

Welcome your suggestions for the 9th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks will be held in 2020 on Jeju Island



Geopark's Day in China



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# The 6<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Geoparks Network Symposium

Lombok - Indonesia, 31 August - 6 September 2019



Some Participants gathering on the stage after the opening ceremony

## The 6<sup>th</sup> Symposium of Asia-Pacific Geoparks Network

The 6<sup>th</sup> Symposium of Asia-Pacific Geoparks Network was successfully held in the period from September 2-6 in Rinjani-Lombok UNESCO Global Geopark, Indonesia. More than 600 participants from Asia-Pacific region and other continents took part in the symposium. 30 sessions were held on the following 5 topics: 1) Empowering local



Coordinator Prof. JIN Xiaochi speaking at the opening ceremony

socio-economic for sustainable development; 2) Engaging communities, geohazard risk and recovery; 3) Networking volcanic and karst landscape global geoparks; 4) Popularizing scientific knowledge for public education; 5) Promoting aspiring global geoparks. The symposium received 109 abstracts for oral presentation, and 97 abstracts for poster presentation.

Parallel to the Symposium the 3rd UNESCO Global Geoparks Evaluator's Seminar took place on September 5th, 2019.

Three mid-symposium excursions were prepared on September 3 for delegates of different preferences. These



Geofair



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## Networking and Common Activities

excursions demonstrated the geodiversity and rich historical and culture heritage of Rinjani-Lombok UGGp.

Folklore and intangible heritage performances were arranged in several occasions, which well demonstrated the vitality of traditional cultural activities. The Geo-Fair of local products and Intangible Heritage Exhibition of participating Geoparks opened all day through during the symposium, and was enjoyed



Symposium

very much by the participants.

During the APGN Coordination Committee Meeting which took place on September 2, New

Coordinators and new Advisory Committee of the APGN were elected.



Coordination Committee meeting



Geofair



Symposium

### APGN Advisory Committee:

#### APGN Coordinator:

Prof. JIN Xiaochi - China

#### APGN Vice Coordinator:

Prof. Ibrahim KOMOO - Malaysia

#### APGN Vice Coordinator:

Prof. Setsuya NAKADA - Japan

#### Members:

Alireza AMRIKAZEMI – Iran

Azmil Munif Bin Mohd Bukhari – Malaysia

HE Qingcheng – P.R. China

JING Zhixing – P.R. China

Kana FURUSAWA – Japan

Yunus Kusumahbrata - Indonesia

Soojae LEE – Republic of Korea

SUN Li – P.R. China

Somma TECHAWAN – Thailand

TRAN Tan Van – Vietnam

Mahito WATANABE – Japan

UNESCO Global Geoparks Secretariat Representative  
GGN President



# Current Status and Prospects for the 9th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks, Jeju UGGp, Republic of Korea, in 2020

## Jeju Island UGGp, Republic of Korea

Jeju UGGp is gearing up in preparation for the 9th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks, Jeju UGGp and Republic of Korea in 2020. The International Conference Preparatory Committee has been established and the detailed implementation plan has been developed accordingly. The provisional yet detailed schedule, including various programs, is currently

being prepared or is under development in accordance with the implementation plan. The theme of the 9th International Conference is "Fun". Thus, Jeju Island UGGp intends to include fun programs in order to bring pleasure and happiness to all participants.

To this end, we have lowered the registration fee to about \$300, which is around 50% lower than the previous fee, so that

more and more people across the world can attend and enjoy not only the conference but also the beauty of Jeju Island (Jeju Island can be accessed visa-free if you fly to the island directly). Moreover, an additional half-day field workshop focusing on the Geotrail will be organized, in line with a one-day field trip. The field workshop will enable participants to explore the Geotrail while admiring the natural scenery and



breathtaking views of Jeju Island UGGp. Additionally, they will also have the opportunity to interact with local residents.

Also, we plan to diversify in setting up and running the promotional booths. By lowering operational costs, Geoparks around the world, together with 10 national Geoparks in the Republic of Korea, can actively participate in promoting their respective Geoparks efficiently and cost-effectively. In addition, we will formulate a contract

with a print agency in an effort to make poster printing more accessible and affordable, which is expected to enable each Geopark to facilitate effective poster presentations.

A free shuttle bus service to and from the meeting venue and the hotels, as well as free access to public tourist attractions, will be made available to participants. A separate information desk for the conference will be installed at the airports of Incheon, Gimpo

and Jeju Island.

The 9th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks will be held at the Jeju International Convention Center from September 17 - 20, 2020 (as proposed in Italy, the date for which was confirmed by the GGN President in January).

All inquiries concerning the 9th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks should be directed to [ymjeon74@korea.kr](mailto:ymjeon74@korea.kr).





North West Highlands UGGp, Scotland, UK

An existing tourist route has recently received a makeover, with new road signs installed through the North West Highlands UNESCO Global Geopark, guiding visitors along the interpretative trail known as the “Rock Route”. A number of “GeoPods” have also been put up, providing local tourist information.

Using the distinctive Geopark logo of a Celtic knot, the long-established Rock Route is now

clearly marked throughout the Geopark. The new signs have been made possible with funding through the Highland LEADER programme, Scottish Natural Heritage and SSE’s Sustainable Development Fund, the Highland Council Ward Discretionary Fund and the Geopark’s own funds.

The Rock Route is a series of 14 panels to guide visitors between Ullapool and Loch Eriboll, delivering a flavour of the unique landscape and

geology. As Geopark visitors have increased, most recently through the popularity of the North Coast 500 tourist trail, the Rock Route aims to give travellers the chance to slow down, encouraging them to stop, enjoy and learn more about the astonishing landscape. The GeoPods along the Rock Route provide additional information for tourists at Strathcanaird and Rhiconnich.

The Knockan Crag National

Nature Reserve, north of Ullapool, which is on the Rock Route, is owned and managed by Scottish Natural Heritage. In 2018, this remarkable site saw its highest number of visitors in 15 years.

“Whilst we welcome this increase in visitors to our National Nature Reserve, we really want to encourage them to stop for a while and explore the surrounding countryside,” explained Reserve Manager Sue Agnew. “The North West Highlands Geopark is a unique landscape that everyone can see around them. SNH established the Rock Route through the Geopark in 2001, and upgraded and extended it in 2013. However, some of the stops were actually quite difficult to find! Working with the Geopark on this project, the sites are now more clearly sign posted, making them much more accessible for all to stop and enjoy”.

Peter Harrison, who led the project on behalf of the Geopark, added, “We hope everyone will appreciate this newly signposted route. It takes in some of the best viewpoints in the Geopark, including Knockan Crag National Nature Reserve and the Rock Stop Geocentre at Unapool near

Kylesku, which is the home of the Geopark. You can learn more about the landscape in the area here, whilst having a cup of tea! We have also sign-posted our

GeoPods, enabling us to give more local information on places to visit in the Geopark, and how the landscape has developed into what we see today.”



# More than 1,000 University Teachers and Students Conduct Field Study in Danxiashan



Danxiashan UGGp, China

Recently, more than 1,000 teachers and students from about 20 universities in China, including Sun Yat-Sen University, Guangdong University of Finance and Economics, East China University of Technology, Anhui Normal University, Guangdong University of Education, Wuhan University of Engineering Science, Shaoguan University and others gathered at Danxiashan for internship and study. The students carried out professional research in an all-round way in Danxiashan under the guidance of their teachers and Danxiashan science tutors, aiming toward further deepening the understanding of the geological ecology and humanity of Danxiashan. The series of activities they organized help the students combine the theory they learned with practice.

