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## Future Meetings Calendar

2nd Asian - Pasific Geoparks Conference - 3rd International Symposium on development within Geoparks  
August - September 2009 - China  
Mt. Taisan Geopark

8th European Geoparks Conference  
14 - 18 September 2009 - Portugal  
Naturtejo Geopark

International Intensive Course on Geoparks 2009  
28 September - 5 October 2009 - Lesvos – Greece  
Lesvos Petrified Forest Geopark

1st Latin American Geoparks Conference  
December 2009 or January 2010 - Brazil  
Araipe Geopark

4th International UNESCO Conference on Geoparks 2010  
11 - 16 April 2010 - Malaysia  
Lankawi Geopark

25th European Geoparks Meeting 2010  
March 2010 –France  
Luberon Geopark

26th European Geoparks Meeting 2010 (27 - 29 September, 2010)  
9th European Geoparks Conference (30 September - 2 October, 2010)  
Lesvos Petrified Forest Geopark

*Thanks for reading this newly redesigned newsletter. While the format has changed, it will still keep you up to date on events within the Global Geoparks Network. You are receiving this newsletter as you have expressed an interest in suggestions for the next issue, please feel free to contact:*

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Website: [www.globalgeopark.org](http://www.globalgeopark.org)*



# 3rd International Symposium on Development within Geoparks

## Geo-heritage Protection and Cooperation

The 3rd International Symposium on Development within Geoparks: Geo-heritage Protection and Cooperation is going to be held in Taishan Global Geopark in Shandong Province, China on August 22-25, 2009.

The theme of the Symposium is to enhance cooperation and exchanges among geoparks worldwide so as to promote the protection of geo-heritages.

“International Symposia on the Development within Geoparks” are held every two years in Chinese global or national geoparks in turn. So far, two symposia of this kind were

successfully convened, with the 1st one in Yuntaishan Global Geopark in May, 2006 and the 2nd one in Lushan Global Geopark in June, 2007. With geo-heritage protection drawing

more and more attention from various social sectors and geoparks worldwide being developed into an interactive network, enhancing cooperation and exchanges among geoparks worldwide is regarded as one of the optimal approaches to protect geo-heritages.

## Sponsors

Department of Science & Technology and International Cooperation, Ministry of Land and Resources of P. R. China (MLR)

Department of Geological Environment, MLR

Department of Land and Resources of Shandong Province

Geological Heritage Beijing Office, the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS)

Administration Committee of Taishan Global Geopark

Chinese Academy of Geological Sciences

China National Committee for IGCP

## Organizers

Tai'an City Administration Committee of the Taishan Scenic Spot

Chinese Academy of Geological Sciences

## Correspondence

All the correspondence concerning the Symposium should be sent to the Secretariat of the meeting with the following address:

## Secretariat

The 3rd International Symposium on Development within Geoparks:

Geo-heritage Protection and Cooperation

Chinese Academy of Geological Sciences

Baiwanzhuang Road 26, Beijing 100037, China

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E-Mail: [dic@cags.net.cn](mailto:dic@cags.net.cn)

Please find the Symposium' scientific topics and other information in the GGN website:

[www.globalgeopark.org](http://www.globalgeopark.org)

or the EGN website:

[www.europeangeoparks.org](http://www.europeangeoparks.org)

South Gate to Heaven, Taishan Global Geopark



©Zhao Hongshan



©Zhao Hongshan



Located around South Gate to Heaven, Heaven Street covers a full length of 500 meters

Mount Taishan, it is a natural treasury accumulated through over several billion years; it is a historical scroll of over million years; and it is a cultural monument of over 5,000 years and it is also a melody to worship the Heaven through a step way of over 7,000 steps.

Mount Taishan is located in the east side of North China Plain, and center of Shandong province. The magnificent and marvelous Mount Taishan rises above the numerous mountains in the south-central Shandong. Mount Tianshan has a long cultural history of over 5000 years, where a lot of cultural relics are preserved. This Mount is also called as the spiritual homestead, it has become a famous tourist destination both China and other countries. In 1987, this Mount was approved as the world natural and cultural site by UNESCO.

