



Non nước Cao Bang UNESCO Global Geopark, Viet Nam



Danxiashan UNESCO Global Geopark, China



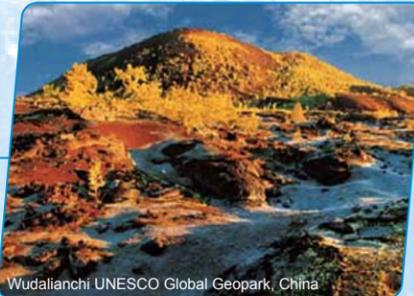
Tumbler Ridge UNESCO Global Geopark, Canada



Zhangjiajie UNESCO Global Geopark, China



Comarca Minera UNESCO Global Geopark, Mexico



Wudalianchi UNESCO Global Geopark, China

International MOUNTAIN DAY 2019



Ore of the Alps UNESCO Global Geopark, Austria



Sobrarbe-Pirineos UNESCO Global Geopark, Spain



Azores UNESCO Global Geopark, Portugal

International MOUNTAIN DAY 2019



Huanggang Dabieshan UNESCO Global Geopark, China



Apuan Alps UNESCO Global Geopark, Italy



Songshan UNESCO Global Geopark, China



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1st World Forum on Nature Conservation - China

30th October – 1 November 2019 Shenzhen

The first World Forum on Nature Conservation took place from October 30 to November 1 in Shenzhen, China. National delegations from 10 countries with developed protected area management systems (China, USA, France, Canada, United Kingdom, Austria, Egypt, etc.), chairs and representatives of international organizations (IUCN, UN Environment, GGN, WWF, ICSU, etc) participated in this important event.

The Global Geoparks Network was invited to present its philosophy, practices, results and contribution of the Global Geoparks in Nature Conservation.

Due to climate change we are facing major challenges regarding nature and biodiversity conservation. While wildlife populations are supposed to be resilient to shocks in their



◆ The exhibition on protected areas of China

ecosystems, catastrophic events such as wild fires, heat waves and major storms are happening on such large scales and so frequently that many species can't recover according to scientific observation. It is a moment for action and rising awareness. This moment selected by the Chinese authorities to launch a new major initiative for dialogue and exchange of knowledge and know-how on nature conservation and protected areas, the 1st World Forum in Shenzhen. The event presented China's new protected area governance system, the experience of managing protected areas internationally, and efforts to protect biodiversity and raise awareness of nature conservation through emblematic examples of protected areas.

Thematic symposia on the following topics were organized as part of the conference:

- The system of protected areas and land management policy in China
- Management and ecological restoration of wildlife habitats
- Experience leisure in protected areas and eco-friendly products
- Environmental education and social participation
- Legislation, management regulations and a system of management agencies for protected areas.
- Monitoring and evaluating the results of nature conservation management plans.

- Community participation in protected natural areas
- International cooperation and progress in the management of protected areas
- Urban development and protected areas

Nature Conservation and Protected Areas in China

Since the establishment in 1956 of its first nature protected area China now owns 10 pilot national parks, 474 state nature protected areas and 244 state scenic sites, Mr. Li Chunliang, deputy head of the National Forestry and Grassland Administration said.

Moreover, China also has the greatest number of the UNESCO Global Geoparks (39) and World Natural Heritage sites (14) and World Natural and Cultural Heritage sites (4).

China has established more than 11,800 protected areas covering 18 percent of its land area and 4.6 percent of its sea area, aiming to build the world's most expansive mechanism for the management of protected areas by 2025.

Under the plan for the new mechanism, the country's protected areas are divided into three categories - national parks, nature parks and nature protected areas, announced by Li Chunliang, deputy head of the National Forestry and Grassland Administration.

Ten pilot programs at national parks, representing China's most typical natural systems, will conclude by the end of 2020. The pilot parks include Giant Panda National Park, Three-River-Source National Park, and Northeast Tiger and Leopard National Park.

The nature protected areas will be those regions that harbour endangered wildlife or have special significance to the protection of natural relics.

Currently, China's nature protected areas - including 35 million hectares of natural forests and



◆ Mr. Li from National Forestry and Grassland Administration

20 million hectares of wetlands - are safeguarding 85 percent of the country's total wildlife and 65 percent of its vascular plants.

Nature parks, where the mechanism is being officially unveiled for the first time, will play a role in providing more interaction between nature and humans, including tourism, scientific studies and public education.

In June, the State Council unveiled a guideline to establish the mechanism of nature protected areas with national parks as a major component, in an effort to push forward sustainable development.

"China has special conditions, and there's no model that we could just copy from overseas," Li said at the opening ceremony of the first World Forum on Nature Conservation that kicked off in Shenzhen, Guangdong province, on Wednesday. "We need to find our own way to build a mechanism based on our own conditions.

"As one of the countries containing the greatest biodiversity of resources in the world, China has made constant efforts to protect them," he said.

According to Li, China will draft a law focused on protected areas to guarantee the implementation of the mechanism and build a database and surveillance platform, encouraging more cross-border cooperation on protected areas and participation from the public.



◆ Prof. N. Zouros from Global Geoparks Network

"Protected natural areas play an important role in safeguarding the nation's ecological safety, protecting its biodiversity, preserving its natural heritage and improving the ecological environment," said Li Chunliang.

The Global Geoparks Presence in the Forum

Prof. Nikolaos Zouros, President of the Global Geoparks Network, presented the objectives of the UNESCO Global Geopark Program and referred to the actions of the Geoparks to protect and promote the natural environment and natural and cultural

heritage, the interdependence between geo-diversity and biodiversity. He cited specific successful examples of the protection, enhancement and effective management of geological monuments and geological heritage sites.