The internship programs vary according to the subjects that the students are currently focused on learning at their universities.



◆ Team photo of Anhui Normal University

Students majoring in geology mainly explored geological and geomorphological phenomena in the geopark. Those majoring in urban and rural planning study the planning of the geopark and the construction and development of beautiful villages. As for students majoring in tourism management, they prefer to study geopark management, the development of intelligent tourism in the scenic area and the sustainable development of the geopark. Animals and plants are what the biology students are interested

in. The duration of the internship ranges from one day to one week, depending on the plans of the students.

“Danxiashan, as the namesake of the danxia landscape, possesses the most typical and complete types and the most abundant shapes among danxia landscapes,” said a student from East China University of Technology. “The unique geological landscape is the natural material for our field study. The five-day-field study in Danxiashan is a good way for us to apply our

knowledge into practice, such as in geomorphology. I benefited greatly from the internship.”

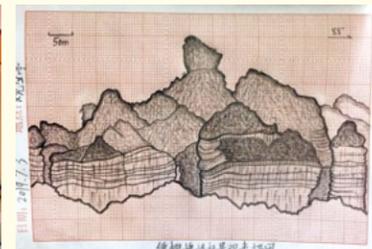
Danxiashan is rich in geological, geomorphological and animal and plant resources. Its advanced experience in the construction of an intelligent scenic area and the conditions for conducting field studies are able to meet the needs of students majoring in a range of different subjects. The Danxiashan Administrative Committee continuously attaches great importance to the internship for teachers and

students in Danxiashan. In order to better serve and assist universities in carrying out this internship and improving the study of students, the Administrative Committee has provided field study for students with a series of supports, including preferential ticket discounts, shuttle transportation, science tutors, etc., and strengthened cooperation with universities. In addition, the field study routes have been improved.

According to official statistics, more than 30 universities and

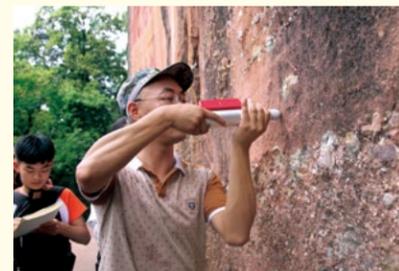
institutions have signed Internship Cooperation Agreements with the Danxiashan Administrative Committee. The Committee is aimed toward transforming Danxiashan’s ecological value, earth science, culture and aesthetics into educational resources, promoting science popularization and field study, enhancing the development of the training base for scientific research and playing an important role in enhancing the abilities of students through practice and learning.

**Li Guiqing & Xiao Wei**



◆ Student work- sketch of the forest landscape of the Cap Peak

◆ Wuhan Institute of Engineering Science and Technology students conduct learning activities at Danxiashan Museum



◆ Anhui Normal University led the team teacher to teach on the spot



◆ Internship team from East China University of Technology inspects Danxia landform



# Basque Coast UNESCO Global Geopark Celebrates 3rd Edition of GeoTalks, Converging Science and Cinema

## Basque Coast UGGp, Spain

May 22 2019 — The Basque Coast UGGp hosted the 3rd edition of GeoTalks, entitled “Zumaia and the Key to the Extinction of Dinosaurs: The history behind the history”. The event brought together science and cinema with the screening of the short film “The Day the Mesozoic Died”, followed by a Q&A with scientists.

The short film was partly shot in Zumaia and relates the incredible journey of the

discovery of the meteor that struck earth 66 million years ago, causing the mass extinction of more than 70% of life on the planet. This film reveals the extraordinary detective work that unlocked the mystery.

The screening was followed by a Q&A moderated by Asier Hilario, Scientific Director of Geopark, accompanied by Dr. José Antonio Arz, a professor and researcher at the University of Zaragoza and seasoned K/T

mass extinction event subject-matter expert, and Dr. Estibaliz Apellaniz, a palaeontologist from the University of the Basque Country and a pioneer in the study of the Zumaia outcrop. The key role the section played in understanding of the mass extinction at the end of the Cretaceous period was also highlighted.

Furthermore, Dr. Xabier Orue-Etxebarria, palaeontology professor at the University of the



Basque Country and a member of the Geopark scientific committee, was commemorated with the first-ever Geopark Honour Award, which recognises individuals for their significant contributions to the dissemination of knowledge and championing of Geoparks and their natural and cultural heritage.

Dr. Xabier Orue-Etxebarria has been conducting research work for almost 40 years and has made remarkable contributions to the international recognition of the Flysch of Zumaia. He also played a key role in the placement of stratotypes on the beach of Itzuran in 2010.

GeoTalks was one of the initiatives developed in view of the 4th European Geopark Week taking place during the period of May 17-25, together with a comprehensive programme of activities centred on geological, cultural and natural heritage that was presented in Deba, Mutriku and Zumaia.



# Lushan UGGp Participates in First US-China Cultural Tourism Festival in Las Vegas, US

## Lushan UGGp, China

To enhance Sino-US cultural exchange, and to promote geo-tourism and the visibility of Lushan UGGp, Lushan UGGp

participated in the First US-China Cultural Tourism Festival in Las Vegas in the United States from May 10-12, 2019.

The 2019 US-China Cultural Tourism Festival opened on Friday, May 10, in Las Vegas, in the US state of Nevada,

aiming to expand cultural and tourism exchanges between the two countries. This festival was hosted by CECU (the Committee of Enterprise and Commerce United) in Las Vegas, the China Culture Investment Global (Beijing) Culture Development Co., Ltd., co-sponsored by the Nevada state government, the Las Vegas Convention and Tourism Bureau and supported by the Consulate General of China in San Francisco, United States, in addition to the China Art Festival foundation. Distinguished guests included Mr. Xie Yuan, Vice Chairman of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, Richard Cherchio, a council member in the City of North Las Vegas, Mr. Larry Rown, director of the Las Vegas Convention and Tourism Bureau, Mr. Rony Chan, chairman of the Las Vegas Committee of Enterprise and Commerce United, Mr. Zhai

Deyu, cultural counselor of the Chinese Consulate in San Francisco, Mr. Jeff Greene, President of the Flying Tigers Foundation, and Mr. Li Huafeng, General Counsel of the China Culture Investment Global (Beijing) Culture Development Co., Ltd.

According to the Las Vegas Committee of Enterprise and Commerce United, organizer of the event, the festival has attracted the attendance of 145 exhibitors from Chinese and American cultural, tourism and handicraft industries, with 65 of them coming from China. Multicultural and designed



souvenirs, urban tourism, tourism attractions, scenic and historic interest areas, intangible cultural heritage products, handicrafts and artistic works from the US and China were displayed at the fair. This event attracted many local residents from America and visitors from many countries, and also promoted the international influence and visibility of Lushan UGGp, which in turn enhanced the geo-tourism development of Lushan UGGp.

Mr. and Mrs. Wilson, who travelled to Lushan several years ago, made a special visit to the booth of Lushan UGGp, at which they became aware of Lushan's participation in the exhibition.

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# Mr. Liu Xuerong, Party Secretary of Huanggang City, Delivers Presentation on Huanggang Dabieshan UNESCO Global Geopark

Huanggang Dabieshan UGGp, China

“The classification of the Huanggang Dabieshan UNESCO Global Geopark marks a new beginning, and we shall work together and harder to make our Geopark well-known all over the world”, exclaimed Huanggang City Party Secretary Mr. Liu Xuerong in his two-hour presentation on the Huanggang Dabieshan UNESCO Global Geopark on June 5.