The profound cultural history and beautiful scenery of Mount Taishan are attracted by more and more tourists from both domestic and abroad. Besides, its long geological evolutionary history, complex



Mount Taishan Global geopark ©Zhao Hongshan

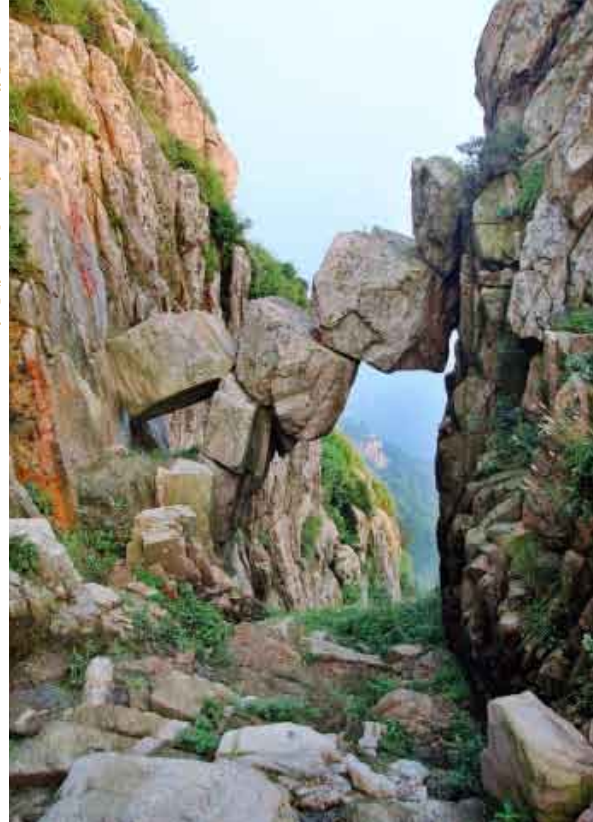
geological structures and important and typical geoheritage have been attended by many geologists. The geological research in Mount

## Introduction Mount Taishan Geopark

Taishan area started in 1868.

Mount Taishan is famed by its long geological evolution, complex geological structure and typical geoheritage. It is a typical area for studying and setting up the framework of Early Precambrian geological evolution in China. The Cambrian section in Zhangxia area is well and completely exposed, yielding abundant index trilobites, which provides major evidence for regional or international Cambrian correlation. The Neotectonic Movement has played a very important role in the geomorphic formation and shaping of Mount Taishan.

Collapse Accumulation--Immortal's Bridge



©Zhao Hongshan



©Luo Tianjie

Gravitational collapse accumulation--Boulder valley

Because Mount Taishan rises up on a vast plain, with a bigger altitude difference compared with other mounts, so people would feel that this mount is extremely lofty and stable, together with the long cultural history and unique Taishan's spirit, and other cultural and natural scenery, Taishan geopark has become a unique tourist destination in the world.







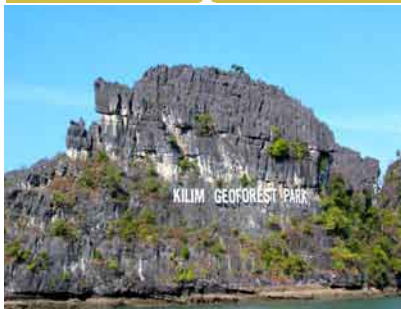
Langkawi Geosites



# “Global Geoparks - The Natural Way Forward ” Langkawi Global Geopark, Malaysia

09th - 15th April 2010

## 4th International UNESCO Conference on Geoparks 2010



The 4th International UNESCO Conference on Geoparks 2010 will be held in Southeast Asia very first global geopark, Langkawi Global Geopark, MALAYSIA.

