

GGN - Geopark Annual Report 2016

1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

Geopark name, country, regional Network: Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark (HKUGG); China, Asia Pacific Geoparks Network (APGN) and Chinese Geoparks Network

Year of inscription / Year of the last revalidation: 2011/2015



Representative Photo:

Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark Gourmet Competition 2016

2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staffs: 21 staffs including 3 geoscientist(s)

Number of Visitors: remain stable at 1.4-1.5 million per year

Number of Geopark events: 22 events held by management body and 11 events co-organised with cooperative organizations.

Number school classes realize Geopark educational programmes: A total of 30 geopark school activities covering classes in primary schools, high schools and Universities.

Number of Geopark press release: Over 100 pieces

3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES - Major achievements in 2016 are summarized below:

Contribution towards GGN - Networking and Participation: HKUGG recognises the important roles and functions of networking and partnership in the geopark networks. To facilitate knowledge exchange and experience sharing, we co-organised and participated in a series of networking and promotional activities, including (1) the 2nd Geoscience Capacity Building Workshop co-organised with the Ministry of Land and Resources (MLR) of the People's Republic of China (PRC) in HKUGG; (2) the APGN Exchange Week co-organised with the Japanese Geoparks Network (JGN); and (3) the 7th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks (UGG) held in the English Riviera UGG during the reporting period.

Management and Financial status: The management and financial status of HKUGG remains stable with an annual recurrent budget of US\$3.74 million. An addition of around US\$0.51 million was allocated to HKUGG for enhancing the visibility of HKUGG and the UNESCO Global Geopark in 2016. The provision covers key management areas including (i) patrol and management; (ii) hardware and infrastructure; (iii) science popularization and promotion; (iv) staff training and (v) local engagement and sustainable socio-economic development.

Geoconservation: Located in the eastern part of Hong Kong and extended from the northeast New Territories to the Sai Kung area, HKUGG is a single entity where sites and landscapes of international significance are holistically managed with the support of local communities and other geopark stakeholders. With a view to strengthening the existing planning controls and conserving the outstanding ecological, landscape and geological features of HKUGG, statutory plans covering over 270 hectares of HKUGG were gazetted or approved in 2016.

Sustainable tourism (Geotourism): HKUGG received 1.4 to 1.5 million local and overseas visitors each year in the past five years, and the numbers are expected to increase further. HKUGG continued to work closely with the tourism industry and geopark communities in co-organised capacity training and promotion of sustainable geotourism activities. Currently, HKUGG has 48 geopark guides.

New Education programmes on geoconservation: To promote earth science and enhance public awareness of the importance of nature conservation, HKUGG continued to host new and innovative science-popularisation activities including (i) educational programme titled “Design Field Trip Activity for Life-wide Learning Experiences” which attracted teachers from around 40 local primary and secondary schools; (ii) student exchange programme co-organized with Zigong UGG of China, Unzen Volcanic Area UGG and the Itoigawa UGG of Japan; (iii) internship programme to full-time undergraduate students of Local Universities and (iv) science-popularisation sea voyage of “Global Geopark Sea Excursion”.

Strategic Partnership: HKUGG reviewed and updated our guidelines on partnership arrangements with local stakeholders, taking into account the requirements and recommendations of GGN, the natural and cultural environment of HKUGG and the socio-economic needs of local communities. In collaboration with relevant geopark stakeholders, HKUGG has continued to support, promote and in some cases operate geo-education, geo-conservation, socio-economic and cultural development initiatives. The HKUGG School Programme, the Recommended Geopark Guide system and the enhanced geopark services, including the new ferry service to Lai Chi Wo of the Northeast New Territories Sedimentary Rock Region and the shuttle bus tour of the Sai Kung Volcanic Rock Region, are some highlights. In addition, we have continued to actively assist Non-Governmental Organisations in promoting nature conservation and

managing rural areas with an innovative mindset. The “Sustainable Lai Chi Wo Project”, the Signature Project Scheme (North District) and the Chief Executive’s Community Project at Lai Chi Wo are some successful examples.

Promotional activities:

We collaborated with local operators and communities in taking forward the following promotional activities in 2016: (i) organised “Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark Gourmet Competition” to create a series of geopark-themed dishes; (ii) published a new guidebook titled “Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark – Food Map” in July 2016 to promote community ownership and local products and published a brand-new Great Outdoors Hong Kong guidebook for 2016/17; (iii) facilitated the launching ceremony of the new ferry service between Ma Liu Shui and Lai Chi Wo; (iv) publicised a brand new “Geopark Gourmet Photo Matching Game” in Facebook; (v) co-organised the “Sai Kung Art And About” to promoted UGGs through art painting; (vi) conduct media promotion on new visitor facilities at Sai Kung Volcanic Rock Region and (vii) organized meeting between HKUGG and Japanese travel agents in Tokyo to promote the diversified visitors’ attractions available in HKUGG.

4. Contacts:

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