

AREA PROMOTION SYSTEM THROUGH THE DISASTER PREVENTION GEOTOURISM

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This presentation introduces the Disaster Prevention Geotourism on the basis of the instance in Nanki Kumano Geopark. Visitors are easily able to learn the experience on disaster prevention in this geopark where has the unique natural features based on its historical and cultural background. The idea is to understand natural disasters as a positive feature for area promotion to learn about how to deal with them rather than seeing them as a negative heritage.

The damage from natural disasters sometimes could exceed expectations, and there are limitations to its prevention and prediction. Therefore, by being aware of this, it is necessary to continue on disaster prevention activities, and to develop systems for responding to disasters and crises that could occur in the future. At the moment, a disaster prevention geo-tour is being considered as a way of sharing the local history and memory of disasters by providing talks based on the experience. It aims to inherit the experience thorough the tour to increase the effects of disaster prevention by promoting local culture. Nanki Kumano Geopark has organized the disaster prevention geo-tour carried out as Japanese Geopark authorized memory on September 21 in 2014 and the reproduction disaster prevention geo-tour on January 31, 2015. From the analysis of the both of geo-tours, it became evident that it was rather difficult to understand the association of various geo-sites and the disaster site. Therefore, it suggested the importance of clarifying to construct a story of the disaster prevention geo-tour.