At the session regarding community participation in protected areas, Mr. Ka Ming Yeung the Director of the Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark presented the experience sharing of community participation in Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark.

Exhibition on the Protected Areas of China

Parallel to the Forum an Exhibition was organized to present the progress and achievements in nature conservation in China. Among the other Protected areas, UNESCO Global Geoparks were presented.

Awards to Chinese UNESCO Global Geoparks

In a special ceremony at the opening of the Forum, Li Chunliang, deputy head of the National Forestry and Grassland Administration and Professor N. Zouros President of GGN awarded the two protected areas and National Geoparks of China being successfully recognized in 2019 as UNESCO Global Geoparks.



◆ Awarding the new UNESCO Global Geoparks from China



Global Geoparks Network Celebrating 15 Years of Activities

15 years ago, in February 2004 the Global Geoparks Network was born at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris aiming the protection and rational management of the Earth's geological heritage sites and their utilization as a tool for the sustainable development of the territories hosting these outstanding heritage sites.

25 territories were included in the first List of the Global Geoparks!

In June 2004 the 1st International Conference on Global Geoparks took place in Beijing China with the participation of more than 1000 delegates from 40 countries including representatives from UNESCO, the International Union of Geological Sciences – IUGS, the International Geographical Union – IGU, the International Union for Nature Conservation – IUCN, the European Geoparks Network – EGN and many other regional and national entities related with geological heritage protection and management.

The 1st International

Conference on Global Geoparks in Beijing was the starting point for the development and geographical expansion of the Network of Global Geoparks in Asia and Pacific, in Africa, Latin America and North America. One of the outcomes was the establishment of the International Conference on Global Geoparks as the main platform of communication, sharing and exchange among Global Geoparks and the biannual forum to present Global Geoparks achievements. The 2nd Conference was organized in Belfast, North Ireland - 2006, the 3rd in Osnabruck, Germany - 2008, the 4th in Langkawi, Malaysia - 2010, the 5th in Shimabara, Japan - 2012, the 6th in Saint Jones, New Brunswick, Canada – 2014, the 7th in English Riviera, UK – 2016 and the 8th in Adamello - Brenta, Italy in 2018.

During the last 15 years Global Geoparks Network through networking and hard work, presented concrete results in the protection, conservation and management of outstanding

geological heritage sites, in building infrastructure and geotourism services, in environmental education, in local development and the creation of new jobs and new opportunities for young people in rural areas.

Thus in 2015 the UNESCO General Conference unanimously decided the creation of the UNESCO Global Geoparks, its statutes and operation guidelines and the Global Geoparks Network became the official partner of UNESCO for the management of the UNESCO Global Geoparks, the third site designation of UNESCO together with World Heritage Sites and Man and Biosphere Reserves.

In 2019, 15 years later, the Global Geoparks Network expanded in 5 continents, 41 countries to include 147 UNESCO Global Geoparks, working together to protect and promote the geological heritage of our planet in a frame of an holistic heritage management as the driving force for the sustainable development of rural areas around the globe.

“Ferraria” Geological Trail

Azores UNESCO Global Geopark, Portugal

The exotic Nature and its natural and geological heritage are, without doubt, the main ex-libris of the Azores, with scenic and aesthetic characteristics and attributes of great attractiveness. The volcanic landscapes are the main motto of interest and development of geotourism in the archipelago and they present a wide range of possibilities for sustainable use, where several activities can be performed and associated tourist products can be developed.

To discover, by foot, the Azorean geosites, enhancing the regional network of walking trails and other trails, the Azores UNESCO Global Geopark have been implementing some geological trails and routes, including the production of informative support materials and leaflets.

On August 2019, a new

Interpretative Geological Trail was formally inaugurated, designed by the Azores UNESCO Global Geopark for the

“Pico das Camarinhas – Ponta da Ferraria” geosite/natural monument, whose classification as a protected area is essentially



◆ Site #2 for the observation and interpretation of the geo-landscape
◆ Nameplate of one of the geodiversity element(s) present on the area, which includes the QR code

based on the abiotic values of the area and on the relevant geodiversity and geological heritage that this protected area presents.

Sponsored and implemented on site by the Regional Directorate of Environment / Natural Park of São Miguel Island, Ferraria's geological trail offers users, local people and visitors, a complementary geotouristic offer to this geosite, through a 4.9 km pedestrian path extension and 16 privileged sites for the observation and interpretation of this geo-landscape.

At each site there is a nameplate of the geodiversity element(s) present on the area, which includes a QR code



◆ Formal inauguration of the Interpretative Geological Trail

that provides direct access to additional online information. Available in Portuguese and English, this information will be soon available for download on a smartphone or other similar device, or even printed in advance and used on site by



◆ Litoral Cone. This small pyroclastic cone is characterized by the absence of a deep volcanic plumbing system: thus, it was formed by small explosions due the contact between the base of the lava flow and the sea water, at the time of the lava delta genesis

users, supporting the geosite visit.

Scoria Cone; Explosion Craters; Trachytic Dome; Ferraria Lighthouse; Sabrina Islet; Trench; Basaltic Scoria; Lava Delta; Old Sea Cliff; Dyke; “aa” Lavas; Lava Arch; Natural Swimming Pool; Littoral Cone; Xenoliths; Ferraria Thermal Baths: those are the name of the 16 geodiversity hotspots identified in the Picos das Camarinhas - Ponta da Ferraria geological trail.

Other geological trails are being prepared and soon will be implemented, complementing and diversifying the touristic offer of the Azores UGGp territory and continuously promoting the geotourism in the territory.