Mr. Liu's presentation focused on four parts — the concept of UGGps, the story of the universe and the evolution of the earth, the significance of UGGps and the development of Huanggang Dabieshan UNESCO Global Geopark.

In his presentation, Mr. Liu said he agrees with the mode of a combination of ABC and a

focus on the three functions of UGGps, which are Protection, Education and Tourism. On the other hand, his presentation also took on the form of a science popularization classroom focusing on the story of the universe and the evolution of the earth. It is his geochronology that has effectively explained the evolution of the earth and the characters of each geological age.

Huanggang Dabieshan UNESCO Global Geopark has grown in its 12-year journey, growing from an aspiring geopark to a UNESCO Global Geopark. Mr. Liu Xuerong's presentation was powerful and attractive in that he was not only a participant who proposed the concept of the Huanggang

Dabieshan aspiring geopark in 2006, but is also a true promoter in the development of Huanggang Dabieshan UNESCO Global Geopark during his 12-year term in Huanggang city, ranging in position from Mayor to Party Secretary.

Mr. Liu added that we will protect biodiversity and landscape diversity so as to make full use of the unique advantages of the natural and cultural landscape, making the geopark a renowned national science popularization base, a geological tourist destination characterized on the continental orogenic belt and a well-known UNESCO Global Geopark both at home and abroad.

More than 1,000 delegates from Huanggang city and counties where Huanggang Dabieshan UNESCO Global is located attended the event.

**Li Feng**

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The Unveiling Ceremony

# Shennongjia Establishes Golden Snub-Nosed Monkey Conservation Foundation



Shennongjia UGGp, China

On April 26, 2019, the Shennongjia Golden Snub-Nosed Monkey Conservation Foundation registered by Shennongjia UNESCO Global Geopark (UGGp) was established. The first donations from enterprises and individuals, totalling US\$600,000, will be used for conservation and research of the Golden Snub-Nosed Monkey population and the bio-diversity in Shennongjia UGGp.

Mr. Liu Qijun, Mayor of the Shennongjia Forestry District and Director General of the Administration of Shennongjia National Park, addressed the unveiling ceremony. He said that the Golden Snub-Nosed Monkey of Shennongjia (*Rhinopithecus roxellana hubeiensis*), as a primate species endemic to China and a national first-class protected rare and endangered



◆ Press Conference on the Establishment of the Foundation  
 ◆ Deputy Director General of Shennongjia UGGp Hosting the Ceremony  
 ◆ Unveiling the Foundation



◆ The Unveiling Ceremony

species, is the flagship species of Shennongjia's biodiversity conservation. As a sub-species of Sichuan Snub-Nosed Monkey, the Golden Snub-Nosed Monkey of Shennongjia plays an important role in the evolution history of species, and the conservation of its population is significant for the conservation of the genetic diversity of the species of the Sichuan Snub-Nosed Monkey.

The Chinese government, as well as domestic and international conservation organizations and research institutes, have made active contributions to the conservation of the Golden Snub-Nosed Monkey of Shennongjia. It is a common wish of all humans to protect the species and realize harmony between humanity and nature. However, the conservation of the species is a long-lasting and difficult task, requiring the participation of the entire society. For this purpose, Shennongjia UGGp established the Golden Snub-nosed Monkey Conservation Foundation to build a platform to gather the strength and love of enterprises and individuals for better conservation of the species.

Mr. Wang Wenhua, Deputy



◆ Representatives from donating enterprises and individuals with leaders of Shennongjia UGGp

Director General of the Administration of Shennongjia National Park, said at the unveiling ceremony that the establishment of the Foundation is an action of Shennongjia UGGp in its efforts to establish a financing system with diversified modes and sources, with the aim of gathering more strength to protect the bio-diversity of Shennongjia UGGp.

According to Mr. Chen Zongrong, the Council Chairman of the Foundation, funds raised will be used for publicity, education, capacity building and science research for the conservation of the Golden Snub-Nosed Monkey and the bio-diversity in Shennongjia UGGp. The Foundation's first

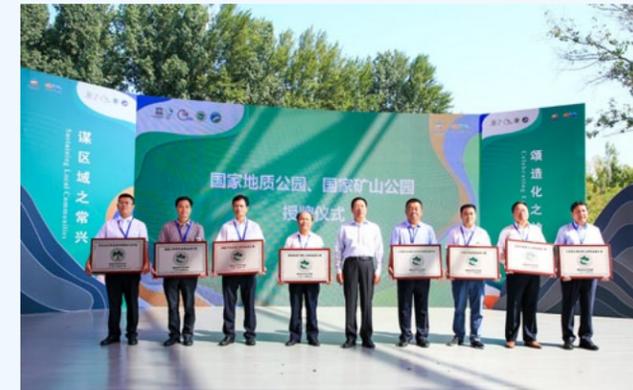
project — the Survey on Trans-regional Snub-Nosed Monkey Populations — will be launched soon.

Shennongjia is known around the world for its high biodiversity. The Golden Snub-Nosed Monkey was discovered in Shennongjia in 1980, and in 2004 the Golden Snub-Nosed Monkey Research Base was established in order to carry out the systematic research and conservation of the species. Since then, the population of the species has grown steadily from about 500 to more than 1,300.

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Performance Center at Beijing Expo 2019



Deputy Director Li Chunliang awarded the national geopark and mining park title to 8 new National Geoparks of China



Visit Badaling Area

# China Geoparks Thematic Publicity Event Successfully Held in Yanqing, Beijing, China

## Geopark's Day

— Green Initiative from the Foot of the Great Wall

Yanqing UGGp, China

With the theme of "Lucid Waters and Lush Mountains on the Earth, Green Initiative from the Foot of the Great Wall", the China Geoparks Thematic Publicity Event was successfully held during the period of September 8-9, 2019 in Yanqing District of Beijing Municipality, China. The event included an opening ceremony, an exhibition



All delegates

on the geological heritage of Chinese Geoparks, the Geopark protection and development forum, and guided visits by participants to the emblematic geoheritage sites in Yanqing UNESCO Global Geopark.

A total of more than 200 participants from the National Forest and Grassland Administration, as well as

the forestry and grassland authorities of 31 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities, directly under the Central Government, 39 UNESCO Global Geoparks of China, Key National Geopark Administrations, the Chinese Academy of Geological Sciences and universities gathered here to work together to speed up the development of China's geoparks and promote the construction of the ecological civilization.

The event was sponsored by the National Forest and Grassland Administration Natural Protected Areas Management Department, the Global Geoparks Network, the Beijing Gardening and Greening Bureau and the Yanqing District People's Government, and was undertaken by Yanqing UGGp, Lesvos Island UGGp, the Yanqing Culture and Tourism

Bureau, the Yanqing Gardening and Greening Bureau and the Geoheritage Research Center of China University of Geosciences (Beijing).

### Opening Ceremony

At 9 o'clock on September 8, the opening ceremony of the event was held at the Performance Center (Guiring Theatre) of the Beijing International Horticultural Exposition.

The Deputy Director of the National Forest and Grassland Administration Li Chunliang, the President of GGN Prof. Nikolaos Zouros, the Deputy Secretary General of Beijing Municipal People's Government Chen Bei and the Mayor of Yanqing District People's Government Yu Bo delivered speeches at the opening ceremony. Professor Wang Bingchen and Professor Xie Youyu, counselors of the

State Council, participated in the opening ceremony as special guests. Director of Natural Protected Areas Management Department of the National Forestry and Grass Bureau Wang Zhigao, Deputy Inspector of Beijing Gardening and Greening Bureau Wang Xiaoping and Vice Mayor of Yanqing District Liu Ruicheng attended the opening ceremony.