Langkawi is one of the rare island geoparks in the world comprising 99 islands, possesses the region’s oldest rocks and the most complete Palaeozoic geological history.

### Objective

Closely related to geopark and geoheritage conservation is geotourism, today’s rapidly growing industry that are supported by people seeking for a better appreciation for geoheritage resources and a broader understanding of their living environment in perspective of geological evolution in the past, present day geological processes and the future landscape that will be. The UNESCO Global Geopark initiative is concentrating its effort for protecting and promoting geological sites and at the same time enriching human capital through more holistic environmental protection and creating new opportunities through sustainable recreation and education tourism. The last decades have seen an increasing role played by geosciences in supporting sustainable development at local and global scale. Today, this role is becoming increasingly important as issues related to holistic environmental sustainability, climate change and natural hazard are even more frequently debated.

### Venue

The conference will be held at Awana Porto Malai Langkawi.

### Who should attend?

Participants are expected to come from international community of various backgrounds from researchers in the fields of geoheritage, geotourism, conservation, environment and sustainable development to policy makers, economists, geopark and local community administrators and leaders, NGOs, business operators and individuals with keen interest on geoheritage development.

See: <http://www.geoparks2010.com>

## Call for the organization of the 5th International Conference on Geoparks in 2012

During the 4th International Conference on Geoparks in Langkawi, Malaysia, a decision will be made in consultation with UNESCO on the organization and venue of the 5th International Conference on Geoparks, due to be held in 2012. If your organization is interested in hosting the 2012 Conference, you are kindly invited to submit a well developed technical proposal specifying the offer.

Please ensure that your full bid is submitted by February 2010 to:  
Global Geoparks Secretariat  
Division of Ecological and Earth Sciences  
UNESCO  
1, rue Miollis  
75732 PARIS Cedex 15  
France  
E-mail: [m.patzak@unesco.org](mailto:m.patzak@unesco.org)

©Nickolas Zouros



# Learn everything about the earthquakes in the Lesvos Petrified Forest Geopark

by Nickolas Zouros

An original educational programme was designed by the Lesvos Petrified Forest Geopark and runs in the Natural History Museum in Sigrí. The programme has been enthusiastically welcomed by the schools of Lesvos, but also of other Greek areas that visit the island to participate in it. The theme of the programme is a burning issue in Greece and many other countries located along tectonic plate boundaries. Specifically, the programme concerns the natural phenomenon of the earthquake and seismic hazard.

The 2-hour programme, addressed to basic and secondary educational level, includes a presentation on the causes of earthquakes, the ways the seismic waves travel through the Earth and the catastrophic effects they might have. Subsequently, the children visit the Museum's exhibition hall where they can visualise the movements of the

Earth's crust and their link with the generation of earthquakes through interactive models. A real seismometer records the waves they produce on the ground while walking, while screens show the recordings of the seismographs in Sigrí and the University of Thessaloniki in real time. A poster exhibition gives further information on the connection between mythological characters and natural phenomena, historical earthquakes in the islands on NE Aegean, large faults in these islands linked with the most recent tectonic activity in the Aegean area and other catastrophic natural phenomena linked with the earthquakes. The children have the great opportunity to see a real fault in the back-yard of the museum and understand how the rocks deform, fracture and move along the fault plane. The highlight of the programme, without any doubt, is the seismic table installation of the Museum. The installation, turned into a school-class, can simulate the seismic movement of some of the most destructive earthquakes of the recent years. Children can sit in their

desks and feel the tremors the people of Cobe, Japan, felt on the 17th January 1995, or of Gujarat, India, on the 26th of January 2001. This activity aims to the familiarisation of the children with the right behaviour during and right after an earthquake, since they can practise what they learn during the programme in a perfectly safe environment.

