

Geopark Intensive Summer Course for Elementary & Junior High Students

Nobuyuki ISHIGAMI ¹, Toshiki ENDO ¹, Hideaki NAKATANI ¹, Kazuya ANDO ²,
Seiji OOE ³

¹San'in Kaigan Global Geopark Promotion Office, Tottori Prefectural Government, ²Tottori
Prefectural Museum < E-mail: andouk@pref.tottori.jp >, ³Tottori Prefecture Kansai Office

Since 2013, Tottori Prefecture has been holding an intensive course utilizing San'in Kaigan Global Geopark's tour guides. This course is named "San'in Kaigan Global Geopark Summer Vacation Assignment Rally" and it began as a course helping elementary and junior high school students embark on their summer vacation assignments (independent research), covering themes such as Tottori Sand Dunes and Uradomekaigan Coast's natural surroundings, topography, geological features, living organisms and local specialty products. In 2013, 11 lectures took place; and in 2014, two extra lectures were given in Shinonsen Town, Hyogo Prefecture, with a total of 15 lectures organized extensively within and outside of Tottori City. Although outdoor lectures were suspended in 2014 due to bad weather, approximately 250 elementary and junior high school students took part in the period of two years.

At these organized lectures, students were able to collect data and materials to complete their summer vacation assignments. The lectures became very popular among students and parents who attended, some strongly requesting continued running of these lectures. Accordingly, we are planning to continue this work in the future as we make further improvements to lecture content and management methods.

Through this course, we are also expecting people, including geopark guides, to actively make efforts and organize lectures as they gain expert knowledge in lecture management. There are already an increasing number of opportunities and cases of active engagement where people have taken part in school classes. There have also been lectures organized by a tour guide group.