

# GGN - Geopark Annual Report 2017

## 1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

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

**Year of inscription / Year of the last revalidation:** 2011/2017



**Representative Photo:**

Regional Exchange Programme co-organised with CGN and JGN, 2017

## 2. GEOPARK FIGURES

**Number of Geopark staffs:** 24 staffs including 3 geoscientist(s)

**Number of Visitors:** remain stable at around 1.5 million per year

**Number of Geopark events:** 18 events held by management body and 27 events co-organised with cooperative organizations.

**Number school classes realize Geopark educational programmes:** A total of 72 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 2017 are summarized below:

**Contribution towards GGN - Networking and Participation:** HKUGGp 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 3rd Geoscience Capacity Building Workshop co-organised with the Ministry of Land and Resources (MLR) of the People's Republic of China (PRC) in HKUGGp; (2) the Regional Exchange Programme co-organised with the CGN and the Japanese Geoparks Network (JGN); (3) the 5<sup>th</sup> APGN Symposium on UNESCO Global Geoparks (UGGp) held in the Zhijindong Cave UGGp, China and (4) participated in the Tourism Working Group of GGN during the reporting period.

**Management and Financial status:** The management and financial status of HKUGGp remains stable with an annual recurrent budget of US\$3.74 million. 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, HKUGGp 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 HKUGGp, statutory plans covering over 270 hectares of HKUGGp were gazetted or approved in 2017.

**Sustainable tourism (Geotourism):** HKUGGp received around 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. HKUGGp continued to work closely with the tourism industry and geopark communities in co-organised capacity training and promotion of sustainable and responsible tourism activities. Currently, HKUGGp has 48 geopark guides.

**New Education programmes on geoconservation:** To promote earth science and enhance public awareness of the importance of nature conservation, HKUGGp continued to host all-rounded science-popularisation activities including (i) educational programme titled “Quality Life-wide Learning Activity Workshop: Design Field Trip Learning Activity” which attracted teachers from around 22 local secondary schools; (ii) student exchange programme co-organized with Unzen Volcanic Area UGGp and the Itoigawa UGGp of Japan; (iii) internship programme to full-time undergraduate students of Local Universities and (iv) guided cultural tours to historical villagers in HKUGGp.

**Strategic Partnership:** HKUGGp routinely 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 HKUGGp and the socio-economic needs of local communities. In collaboration with relevant geopark stakeholders, HKUGGp has continued to support, promote and in some cases operate geo-education, geo-conservation, socio-economic and cultural development initiatives. The HKUGGp School Programme, the Recommended Geopark Guide system and the capacity building opportunities offered to the geopark communities of the Northeast New Territories Sedimentary Rock Region are some highlights. The trained villagers of Ap Chau and Sam Mun Tsai were actively engaged in geopark activities and recruited to deliver guided tours since April 2017. In addition, we have continued to engage

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 progressing well in 2017.

**Promotional activities:**

We collaborated with local operators and communities in taking forward the following promotional activities in 2017: (i) create a series of geopark-themed dishes and attract new restaurants at Sai Kung; (ii) published a new tourism magazine titled “Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark – New Geo-tour Ideas” in July 2017 to promote HKUGGp, its visitor services and local products; (iii) published a brand-new Great Outdoors Hong Kong guidebook for 2017/18; (iv) publicised new leaflets on geotour routes at Tung Ping Chau and Lai Chi Chong; (v) co-organised the 2<sup>nd</sup> “Sai Kung Art And About” to promoted UGGs through art painting; (vi) conduct media promotion on new visitor facilities HKUGGp and (vii) organized 3-D mural painting projects among other new visibility enhancement initiatives at major tourist hubs of HKUGGp.

**4. Contacts:**

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