

Izu Peninsula Geopark: a museum of geological diversity Izu Peninsula Geopark, Japan

YUSUKE SUZUKI¹, CHIHARU ISHII², AND KAORU YOSHIKAWA² - 1. *Researcher, Izu Peninsula Geopark Promotion Council.*

<y.suzuki@izugeopark.org> ¶ 2. *Assistant Section Chief, Izu Peninsula Geopark Promotion Council*

The Izu Peninsula Geopark explores the theme: 'Volcano gifts from the South.' This theme explains how the peninsula, now a seemingly integral part of the Tokai region in Japan (close to the capital city of Tokyo) was a submarine volcanic island a few hundred kilometres south of the Japanese archipelago. This area is situated at the northernmost tip of the Izu-Ogasawara arc formed by the subduction of the Pacific Plate. The Izu block drifted with the northward motion of the Philippine Sea plate and collided with Honshu about 1 million years ago. Thus, the peninsula is located at a unique geophysical intersection, where the relatively stable Eurasian and North American Plates are pushed upon by the Philippine Sea plate, whereas the Pacific Plate, located to the East of the archipelago, subducts under the Philippine Sea and North American Plates.

In the Izu Peninsula Geopark, visitors can enjoy a large diversity of volcanic landforms, from old submarine volcanic landforms (West and South), large complex terrestrial volcanoes (central part), monogenetic volcanoes including beautiful cinder cones (Eastern part), as well as landscapes carved by erosion of wind and water (notably in the south and the central highlands). In addition, the geology of the peninsula is closely associated with the Hakone Volcano situated to the Northwest and Mount Fuji, which unleashed lava flows from time to time. Also the peninsula is a geological laboratory for research on tectonic movement and landform generation, volcanic eruptions, earthquakes and tsunamis, disaster management and springwater resources (notably from Mount Fuji). Our poster gives a visual tour of this exciting and dynamic peninsula, which can justly be called a geological museum in itself.

Presented in Theme 4