



日本ユネスコ国内委員会

Japanese National Commission for UNESCO

Regional training course on UNESCO Global Geoparks Perspectives for National Commissions for UNESCO in Asia and the Pacific Region



Eri Hata

Japanese National Commission for UNESCO / MEXT

30 May 2018



文部科学省

MEXT

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION,
CULTURE, SPORTS,

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY-JAPAN

Outline

- Development of UGGPs in Japan
- Role of JGC
- Japanese National Commission for UNESCO (JP-Natcom)
- Role of JP-Natcom
- Cooperation
- Future Actions?



UNESCO Global Geoparks in Japan

Total 9 areas are designated as UGGPs in Japan

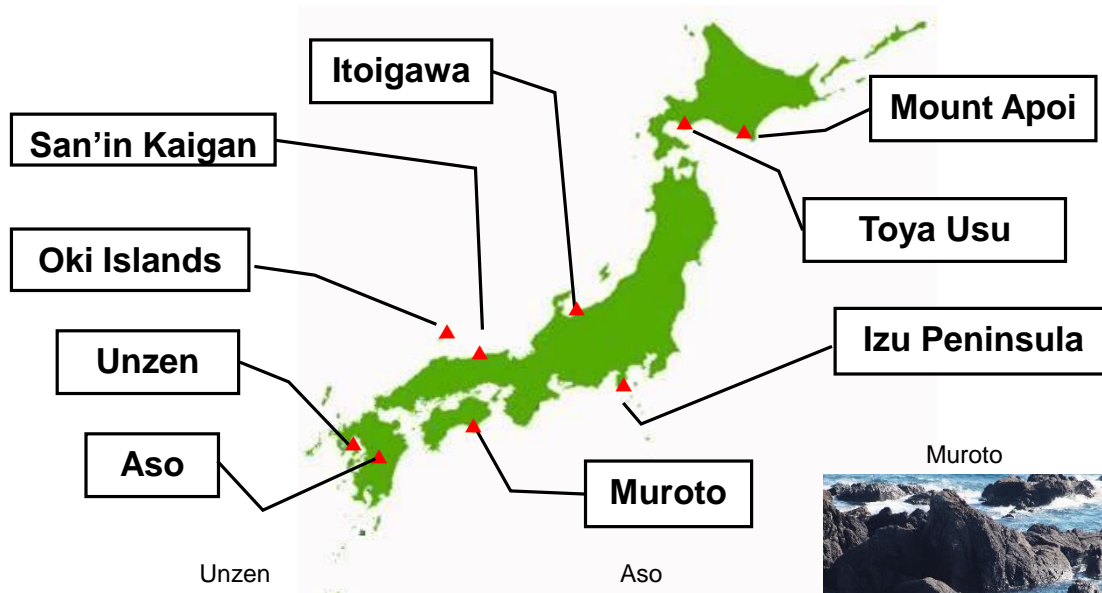
Itoigawa



San'in Kaigan



Oki Islands



Mount Apoi



Toyako Usu



Izu



Unzen



Aso



Muroto



日本ユネスコ国内委員会事務局



文部科学省

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, CULTURE, SPORTS,
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY-JAPAN

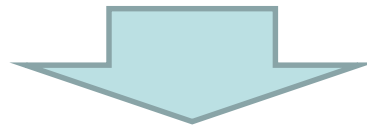
Geopark activities in Japan have been very active even before the establishment of UNESCO Global Geoparks in 2015.

There is also a national system for “Japanese Geoparks.”

Why?

Geopark activities are:

- ✓ bottom-up approach
- ✓ empower local communities
- ✓ Opportunity to develop cohesive partnerships with the common goal of promoting the area's significant features



