

Role of museum and university for the earth science education in the San'in Kaigan Geopark

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Geopark is expected as a place of lifelong education of earth sciences. In many geoparks, lifelong education is often propelled by museums or universities. The aims of establishment of museums have changed with the times. Recently, most of museums do not provide only exhibition but they have various educational programs. In addition to educational programs inside a museum, many museums promote some out-reach programs in surrounding area. Furthermore, they take a role as the think tank about protection, conservation and utilization of natural environments.

About 12 facilities, in which explanations of the geopark are exhibited, are scattered in the San'in Kaigan Geopark. It is difficult that these facilities promote sufficient education, out-reach activities and think tank activities independently all over the San'in Kaigan Geopark, because most of facilities are small scale and are operated by a few number of staffs.

Some teaching staffs of Graduate School of Regional Resource Management, University of Hyogo (RRM) participate in the administration of the San'in Kaigan geopark as academic staff and are closely cooperated Museum of Nature and Human Activities, Hyogo (MNH) situated out of the geopark. Organizing exhibitions, open seminars and informal gathering for discussion, RRM and MNH develop out-reach activities in the geopark related facilities. These out-reach programs are organized and performed by the cooperation among the staffs of facilities, local activity groups, administrative organ, MNHA and RRM.

Function of modern museums emphasizes outreach activities and the role of think tank is beneficial to the education and networking in geopark.