During the opening ceremony, deputy director Li Chunliang awarded national titles to seven new National Geoparks of China and one National Mining Park.

The Yanqing UNESCO Global Geopark proposed a new green initiative — the establishment of GEOPARKS DAY, as an annual event for Geoparks promotion. With wide support from government officials, experts, representatives of all sectors of society and volunteers, the proposal of establishing

Geoparks Day was put forward.

GEOPARKS DAY celebrates the wonderful heritage of the Earth!

GEOPARKS DAY raises awareness to society at large and develops a better understanding of the Geopark concept and activities.

GEOPARKS DAY contributes to the promotion and establishment of the Geoparks as a quality brand in geoconservation, geoeducation, geotourism and sustainable development.

### Geopark Protection and Development Forum

The Geopark protection and development forum was geared toward the presentation of the current status and achievements of Geoparks in China. The Director of Geoheritage and the Geopark Office of the National Protected Areas Management Department of the National Forestry and Grass Bureau Yuan Xiaohong presented a lecture on Chinese geopark development, related achievements and the future of such work. The President of the Global Geoparks Network Prof. Nickolas Zouros delivered

a lecture on the achievements and challenges of the GGN. The Vice Chair of UNESCO Global Geopark Council and Professor of the China University of Geosciences Beijing Zhang Jianping gave a lecture on the opportunities and challenges for Chinese geoparks.

Delegates from Chinese Geoparks presented case studies focused on geoheritage conservation and protection, scientific popularization, geotourism research and implementation and geopark management and capacity building.

### Geoparks Exhibition

An exhibition themed on



“Magic Nature Creation and Wonderful Earth Heritage” was held for two days, presenting 39 Chinese UGGPs and a number of Chinese national geoparks to the public through photography and other media at Beijing Expo 2019. Promotional material, leaflets and relevant materials are also provided to visitors through info stands operated by Geopark volunteers.

At the Tongxing Square of Beijing EXPO 2019, representative rocks from all Provinces of China were associated with the UNESCO Global Geoparks and National Geoparks, respectively.

This marks the first time that China has hosted a nationwide event since the management function of Chinese Geoparks was integrated into the National Forest and Grassland Administration. It is a vital

measure following the proposal of "jointly building a beautiful earth home, jointly building a community of shared future for mankind" in the welcome speech made by President Xi Jinping during the opening ceremony of Beijing Expo 2019, which also gives a window presenting the beauty of Chinese Geoparks for further celebration of the heritage and sustainability of the community.

### On-Site Inspection

On the 9th, delegates visited the Badaling Area, the Guyaju Area and the Longqingxia Area in Yanqing UNESCO Global Geopark. The Badaling Area and the Guyaju Area are examples of the perfect combination of geological and cultural heritage, and also indicate the inextricable relationship between humanity and nature. The Longqingxia Area is a typical representative area of karst landforms in North China. A majority of participants expressed a keen appreciation for the efficiency

and effectiveness of the event, and think highly of the unique geoheritage of the Yanqing UGGp.

Yanqing UGGp is one of the 39 UNESCO Global Geoparks in China. Yanqing Geopark was accepted by GGN in 2013, covering an area of 620.38 square kilometers, hosting various precious geoheritage areas including the North China Karst Longqingxia, petrified wood and dinosaur footprints, the great cultural heritage Guyaju Cliffs and the Great Wall.

Since the establishment of Yanqing UGGp, main geoheritage artefacts including dinosaur footprints and petrified wood have received conservation attention at international standards. Scientific popularization has been implemented broadly to promote geoparks and educate the community and visitors. Additionally, geotourism has been taken on widely in order to sustain local communities and increase the income of local residents.





Group photo of Leiqiong volunteers in Mt. Ma'an scenic spot

# Popular Science Volunteer Training Camp held in Leiqiong UNESCO Global Geopark



Leiqiong UGGp, China

Hosted by Leiqiong UNESCO Global Geopark and organized by Geoparker Information Technology Co., Ltd., a popular science volunteer training camp was held at Leiqiong UNESCO Global Geopark from July 30 to August 5, 2019.

In order to put forward good ideas for the geopark's plan, construction and sustainable development, the opportunity was provided for volunteers

to deeply explore, experience and learn from Leiqiong's geoheritage, natural ecosystem, human history and other areas of focus. Additionally, Leiqiong's geological knowledge was made available to the public through the medium of the mobile internet in order to expand the popularity and influence of Leiqiong UGGp. A total of 25 teachers and students took part in the camp from various

organizations including Hainan University, China University of Mining and Technology, Hebei University, Guangxi University, South China Normal University, the Nature Exploration Center of the Inner Mongolia Natural Museum, Shaoguan No. 14 middle school of Guangdong and others.

Volunteers arrived at Leiqiong's Haikou district on July 30. An introductory event was

held at night. Volunteers were divided into five groups, and got to know one another by sharing their team names, formations and slogans. Outdoor activities were postponed by a typhoon, but the passion of the volunteers wasn't affected. Popular science lectures were held indoors, during which popular science knowledge cards and videos were shared in order to exchange ideas for the outdoor investigation.

On August 3, the opening ceremony of the camp was held at the Mt. Ma'an scenic spot in Haikou district. Ms. Zhang Libin, Director of Haikou Office, the Leiqiong UNESCO Global Geopark Administration, Mr. Guo Wenxu, Deputy General Manager of Mt. Ma'an scenic spot and Ms. Cai Yun, camp manager of Geoparker (Wuhan) Information and Technology Co. Ltd., expressed great attention to science popularization and placed great expectations on this

activity.

After the opening ceremony, the volunteers visited the popularization museums, the craters of Mt. Ma'an and Mt. Fenglu, Mt. Yizi, Mt. Shuangchi and Mt. Meishe, as well as the volcanic cultural spot.

Volunteers arrived at Zhanjiang district on August 3. The training camp visited the Aquatic Biology Museum of Guangdong Ocean University to learn about ocean creatures on the morning of August 4. They studied information on tropical fruits and plants by visiting the South Subtropical Crop Research Institute. In the afternoon, the volunteers left for Huguangyan scenic spot to explore the Maar lake, the negative ion district, the surge tuff profile, the earthquake museum and other places.

The closing ceremony was held on the morning of August 5. During the closing ceremony, Yang Changuo,

chief of the Science and Technology Education Section of the Huguangyan scenic spot, and Ms. Cai Yun praised the efforts of the volunteers and expressed their expectation that the volunteers would continue to follow their duties in their scientific popularization efforts.

Through this activity, volunteers were able to acquire significant knowledge on Leiqiong geopark's geological landforms, biodiversity and folk cultures. They have seen the beautiful ecological environment of the geopark, while also realizing the scientific value of the geopark. In the future, volunteers are set to use a variety of media resources to publicize Leiqiong UNESCO Global Geopark in stages and in different layers, aimed toward promoting the sustainable development of the geopark.

Leiqiong UNESCO Global Geopark



◆ A professor of South Subtropical Crop Research Institute explains the tropical plant knowledge to volunteers.



◆ Peng Chenchuan, Science teacher of Geoparker, explains science knowledge to volunteers.



◆ Volunteers visit popularization museums of Mt. Ma'an scenic spot.