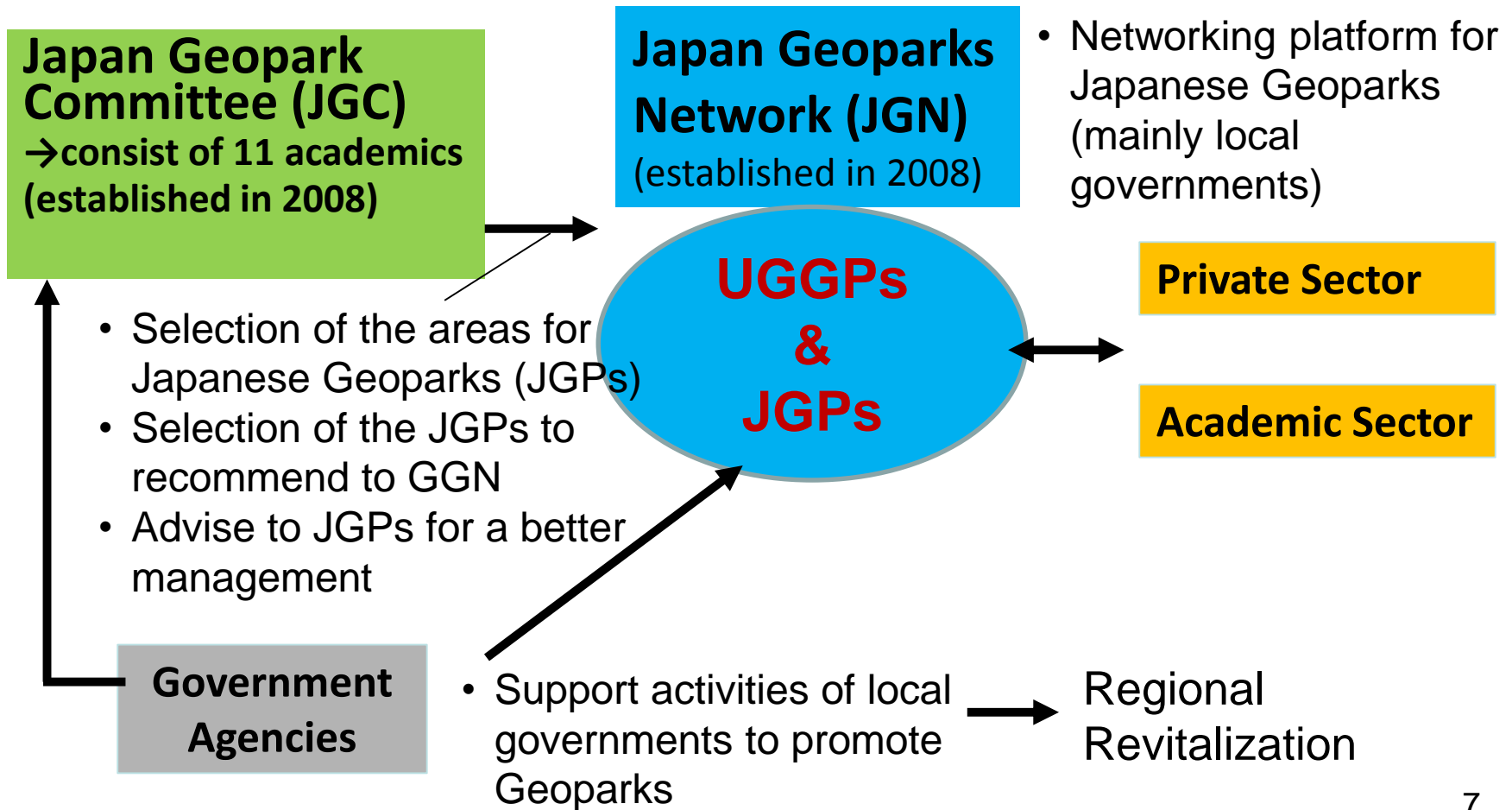
Local Creation / Vitalizing Local Economy
(地方創成)

Local Governments are very keen to
utilize Geoparks as a tool for
vitalizing local society and economy



Geoparks Community in Japan

2 main functioning organizations:



Related Central Governments

- Cabinet Office (Office for Promotion of Regional Vitalization)
- Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications
- Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
- Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry
- Ministry of Education, Sports, Culture, Science and Technology
- Agency for Cultural Affairs
- Ministry of Environment
- Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transports; Japan Tourism Agency

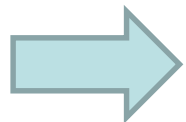
UGGPs in Japan

Nov 2015:

GGP became one of the UNESCO programs

Jan 2016:

Japanese Natcom formally recognized and designated the **JGC as a National Committee for UGGP in Japan** (a certifying letter from the Natcom was issued)



JGC continues to be an evaluation/advisory body for UGGPs in Japan

9

National Geopark Committee

(Article 4.4 Operational Guidelines for UNESCO Global Geoparks)

- MS should play an active role in the development of their UNESCO Global Geoparks. As such, and only if the Member State wishes to do so, **the creation of a National Geopark Committee is recommended.**
- These “National Committees” could be named differently, for example, National Forum, National Task Force or Task Group.
- **These committees may be created by the competent entity in charge of Geoparks in that Member State.**
- **The committees must be recognized by that Member State’s National Commission for UNESCO or the relevant government body in charge of relations with UNESCO.**
- These committees should also liaise with existing national committees for the IGCP where applicable.

