

Kunibiki Geopark Plan: Networking of nature, history and culture in the Kunibiki region

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The area of Kunibiki Geopark Plan is the "ground of Kunibiki myth", surrounded by the Shimane Peninsula, Mt. Daisen, and Mt. Sanbe. The Kunibiki myth is described in Izumo-no-kuni Fudoki, completed in 733 AD. The story of the Kunibiki myth is that the god pulled the countries of the Korean Peninsula and then formed the Shimane Peninsula by using them. The area of Kunibiki Geopark Plan has traced the history of i) part of the continent, ii) detached from the continent, iii) the creation of the Sea of Japan, iv) volcanism in the Japan Islands, and v) the creation of alluvial plain and brackish lakes. These geological histories are in common with the Kunibiki myth. So, we promote Kunibiki Geopark Plan as merging mythology and geology.

Currently, Kunibiki Geopark Plan is promoted at the initiative of Kunibiki Geopark Project Center of Shimane University. The main purpose of our center is to make a plan of national and international Geopark for the Kunibiki region in order to re-discover new culture and resources for tourism of Kunibiki region together with local people. We have carried out various activities, such as geotours and symposiums for local people, lectures of Geopark for university students, field learning support for elementary school students, and establishment support of "Association for Promotion of Kunibiki Geopark Plan". We will introduce activities and issues of our center.