# LabChico



## First Educational and Research Underground Laboratory in Latin America to be Installed in Comarca Minera UNESCO Global Geopark, Mexico

Comarca Minera UGGp, Mexico

Three thousand kilometers of underground mining excavations are the inherited result of the 500-year mining history of the Pachuca-Real del Monte mining district within the Comarca Minera UNESCO Global Geopark, Mexico, where 40 million kilograms of silver have been extracted. The region witnessed early 19th century European naturalist exploration and also technological innovations. These innovations

range from the amalgamation method for silver processing that revolutionized mining to Cornwall-imported steam and electric engines. Now, the opportunity to rescue part of the mining heritage is offered by installing an underground physics laboratory, the first of its kind in Latin America: LabChico.

The LabChico project is led by particle and high energy physicists and engineers from the Physics Institute and

Nuclear Sciences Institute (Eric Vazquez Jáuregui, Alexis Aguilar Arévalo, Juan Carlos D'Olivo, Adiv González, Estela Garcés, Francisco Favela, Mauricio Martínez and Jaime Guerra), in combination with the Center of Atmospheric Sciences, the Faculty of Engineering and the Geopark team (Carles Canet, Erika Salgado, Gustavo Vallejo, Javier Mancera, Eduardo González and Miguel Cruz), institutions of the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) and in collaboration with specialists from the Royal Holloway University of London, Boulby Lab in the United Kingdom and SNOLAB in Sudbury, Canada. The objective of such work is to form an underground laboratory in supporting frontier research in (a) measurement of background radiation from the mine rock and of low intensity radiation in



LabChico Team

human consumption products, as well as (b) those related to lead contamination, especially in water, and (c) measurement of the attenuation in the muon flux produced by cosmic rays in the upper atmosphere. In addition, LabChico possesses the main focus as an education and capacity building centre for local population and visitors who would benefit from the initiative. Domestic and international funding is provided by the UNAM and the Global Challenges Research Fund of United Kingdom.

The implementation plan of LabChico includes keynote conferences and talks for the community, as well as in-place experimentation for calibrating detectors and electronics, along with topographic and geomechanics studies. Results are used to select the optimal place within a mine to have the thickest rock overburden for muon flux attenuation, that is, greater than 100 meters in any direction, to configure the hosting cavity and to ensure security and access to laboratory facilities.

LabChico is a combination of the words "Laboratory" and "El Chico", the name of the picturesque town that hosts the

site. The team is thankful to the local community of Mineral del Chico, El Puente Ejido (communal organization) and to the Department of Planning and

Prospective Studies of Hidalgo State for their support towards a permanent installation of LabChico at Comarca Minera UNESCO Global Geopark.

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Cold conditions while installing the high-purity germanium detector and liquid nitrogen (dewar) within the mine



A smiling team after successful in-place experiments



Students and locals listening about Lab Chico

# International Day for Disaster Reduction 2019 in Rinjani - Lombok UGGp

Rinjani-Lombok UGGp, Indonesia

Following The 6th APGN Symposium event held in Lombok, Indonesia, the Rinjani-Lombok UGGp took part in the commemoration of the 2019 International Day for Disaster Reduction (IDDR 2019) using the theme "Living in Harmony



◆ Discussion about geopark and geohazard with Islamic Boarding School students in Batukliang Districts

with Geohazard". In 2018, Lombok Island was shaken by a series of large earthquakes which alert us to learn to co-exist with nature and its disaster potential. We need to educate the community about natural disaster and its mitigation which



◆ Field trip introducing nearby geological features to Nurul Irsyad students

will reduce the risk of disaster in the future. We also use this event to familiarize the concept of geopark, zero waste program and sustainable tourism to students and communities.

From beginning of October until 15th October 2019, The Rinjani - Lombok UGGp collaborate with several Provincial Offices, the Indonesian Geologist Association, The Village of Tanak Beak and its Samalas Geotourism Working Group, conducted several activities related to education, conservation and community empowerment. We start our activities by published and promoted about this event and also campaign about disaster risk reduction in some online medias of provincial government, Geoparks and partners. Next, the activities are grouped into Geopark Goes to School and Green Camping as the highlight



◆ Preparation of Green Camping



of the IDDR 2019 event.

## 1. Geopark Goes To School

The interactive discussions with school students about Geopark, Zero Waste Program, Geohazard and its Mitigation conducted on 9th, 10th and 15th October 2019.

The audience are around 200 students from Junior and Senior High schools in Mataram Municipality i.a. SMPN 18 Mataram, SMAN 4 Mataram, SMAN 6 Mataram and Nurul Irsyad Islamic Boarding School in Batukliang District, Central Lombok.

In every school we try to deliver that geohazard is a part of our lives and part of natural events. We don't need to be scared for the whole life, we need to understand about natural hazards, how to deal with hazards, adapted and learn to live in harmony with them. There was also a mini field trip

for the Islamic Boarding School because this boarding school is located in the buffer zone of forest area (Mount Rinjani). We brought students out nearby their school to introduce them to the geological features in their area and its relation to the Mt. Samalas (Old Rinjani) eruption, what kind of geohazard may occur in the future and what should we do to reduce the risks.

## 2. Green Camping

The camping event was held in Tanak Beak Village camping ground in 12th to 13th October 2019. This is the highlight of IDDR 2019 event in Rinjani-Lombok Geopark and mostly arranged by the village government and Samalas Geotourism Working Group in collaboration with Rinjani - Lombok UGGp.

More than 150 students, boy scouts, villagers, some NGOs, and garbage banks participated

in this event, some of them come from the Batukliang Utara District and other area within Rinjani-Lombok Geopark.

The event contains several activities such as the presentation of Detail Engineering Design of Tanak Beak Village as the Resilient Geotourism Village concept, children's traditional games, talk show about geopark, geohazard and mitigation, zero waste concept, traditional art performances and ended with planting of 1000 trees event in the following day. Furthermore, there are 2 declarations made in this camping event to support all of the disaster reduction activities and to support the realization of zero waste.

There's a clip of Green Camping available online, created and uploaded by Tanak Beak village local community at [https://youtu.be/XLJ\\_Dfyqom0](https://youtu.be/XLJ_Dfyqom0)

# Sustainable Development Goals: Beigua Geopark Actions for Agenda 2030

Beigua UGGp, Italy

Beigua Geopark Experience Centre's challenge for Agenda 2030 is to contribute to the construction of the Regional Strategy for sustainable development through a participatory process that will involve the local stakeholders and end in mid-2020.

Agenda 2030 is the action programme signed in September 2015 by the governments of the 193 UN member countries and contains the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), divided into 169 targets. The Environmental Education Centres belonging to the regional system, which covers 12 territorial areas, possess a key role in supporting the implementation of the Regional Strategy for the achievement of sustainable development objectives by 2030, as defined in the National Strategy.

The Beigua Geopark action plan is divided into two main areas of focus. The first covers information and awareness of civil society, through excursions with Park Guides and free initiatives open to citizens, related to various environmental issues connected to the Sustainable Development Strategy (including biodiversity, geodiversity,

eco-sustainability, culture and tradition). The second area of focus includes participatory tables with stakeholders, helping local administrators, associations and citizens of the 15 municipalities in the area to focus on the goals of the National Strategy for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2030. Participants will be invited to discuss the five thematic areas of Agenda 2030, the 5 P's (People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnership), providing proposals and feedback necessary to build the Regional Strategy. The World Café Method, Open Space Technology, brainstorming and other participatory techniques will help.