10



National Commissions (Natcoms) for UNESCO

- UNESCO is the only UN Agency to have a global network of national cooperating bodies known as National Commissions (Natcoms) for UNESCO.
- Set up by governments **to act in an advisory capacity** to their delegations to the General Conference, to the representatives and alternates of their countries on the Executive Board and to their Governments in matters relating UNESCO.
- Natcoms operate, on a permanent basis, **for the purpose of associating their governmental and non-governmental bodies** in education, sciences, culture and communication with the work of UNESCO.
- Natcoms, **acting as agencies of consultation, liaison and information, and mobilizing and coordinating partnerships with national partners, including the civil society**, make substantial contributions in the advancement of UNESCO's objectives and in the implementation of its programme.



Japanese Natcom for UNESCO (JNCU)



日本ユネスコ国内委員会

Japanese National Commission for UNESCO

(Article 5, Chapter 2, Law concerning UNESCO Activities)

The Japanese National Commission for UNESCO is **established as special organs in the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology as the organization for advice, planning, liaison, and study regarding UNESCO-related activities in Japan.**

12



Japanese Natcom for UNESCO (JNCU)



日本ユネスコ国内委員会

Japanese National Commission for UNESCO

General Assembly

Steering Committee

Nomination Committee

Working Group for the SDGs

Specialized Committee

Education Committee

Natural Science Committee

Special Subcommittee for IOC

Special Subcommittee for MAB

Special Subcommittee for IHP

Cultural Activities Committee

Selection Subcommittee for MoW

Human and Social Science Committee

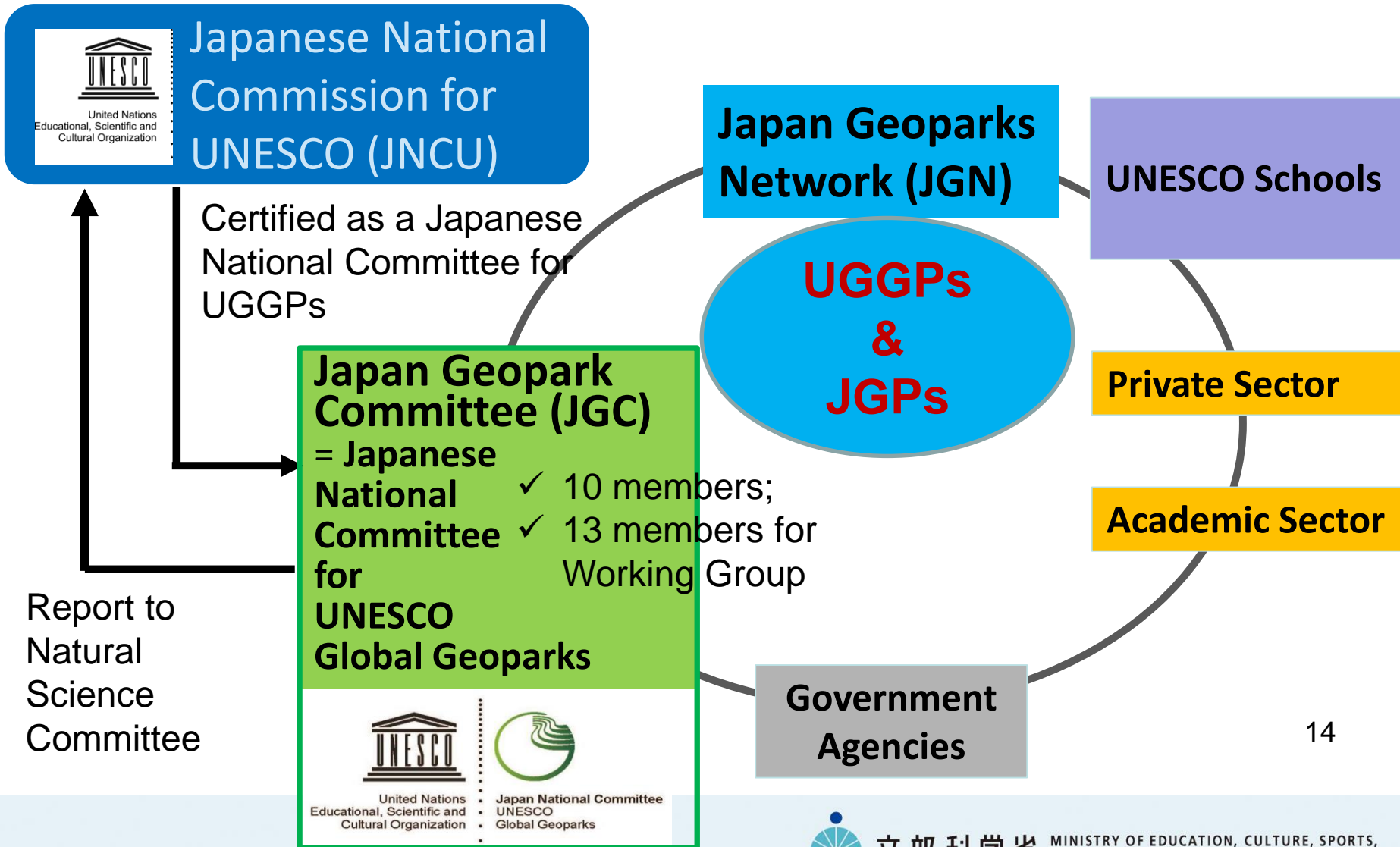
Communication Committee

Public Information Activities Committee

13



Geoparks Community in Japan NOW



National Geopark Committee

(Article 4.4 Operational Guidelines for UNESCO Global Geoparks – **Possible balanced National Geopark Committee composition:**)

Representative(s) of / from

- the National Commission for UNESCO and/or the relevant government body in charge of relations with UNESCO;
- the national geological organization or survey;
- the national environmental/protected area organization;
- the national cultural heritage body;
- the national tourism organization;
- the national committee for IGCP;
- UNESCO Global Geoparks, where they exist, in that Member State (possibly rotating in countries with many UNESCO Global Geoparks); and
- Different and additional members may be included as seen appropriate to fit the particular national context.

