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Educational practices in Oga peninsula-Ogata Geopark, northeast Japan

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Oga peninsula where is located in northern Japan has been studied by many researchers. Oga Peninsula-Ogata Geopark consists of a group of geosites, where the Quaternary volcanoes, the late Pleistocene widespread tephras, fossils of marine molluscs, and geological structures such as faults which can be easily observed easily by children. This area of the west coast of the main island of Japan is famous for its Cenozoic stratigraphy. Before the area became a member of the Japan Geopark Network, local school teachers had used the outcrops as an educational resource in their science classes. The author found that one of geosites in the geopark, would be very useful not only for science classes but also for teacher training classes. The Oga Geopark Study Centre was established in 2013 by the local government in order to improve educational practices of school science teachers. The teachers in the schools in this area allowed their students to collect some samples such as fossils at the outcrop, before the study centre appeared. Nowadays, the students can make an observations about fossils at the study centre instead of collecting molluscs from beds so that the outcrop will not been damaged by students. Another merit to conduct science classes in the geopark is the teachers can work with a good field guide who works for the study centre. The subject of the educational activities in the geopark is to evaluate achievement from view of science education.



Figure 1: Collapsed spine, Oga peninsula, Akita, Japan

References:

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