

Partnership between Universities and Promotion Council in the San'in Kaigan Geopark.

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San'in Kaigan Geopark Promotion Council concluded comprehensive agreement with University of Hyogo in 2013 and with Tottori University of Environmental Studies in 2014. Teaching staffs in the Graduate School of Regional Resource Management, University of Hyogo and Regional Innovation Institute, Tottori University of Environmental Study directly join to administration in the geopark.

They have cooperate and constructed networking in the San'in Kaigan Geopark mainly through the coordination of lifelong education programs, e.g. guide training, seminar for the public, "Geo-Caravan" and general meeting of "San'in Kaigan Geopark Saloon". Geo-Caravan is one of outreach programs composed of exhibitions, seminars and events in the San'in Kaigan Geopark. It is organized and performed by the cooperation among the staffs of facilities, active groups, administrative organ and university staffs. San'in Kaigan Geopark Saloon is open informal meeting and social gathering held throughout the San'in Kaigan Geopark. Participants of them are composed of various stakeholders, e.g. researchers, some NPO staffs, administrative officer of the geopark, geopark guides, staffs of accommodations, merchants, farmer, fishermen and others. These programs are useful to networking among not only administrative organs but various stakeholders in the community.

Agreement between the universities and the geopark promotes participation of teaching staff from each university to the Geopark administration as Geopark staff, either as geopark bureau members or members of the Geopark committees. Promotion of geopark activity tends to be led by local governments in Japan. Participation of university's faculty members and teaching staff is effective to facilitate networking in local community and local governments.