

## Initiatives for local development in San'in Kaigan Geopark

KATSUNORI ISHIDA - *Director of San'in Kaigan Geopark Promotion Council, 7-11, Saiwai-cho, Toyooka City, Hyogo, 668-0025, Japan*  
<katsunori\_ishida@pre.hyogo.lg.jp>

San'in Kaigan Geopark is located in western Japan and spans a total of 3 cities and 3 towns in 3 prefectures. About 17 million tourists visit in a year and enjoy hot springs, sea bathing and skiing in the area. When our geopark was admitted as a member of the Global Geoparks Network in October 2010, many local residents rediscovered regional resources and developed local products.

In Mio district, Shin'onsen Town, Hyogo prefecture, where aging and depopulation are going on, a village revitalization group has been set up, and wakame seaweed and squid nare-zushi has been produced. San'in Kaigan Geopark Promotion Council dispatched business experts to this district to advice about the sales of wakame seaweed products. As an effect, the yield of them increases twice higher than the previous year. The group has also launched water taxi since last May.

In Kyotango City, a landlady group has started to serve Geo-Dinner at each hotel. One of the members has begun a water taxi, allowing visitors enjoy beautiful seaside scenery from the boat. The number of visitors in 2013 is five times higher than that in 2012.

Geopark tours using canoe have been attracting interest as a new sport especially in Takeno of Toyooka City. In Toyooka City, two NPOs related to geopark guides have been set up in 2013. A total of 10 people work daily and some projects, such as "Genbudo Cave Light Up Event" and "Nature Experience Plan for Mothers and Children" have been launched.

As mentioned above, in many places in San'in Kaigan Geopark, people are taking initiatives for local development using regional resources. We, the council, continue to provide the place for sharing various experiences between groups or organizations that put in active effort on local development, and dispatch specialists to support.

Presented in Theme 2