The new educational programme of the Lesvos Petrified Forest Geopark has until now a huge success, since more than 900 children have already participated and about 500 more have already booked. The great value of this programme in an area with very intense seismic activity such as the NE Aegean is evident. Greece, being at the front of the Eurasian tectonic plate which collides with the African one, is the most seismic country in Europe and earthquakes are very usual and, in some areas, even every-day events. The programme targets to the familiarisation of children with earthquakes and natural phenomena that can follow them, as knowledge is the most successful weapon against an earthquake's catastrophic effects.

**23rd May - 7th June 2009**

**Two special weeks to celebrate earth heritage**

## European Geopark Weeks 2009

The European Geoparks Week, taking place at late May early June each year, is a European - wide festival of Geoparks aimed at raising public awareness of geoconservation and promotion of the geological heritage as well as events aimed at informing the wide public about geotouristic and educational activities in geoparks.

Events are varied and include public talks, activity days for schools, guided walks, exhibitions, workshops ,etc. While these activities may be common geopark activities for this one week the activities are coordinated and promoted in the same week across the whole European Network. It provides the Network with the opportunity to demonstrate to our

communities that they are part of a wider European Network which is promoting that the sustainable use of our geological heritage can bring the economic benefit for local people. See COMPILED TOTAL PROGRAM on the European Geoparks Network Website: [www.europeangeoparks.org](http://www.europeangeoparks.org) or the Global Geoparks Network Webstie: [www.globalgeopark.org](http://www.globalgeopark.org)







# The Sardinian Mining Geopark: The Challenge for New Sustainable Economic Development

By Ernestina Giudici, Enrico Secchi and Cristina Secci.

Published by *The International Journal of Environmental, Cultural, Economic and Social Sustainability*

The institution of the Sardinian Mining Geopark represents a development opportunity for an area hit severely by the end of its local mining industry. Sardinian mines have been in operation for over 8,000 years, making them one of the most important economic resources throughout the island's history. The Geopark, awarded with UNESCO recognition, is a new effort to convert – following a previous tough reclamation initiative – the old

mining industry into a new economic development based on sustainability and, to reach this purpose, on a service-based economy.

To do so, it is first imperative that the community's activities significantly reduce environmental pollution, the consequence of so many years of mining exploitation; second, it is necessary to emphasize the importance of human beings and their knowledge, their culture and their ability to create relations and operate together. The development of appropriate connections between all aspects of the closed mining areas – the environment, the typical handcraft, the culture, the traditions,



View of the coast with rocks of Palaeozoic age

and so on – is the key to the success of the Sardinian Mining Geopark project.

Our research aims to analyze what kind of policy decisions are being made in the Geopark area and specifically if and how the people are involved and acquainted with the project.

The research will be carried out with a survey with semi-structured interviews based on two different questionnaires: one for policy decision makers, and one for some opinion leaders and managers, teachers, and so on.

Researchers, led by Dr Juan Carlos Gutierrez-Marco from the El Instituto de Geologia Economica in Madrid, Spain, discovered trilobites from 15 genera in 465-million year old rocks in Arouca Geopark in northern Portugal. The discovery of giant trilobites in northern Portugal reveals the once ubiquitous marine creature mated in groups and used its numbers for protection.

Trilobites once roamed the sea floor, but were wiped out in the Permian-Triassic extinction, 250 million years ago. These marine arthropods, typically less than 8 centimeters long, are distant relatives of modern-day lobsters and spiders. But, the new find describes giants that grew to 90 centimeters in length, the largest ever found.

They found a complete specimen 70 centimeters in length and others whose tail remnants indicated they grew to up to 90 centimeters long. Most of the trilobite species they collected have been found

## *Giant trilobites mated in groups and used their numbers for protection*

elsewhere in Western Europe, but never before of such giant size. Their size was probably an adaptation to the polar waters where they dwelt, according to the researchers.

“Metabolism of invertebrates is slower in cold water, so it takes longer to reach adulthood and they also tend to live longer. Also, if you are bigger you are better able to deter a predator attack,” said co-author Dr Diego Garcia-Bellido, also of the El Instituto de Geologia Economica.