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◆ Riders are enjoying seaside scenery



San'in Kaigan Geopark Randonneuring

~ Wide Area Tourism ~

San'in Kaigan UNESCO Global Geopark, Japan

In wide area of the San'in Kaigan UGGp that is comprised of three municipalities, Kyoto pref, Hyogo pref and Tottori pref, there are three own Randonneuring (long-distance cycling event). It's not the race so that visitors can enjoy gourmet and beautiful scenery. In 2019, these Randonneuring event was unified as the San'in Kaigan Geopark Randonneuring.

The most characteristic of San'in Kaigan is richly varying coastal landscape represented

by ria coast and Tottori Sand Dunes. Another characteristic is unique and beautiful landforms and topography comprising waterfall and valley. The geopark is referred as a 'Geological Museum.' Unique landforms such as waterfall and valley can also be seen in the throughout area. The region has also a variety of plants, wildlife including endangered species and national monument. Bicycle is recommended to enjoy these geological features.

Randonneuring where visitors run through the Geopark from east to west is a symbol event of San'in Kaigan.

People of all ages from 10-60 years old are accommodated within the area to participate from all over Japan. PR booth was also effective in attracting participants because the number was increased in later events. But, some cyclists could not join the 'San'in Kaigan Randonners' due to lack of event announcement. In principal,

participants need three finishing certificates of each long-ride events which were held in different dates. Although we still have points to improve for the future, we think this business has succeeded in promoting wide area tourism. Some cyclists commented, 'I want to run through all of events next year!' This is not the race, so that winners who can get local specialties are selected at the lottery from all participants. We realize more and more people were attracted to Geopark.

Main theme of the San'in Kaigan UGGp is 'Geological features, natural environment, people's lives, and formation of the Sea of Japan.' In short,

'diversity.' We think one of the best way to understand the San'in Kaigan UGGp is just to visit. Once you visit the geopark, you will fully enjoy delicious food

and beautiful scenery at each geosite. We hope the San'in Kaigan Geopark Randonneuring will become a key business to promote geotourism.

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◆ Let's start



◆ Announcement of San'in Kaigan Geopark Long Ride Lally



photo Lorenzo Shoubridge

New Geotrails

Discovering the Apuan Alps UNESCO Global Geopark, Italy



Apuan Alps UNESCO Global Geopark, Italy

The Apuan Alps UNESCO Global Geopark, in central Italy, is characterized by a high geodiversity and biodiversity at the transition between the Middle-European and Mediterranean biogeographical regions. The Apuan Alps mountain range, growing up to about 2000 m from the Versilia plain at the Ligurian Sea coast, displays extraordinary landscapes. 500 million years are represented in its rocks,



containing the evidence of two orogenies (Hercynian and Alpine) inside a tectonic window which is one of the key structures to understand the Northern Apennines geology. More than 200 geosites, including orographic, fluvial, mineralogical, karst, glacial, structural, hydrogeological and paleontological features, highlight the outstanding geological heritage of the Apuan Alps.

At the beginning of 2019, the Apuan Alps UGGp produced a new leaflet that is meant to promote 9 geotrails celebrating the geological and cultural heritage of the Geopark. These geotrails are footpaths with varying travel times (from one hour or less, up to a maximum of one day) and difficulty rating (easy, moderate and difficult). They are suitable for both families with children and experienced hikers and are equipped with explanatory panels.

The geotrails' locations are shown in a simplified map that offers visitors a comprehensive geographical awareness by highlighting the main geosites, main access roads and railway stations and other tourist points of interest.

The geotrails can be divided according to their main geological and geomorphological meaning.

Two geotrails deal with fluvial landforms: the Equi Terme Solco is a 1.5 km long deep canyon reaching the Pizzo d'Uccello northern slope where moraine deposits of the Last



Geopark: i) the Serenaia glacial valley, characterized by the typical U-shape and sheepback rocks. This geotrail has a specific added value as it is accessible to disabled people and equipped with braille panels; ii) the Geotrail n. 4, connecting the pastoral village of Campocattino with the San Viviano hermitage, a charming chapel sheltered by a rock wall, unfolds through an area of geosites representative of landforms and deposits of glacial origin at the foot of the Mt. Roccandaglia eastern side.



Glaciation are observable. "Giants' potholes" carved inside white marble are preserved traces of the turbulent flow of the river water. However, the most outstanding examples of "giants' pot-holes" can be observed as the main topic of Geotrail n. 6 equipped along a stream flowing down from the Mt. Sumbra southern slope.

Landscapes shaped by glacial activities dated about 10,000 years ago can be appreciated in other two geotrails in the northern part of the Apuan Alps

The Via Vandelli geotrail, rich in cultural-historical evidence, allows hikers to enjoy spectacular panoramic views of the entire geopark, crossing the main ridge of the Apuan Alps along the ancient road built in the mid-eighteenth century to connect the towns of Massa and Modena.

The Mount Ballerino ring trail is instead an easy trail starting from the "Carrara" CAI (Italian Alpine Club) hut and includes a superb observation point of the impressive rock walls of the northernmost part of the Apuan

Alps and karst landforms.

Amazing karst landforms characterize the geological landscape at the foot of the Panie mountains, an iconic area of the Apuan Alps, which is crossed by the Geotrail n. 7, named the Mouflon trail, as specimens of this animal can be observed in the wilderness.

In the southern part of the Apuan Alps Geopark, the Geotrail n. 8, from the village of Levigliani to the Mosceta pass, is devoted to geosites of both structural and cultural values. It unfolds along the Mt. Corchia syncline fold, whose core is made of marble, and crosses the Paleozoic phyllites and quartzites that house the bunkers built during the Second World War along the Gothic Line.