The dissemination phase will be supported by a communication plan involving the press and digital media, both in the start-up phase and during the course of the activities, in order to provide information and promote participation. The Beigua Geopark will also manage communication on a regional scale of the entire project, based on the activities of the 12 territorial areas.

G. Castello & C. Fiori



✦ Hiking in Beigua Geopark



✦ Environmental education about sustainable development

# UNESCO Global Geopark Comarca De Molina-Alto Tajo Bets on Education in Fight Against Depopulation

Molina Alto Tajo UGGp, Spain

Placing great importance on education in the region of Molina de Aragón is essential for the Geopark. In an area as depopulated as this one, with less than two inhabitants per km<sup>2</sup>, making this territory known among the students and familiarizing them with the environment in which they live is crucial.

The Geopark's master plan is one of the fundamental dynamization measures that allow the population to be maintained through the creation of stable jobs and sustainable activity, which directly affects environmental conservation, heritage protection and the creation of a sustainable economy, but mainly assists in spreading awareness of the protection of the geological and environmental heritage of the Geopark.

To accomplish this goal, we have incorporated into the



regulated education of schools and secondary education Institute the project "Geoscueltas" and "Young Ambassadors of the Geopark".

During the school year, students ranging in age from three to 18 visit and engage in discussions and workshops in the Geopark. They learn about the first fossils, the evolution of human beings, geology and all the species of animals and insects which can be found in the Museum. The geology of

wonderful environments such as the Barranco de la Hoz and archaeological sites are found in great abundance in our Geopark. Fossil and mineral recognition workshops, as well as studies of archaeology, human evolution and the environment, bring the young students closer to their home.

For the students of the Institute of Secondary Education, we developed the project "Young Ambassadors of the Geopark".

The teachers who come to this area come from urban areas and lack awareness of the territory, and are therefore offered a specific training program and materials are prepared for their classes. Projects are integrated into the curricular development of the centre, the participation of all students is mandatory and a corresponding score is assigned regarding the various subjects. The objectives behind

the program include motivating and engaging students in the development of the program by making them participants in future responsibilities such as the design of future equipment for the participants and the coordination next year of participating groups, as well as efforts to encourage coexistence and collaboration with their Geopark partners of El Hierro, reinforcing their sense of accomplishment by belonging to two territories that are UNESCO Global Geoparks, as well as the different strategies they have developed to achieve success in this project.

We have recently received



recognition from the Soliss and Televisión de Castilla la Mancha Foundation, having been granted one of the Anonymous Heroes awards, in which more than 900 rural development associations participated.



## Providing Opportunities to Understand the Relationships Between People and Nature Through Cooperation with 'Arid Land Research Center, Tottori University (ALRC)'

### San'in Kaigan UGGp, Japan

The San'in Kaigan Geopark Promotion Council has begun cooperation with the "Arid Land Research Center, Tottori University (ALRC)", which is the only facility in Japan to focus

on arid land research. Near this centre, there lies one of Japan's most famous arid areas, known as the "Tottori Sand Dunes" — one of the largest tourist attractions in the San'in Kaigan

Geopark area. With expertise regarding agricultural usage of the sand dune area, this centre puts great effort into combating desertification. Here, visitors are given the chance to understand

the relationships between people and nature.

The truth is that many Japanese people think "deserts" are not our problem. However, desertification is closely related to Japanese lifestyles, such as the issue of Asian dust and decreased farm land. However, up until now, the guided tour was conducted only for professionals. Benefiting from working closely with ALRC, the San'in Kaigan Geopark Guide makes an effort to provide information about research results and the history of the Tottori area to ordinary people.

First of all, we conducted a guide certification seminar for San'in Kaigan Geopark Guide to train staff to be "guides of ALRC". This seminar provided lectures and guided tours regarding the facility and function. The motivation of the group was as high as the room temperature (45 degrees), which utilizes an environmental control

system to simulate the climate of arid regions. The attendees asked many questions.

Officially certified guides organize tours to provide opportunities to think about preservation, conservation and environmental problems at Tottori Sand Dunes and ALRC. The Tottori Sand Dunes are already one of the most famous destinations in the San'in Kaigan Geopark area, but a new approach to enjoy the earth as it links with human lifestyle is developing.

Our cooperation has only just begun, but a lot of effort has already been made. For example, the feature exhibition by ALRC (held for a limited time) was held at the Tottori Sand Dunes Visitor Centre. The exhibition themed on "sand dunes and desert" showed panel displays, sand from around the world and ethnic clothes of the arid land area. As a result of the announcement on SNS and

the website, more than 30,000 people visited this exhibition. It delivered a remarkable chance for people to understand the issues of world-wide desertification by comparing sand dunes and desert at the Tottori Sand Dunes.

Many still remember the old days when people fought with wind-blown sand in the development of the Tottori Sand Dunes as one of the most famous shallot fields in Japan. This means that "desertification" is closely related to Japanese daily life. We believe that cooperation with ALRC enables people who think about the environment of the earth with enough scientific knowledge to achieve SDGs. We're in the process of considering our options for further development.

San'in Kaigan Geopark Promotion Council, Japan  
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◆ Classroom Lecture



◆ Lecture inside research center

# Geoparkian: The Custodians of Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark

## Langkawi UGGp, Malaysia

Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark (LUGGp) is a premier island in Malaysia. Tourism-based industry has grown rapidly since 1987, and provided job opportunities to members of local communities in roles such as tourist guides, tour-boat

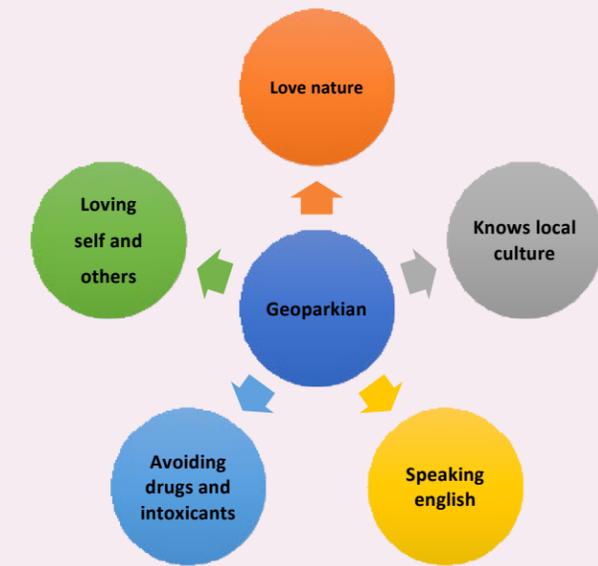
drivers for island hopping, seafood restaurant owners and staff, homestay owners and staff, tour and travel agencies, car rental services and ferry services. Langkawi was first recognized as a geopark in June 2007 and aimed to produce a community

focused on conserving and protecting natural (geological and biological) heritage, as well as maintaining cultural and tourism activities in a sustainable and heritage-friendly manner. Former CEO of LADA Dr. Kamarulzaman Abdul Ghani



♦ A number of activities held as part of the "School to Geopark" programme by Langkawi Authority Development (LADA).

explained that, "Geoparks are not all about rocks, they are about the people", in reference to effective community engagement as a stakeholder in efforts to raise awareness and understanding about geoparks. The younger generation of LUGGp are the future generation of LUGGp, especially in their role as key players in tourism. One particular Geopark Ambassador named Teh Cheng Chye, commonly known as Teacher Teh, is a retired school principal who initiated a Geopark Club in LUGGp alongside school teachers and students. Teacher Teh, who is not originally from Langkawi, believes that the geopark concept could make a huge difference to LUGGp in the future, particularly in terms of heritage conservation. Geopark Club members, known as Geoparkian, perform well academically and possess good self-discipline and values. In 2012, as principal at SMK Tunku Putra (high school) in Mukim Padang Mat Sirat, Teacher Teh worked together with researchers from LESTARI-UKM on strengthening geopark concepts among school teachers and students. From