The researchers found clusters of trilobites with up to 1000 individuals, indicating they grouped together to molt, much like modern-day horseshoe crabs. They assume that like horseshoe crabs, the trilobites may have also mated en masse. “The hormones that instigate molting are related to those that induce sexual reproduction,” said Garcia-

Bellido.

Several trilobites in the deposit were also found in burrows and under the shells of larger organisms, where they may have hidden after molting as their soft bodies made them more vulnerable to predators.

The trilobites are believed to have died when the stagnant seawater became oxygen-depleted, which also helped their preservation as fossils, the researchers said.

Palaeontologist Dr John Paterson from the University of New England in Armidale, describes the find as “spectacular”.

“It's really exceptional in that you rarely find trilobite fossils complete,” he said. “Mostly you find a piece of the head or the tail, so to find them in congregations where there are many complete individuals is astounding,” he added.



## Monthly Report of the Geopark Naturtejo Meseta Meridional-

### Issue 32

On May 15th, Geopark Naturtejo Meseta Meridional published its latest issue of Monthly Report(Issue 32).

In this issue:

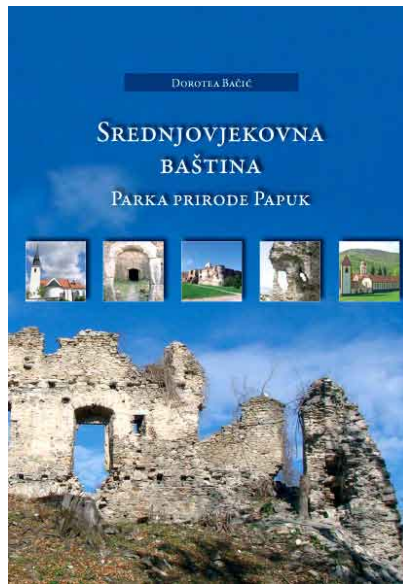
- International Day of Earth broadcasted from the Geopark to all Portugal
- Latinamerican students observe Naturtejo Geopark
- Forest clubs challenged
- Geointerview with Trilobite.Aventura and more...

For details: [www.globalgeopark.org](http://www.globalgeopark.org)



On May 15th, International Day of Earth broadcasted from the Geopark to all Portugal - Latinamerican students observe Naturtejo Geopark - Forest clubs challenged - Geointerview with Trilobite.Aventura and more...

[www.geoparknaturtejo.com](http://www.geoparknaturtejo.com)



## Medieval Heritage of Papuk Nature Park

Papuk Nature Park has published new publication – Medieval Heritage of Papuk Nature Park. It is kind of guide where you can find basic information about Papuk medieval monuments. There are descriptions of 18 different cultural monuments such as medieval fortresses, mostly located in Papuk's forest, which have become important and inseparable elements of the landscape or churches which represent town's or village's main features. The book is aiming at Papuk visitors and lovers of historical heritage.

## News of Spring & Summer 2009 from North Pennines AONB

The 20-page full colour Spring and Summer issue is bursting with articles on the special flowers and plants that can be found in the North Pennines, and what is being done to protect them. There's news on the spectacular helicopter 'rescue' of threatened rare wild flowers on the Pennine Way in Teesdale, and how plants not previously known to exist on Cross Fell in Cumbria are now flourishing.

For details: [www.northpennines.org.uk](http://www.northpennines.org.uk)



## The list:

Austria (1)  
Nature Park Eisenwurzen

Brazil (1)  
Araripe Geopark

PR China (20)  
Mount Lushan Geopark  
Geopark Wudalianchi  
Songsshan Geopark  
Yuntaishan Geopark  
Danxiashan Geopark  
Shilin Geopark  
Zhangjiajie Geopark  
Huangshan Geopark  
Xingwen National Geopark  
Hexigten National Geopark  
Yandangshan National Geopark  
Taining National Geopark  
Fangshan Geopark  
Leiqiong Geopark  
Funiushan Geopark  
Wangwushan-Daimeishan Geopark  
Jingpohu Geopark  
Taishan Geopark  
Longhushan Geopark  
Zigong Geopark

