

## Development of new activity programs in Muroto Global Geopark

Kana FURUSAWA

Muroto Geopark Promotion Committee < E-mail: kanaf@muroto-geo.jp >

For sustainable development of geotourism in geoparks, it is very important to create interesting programs such as guided geotours and activity programs. The Muroto Geopark Geotourism Promotion Team has been set up since July 2013. Before we started to make this team, we announced to the committee members and local citizen that they were able to join the team if they were really interested in creating new geotourism. We kept announcing that anyone interested can join and can do so whenever they please. So far, several new geotours and activity programs have been developed and under operation in 3 different seasons. A regional Expo of Eastern Kochi area including Muroto Global Geopark is organized from April 29<sup>th</sup> to December 23<sup>rd</sup> 2015. We had a chance to apply for financial support from the office of this expo for developing new active programs. Several proposals were prepared based on the discussions among the Geotourism Promotion Team members and Geo-guides, and Geo-masters. Three plans were approved i.e. the “nature experience program including observations at rocky shore”, “cycling” and “research experience of wild animals”. It is believed that these activities will contribute to the sustainable development of the area.