

Geopark activities utilizing results and materials of Cretaceous researches in the Mikasa Geopark

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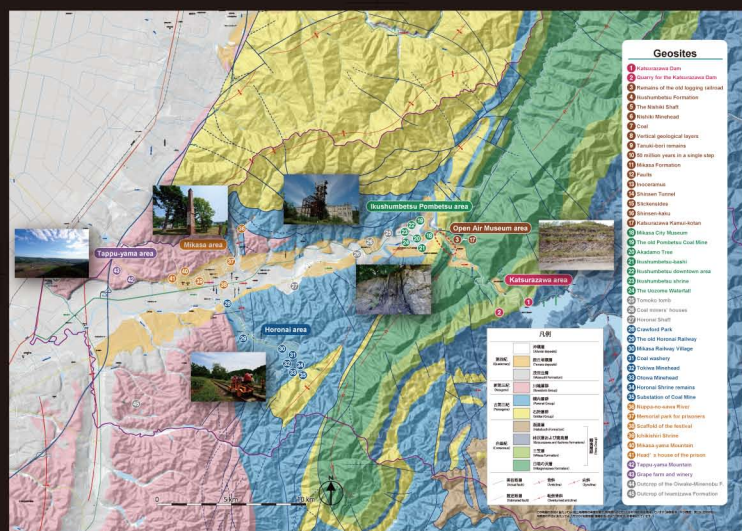
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Introduction

The Mikasa Geopark is a place where you can enjoy a time travel for 100 million years. This geopark was admitted to the Japanese Geoparks Network in 2013.

The Cretaceous Yezo Group, interpreted as forearc basin sediments, is widely distributed in the Mikasa Geopark. This group was probably deposited at approximately 35–45 °N along a westward subduction margin in the northeastern Asian continent. The strata yield abundant, well-preserved macro- and microfossils, and thus there are many paleontological studies using materials from the Yezo Group. Moreover, the Cretaceous period was characterized by one of the warmest climates during the Phanerozoic. Knowledge of the Cretaceous ocean-climate systems, therefore, provides important information for our life and environments undergoing the effects of global warming.



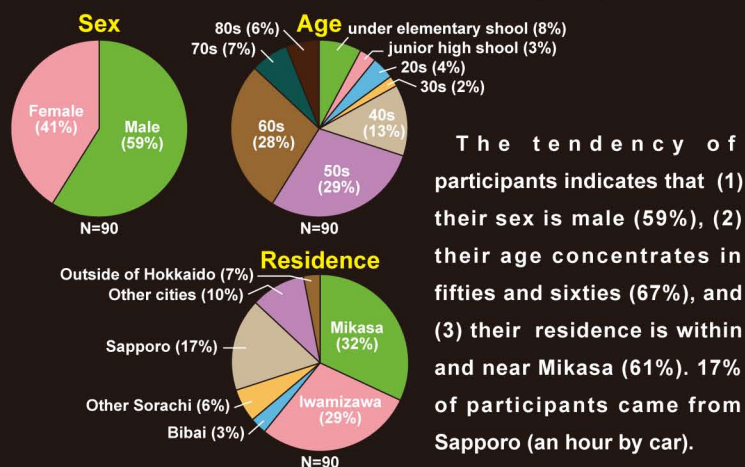
Geo-tour utilizing the Cretaceous strata

There are 45 geosites (6 areas) in the Mikasa Geopark, and the Cretaceous strata are distributed in the Open-Air Museum and Katsurazawa areas. In 2013, we hold the two courses of the geo-tour visiting the outcrop of Cretaceous strata, and carried out a questionnaire survey to participants.

Tour A: Open Air Museum Course



Tour B: Katsurazawa Course



Experience-based program utilizing Cretaceous fossils

There are various experience-based programs utilizing Cretaceous fossils as the museum activities. In these programs, participants can look for calcareous concretions including Cretaceous fossils, excavate fossils in calcareous concretions, and learn about ammonites in detail.

Looking for Cretaceous fossils



Excavating fossils



Learning about fossils



The Mikasa City Museum was established in 1979 to preserve the natural, social, and industrial history of Mikasa. Also referred to as the “Museum of Fossils”, it is known for having the largest collection of Cretaceous ammonite fossils in Japan.

The museum has three curators, and their specialty are geology, paleontology and folklore. They promote not only their researches, but also outreach programs in the Mikasa Geopark.