

GIGE 2019 Yearly Report

Activities of the Gondwana Institute for Geology and Environment (GIGE) Main Office during the 2019 fiscal year (January-December 2019) are given below. Monthly activity record and account report are given separately in other files and linked above.

<Major activities>

1. Student Himalayan Field Exercise Program

- (1) Preparation for the 8th Student Himalayan Exercise Tour (SHET-8) (January-February).
- (2) Implementation of the SHET-8 (March): Number of participants were 20, including 14 students from 10 universities from all over Japan, 1 high school girl, 2 citizens, 1 student from NW university of China and 2 Nepalese students. The Nepalese students were funded by the SHET-8 and the Chinese student was supported by IAGR. The tour course was Kathmandu-Pokhara-Muktinath-Pokhara-Lumbini-Narayangath-Kathmandu, same as in the last tour. One bus or several jeeps were used throughout the tour, either along the highways or on the mountain road. The weather was mostly fine during the tour and fantastic Himalayan view blessed the tour at various places. However, the fossil outcrop near Muktinath was covered by snow and the tour met some difficulty in searching for fossils. Further, jeeps met several problems along the course Kagbeni and Tatopani, and therefore the tour members were obliged to walk diligently at several sections of the course.



SHET-8 team on the east terrace of Kagbeni, with the Mustang mountains behind

- (3) Reporting SHET-8 (March-May): [Report of the tour outline](#) was disclosed on the GIGE home page (March) and also published on the Geological Society of Japan

News (GSJ News, April). A full report book "[Traversing the Himalayan Orogen 2019](#) – A record of the 8th SHET in March 2019" (PDF version, Field science publishers, 225 pages) was published in May.

- (4) [Advertisement for SHET-9](#) and preparation for the tour (May – December): The advertisement for SHET-9 was done using internet, SNS of past participants, GJS News, Sokuho (Quick Newsletter) of The Association for the Geological Collaboration in Japan (Chidanken), etc, by presentations at four geoscientific societies in Japan, and by sending SHET-9 program and call-for-participants to geoscientific 72 departments of Japanese universities. Those who hoped to join the tour appeared in May onwards and reached to 23 in early November, and then call-for-participants was closed. At that time, the registered participants included 19 students from 9 universities in Japan and 4 citizens. In addition to the above, 2 Nepalese students are expected to join the tour, and so the total number of participants attains 25 excluding leaders. Providing information to participants and discussion and negotiation with Nepalese trekking company and hotels have been continuously done from June onwards.

2. Presentation, writing, submission and publication of papers

- (1) [Early Paleozoic zircon ages of the Higher Himalayan Gneisses of the Everest Region and their Pan-African/Proto-Himalayan orogenic signature] (M. Yoshida, G. Gehrels, B.N. Upreti, S.M. Rai) received severe but positive reviews (June 2018), corrected manuscript was submitted and published (January – April, Journal of Nepal Geological Society, Vol. 59).
- (2) [Japan-Nepal joint Student Himalayan Exercise Program 7 years](#)] (M. Yoshida, K. Arita, T. Sakai, B.N. Upreti) received positive reviews, corrected manuscript was submitted and published (January-February, Universal Journal of Geoscience, Vol. 7, No. 1).
- (3) [Youth's mountaineering and natural sciences](#) – Example of geoscientific activities of graduates of the Academic Alpine Club of Hokkaido, part. 1 and part 2, (in Japanese)] (June and November), Chigakukyoiku and Kagaku-undo (Education and Movement in Earth Sciences), Vols. 82, 83.
- (4) [Active glaciers in Japan](#) – Definition and classification of glaciers (in Japanese)] received severe reviews, re-written, submitted and accepted (April-November, Journal of Geological Society of Japan).
- (5) [Japanese glaciers and world glaciers](#) – From the excursion to view the Kakunesato glacier in the Hida Mountains, part 1 and part 2 (in Japanese)] received positive reviews, corrected version submitted, accepted and part 1 appeared in Chigaku Kyoiku to Kagaku Undo, Vol. 83.
- (6) [Discovery of Yamato meteorites in 1969](#) (in Japanese, invited)] submitted and accepted (October) in Kyokuchi (Polar Region).

3. Presentations at geoscientific societies

Four topics related with the Student Himalayan Exercise Program were delivered at Chidanken (August, Tokyo), GSJ (September, Yamaguchi), IAGR (November, Kohchi), and Polar Science Symposium (December, Tachikawa). These presentations aimed to advertise the SHET program and call-for-participants to the SHET-9. At the GSJ symposium, [Active glaciers in Japan] (Quaternary session) and [Youth' mountaineering and natural sciences] (Cultural geology session) were also delivered.

<Other activities>

January-March: Removal of GIGE homepage (below).

January-March: Prof. T.N. Bhattarai and Mrs. Bhattarai visited Japan and [we escorted them to Koya san and San-in Geopark](#).

August: Friendship [meeting of SHET OBs and OGs](#) was conducted in Hakuba village, where 10 people assembled and enjoyed a variety of matters.

<Notice>.

The GIGE homepage removed due to the close of Yahoo Geocities. The new provider is lolipop and the new address is:

<http://www.gondwanainst.org/>

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At the Genbudo, San-in Geopark



SHET friendship assembly, August, Hakuba



With the SHET-8 poster, participants of SHETs (August, Geological Society of Japan convention)