

## **Bandaisan Geopark: Japanese Geoparks Network**

The Japanese Geoparks Network (JGN) includes nearly 50 geoparks, 10 of which are also UNESCO Global Geoparks. The network was established in 2007 to connect professional geologists and private organizations involved in geological research. The first geoparks were designated the following year, and the network became a nonprofit organization in 2009. Bandaisan Geopark was certified by the JGN in 2011. Like all geoparks around the world, it is recertified every 4 years.

In addition to overseeing and certifying the geoparks in Japan, the JGN holds information-sharing events and offers support to areas that have been affected by natural disasters. Both the Japanese Geoparks and UNESCO Global Geoparks organizations prioritize the involvement of residents in establishing dialogues, sharing knowledge, and collaboratively building a future for the community and the natural environment. This approach is based on the core values of education, conservation, and sustainable development.