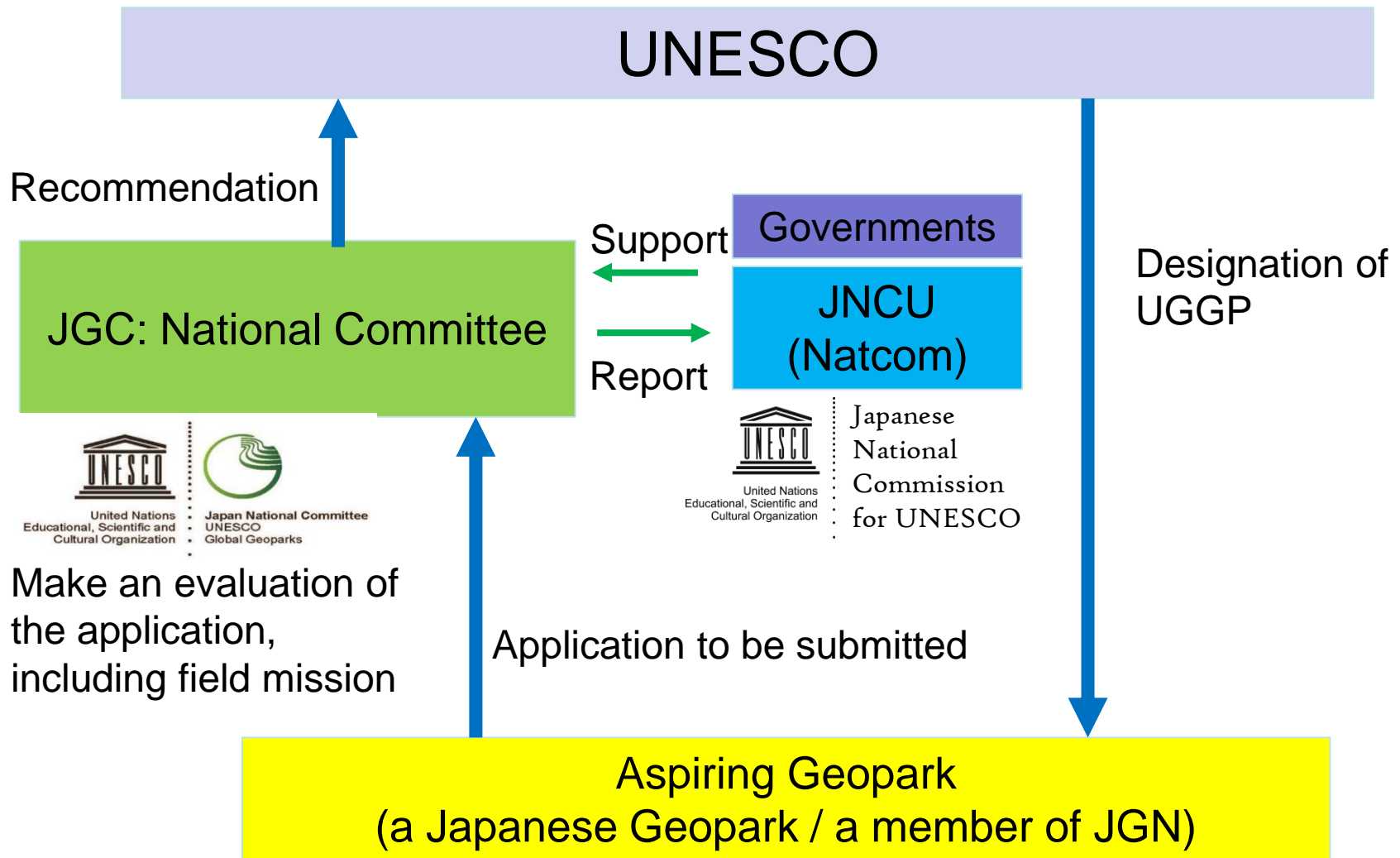


“Japanese Geoparks” designated by JGC are eligible for submitting applications for UGGs.

Main Role of JGC

- Discuss application procedures
- Develop evaluation criteria
- Evaluate candidates for aspiring UGGPs in Japan
- Conducts evaluation including field missions
- Take other necessary actions needed for evaluation procedures; advising UGGPs for improvements in Japan

Current Procedure of new UGGP nomination in Japan



Main role of JNCU and Government

- Monitor JGC's activities as National Committee
 - Support JGC's activities as National Committee
- ➡ MEXT supports a cost of secretariat of JGC (=JGN)
- Correspond with UNESCO through an official channel when necessary
- ➡ JNCU issues a Support Letter for the Application for designation as the UNESCO Global Geopark