Finally, walking the Geotrail n. 9 from "S. Martino alla Cappella" medieval church, visitors can observe the historical quarries of the Cappella "Bardiglio" marble and relevant aspects of the marble quarrying industry as it was when it flourished during the XIX-XX centuries.

All the described footpaths offer the possibility to discover places full of geology, culture and evocative landscapes in the wild nature of the Apuan Alps... we are waiting for you!

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Walk into Ecological Danxiashan and Create Natural Beauty with Heart



—Final of 1st Danxiashan Nature Note Taking Contest Held

Danxiashan UNESCO Global Geopark, China

For the purpose of performing the function of science popularization of Danxiashan and inspiring the majority of young people to walk into UGGPs, the 1st Danxiashan Nature Note Taking Contest was held in Danxiashan from Nov. 2 to 3, 2019. Sponsored by the Danxiashan Administrative Committee and organized by the Guangzhou Nature Observation Association, the contest helps the young people get close to nature, observe nature, realize nature and conserve nature. They showed their love to nature through their notes with pictures and words. More than 200 contestants in over 50 teams from cities including Guangzhou, Shaoguan and Zhuhai participated in the contest.

The finals are divided into fieldtrip and field creation. During the field trip, more than 200 contestants went to the Danxiashan science popularization research routes, Danxiashan Museum,

Danxiashan Science Popularization classes for learning geology and geomorphology, biological diversity, astronomical observation, and Hakka culture, deepening their understanding of the mountain. On the morning of Nov. 3, contestants meticulously created nature notes by cooperating with their partners in the Danxiashan UGGP. Danxia landscape, specific plants in Danxiashan, and common birds looked more vivid and interesting in their works.

10 gold awards, 20 silver awards and 20 bronze awards were selected by the judging committee of the contest. The

winning works will be shown online. One of the managers in the Danxiashan Administrative Committee said that Danxiashan always attached great importance to the promotion of public science education by taking advantages of its ecological resources. Many Nature Observation and Writing Contests for primary and middle school students in Guangdong Province have been held, which has attracted more and more young people to come to the Danxiashan UGGP to learn about nature and earth science. Their consciousness and knowledge of protecting the earth have been enhanced as well.

Li Guiqing, Xiao Wei

Danxiashan UNESCO Global Geopark, China



Lushan UNESCO Global Geopark Sets up Sister Geopark Cooperation with Novohrad-Nógrád UNESCO Global Geopark, Hungary and Slovakia



Lushan UNESCO Global Geopark, China

On November 13, 2019, the signing ceremony of the sister geopark cooperation between the Lushan UNESCO Global Geopark and the Novohrad-Nógrád UNESCO Global Geopark, Hungary and Slovakia was held at the Lushan UGGP Conference Center. On behalf of both geoparks, Dr. Gergely Horváth (authorized by the co-leaders of the Novohrad-Nógrád UNESCO Global Geopark) and Mr. Xiong Wei, Deputy



Director of the Lushan UNESCO Global Geopark Administrative Committee signed the sister

geopark agreement. The Novohrad-Nógrád UNESCO Global Geopark is the 14th sister



geopark of the Lushan UNESCO Global Geopark. The new cooperation will promote international communication and cooperation among GGN as well as the conservation and management of Chinese global geoparks.

The Novohrad-Nógrád UNESCO Global Geopark became a member of the Global Geoparks Network in 2010. She is the first geopark of Hungary and Slovakia and the first global geopark that spreads over borders in the world. The Lushan UNESCO Global Geopark and the Novohrad-Nógrád UNESCO Global Geopark will have international cooperation on sharing experiences on conserving geological remains, promoting geoscience popularization, cultural, geotourism development, and mutual publicity of both geoparks.

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Last activities carried out by the Molina-Alto Tajo Geopark

Molina & Alto Tajo UNESCO Global Geopark, Spain

Year after year, activities aimed at all audiences are being carried out so that the inhabitants of municipalities that make up the Geopark participate and make them their own and, on the other hand, encourage the local economy.

The Craft and Tourism Fairs are undoubtedly the ones that have the greatest social and

economic repercussions that they cause in the Geopark locations. During this year they have been held in Torremocha del Pinar, Corduente, Maranchón, Taravilla, Peralejos de las Truchas and El Pobo de Dueñas. These Fairs have been held in the summer season, during the months of May to September mainly; Except for

Activities and Events

those already established, such as the Truffle Fairs, the Gift and Tourism Fair. The latter are developed in Molina de Aragón during the rest of the year as it is the town where the largest number of people are concentrated within the territory of the UNESCO Global Geopark in the region of Molina - Alto Tajo. Likewise, Geopark workers have collaborated with thematic Workshops and with informative booths in other Fairs such as the Fiesta Ganchera del Alto Tajo that is being held at the end of August or Madrid Bird that was held in Madrid during the days 7 to 9 of June.

Throughout the year the Geopark organizes different conferences of different themes to publicize different aspects of its territory, both within it and in locations outside the scope of the Geopark. These conferences are held with the participation of different specialists in the topics chosen to publicize the Geopark as well as the one held in the



town of Sigüenza (Guadalajara) on October 18 and 26.

Other activities that are widely accepted by children are the Geopark Workshops that are held from the Molina Regional Museum. These workshops with different themes help the youngster to know in a fun way the environment in which they live and its value.

During this year, the exhibitions of the Maranchón Paleontological Museum have

increased and a permanent Celtiberia exhibition has been installed in Cubillejo de la Sierra.