♦ Five essential qualities as Geoparkian of LUGGp, Adopted from Langkawi Geopark Management Plan (PPLG) 2012-2030

this action plan, there are five essential qualities that were deemed vital for Geoparkian to possess, such as loving oneself and others, speaking English, knowing local culture, loving the environment and avoiding drugs. As a Geoparkian, he/she needs to know the value of heritage resources for economic benefit, while at the same time conserving such resources. Apart from those qualities, a Geoparkian needs to be able to introduce LUGGp to tourists, especially in regards to nature and cultural heritage, and eventually this will assist tourism activities in LUGGp. All of these qualities are important if Geoparkian aspire to become

the ambassadors of LUGGp in the present and future, which is certain to make them heroes of LUGGp.

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# Science Popularization Exchange Conference Held in Danxiashan, Attendees Include Over 30 UNESCO Global Geoparks in China

Danxiashan UGGp, China

From June 12-13, 2019, the Danxiashan Science Popularization Exchange Conference of China UNESCO Global Geoparks was held at Danxiashan UNESCO Global Geopark on the theme of "Enhance the sustainable development of communities by promoting science popularization in UNESCO Global Geoparks" and "Lucid waters and lush mountains are invaluable assets". This conference aimed to improve the science literacy of the public and strengthen the idea of promoting the ecological environment.

The event was sponsored by the Chinese Academy of Geological Sciences, the National Geopark Network Center and the People's Government of Shaoguan City, and hosted by the Danxiashan Administrative Committee, Shaoguan City. More than 150 people, including experts from the Chinese Academy of Geological Sciences, Sun Yat-Sen University and other universities, in addition to representatives of UGGps in China, attended the event. They have studied and realized how Danxiashan has developed into

a famous scientific mountain, as well as how scientific research and science popularization are carried out at the mountain. The development of scientific research and science popularization of UGGps were discussed during the event. Scientific advisers and managers of Danxiashan UGGp, in addition to managers from different classes of Danxiashan Science Popularization Town, delivered overall presentations and shared their ideas in detail, from the perspectives of "diversified Danxiashan scientific research and science popularization", "industrialization of science popularization" and "Nature Academy & field research". The representatives from the various UGGps conducted in-depth discussions on developing the brand of UGGps, protecting resources,



◆ The Global Geoparks of China Science Popularization Exchange Conference in Danxiashan 2019

carrying out scientific research and science popularization and strengthening the sustainable development of the community.

This event was set up to include outdoor field trips and in-class courses. Under the guidance of Danxiashan Scientific adviser and Science Popularization Guides, the attendees visited the Danxiashan Science Museum, routes for field studies and the achievements of science popularization industrialization, experiencing various courses such as the danxia landscape, ecology, humanities, astronomy, traditional handicrafts, agricultural work and others. In addition, they were granted the opportunity to talk with the science popularization workers in Danxiashan in order



◆ Professor Liao Wenbo from Zhongshan University made a special report on Danxia Flora



◆ Dr. Wu Zhenyang, Scientific Consultant of Danxiashan, gave a report on the theme of "The Scientific Mission of the Global Geopark"



◆ The representative of Danxiashan made a special report on the construction of the famous mountain of Danxiashan

to realize measures regarding science popularization and the

sustainable development of communities.

In recent years, Danxiashan has created a series of innovative science popularization activities or organizations such as "China danxia entering Campus", "Danxiashan Science Popularization Town", "Danxiashan Science Popularization Volunteer Training Camp" and "Danxiashan Nature Academy", all of which bring together the wisdom of workers from the China conservation area and represent the concept that China UGGps are carrying out the mission of the UGGps and maximizing the benefits of the resources of the UGGps for the people.

**Li Guiqing & Xiao Wei**



◆ A group photo taken by delegates at the Global Geoparks of China Science Popularization Exchange Conference in Danxiashan 2019



## Experts Attending the 9th Hutton Symposium on the Origin of Granites and Related Rocks Took Part in the Post-conference Field Trip-2b to the Meihuashan Granitic Batholith and Longyan Aspiring Global Geopark

Longyan Aspiring Global Geopark, China

During 19-22 October, nine experts from China, Germany, France, Morocco, South Africa and Canada taking part in Post-conference Field Trip-2b of the 9th Hutton Symposium went to Longyan City to inspect Meihuashan National Nature Reserve, China Tiger Park, Guanzhaishan National Geopark and Peitian Ancient Village, etc. within Longyan Aspiring Global Geopark.

During the inspection, the experts focused on the Indosinian (~220Ma) monzogranite with K-feldspar megacrysts,

Paleozoic(~430Ma) gneissic granite and Late Yanshanian (~140Ma) syenogranite, etc. in the Meihuashan area, and have made an in-depth discussion with Longyan Geopark Protection and Development Center in terms of the scientific significance and landscape value of the Meihuashan granite, construction and future sustainable development of the geopark and other issues.

The experts generally believe that the Meihuashan granite has important scientific significance and landscape value due to its unique geological background

and long-term evolution process. They highly praised the work of Longyan Geopark Protection and Development Center in the protection of geological heritages and the construction of the geopark, but also provided many valuable suggestions for the future development of the geopark. Professor Yu Jinhai of Nanjing University highly affirmed the geoscience research value of Longyan Aspiring Global Geopark. He said that the geopark boasts five diversity, namely diversity of granite age, diversity of rock type, diversity

## Promotion and Communication

of tectonic background, diversity of geological process and biodiversity.

The 9th Hutton Symposium and its post-conference field trip

brought together many first-class experts in the field of granite at home and abroad, which will greatly promote the further research on the Meihuashan

granite and effectively advanced the construction and development of Longyan Aspiring Global Geopark.



Examining the Paleozoic(~430Ma) gneissic granite

Inspecting the rocks in Guanzhaishan



Examining the Indosinian (~220Ma) monzogranite with K-feldspar megacrysts



Group photo

## Wangwushan-Daimeishan UNESCO Global Geopark Establishes Sister Park Partnership with Tibet Yangbajing National Geopark

Wangwushan-Daimeishan UGGp, China

On June 26, Liu Xiaoling, deputy director of the Jiyuan Municipal Natural Resources and Planning Bureau and also director of the Wangwushan-Daimeishan UNESCO Global Geopark Administrative Bureau, and Gasongdaji, director of Bureau of Natural Resources of Dangxiong County, on behalf of their respective geoparks, signed the Agreement on Establishing Sister Park Partnership Between Wangwushan-Daimeishan UNESCO Global Geopark and Tibet Yangbajing National

Geopark. The Wangwushan-Daimeishan UNESCO Global Geopark was designated a global geopark in September 2006. As one of China's earliest geoparks, it boasts a sound management structure, effective geoconservation and an excellent track record in geoscience education. Tibet Yangbajing National Geopark was approved by the Ministry of Land and Resources in August 2009. The establishment of the sister park relationship

is aimed toward exchanging management experience and enhancing cooperation. The two geoparks will work together to carry out geoscience educational activities which will promote the local economy. An agreement has been reached that both sides will display mineral and ore specimens and science education materials in one another's geological museums, regularly carry out personnel exchanges and host exhibitions on calligraphy, paintings and photographs. The establishment of the sister park partnership is certain to improve the management and development of Yangbajing National Geopark and promote mutual development.

