

Activities to promote the local sustainable development - Report at the time of spread of COVID-19 infection from Mt.Kurikoma Area Geopark

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Due to the effects of the spread of COVID-19, it became difficult to hold events where people could gather and various projects that had been previously planned. However, we worked to find projects that we could carry out only because our normal activities were restricted.

In conservation activities, we made use of the grant system and cooperated with researchers from universities and research institutes to promote research on disaster prevention education, social services, ecology, etc., and actively engaged in research activities that are at the root of Mt.Kurikoma Area Geopark.

In educational activities, we received requests from teachers to conduct learning activities as usual, mainly at elementary schools in the city, and implemented Geopark learning programs 50 times after taking sufficient measures to spread the disease. We also provided online information on Mt.Kurikoma Area Geopark Visitor Center and guidebooks were distributed free of charge to support learning.

In economic activities, we prepared guidelines for guiding activities to prevent the spread of COVID-19 infection, and studied and implemented safety management measures such as setting a limit on the number of guides and guiding with masks.

With regard to the "Kurikoma Sanroku no Megumi," an initiative to certify products that take advantage of the location and regional characteristics of Mt.Kurikoma Area Geopark, an e-commerce site was set up in the summer as part of support for certified businesses whose sales have declined due to the spread of COVID-19. For about three months, the EC site was set up to sell an assortment of partially certified products in the confectionery category. After that, the site was revised based on the sales results, and at the end of the year, sales for year-end gifts were conducted and 62 applications were received. At present, a stamp rally is being held until June 30, 2021, in which 17 stores, including stores in the food (restaurant) sector, are participating.

From these, we will consider sustainable regional development using Geoparks in COVID-19.

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