The Geopark also participates and collaborates with the Town Halls in the placement of panels and identifying symbols of the different GeoRutas that, year after year, are created. These GeoRoutes serve to publicize diversity of territory and in turn serve to ensure that the people who travel them take care of the environment, valuing nature.

María Viorreta

Tourism Technician of the UNESCO Global Geopark Molina-Alto-Tajo, Spain



Third Global Geopark Revalidation Exercises

Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark, Malaysia

Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark (UGGp) marks the year of 2019 as its twelve-year of an amazing journey since its inscription in 2007.

At the same time, this year is also a crucial year to have its UNESCO Global Geopark status revalidated for the third time.

Obtaining a green card confers the right to carry the title UNESCO Global Geopark which every geopark is subject to undergo revalidation once every four years.

This August, Dr. Kirstin Lemon from the Geological Survey of Northern Ireland and Sigurður Sigursveinsson from the University Centre of South Iceland arrived in the geopark on a four-day field inspection trip from Aug 7 to 11.

Dr. Lemon is the Vice-Chairperson of the UK Global Geopark Committee, Chairperson of the Irish Global Geoparks Committee and sits on the Geological Society of London Geoconservation Committee.

Mr. Sigursveinsson is the Director at University Centre of South Iceland. He aims to elevate South Iceland's economic and social standing through the lure of a global geopark status. The university's pilot study of the Katla volcanic region in 2008 led

to Katla Geopark being inscribed as Iceland's first global geopark in September 2011.

The two evaluators will assess what's happening on the ground against the report submitted by Langkawi UGGp that outlines a brief description of highlights, news, most important progress, developments in Langkawi during the past 4 years.

The field evaluation is to find out whether the quality, management and functioning of Langkawi UGGp have improved since its previous revalidation.

Celebrating 12 Amazing Years of Global Geopark

The un-spoilt natural beauty that is Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark is a force to be reckoned with.

Langkawi was once the paradise lost for many a backpacker from Europe in the early 1990s.

Planeloads of chartered air flights from especially Germany flew directly to the pristine island brought in Germans who so much loved the sandy beaches and easy laid-back lifestyle that many decided to stay on.

A small German community has stayed on and quite a number started businesses with their



spouses after settling down and have children of their own through mixed marriages.

Then, Langkawi was renowned to local visitors for its sand beaches, verdant paddy fields and, of course, the legendary tales of princess Mahsuri who cast a seven-generation curse on the island for being wrongfully killed for adultery, the burnt rice remnants, and the black beach phenomenon, which remains a mystery to this day.

At about this time, the trending Green movement caught the attention of local earth scientists to descend upon Langkawi to study its rock formations.

Fast forward a few decades later, Langkawi was declared a duty-free island in 1987, a Global Geopark in 2007 and a UNESCO Global Geopark in 2015.

In many ways, Langkawi was transformed with the advent of eco-tourist attractions such as Kilim mangrove tours that won the 2018 Malaysia Tourism Award for best eco-tourism product, and most notably, the geopark-centric initiatives that are being pursued by Langkawi Development Authority (LADA) and the travel trade.

Yet in many respects, Langkawi remains unspoilt and with each subsequent visit, new enhancements can clearly be seen. New attractions, improvements to the road and transportation system, a higher standard of living for the local community and a cohesive effort towards sustainable tourism are all very apparent.

The air remains fresh and the waters clean as LADA takes on the mantle to continue raising environmental awareness in a multi-pronged effort.

LADA's Hall of Fame

The progress and development of Langkawi

UGGp to its present state as an internationally-acclaimed geo-tourism destination owed its success to the excellent leadership of LADA and its general managers and chief executive officers. Their tireless efforts while in office have elevated the island's status by leaps and bounds.

2007 marked the year Langkawi was inscribed as a Global Geopark and the then general manager was Dato' Dr. Kamarulzaman Abdul Ghani. It was his vision that started the elaborate process that led to the success of Langkawi receiving the status of a Global Geopark.

Although retired, his passion has prompted him to continue to serve in a different capacity as the president of Friends of Langkawi Geopark (FLAG), a community-based NGO he founded in 2013. FLAG helps keep an eye on things on the ground level and is quick to assist LADA and the community to do what is necessary when it comes to sustainability practices on the island.

Four years later in 2011 when it was time for the first revalidation of the global geopark status, Dato' Azman Umar who took over the helm as LADA's general manager led it to greater heights by garnering the support of all stakeholders to come alongside LADA in terms of understanding the concept of geopark and how they can play a role in this arena.

During the second revalidation in 2015, Langkawi was in the able hand of Tan Sri Khalid Ramli under whose tenure Langkawi received international recognition by UNESCO as a geopark reference centre for Southeast Asia. The accolade was conferred at the 4th Asia-Pacific Geoparks Network (APGN) San'in Kaigan Symposium held in Tottori, Japan.

When Dato' Haji Azizan Noordin assumed the position of LADA CEO in December 2016, he introduced a strategic plan that covered three major areas: sustainable tourism, investment and

community development for Langkawi. As a key member of Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA), Dato' Azizan was responsible for introducing Langkawi UGGp to the non-profit regional travel association that champions responsible development of travel and tourism to, from and within the Asia Pacific region.

Today, under the watch of Dr. Hezri Adnan, LADA is bent on raising the bar by working towards the culmination of Asia's first Transnational Geopark with the merging of Langkawi UGGp with neighbouring Satun UGGp. Both will benefit from the merger through the carrying out of joint efforts in cross-border geopark tourism research and promotion.

