Bali, Indonesia.
- Two organisations were certified as Geopark Partners.
- Articles on four partner organizations were published online and in free papers, presenting their profiles (people, products/services, activities).

Promotional Activities

- The Hokkaido Prefectural Government, Hokkaido's two UGGps and four Japanese Geoparks jointly held the "Hokkaido Geopark Exhibition 2024 Summer" and the "Geopark Poster Exhibition 2024." For visitors from within and outside Hokkaido, the Toya-Usu UGGp held a family programme to learn about disaster prevention, displayed posters, and distributed information pamphlets.
- Invited 15 JATA (Japan Association of Travel Agents) members to participate in a community contribution activity (installing signboards on the trails), and introduced the UGGp's adventure tour initiatives.
- Held a booth at the "Environmental Plaza Sapporo 2024" event and conducted a volcanic eruption experiment.

4. CONTACTS

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