Cooperation

- Organize training course through Japan-Funds-in-Trust (JFIT)
- Promote UGGPs in the context of ESD

Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) empowers people to change the way they think and work towards a sustainable future.

Future Actions?

Future Actions?

Further Promotion of initiatives:

- To create synergy between UGGP and other UNESCO programme
(e.g. MAB/Biosphere Reserves, World Heritage)
- To contribute to achieving SDGs

UNESCO Biosphere Reserves in Japan

Total 9 areas in Japan



Hakusan



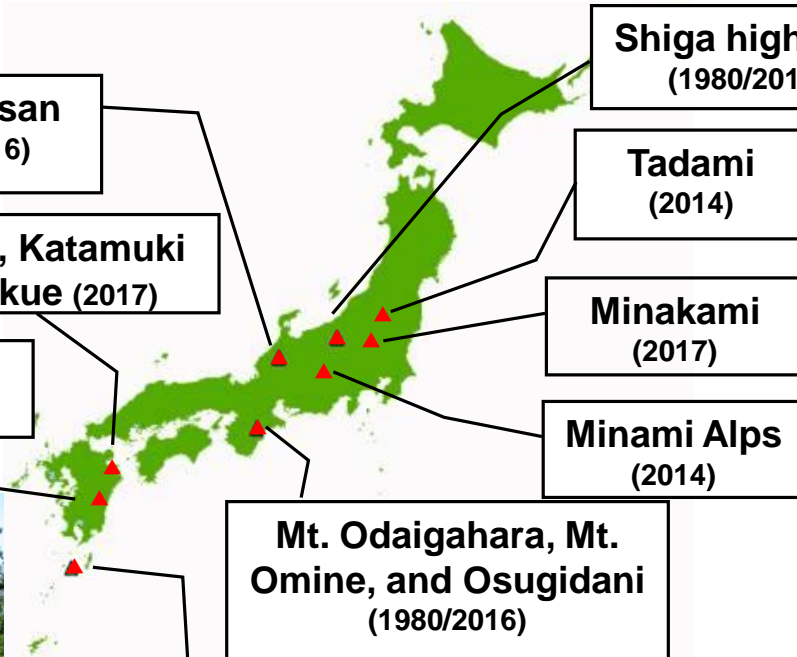
Mt. Sobo



Aya



Yakushima



Shiga Highland



Tadami



Minakami



Mt. Odaigahara, Mt. Omine and Osugidani



Minami Alps

Thank you
&
Enjoy the Course!