

Geotour combined local folk stories with earth science

– the folk story geotour –

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There are many folk stories in Japan, and they have inherited from generation to generation. Most of matters in folk stories generally seem to be unscientific and unreal. However some stories use to hand natural phenomena and/or big disasters happened down to next generation. For example, big snakes or dragons which came up in the stories often compared debris or lava flows to strike people. Of course some stories are contents to love and pleasure for beautiful natural environments and to thank for a blessing from nature. This shows that we can carry out a geotour using folk stories, if we can explain the scientific (geological) significance of the description in folk stories. Staff of Unzen Volcanic Area Geopark office collaborated on a group of folk story reciters and constructed and carried out a new type geotour combined earth scientific information of geosites to folk stories together. In the geotour, first a reciter introduced the folk story concerning a geosite on the geosite. Next, the staff of geopark office explained earth scientific significance describing in the story. By performing this story telling and explanation in several geosites, we offered the value of the local cultural and earth science significance to the participant using folk stories. We held two times of the geotours in 2014 (participants were 56) and wide generations from 7 years old to 80 generations participated in geotours. In this poster, I introduce some “geo-folk stories” and the state of the geotours.