Starting Them Young

Ensuring a geopark legacy is protected, it makes sense to inculcate the islanders to have a sense of belonging and it is best done at an early age. The younger generation will be the custodian of Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark.

Three years ago, Geopark Clubs were introduced to the 27 primary and secondary schools on the island where children were taught about the history and immense value of Langkawi UGGp and how to protect this precious asset from being eroded and contaminated.

They took part in clean-up activities, mangrove sapling plantings, recycling programmes, educational cruises and attending talks by trained geopark teachers. In October 2018, Langkawi UGGp achieved a world's first for introducing the Geopark Junior Guide programme where primary and secondary school students were trained to be in-house guides to visitors, a title which they are proud of.

A Change for The Better

The local adults, too, receive ample opportunities to be involved in the Langkawi UGGp initiatives such as the weekly Geosite Cleaning Programme among others. Recently, 103 members of Langkawi Tourist Guide Association were certified as Geopark Guides Level 101 (basic) and there are plans in the pipeline to certify them to Level 102 (intermediate) and Level 103 (advanced).

This is a huge contrast as compared to when the geopark concept was first introduced to the tourism industry players, according to Dr. Hezri.

"Back then, people only knew Langkawi for its beaches. The concept of geopark, which covers community development, social-economic growth, lifelong learning, gender equality, global partnerships and sustainability, were foreign to them.

The hoteliers, restaurateurs and tour operators were against it and told us that the tourists do not need nor appreciate the geopark concept," says Dr. Hezri. "It took a lot of tireless and patient efforts to get their buy-in, but the results made it worthwhile. When they saw how the geopark initiatives benefited the community and industry as a whole, they became our strongest supporters."

To date, there are 22 appointed geopark partner organisations and geopark ambassadors ranging from hotels, restaurants, NGOs and tour operators who have the platforms to publicize the geopark agenda. The well-equipped Geopark Discovery Centre at the Four Seasons Resort, the Nature Centre at The Datai Langkawi and Coral Conservation at The Andaman together with the role of their respective resident naturalists are just three of the many testaments to this.

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Shennongjia UGGp Hosts Bird-watching Competition

Shennongjia UNESCO Global Geopark, China

From 19th to 22nd October, 2019, Shennongjia UGGp hosted a bird-watching competition. The competition was organized by the Forestry Administration of Hubei Province, the People's Government of Shennongjia Forestry District and the Wildlife Conservation Association of Hubei Province, and sponsored by the Administration of Shennongjia National Park and the Shennongjia Golden Snub-nosed Monkey Conservation Foundation.

A total of 20 teams from bird-watching associations, wildlife protection organizations, nature education institutions and eco-enterprises participated in the competition. During the competition the participants also enjoyed the beautiful landscape of mountains,

rivers, valleys, wetland and rich bio-diversity of Muyu area, Shennongding area, Hongping area and Dajihu area.

The judges confirmed that a total of 198 bird species were observed and recorded during this competition, including 10 species that had never been found in Shennongjia. The number of the wild bird species

found in Shennongjia increased from 418 to 428.

Fu Jianping, former president of the Bird-watching Association of the China Biodiversity Conservation and Green Development Foundation, participated in the competition. He said he was grateful that the beautiful birds in Shennongjia UGGp



◆ Participating teams



◆ *Pyrrhula erythaca*
Photo by Zhang Weimin



◆ *Carpodacus vinaceus*
Photo by Zhang Weimin



◆ *Aquila chrysaetos*
Photo by Zhang Weimin

brought bird fans from all over the country together to enjoy the fun of bird-watching and discovery.

Mr. Zheng Chenglin, Chief Engineer of the Administration of Shennongjia National Park said: "We can see this competition as a field survey by many experienced bird experts on the distribution of bird species in Shennongjia UGGp. It helps us get a clearer picture of the bird resources of Shennongjia UGGp. This

will provide scientific basis for high-quality conservation of the natural resources, and greatly help enriching the connotation of the study-tour in Shennongjia UGGp, cultivating a brand for popular science education and promoting the public awareness on biodiversity conservation."

Shennongjia UGGp is of high value for its rich resources of rare and endangered plant

species. Its unique geographic and climate conditions also resulted in great diversity of bird species. Among the wild bird species found in Shennongjia UGGp, 65 are national key protected species, including 4 national Class I protected species and 61 national Class II protected species.

Chen Jinxin

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◆ Looking for bird



◆ Observing and identifying



◆ Participant

Conducting a Field Trip to Wangwushan-Daimeishan UGGp by University Teachers

Wangwushan-Daimeishan UNESCO Global Geopark, China

As the partner of Wangwushan-Daimeishan Global Geopark, a group of about 40 teachers from the School of Resources and Environment of Henan Polytechnic University conducted a field trip in the geopark on November 13th, 2019. The delegation visited the Wangwushan-Daimeishan Geopark museum, and investigated the unconformity interface of “Wangwu” movement as well as the typical lithological outcrops of the Paleo-mesoproterozoic. Through this field trip, the teachers gained a better understanding of the geological scenery in this area and obtained more inspiration for teaching and research.



◆ Students in Covalagua route



Las Loras UNESCO Global Geopark, Spain

The 15th European Geopark Conference was held in Sevilla from the 23rd to the 27th of September. Several students from two Higher Education

Centres inside the Geopark – IES Campos de Amaya from Villadiego and IES Santa María la Real from Aguilar de Campoo – and their teachers

had the opportunity to make a presentation during 15 minutes about the exchange carried out along the year. They also participated in the conference

workshops and exchanged views with other students and representatives from the European Geoparks.

