

## **Creating new Geotourism in cooperation with local people, Geo-guide, Geo-masters in Muroto Geopark**

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Muroto Geopark Promotion Committee (MGPC) was organized in 2008 by local groups such as the Association of Commerce and Industry and the Tourism Association; it also included research institutions such as Kochi University, Kochi University of Technology, and JAMSTEC (Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology). Politicians, researchers, and local administration officials cooperated in organizing the Committee. However, discussions among the Committee members were not very active. When we introduced workshops for the discussion of our action plan, it worked very well. As a next step, we decided to make geopark promotion teams.

In July 2013, the first meeting of the Muroto Geopark Geotourism Promotion Team was held. We announced to the committee members and local citizens that they were able to join the team if they were really interested in creating new geo-tourism. We kept announcing that anyone interested can join and can do so whenever they please.

In November 2013, we conducted 2 tours; one of the tours took place in a fishing port, and the other was in the sweet potato field on the marine terrace. Both of them were successful, but at the same time showed further challenges. After the tours, we gathered and discussed what we found out from the tours and decided what to do next. Now, we are planning to create new geo-tours for each season.

The members of the team are really active and we aim to create more jobs for younger generations in the area. Hopefully these activities will lead to a sustainable local development.

Presented in Theme 2