Delegation from governments of towns and villages of Dangxiong County and related departments attended the signing ceremony.



◆ Mr. Koichiro Matsuura at Forum Venue

## Forum to Make Better San'in Kaigan UGGp Through Attractive Points Founded by People Not Involved in Geopark Activities

San'in Kaigan UGGp, Japan

In honour of the revalidation as a status of the UNESCO Global Geopark, a memorial forum was organized by the San'in Kaigan Geopark Promotion Council and held on March 14, 2019. With 80 participants coming from local communities and governments, we were granted opportunities to think about what the best society is in the UGGp area through the awareness of importance

of SDGs set by UNESCO. The main theme of this forum was "impressions of people who do not work for Geopark activities". As a result, local people developed a new approach to contribute to further development of their own territories.

Koichiro Matsuura, the former director of UNESCO, delivered a lecture themed on "SDGS set by UNESCO". In his

lecture, he pointed out that key issue faced by Geoparks is "to involve people". That means it is important to focus on how much geological heritage of international significance are respected, learned from and utilized as the best status by local people. World Heritage is also a popular UNESCO activity, but Geoparks need "people". That means providing

a link between the people and geological heritage is the unique activity of Geoparks. We understand that San'in Kaigan UGGp is expected to be a sustainable model area to promote the achievement of SDGs.

Entrepreneurs, who were the first visitors of San'in Kaigan, engaged in panel discussion focused on their thoughts after their two-day excursion.

"How attractive the local people are!" one attendee exclaimed. That is what impressed them most. Frankly

speaking, they pointed out that people are the highlight in efforts to interpret to guests how local people live in harmony with geological heritage and their culture.

San'in Kaigan, which has an 8-year history as a member of UGGp, received a "yellow card" from the Japanese Network Council in 2017 because of the lack of links among local communities. Therefore, local people are certain to feel anxious and frustrated if our area loses its status as Geopark. However, panelists insist that

the way of thinking should be changed. Efforts on community revitalization are intended to create or enhance the local area with a sense of belonging, common interests and values. Geopark revalidation should be the result of these local efforts. The key is the challenge. Geopark networks possess certain advantages in efforts to cooperate with other UGGps in order to improve and learn from one another. However, we realize that all local people should be very positive in their efforts to build the best Geopark in the world.

This forum gave opportunities to think about how local people can build their own area with an innovative vision. Guests expressed their positive impression that they wanted to revisit and move by understanding the attractive points of the San'in Kaigan Geopark. In short, they became "fans" of the area. The forum gave us the key to the solution on how we can endeavour to maintain and improve the status of our own Geopark in the years to come.

San'in Kaigan UNESCO Global Geopark, Japan  
 saninkaigangeopark@pref.hyogo.lg.jp



◆ Panel Discussion



◆ Exchange with Mayor of Itashino Local Area



◆ Genbudo Cave, Geosite with International Significance

# Please Send Your Suggestions and We'll Select Topics on the Main and Special Sessions for the 9th Geopark Conference

Jeju Island UGGp, Republic of Korea

The 9th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks will be held from September 17 - 20, 2020 on Jeju Island.

It would be a great help to us in organizing the conference if we could collect your valuable opinions regarding the topics for the Main Session and Special Session.

The topics that have been discussed and arranged by the organizing committee for the 2020 GGN International Conference (composed of experts on Jeju Global Geopark) are as follows:

## Main session topic

- Mature Geoparks - sharing success and challenges
- Aspiring Geoparks
- Regional and international UNESCO Global Geopark collaborations
- Popularizing scientific knowledge for public education
- Conservation, science and research
- Geoparks, sustainable tourism and sustainable local development
- Geoparks, climate change and geo-hazards
- Geodiversity of Korean Geoparks

## Special session

- Sustainable Tourism (for working group)
- Geohazards (for working group)
- Geoparks in Volcanic Areas (for working group)
- Island Geoparks (for working group)
- Geo-education
- Management on internationally designated areas
- Cases on conservation and utilization of National Parks

In case extra sessions are needed, please let us know.

Geopark working groups are active, so you can make requests for extra space or sessions for the working group.

Feel free to contact us if you have any questions or requests on the schedule arranged by the 2020 GGN committee (Dr. Jeon Yongmun; ymjeon74@korea.kr).

# Tentative schedule

Date	Sep 14 (Mon)	Sep 15 (Tue)	Sep 16 (Wed)	Sep 17 (Thu)	Sep 18 (Fri)	Sep 19 (Sat)	Sep 20 (Sun)	Sep 21-22
AM	UGGpC Meeting	UGGpC Meeting	UGGpC meeting APGN, EGN, LACGN AC (10:00-12:00)	Opening Ceremony & Key note	Session	Mid-Conference Field Trip	Session	Post-Conference Tour
Lunch								Evaluator's Seminar
PM	GGpC Meeting	UGGpC Meeting	APGN, EGN, LACGN CC (13:00 - 15:00)	Session (13:00 - 15:00)	GGN General Assembly (16:00-18:00)	Gala Dinner for all	Session	Post-Conference Tour
	UGGpC Meeting	GGN ExB Meeting (16:00-18:00)		GGN Advisory Committee Meeting (16:00-18:00)	Excursion (Field Workshop)			
	UGGpC Dinner	Ice-breaker Dinner for all		Welcome Dinner for all			Closing Ceremony	
	UGGpC Meeting (20:00-) Option 1							

You could contact(mail) when you have questions about the Conference to Jeon Yongmun ymjeon74@korea.kr  
See you on September 2020 on Jeju.



## SUBMISSION GUIDELINE

The GGN Newsletter will be published regularly on a quarterly basis. Submissions of January, February and March will be published as ISSUE 1 of the current year by the end of April, and so on. Submissions of October, November and December will be published as ISSUE 4 by the end of January of the following year.

The contents of the articles could involve the following themes: 1\_GGN Networking and Common Activities, 2\_Geo-Tourism, 3\_Activities and Events, 4\_Geo-Education and Science Popularization, 5\_Promotion and Communication, 6\_Human and Nature, 7\_Culture and Custom, 8\_Conferences, Courses and Workshops (which have happened), 9\_Announcements (Future Conferences, Courses and Workshops), etc.

Article template and requirements:

**THEME:** you could choose one of the 9 themes above or you could define a theme.

**TITLE:** no more than 20 words.

**GEOPARK NAME:** If the article is from a geopark.

**MAIN BODY:** 1\_Times New Roman, 11 pt. 2\_For the length of the texts, it is better between 300-500 words of each text. 3\_The file needs to be saved under the Issue\_THEME\_geopark/affiliation. For example, 2018 ISSUE 1\_Geo-Tourism\_Yanqing UGGp, China.

**INFORMATION OF THE AUTHOR:** author's name, affiliation/organization, COUNTRY, email.

**THE PHOTOS:** no more than 5 photos and related captions (captions could be added at the end of the article) and the logo of the geopark (if the article is from a geopark).

We will notify you within two weeks prior to publication whether we accept or reject the article. And we will make appropriate modifications without changing the original meaning of the article.

You can download the past issues of GGN Newsletter on the following website:

<http://www.globalgeopark.org/News/Newsletter/index.htm>

Submission email: [ggnnewsletter@163.com](mailto:ggnnewsletter@163.com).

Welcome your contributions! If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Editorial Board