The reference for this experience was the 2017-2018 Erasmus+ Project, in which there had been an exchange with 4 European Geoparks. At this present year the exchange was made locally, between the two Las Loras Geopark education centres.

In both cases students were asked to develop research work in an area surrounding their centres and also to design the route, its contents, prepare the material for the explanations and then guide their invited schoolmates. Teachers and Geopark technicians always accompanied the activities.

Firstly, a conference on heritage values and the geological history of the Geopark was held by the Geopark representatives at Aguilar de Campoo education centre.

The second working session consisted of a field trip along Covalagua Protected Landscape to research and to determine the most representative sites of significance, what should be told about them and how to do it.

The groups for each stop were organised in the classroom,



♦ The team at the 15th European Geopark Conference



♦ Students presentation at the Sevilla Conference

where contents, material and dynamics (which included some theatre plays organised in order to explain some of the route resources) were also worked.

Students from Villadiego had been working for two years with Erasmus+ and decided to use the material previously prepared and show it to Aguilar students. Fuenteodra was the selected route. Nevertheless, a field notebook with questions to be answered during the route and a final game, intended to reinforce the concepts learned, were prepared at school.

Both exchange working sessions were very successful, because students were able to have a deep insight of the Geopark sites. And they could also apply concepts they had



♦ Model on charcoal production

been taught at school, and research and learn new things using different techniques and above all, they were made aware of the responsibility implied when preparing this type of activities and contents in every detail.

Photos and videos were made during the route in order to make a film afterwards:

https://youtu.be/_zmYYy72HE8.

The opportunity to present their work, facing an adult audience, and doing it in English in the main hall of the International Congress is undoubtedly a huge challenge for these 15-year-old teenagers (including travelling and leaving their territories in order to showcase their own heritage). We think it was an important experience in their lives and that the effort, monitoring and work carried out with them were all well worth.

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♦ Students in Fuenteodra route

Keketuohai UNESCO Global Geopark is Greeted with the Largest Research and Study Delegation

Keketuohai UNESCO Global Geopark, China

Keketuohai UNESCO Global Geopark, based on rich local cultural and natural resources, has built a research and study tourism base with local characteristics, which effectively promotes the transformation and development of the local economy. On October 13, 2019, the research activities jointly carried out by Education Center of Comprehensive Practice for Teenagers in Urumqi and Morning Post International Travel Agency were conducted in No. 3 Mining Area of Keketuohai UNESCO Global Geopark in the beautiful autumn. The research team consists of 184 students from Urumqi No. 68 Middle School and Korla Middle School, which is also the largest research team currently received by the geopark.

In the geological exhibition



◆ Experience in mine pit



◆ Taking group photos at the Secondary Tablet of the Global Geopark



◆ Experience of pushing ores

At the bottom of vein No. 3, students acquired geological knowledge by discovering and learning of rare metal ores in the process of "treasure hunting". Walking through the artificially excavated Ayiguozhi mine, students appreciated the great pioneering work of the miners in those days, experiencing the hardships of the miners in the "pushing ore" competition, and was deeply touched by "Keketuohai Spirit".

As the autumn is a season of harvest, this research tour left

so much for students to reflect on. They realize better about the strength of teamwork in their common days. The history and spirit of Keketuohai will become

an inexhaustible motive to inspire them to have firm beliefs, industrious attitude and strive for being good teenagers.

Wei Qiangshan and Qin Fenghua

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◆ Visit the Geological Exhibition Hall

Science Popularization in Zhijindong Cave UGGp

—Exploring the mysteries of the universe

Zhijindong Cave UNESCO Global Geopark, China

In order to promote the scientific spirit and spread more about the frontier astronomy science knowledge to young people, stimulate the students' spirit of exploration and discovery. On November 13, Zhijindong Administration and Zhijindong Tourism Company, together with Guizhou Association of Science and Technology and Beijing Zhiyouxing Technology Co., Ltd., invited Prof. Qian Shengbang (doctoral supervisor and chief researcher of Yunnan Observatory of Chinese Academy of Sciences), Dr. Liang Nan (assistant to the President of Guizhou Normal University, associate researcher of Yunnan Observatory of Chinese Academy of Sciences), and relevant experts and scholars to hold an activity of astronomical science popularization into campus in Zhijindong Cave

UGGp.

"Will the earth be destroyed in 2 billion years?", "Is there an alien civilization?", "How does the black hole originate?" After listening to the lectures given by Prof. Qian Shengbang and Dr. Liang Nan, the students actively asked the experts questions and the experts answered them carefully, creating a joyous and cheerful atmosphere.

Students commented that "the lectures given by the two

experts are very humorous and interesting, which we can accept very well. In the process of listening, we have gained a lot of astronomical knowledge and have generated a strong interest in astronomy. The universe is so vast that we didn't expect it before. Compared with the universe, human beings are so small." They also hoped that the experts would come to the school to organize more activities like this in the future.



Jin Xin, the Principal of Guanzhai Middle School, said, "through such a learning opportunity, students can learn more about the earth, natural resources and the wide application of astronomy, which has aroused their interest in learning scientific knowledge and cultivated their scientific literacy. The school will also continue to carry out science popularization activities in collaboration with the geopark so that more students will benefit, so as to increase the science knowledge of students".

After the lecture, the students also experienced

the VR astronomy, learned the differences between the optical telescope and the radio telescope, the students felt the vast and magnificent universe, enlightened their mind and expanded their vision. Prof. Qian Shengbang, the chief researcher, said, "through lectures and training, teenagers can communicate with experts face to face and learn more about the cutting-edge astronomical science knowledge, which will stimulate students' exploration and discovery spirit to explore

the mysteries of the universe."

