

The proposals from Hakusan Tedorigawa National Geopark - Weaving a geomorphological geostory with ecological and cultural features -

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Hakusan Tedorigawa National Geopark was designated as a Japanese geopark in 2011. Our main feature is our geostory called “Journey of Water” which stands for the water cycle between mountains, rivers and sea. We can see another journey accompanying water, called “Journey of Rocks” which stands for erosion, transportation, and sedimentation.

These two journeys are not the only phenomenon throughout the world, but since Japan is so tectonic and so pluvial, we can see the hydrologic cycle in a very compact scale and the topographic formation in a very short time scale. Hakusan Tedorigawa Geopark is a good miniature of such Japan. For evidence, Mt. Hakusan is one of the great snowfall area among the world and Tedor River is one of the steepest river in the world, which shows the high erosion level. In addition, our area has the headwaters and the river mouth in our small area which provides a good field to learn the watershed management system as a whole.

This geostory has many benefits such as its connection of geology (including geomorphology), ecology and culture. For example, people in the mountainous area make rice cakes from Japanese horse chestnuts, and these forests develop on unstable lands. From this point, geology, ecology and culture could be integrated in a single unified geostory which indicates the earth as a fundamental being for human and other organisms.

This is what we would like to propose for the Global Geoparks Network, adding a new value to the network.