

Cooperation between geoparks network and biosphere reserves network in Japan- Through Hakusan as a focal point -

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Hakusan Tedorigawa National Geopark is an aspiring geopark. Its area overlaps partly with the Mt. Hakusan Biosphere Reserve. Hence, Hakusan belongs to both national networks: Japanese Geoparks Network (JGN) and Japanese Biosphere Reserves Network (JBRN).

JGN is composed of 36 national geoparks (including 7 global geoparks) and 17 candidates. Its networking activity is very strong and it is playing a fundamental role to exchange the member's experience to improve each other. On the other hand, JBRN was founded quite recently, far after the designation of the first biosphere reserve (BR) in Japan. It is composed of 7 BRs. JGN is being a good example for this growing network to establish its organization.

Conversely, BRs have a long history as an official program of UNESCO, and are in line with the Japanese National Commission for UNESCO. Currently, geopark is getting to be an official program of UNESCO, and is waiting for the decision of the General Conference. The experience of JBRN will be a good example for JGN to seek their way how to adopt this change in the national level.

Hakusan is one of the very few members which belong to both networks. We are introducing both network's activities, experiences, and current status to each other so that both can learn from each other and improve their activities. And as an aspiring geopark, we are willing to take an additional role to be the focal point between not only national but global networks in the near future.