

JGN Internationalization Working Group

Leader's Report of Vision, Major Activities and Dissipation of Group

I, Abhik Chakraborty, called for and set up this group, with several colleagues from JGN and JGC in 2015 (during the national convention of Japanese geoparks in Kirishima Geopark). The overall aim was to imbibe knowledge about geopark and geheritage related activities in different parts of the world, to help disseminate that information in the JGN and to explore opportunities of collaboration with international experts/organizations.

I would like to mention two important experiences for the group during its active phase which comes to a close in November 2016. Members of this working group translated the UNESCO's Statues of the International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme (IGGP) into Japanese, in order to disseminate information of the newly launched IGGP amongst JGN members. Due to the official nature of the original document (UNESCO document), this translation is 'informal'; it aims to help clarify often used terminologies and outlook of the IGGP program. Any existing or aspiring GGN member geopark or any other stakeholder *must use the original UNESCO document in English*; the working group members are in no way responsible for any possible conflict of interest due to unclear explanation of any term in the translated version. As the WG leader I wish to thank JGC members Dr. Kuniyasu Mokudai, Dr. Setsuya Nakada and geopark specialist Dr. Mahito Watanabe for their kind advice during the translation process. I also thank Ms. Hiroko Torigoe of Itoigawa Geopark and Mr. Shinsuke Nakamura of Hakusan Tedorigawa Geopark for their check and coordination of the document contents.

Group members also participated in a workshop featuring Professor Patrick McKeever of UNESCO, which took part during the UNESCO Global Geoparks Celebration Forum at Hakusan Tedorigawa Geopark in January 2016. Professor McKeever called for increased participation and visibility of Japanese global geoparks in international gatherings and GGN related activities during

this discussion.

Although the working group engaged in several fruitful activities, as a working group we are constrained by unavailability of budget for activities and due to the informal nature of the group, it was not feasible to hold regular meetings and coordinate agenda. Also, internationalization has different meanings for different stakeholders, so it was felt that defining the term and possible activities was a challenge. I am aware that there are efforts to promote international link-ups and activity in the JGN; the internationalization group ends its activities at this juncture with the hope that its vision and some of the unfinished works will be carried forward at the JGN.