A practice of wise use, achieved by collaborative work with different sectors in Asahidake area, Daisetsuzan National Park

Kazuhiro ARAI

A director of NEOS (Nature Experience Outdoor School Hokkaido)

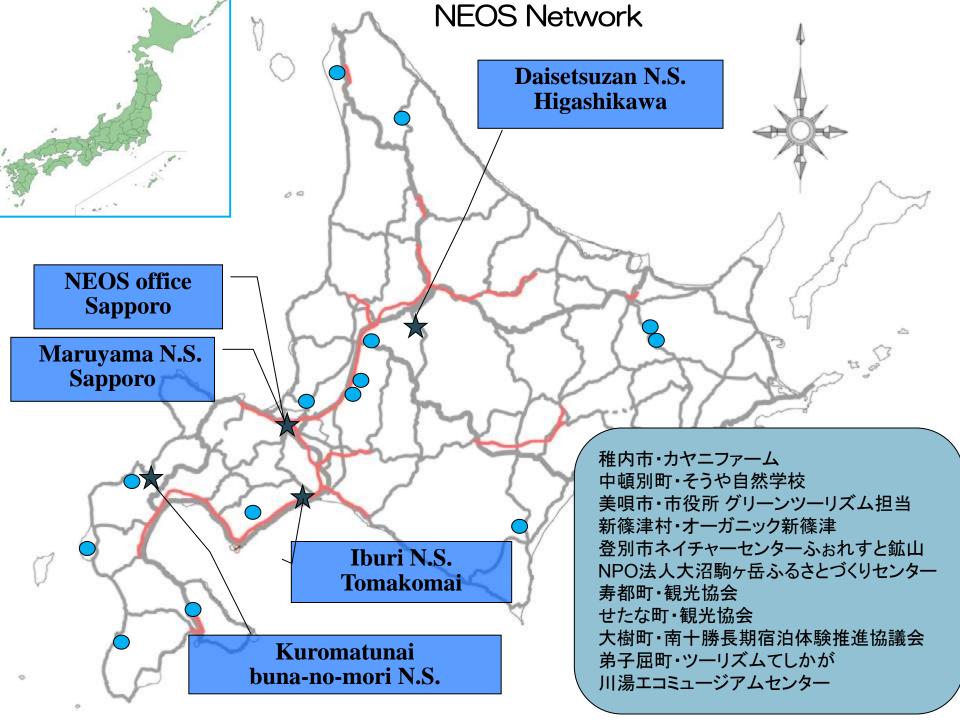
What is NEOS?

- We are a "Nature Experience Outdoor School". Users of nature.
- Aim : supporting sustainable community development by experiential leaning in nature and community.
- Our specialty is experiential learning in nature
- Main project: 1 E.E. / O.E. (ex. summer camp for children)

2 Eco-tours

3 Education and training for leaders or guides.





Mt. Asahidake Area in Daisetsuzan National Park



Sugatami circuit



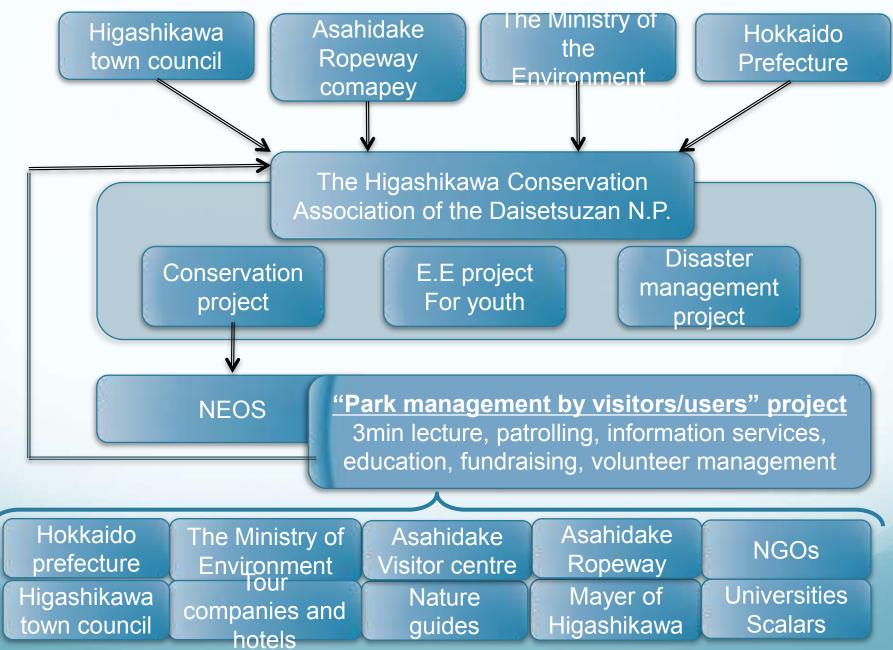
- 1600m height
- Ropeway access.
- 13,000 ropeway ride /season
- A gate to Mt. Asahidake
- 1.7km around
- Various alpine flora
- Maintained track



Data of our project

- Period: from the 15th May to the 15th of November (6months)
- Area: Sugatami circuit(1.7km) + surrounding tracks (8km) in Mt. Asahidake area (Higashikawa town district) in Daisetsuzan National Park.
- **Staff:** 7rangers. 4 full time (5days a week) + 3 part time (3days a week)
- The organisation and the stakes holders: the next page
- work: the next page.