Croatia (1)  
Papuk Geopark

Czech Republic (1)  
Bohemian Paradise Geopark

France (2)  
Reserve Géologique de Haute  
Provence  
Park Naturel Régional du Luberon

Greece (2)  
Petrified Forest of Lesvos  
Psiloritis Natural Park

Germany (6)  
Vulkaneifel European Geopark  
Nature park Terra Vita European  
Geopark  
Geopark Swabian Albs  
Geopark Harz Braunschweiger Land  
Ostfalen  
Mecklenburg Ice age Park  
European Geopark Bergstrasse–  
Odenwald

Iran (1)  
Qeshm Island

Italy (4)  
Madonie Natural Park  
Parco del Beigua  
Parco Geominerario Sardegna  
Adamello-Brenta Geopark  
Rocca di Cerere

Malaysia (1)  
Langkawi Geopark

Norway (1)  
Gea-Norvegica

Portugal (2)  
Naturtejo Geopark  
Arouca Geopark

Republic of Ireland (1)  
Copper Coast

Rumania (1)  
Hateg Country Dinosaur Geopark

Spain (4)  
Maestrazgo Cultural Park  
Subeticas Geopark  
Sobrarbe Geopark  
Capo de Gata

United Kingdom (7)  
Marble Arch Caves & Cuilcagh  
Mountain Park  
North Pennines AONB Geopark  
North West Highlands – Scotland  
Fforest Fawr Geopark - Wales  
Lochaber – Scotland  
English Riviera Geopark – England  
Geo Mon Geopark - Wales

Australia (1)  
Kanawinka

# Two new members affiliated the GGN officially



*23rd Coordination Committee Meeting of the European Geoparks Network was held from the 30th March - 3rd April in the Geological and Mining Park of Sardinia - European and Global Geopark. During the meeting, the European Geoparks Network has awarded European Geopark status to the two new Geoparks - Geo Mon Geopark, Wales, UK and Arouca Geopark, Portugal.*

*Up to Now, 58 Geoparks in 18 Member States are members of the Global Network of National Geoparks assisted by UNESCO.*

*Arouca Geopark, Portugal*



*Geo Mon Geopark, Wales, UK*









Young Earth Scientists for Society

# First World Young Earth-Scientists Congress 2009

Welcome to Beijing, China, October 25-28<sup>th</sup> 2009

Hosted by the University of Geosciences, Beijing, China

25 – 28 October 2009



## Invitation from First World Young Earth Scientists Congress 2009

Honorable Sir/Madam:

Thank you for your interest and support of the upcoming First World Young Earth Scientists (Y.E.S) Congress. This Congress for early career Earth Scientists is planned to take place at the University of Geosciences of Beijing, China on October 25-28, 2009. The Congress aims to address two key objectives of the IYPE: making Earth Science knowledge accessible to society and promoting the education of Younger Earth Scientists.

The Congress includes four main parts: Oral program, Poster, Round-table and Business Expo. Recently, the Organizing Committee of Y.E.S has decided to set up a new oral program theme on “Geoheritage Conversation and Geoparks”.

Therefore, we sincerely invite you as the representative of your geopark to take part in this specific oral program. It is our great honor to have you attend to the Congress, and your esteemed counsel is greatly appreciated.

The participants have to cover travel, registration fee, accommodation and other costs themselves during their stay in Beijing. Additional information is available at:

[www.yescongress2009.org](http://www.yescongress2009.org).

Please contact us for any further detail. Thank you for your support.

With kind regards.

