Synergy between geoparks and biosphere reserves through Hakusan as a focal point

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Hakusan Tedorigawa Geopark Promotion Council
Mt. Hakusan (白山)

- A high mountain in central Japan
- Its elevation is 2,702m (alpine zone)

- Mount Hakusan Biosphere Reserve designated in 1980
- Hakusan Tedorigawa Geopark designated in 2011 as a Japanese Geopark
Different areas of both programs

Hakusan Tedorigawa Geopark from Mt. Hakusan toward Sea of Japan along Tedori River

Mount Hakusan Biosphere Reserve surrounding Mt. Hakusan
What is Geopark (GP)?

- Single, unified geographical area
- Site of international geological significance
- Managed with a holistic concept of protection, education, and sustainable development
Geoparks among the world

Distribution of GGN Members

120 UGGs in 33 Member States (since 2004) ©GGN
New label: UNESCO Global Geoparks

UNESCO gives Global Geoparks a new label

The 195 Member States of UNESCO have ratified the creation of a new label, the UNESCO Global Geoparks, on 17 November 2015. This expresses governmental recognition of the importance of managing outstanding geological sites and landscapes in a holistic manner.

The decision was taken by Member States at UNESCO’s General Conference, the governing body of the Organization, which met in Paris from 3 to 18 November.

UNESCO Global Geoparks tell the 4,600 million year story of Planet Earth and of the geological events that shaped it as well as the evolution of humanity itself. Not only do they show evidence of past climate changes, they also inform local communities of present day challenges and help them prepare for hazards such as earthquakes, tsunamis and volcanic eruptions.

UNESCO Global Geoparks strive to raise awareness of geodiversity and promote protection, education and tourism best practices. Together with World Heritage sites and Biosphere Reserves, UNESCO Global Geoparks form a complete range of sustainable development tools and make an invaluable contribution to the realisation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals by combining global and local perspectives.
Geopark Q&A

• Once the designation, is it forever geopark?
  ➢ No, revalidated every 4 years with a field mission

• Is it only about geology?
  ➢ No, GPs develop links with natural & cultural heritages

• Can it overlap with other designations?
  ➢ Needs a clear justification and evidence for synergy

(UNESCO, 2016)
Difference between BRs & Geoparks

• For scientists
  ➢ Ecology or Geology (earth science)

• For local people
  ➢ ? ? ?.......What’s different?
  ➢ Something forwarding sustainable development ?
  ➢ Something to be proud of their own area ?
SYNERGY AT LOCAL SITE LEVEL
To strengthen stories: Linking 3 features

Geological features

Ecological features

Cultural features

The earth is formed in various ways.

Geodiversity produces biodiversity.

These diversities produce a variety of culture.

Geodiversity

Biodiversity

Culture

Human

Animals, Plants

Earth, Geology, Landform

【Geopark’s Idea】
To strengthen stories: Case of chestnuts

Ricecakes made from Japanese horse chestnut trees

Development of Japanese horse chestnut tree forests

Existence of unstable lands
To weaken conflicts: Share the staffs

Hakusan Tedorigawa Geopark Promotion Council
- Administrative Bodies (10)
- Universities, Institutes (5)
- Education & Culture Groups (2)
- Self-Governance Groups (4)
- Industries & Tourism Groups (7)
- Agriculture Groups (5)
- Transportation Group (1)

Mount Hakusan Biosphere Reserve Council
- Municipalities (7)
- Prefectures (4)
- Association for Cooperation (1)
- UNU (1)
- Shrines (3)
- Relevant Ministries (10)

Secretariat
Geopark Promotion Division, Hakusan City
SYNERGY AT
NATIONAL NETWORK LEVEL
Hakusan belongs to two networks

- Japanese Geoparks Network (JGN)
- Japanese Biosphere Reserves Network (JBRN)
Two networks

JGN

8 UGGs, 31 Japanese GPS

JBRN

7BRs

Reorganized in 2015
Who takes the initiatives in the network?

- **JGN**
  - Locals
  - Researchers

- **JBRN**
  - Locals
  - Researchers
Reorganization of JBRN

Initiatives:
• From researchers to locals

Financial Management:
• Annual memberships fee

Networking:
• From mailing list to real meetings
  (face-to-face relationship)

Lessons from geoparks to BRs

JBRN Meeting at Hakusan
UNESCO Global Geoparks Celebration Forum

- Held in Hakusan, with JGN & UNU-IAS-OUIK
- Messages from MAB&BR to Geoparks
  - MAB Strategy, in line with the SDGs
  - International cooperation lead by JICA

(From right)
Dr. Patrick McKeever
(expert on Geoparks, UNESCO)
Dr. Koichiro Matsuura
(former DG of UNESCO)
Dr. Hiroyuki Matsuda

Lessons from BRs to geoparks
Conclusion

- Confusion among local peoples
- Strengthening stories, sharing staffs
- Learn from each other between networks

Geoparks

Hakusan

Biosphere Reserves
Thank you for your kind attention!!