The organisation & the stakes holders



The work

- Keeping the park clean and tidy.
- Patrolling stealing plants and animals
- Track maintenance
- Supporting researches
- Information service desk
- 3 minutes lecture (every15min)
- Training the rangers and volunteers
 Fundraising (donation, rental gumboo





Achievements; Information service

- Providing the lecture & setting up the info counter (the ropeway company)
- Collecting flowering data and accumulate it for the flowering calendar (Asahidake visitor centre)
- Weekly "Nature letter" in 4languages -English, Chinese, Korean, Japanese- (to other NGOs)





 通行素内テーブTEL 合交通情報

 ①相当条街へは冬
 ②町道忠別ダム天人 できません。道道

> ③11월 11일부터 1기 운행안내음성 TEL:0 교통정보 ④ 아사히다케 온천: ② 초도주배쓰다무평남: 이불가능합니다.도도 여불가능합니다.도도 조대하여 등관 + 대해 文通信息

(2011月1日至10日→ (2011月1日至10日→ (2011月1日至10日→ (2011月1日至10日→ (2011月1日至10日) 「支通信息 順往指岳温泉街的開 町道——忠別坝天人 请利用遺道(1160号 From Oct 21th, Rog

From Nov 1st to 10

A month from Nov

Tape for informati Traffic informat If you come to Asa freezing. Town roa

Achievements; Fundraising

- Lecture and guide's comments, encourage donation. (guides, tour operators)
- Gumboots rental: visitors are happy to pay for the service and the environment. (ropeway company buys us the gumboots)







Track maintenance

「近自然工法」 「Naturnaher」

Use natural rocks from the surrounding

Steps are at the both sides and less than 50cm.

Hikers volunteer to carry the rocks.

Making the way what people want to walk.



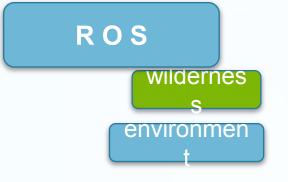
Track maintenance

Putting the course rope up.

The rope are height of knee and hip.

Signs to go back to the ropeway during snow season.

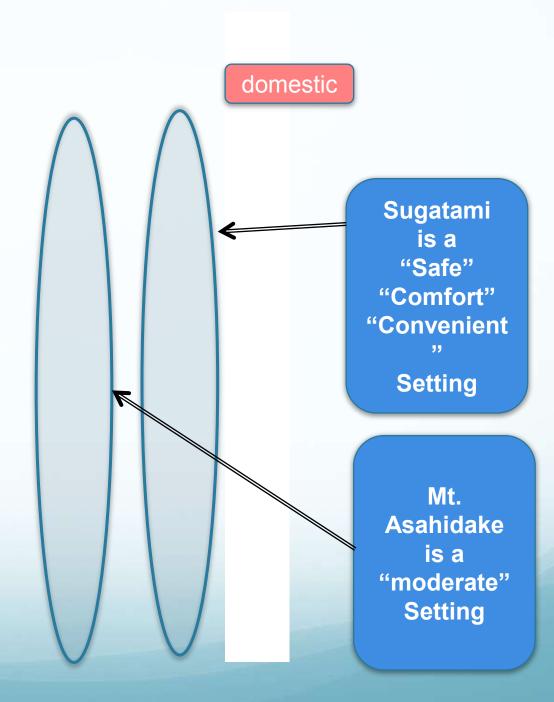






manageme

nt



Practical skills

- Steps are within 50cm, and are placed both sides of the track.
- The height of the course ropes are at the knee and hip.
- Listening to the lecture together with other visitors creates a mutual resistant. Visitors check each others behavior.
- Not give them restrictions, but let know supportive info of what they want to do.
- Inform to walk clock way at the lecture. (according to a research of prof. Aikoh from Hokkaido Uni.)

The concept/ main idea

"Park management by visitors/users"

• Past Visitors VS rangers

Visitors feel no responsibility to the park mgmt and complain. Rangers prohibit using the uncontrolled, unmaintained area.

•<u>Now Visitors = rangers</u> visitors use the park wisely with controlling their behaviors which reduce the impact to the environment. Not only nature but social environment, like noise.

"Reducing the management cost, increasing the income"
Reducing the cost: volunteer, double achievements in single task.
Increasing the income: providing better services

challenges

- Cost of coordinator
- Communication with the stakes holders
- Service for various types of visitors (disable, oversea visitors)



In the next a few years

- Organising "Daisetsuzan supporters' club" Fundraising/promotion organization Asking all the uses of Daisetsuzan. Not only the visitors. (ex., farmers, Sake factories = using water)
- Developing the management skills and share them to other parks and areas.





Kazuhiro Arai

araikazu@neos.gr.jp

