

## **6<sup>th</sup> World Trails Conference Successfully Held in Tottori**

Delegates from 58 trail organizations and 19 countries gathered to take part in the World Trails Conference in Tottori. In addition to this, participants from over 33 countries and regions took part in the various activities and events held throughout the four-day conference.

This was the largest World Trails Conference ever to be held as representatives from each continent (with the exception of Antarctica) gathered for the first time and over 30 new organizations joined the conference, opening the way for a new stage in widening the global trails network.

World Trails Network delegates engaged in discussions during the conference, acknowledging the healing effects of trails, expressing commitment in bringing about the healing of nature, people and culture through trails, and declaring the “The Tottori World Trails Accord”.

The following specific commitments were made by WTN:

- Facilitate the initiation of new friendship trails.
- Expansion of international trails network.
- Encourage United Nations to establish “International World Trails Day”
- Consider commencing “Clean Walking Campaign” to make trails spotless and beautiful.

WTN called for “International World Trails Day” to be established on October 16<sup>th</sup>. Signatures of 30 delegates were collected in an effort to encourage the United Nations to sanction this day which coincides with the declaration of Tottori World Trails Accord.

Sanin Kaigan Geopark Trail Council and Greece’s Kythera Hiking Project formed a friendship agreement, committing to cultural exchanges, networking and information sharing.

Galicia, Spain, was selected to host the next WTC in 2018.