

## Problems regarding the conservation of geoheritage in Japanese Geoparks

Kyohei SANO <sup>1</sup>, TAKENOUCHI <sup>2</sup>, NOBE <sup>3</sup>, HARADA <sup>4</sup>, MOKUDAI <sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Shirataki-Geopark Promotion Council <E-mail: k.sano@engaru.jp >, <sup>2</sup> Itoigawa Geopark Council,

<sup>3</sup> Oki Global Geopark PromoGlobal Geopark Promotion Council, <sup>4</sup> Mt. Apoi Geopark Promotion

Council, <sup>5</sup> Pro natura

Foundation Japan

Members of the Japanese Geoparks Network (JGN) have been informed by Global Geoparks Network (GGN) Guidelines and comments by site evaluators of the criteria for conservation of geoheritage. However, these criteria are poorly suited to the current conditions of the Japan Archipelago, because the guidelines are based on areas with relatively calm tectonic settings. As a result, sometimes geoparks located in active tectonic regions such as Japan are not able to make decisions according to these guidelines. Thus, we should promote geopark activity by making the criteria more suitable to active tectonic regions and current situations. In order to solve this problem, we conducted a survey regarding understanding of geoheritage conservation for affiliated regions within the JGN, which has revealed the current situation in Japan. Based on this study, we found (1) an absence of understanding of the value of “geodiversity (Gray, 2013)” and (2) lack of chances to form cooperation agreements based on the interests of stakeholders and scientific background, especially when the geo-site and area have been determined. Based on our results, we will try to promote understanding of geoheritage, and also try to form unique criteria and guidelines for conservation sites that are suited to the situation in Japan.