Wan Li

*Tel/Fax: 008610 82321805*

*Web-site: [www.yescongress2009.org](http://www.yescongress2009.org)*

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*China University of Geosciences, Beijing*

*Xueyuan Lu 29, Beijing 100083*

*P.R.China*

### Enclosed:

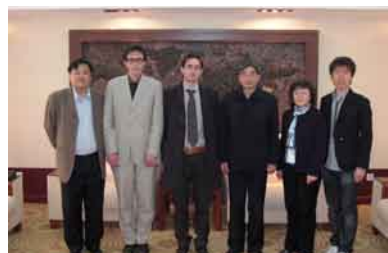
First Circular of Y.E.S. Congress (<http://www.yescongress2009.org/>)

Second Circular of Y.E.S. Congress (<http://www.yescongress2009.org/>)

Introduction to the topic of Geoheritage Conservation and Geoparks (*See next page*)



China University of Geosciences of Beijing



China Organizing Committee Meeting with Y.E.S. President and Executive Director April 3, 2009 at China University of Geosciences of Beijing



Room



Lobby



Geosciences International Conference Centre(GICC)



Location



# Geoheritage Conservation and Geoparks



## 1. Introduction

On the 33rd Session of the International Geological Congress which was held in Norway on August 2008, the commissaries of young earth scientists decided that the First World Young Earth Scientists (Y.E.S) Congress would be held on October 25 - 28, 2009 at China University of Geosciences (Beijing).

Supported by the International Year of Planet Earth (IYPE) Committee and International Union of Geological Science (I.U.G.S), the Y.E.S. Congress is the first ever congress dedicated to young earth scientists worldwide. With the motto of "Young Earth Scientists for Society" following the IYPE global motto, the Congress will be open to scientists and professionals working in the field of Earth Sciences, and it will also involve young political leaders, representatives of civil society, organizations and associations worldwide to create a dynamic network, and give them opportunities to discuss on several topics connected to environmental crises, and facilitate the sharing of best practices. The Y.E.S. congress will be of great significance for the education of young scientists and the development of earth sciences.

## 2. Objective

Geological heritage retains memories of the processes that generated and formed the Planet Earth as part of the Solar System, as well as of the history

of climate, life and humanity. The common future of the mankind lies in the possibility of exploring, developing and revealing the known and unknown values and resources of the Earth in a wise manner. Geological heritage is nonrenewable resource and the priceless assets of all human being, it should be protected and its resources sustainably developed to provide society with the appropriate means for living.

Young geologists are the hope of the development of geological sciences. Now the time has come to intensify the global efforts, especially the efforts of young earth scientists worldwide to safeguard and promote geological heritage.

Aiming at inspiring more youth to play a more active role in promoting the awareness of Geoheritage Conservation and establishing Geological Nature Reserves and Geoparks, as well as providing a platform for young scientists to exchanged views and practical experience concerning the protection of geoheritage conservation and sustainable development, the Organizing Committee of Y.E.S. decided to set up a new oral program theme on "Geoheritage Conversation and Geoparks".

## 3. Organizations of the Topic – Geoheritage Conservation and Geoparks

The goals of the branch meeting will be met through oral session, poster

session and business expo that focus on the topic of Geoheritage Conservation and Geoparks.

Every branch meeting has a president and a committee constituted of conveners and advisors who will take charge of convening people from the world, selecting papers and arranging order of presentations, etc. in the oral program.

### 3.1 Abstracts and Papers

The topic of Geoheritage Conservation and Geoparks was determined later than other topics, so the deadline for the abstracts and papers is a little different from what have been announced on the second circular and website of Y.E.S.

All abstracts must be written in English and may be up to 250 words in length. All abstracts must be submitted online through the YES website abstract submission page: <http://www.yescongress2009.org/abstract-submission.html>.

**The deadline for abstract submission is June 15, 2009.** Abstracts will be reviewed for their scientific merit and applicability, and send to each specific branch meeting by the Scientific Committee. Participants will be notified if their abstracts have been accepted by July 15, 2009. And then they may submit the corresponding full paper on which their accepted abstracts based. **The deadline for full paper submission is July 30, 2009.**

With approval of the authors, selected





