

## **Volcano Meister as an interpreter of the Toya-Usu Global Geopark and disaster prevention**

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Toya-Usu global geopark is a volcanic geopark located in Hokkaido, in northern Japan. It shows collapsed structures, which we present elsewhere as Volcano Eruption Remains with educational potential. However, in order to really understand what happens here, it is important to go beyond preservation just for beauty, and learn from the experience and knowledge of local guides.

At Toya Caldera and Usu volcano, the global geopark is accrediting local residents as 'Volcano Meisters' who can tell the history of eruptions and disasters of Usu volcano. (Meister means expert in German). Many such meisters are also used in guide activity because they are knowledgeable about disaster prevention, but also about the charms of the geopark. Over the past six years, twenty-nine Meisters have been accredited. They have been active in various ways, such as workshop lecturers, tour guides, guidebook writers, etc. The number of applicants for Volcano Meister accreditation is growing and activities in the geopark are increasing each year.

Here we present the accreditation system of 'Volcano Meister' and the performance of the geopark.

Presented in Theme 3