

Culture geology – Salzburg to Japan

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Culture geology – that was originally proposed by Prof. Wolfgang Vetter, University of Salzburg, as Kulturgeologie in the journal “Mitteilungen der Österreichischen Geologischen Gesellschaft”, volume 93 (2003). In his article he defined culture geology as the interactive field of geology with cultural sciences. He mentioned also that culture geology is not a new discipline of geosciences, but it gives attractive presentation of geosciences to the public.

My first experience of culture geology is the attendance of the conference in Gmunden (Beiträge zur Geologie des Salzkammerguts: Weidinger *et al.*, 2003) in August 2003. In this conference such culture-geological presentations were made: geotourism in Salzkammergut, geographical park of Dachstein, geotrail projects of Henndorf and Wolfgangsee, etc. I have been fascinated by new trend of geosciences as well as the radiolarian biostratigraphy of the Northern Calcareous Alps, and tried to incorporate it to Japan. First I have made a geotrail in the children park on small granitic hill, Okayama city, Japan (Suzuki *et al.*, 2009). This geotrail project was just a copy of Austrian geotrails like Wolfgangsee, Kapfenstein etc. At that time I was satisfied with making copy of the Austrian culture geology.

On the March 11, 2011, however, northeast Japan was strongly shaken and its pacific coast was attacked by too high wave of tsunami. Although the catastrophe was caused by geological phenomena, Japanese geology could not help even one of victims. Under the consideration of the situation of geological academia in Japan, it was needed a new research field to connect geology and the public. So I have tried to introduce the concept of culture geology, the link between geology and human beings. In the year 2014, the first session of culture geology was held in the meeting of the Geological Society of Japan in Kagoshima. After 2015 to present, the Kakenhi-project of culture geology is supported by JSPS (Japan Society for the Promotion of Science). And in 2018 we have founded the Society of Culture Geology on the March 10, with 48 members in Kyoto. Now a new journal “Geology and Culture” is editing. The society is open not only for Japanese but also for anyone having interest to culture geology all the world.

In my talk the features of Japanese culture geology are introduced, especially with animistic point of view, in comparison with European geocultures.

Acknowledgements. I express my many thanks to Prof. Hans-Jürgen Gawlick for inviting to Leoben in 2002–2003 and 2006–2007. The research stay gave me a clue to the connection to Austrian geosciences including the culture geology.

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