

Report of the Activity of Gondwana Institute for Geology and Environment (GIGE) Main Office in 2018

Dear GIGE Fellows and Friends,

I believe you have been fine and doing well in the year of 2018. I have been also OK luckily, and am pleased to be able to send you the activity report of the GIGE main office.

Major undertakings

1. In March the [7th Student Himalayan Exercise Tour \(SHET-7\)](#) of 13 days in Nepal was successfully conducted with 16 participants. In May editing and publication of its report book (PDF version) [Traversing the Himalayan Orogen 2018](#) was completed and distributed along with the advertisement of the [SHET-8](#) to related organizations and individuals. From May onwards, preparation for the 8th SHET started. Now in December, 17 students including mostly from Japan and two from Nepal and one from China, and two Japanese citizens registered as the member of the 2019 tour team. I am happy to note that the collaboration of Hayato Ikeda, the Shinshu University student in advertising the SHET-8 was quite effective for the call-for-participants.



The 7th SHET team in Lete, Nepal, with Dhaulagiri on the back

2. Writing and submission of manuscripts were the second major activity mostly conducted in Hakuba laboratory of GIGE. In April the manuscript *Early Paleozoic Zircon aAes of the Higher Himalayan Gneisses of the Everest Region and Their Pan-African/Proto-Himalayan Orogenic Signature* coauthored by G. Gehrels, B.N. Upreti and S.M. Rai was submitted to the Journal of Nepal Geological Society, [Conversation and Commentary at the 50 Years Anniversary of the First Discovery of](#)

[Yamato Meteorite](#) (in Japanese) was submitted to Chigaku Kyoiku to Kagaku Undo (Education of geoscience and movement for science) in June and published in November. A manuscript *Academic Alpine Club of Hokkaido and Earth Science* (in Japanese) coauthored by O. Watanabe was submitted to Be Ambitious (Kansai Chapter of Hokkaido University Graduates) in July and published in September. The manuscript [The Mountaineering Activity of Youth Contributes to Natural Science](#) (in Japanese) coauthored by O. Watanabe was submitted to Chigaku Kyoiku to Kagaku Undo in July and is to appear next March. The manuscript *Active Glaciers in Japan: Commentary on the Perennial Snow Patches with Ice Masses* (in Japanese) was submitted to The Journal of the Geological Society of Japan in November.

3. Preparation and presentation of topics on the [SHET program] and [AACH and earth science] at several society meetings were the third major activity. The meetings include 2018 yearly assembly of the Association for the Geological Collaboration in Japan (Chidanken) in Ichihara (August), Geological Society of Japan Academic Assembly in Sapporo (September), International Association for Gondwana Research and 15th International Conference on the Gondwana to Asia in Xian (September), and 9th Symposium on Polar Science in Tachikawa (December).

Miscellaneous Activities

There were several other impressive activities in 2018 including the 50 years anniversary assembly of the 10th Japanese Antarctic Research Expedition (JARE) in Nagoya (May) where recalling talks and ideas among those who were concerned with the first discovery of Yamato Meteorites were exchanged, [a friendship meeting of SHET participants in Hakuba](#) (August), 50 years anniversary assembly of the Patagonia Glacial Expedition in Tokyo (June), participation of Yoshida to the All-Japan Large Ball Table Tennis Tournament in Fukushima (November).

In December the Yahoo Japan informed us that their geocities activity will be closed in March 2019 and so GIGE will have to try to identify a new provider.

In the last but most important, I hope you and us to be healthy and prosperous for the coming new year.

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SHET students re-assembled in Sapporo in front of the SHET Poster



SHET participants friendship meeting in Hakuba, August. (Photo taken by Yoshida)