

Toya-Usu  
UNESCO Global Geopark Team  
Japan

**Division of Ecological and Earth Sciences  
Earth Sciences and Geoparks Section**

23 May 2024

Ref: SC/EES/EG/24/149

Dear Sir/Madam

I have the pleasure to inform you that the UNESCO Global Geoparks Council convened its eighth meeting in Marrakesh (Morocco), on 4 – 5 September 2023 followed by a virtual session that was held on 7 - 8 December 2023. As a result of this comprehensive evaluation, **Toya-Usu UNESCO Global Geopark** has been awarded a "**green card**" for a further four-year period – from 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2027 - with the following recommendations:

**Visibility:**

*Gradually standardize the use of the newly updated UGGp logo, especially on new panels, improving the visibility and recognition of the UGGp. Explain the concept of a UNESCO Global Geopark and the regional (APGN) and global network (GGN) further in this communication material.*

**Information, Education and Research:**

*Consider promoting the concept of the Volcano Meisters amongst the global geoparks network as a good practice.*

**Safety and Security**

*To increase the safety of visitors, make sure they are informed about the risks related to wild animals and that they know how to react in case of an encounter with them.*

**Cultural Heritage:**

*Develop more cooperation through joint research or co-branded activities with the Cultural Heritage sites for a better understanding and interconnection between the UNESCO World Cultural heritage and UNESCO Global Geopark.*

**Geotourism:**

*For a better geotourism development invest more in social media communication and promotion and, encourage visitors to share their travel experiences and photos on social media.*

**Partnership:**

*Consider extending the excellent partnership cooperation with new partners like for example popular and large hotels (e.g. Toya Nonokaza Resort).*

With many thanks for contributing to UNESCO's aims and looking forward to a continued fruitful cooperation.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kristof Vandenberghe', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Kristof Vandenberghe  
Secretary, International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme  
Chief of Earth Sciences and Geoparks Section

Cc: Permanent Delegation of Japan to UNESCO  
Japanese National Commission for UNESCO