

# GGN - Geopark Annual Report 2025

## 1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

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

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



Implementation of Adventure Tours for Foreign Visitors in the Restricted Area of Mt. Usu  
(October 13)

## 2. GEOPARK FIGURES (between April 2025 and March 2026)

Number of Geopark staff: three

Number of visitors: 4.5 million for one-day trip, 1.2 million for overnight stay

Number of Geopark events: 49

Number of Geopark programmes at school: 40

Number of press releases: 16

## 3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

### Major achievements in 2025

- The high-value day-trip program “Geopark Adventure Tour” was implemented 7 times. Tours utilizing regional resources such as the crater basin, former National Route 230, and Uchiura Bay were developed. By combining expert guide commentary with activities, these tours have become established as high-experience-value products.

- Two stay-type monitoring tours (1 night 2 days and 2 nights 3 days) were conducted as models for developing stay-type geotourism targeting visitors from outside the region.
- The Toya-Usu Geopark Certification Test (Mt. Usu) was held twice a year (March and July) to deepen local residents' knowledge of volcanoes and raise disaster prevention awareness. A total of over 30 people took the test.
- The picture book One Day in 110,000 Years, which compiles "Stories of the Earth" to convey the region's nature and culture in an accessible way, was republished.
- The "Earth Resources Collection" was produced and distributed, organising the relationship between the region's geological features and its agricultural and marine products. The content was systematised so that guides can explain geology and food from an integrated perspective. An electronic version is publicly available on the website for wider use.
- Guide training and public awareness activities were conducted throughout the year. Lectures on brown bears were held to strengthen the knowledge base of local guides.

#### **Contribution towards GGN - Networking and participation**

- Mr.Kagaya Nire from the Secretariat Office participated in the 11th UNESCO Global Geoparks International Conference held in Kuturakura, Chile.
- Mr.Kagaya Nire provided cooperation to the movement aiming to establish UNESCO Global Geoparks in Kenya.
- A study visit by 14 participants, including local government officials and university professors from the Songkhla Province Geopark initiative in Thailand, was hosted.
- Mr Kagaya Nire provided online support for a training program targeting three regions in Kyrgyzstan aiming for UGGp status, held in Oki UGGp.

#### **Management and Financial Status**

- The 2025 action plan was proposed to and approved by the general meeting.

#### **Geoconservation**

- Geosites are maintained on a voluntary basis by weeding the Nishiyama foot trails and other trails once a year.
- Views are shared with the Education Promotion Committee on the conservation and sustainable use of geosites.
- Views are shared with the Resident Committee on geosite conservation.

#### **Sustainable Tourism (Geotourism)**

- From fiscal 2025, the "Geopark Adventure Guide List (Mt. Usu)" was launched for guides conducting activities in the restricted entry area of Mt. Usu. Eight guides are registered.

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

- The Volcano Meister certification exam was conducted; one applicant passed. There are now 72 Volcano Meisters in total.
- 40 disaster risk reduction programmes were conducted for local schools by Volcano Meisters.

### **Strategic Partnerships**

- In fiscal 2025, partnership agreements were newly concluded with 3 organisations as Geopark partners.

### **Promotional Activities**

- In collaboration with the Hokkaido Government, two other UGGps in Hokkaido, and four Japanese Geoparks, the “Hokkaido Geopark Exhibition” and “Geopark Poster Exhibition 2025” were held. Programs for parents and children to learn about disaster risk reduction were offered, posters were displayed, and pamphlets were distributed to visitors from inside and outside Hokkaido.
- JATA (Japan Association of Travel Agents) regional contribution activities were attracted, and the Adventure Tour initiatives were introduced to 11 participants from travel companies.
- An exhibition was held at “Environment Square Sapporo 2025” with volcanic eruption experiments.

### **4. CONTACTS**

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