In the future, the geopark will, as always, accelerate the improvement of science popularization facilities in Zhijindong cave, intensify efforts for popular science and improve the innovative means of science popularization, try to create a strong atmosphere of science popularization practice for the youth, and make positive contributions to promoting the development of local economy, scientific research capacity and scientific quality.

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Terras de Cavaleiros UNESCO Global Geopark Pedestrian Trail Network



Terras de Cavaleiros UNESCO Global Geopark, Portugal

The Terras de Cavaleiros UNESCO Global Geopark Pedestrian Trail Network consists of 24 small routes with a total of 190 kilometres, implemented throughout the municipality. They range at an altitude that varies 273 and 1157 meters, with an average duration of two hours with a degree of difficulty between easy and medium. When implementing these routes, there was always the concern to reconcile the choice of place according to the geological heritage existing in the territory, since the connection to geosites was established as a priority.

This network has three



✦ Terras de Cavaleiros UNESCO Global Geopark Pedestrian Trail Network

fundamental purposes:

- **Balancing the goals of sustainability in a social, economic and environmental context**

The balanced and efficient use of natural and environmental resources has been a constant concern in the Geoparks's management. In spite of everything, and not excluding the leisure sector, for example the pedestrian trails, the possibility of using the available natural resources, should commit to use them in a careful and balanced way. As such, the territory management should take into account the sensitivity of the resources used, in this case the pedestrian trails, their carrying capacity, as well as the impacts that their users may have on the existing ecosystems. Therefore, the management of these resources is based on the concept of sustainable tourism, comprising not only environmental, but also economic and social issues, based on a logic of balancing benefits and harmful effects, alerting to the negative impacts that threaten the natural areas and also alternatives for sustainable development.

- **Prioritize the preservation and disclosure of Geopark's immaterial and material heritage**

In the implementation of the network of routes there was a concern to do so to cover the entire municipality, which coincides with the boundaries of the geopark. This was based on a strategy of making known, not only, the natural

heritage, intrinsic to the practice of hiking, but also, in a logic of promotion and preservation of geodiversity, biodiversity, museums, gastronomy, cultural events and customs of the local populations. Thus, it was intended to link the natural, cultural and social wealth, in aspects or modalities such as animation, environmental interpretation or nature sport, in order to enhance the richness of a diversified and preserved heritage. In many situations, it is recommended the revitalization of areas that, by themselves, are penalized due to their location and integration in a territory that limits the development potential, as is the cases of the northern area of Protected Landscape of Albufeira do Azibo.

- **Create synergies between local people, territory and tourists**

One of the obvious concerns in creating the pedestrian trail network was the need to involve all actors in the planning and implementation process, notably the presidents of the parish councils and the local population. The aim was to share information about existing resources and development opportunities and to gain a broad opinion on the interests and needs of the population, enabling the identification of the choices that most closely match the real needs not only for communities but also for the resources used.

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First UNESCO UGGp Mentorship and Knowledge Exchange Program held in Danxiashan

Danxiashan UNESCO Global Geopark, China

Supported by UNESCO and organized by Danxiashan UGGp, the 1st UNESCO UGGp Mentorship and Knowledge Exchange Program was launched in Danxiashan on Nov. 11, 2019. Two trainees from Yangan-Tau Geopark of Russia conducted field study and exchange in Danxiashan UGGp for 14 days from Nov. 11 to 24. It is known that only 9 UGGps in the world were selected in the first UNESCO

suppliers list. Accompanied by staff members of Danxiashan, the two trainees conducted in-depth study of the development of the geopark and made exchanges with the staff members, popular science volunteers, local villagers and tourists for realizing the community development and learning the development and management experience of Danxiashan UGGp.

“Danxiashan UGGp attaches great importance to the UNESCO Mentorship and Knowledge Exchange Program. We organized 12 high-quality courses including the “Application & Evaluation of a UGGp”, “Protection & Sustainable Development of a Geopark”, “How to Design Science Popularization Activities and Environmental Education Activities”, “How to Cultivate Science



◆ Staff member introduces media promotion of Danxiashan to the trainees



◆ The trainees conducts biodiversity study in Danxiashan



◆ The introduction to the field study routes to the trainees

Popularization Volunteers”, and “How to Take the Advantages of New Media for Increasing the Invisibility of a Geopark” etc. “All the courses focus on the terms of the development and management of UGGps, sustainable development of communities, and science popularization and public education”, Danxiashan UGGp mentor Chen Fang said.

“We also arranged staff members from specific sections from our committee to share different management knowledge with the trainees. This program is an important opportunity for Danxiashan to fulfill the mission as a Global Geopark and to continuously promote international cooperation and exchanges. It has deepened the friendship between the GGN members in both China and Russia.

Danxiashan will assist Yangan-Tau Geopark in applying for the UGGp.” she continued.

“We are amazed by the beautiful scenery and characteristic inns in Danxiashan. Danxiashan is one of the earliest global geoparks in the world. It has successfully passed 3 revalidations and has rich experience in geopark development and management. In this mentorship and knowledge exchange program, I will seriously study the advanced geopark development concept and share it with my colleagues in Russia through holding a seminar.” Raushaniia,

one of the trainees and the representative from Yangan-Tau Geopark, mentioned.

In the recent years, in order to develop Danxiashan into a “Well-known Scientific Mountain”, the Committee has made great efforts to explore and innovate the geological heritage protection, sustainable community development, and public science education. Among them, Danxiashan Science Popularization Volunteers Training Camp and many other activities of science popularization have won worldwide praise and promoted by other geoparks.

Li Guiqing, Xiao Wei

Danxiashan UNESCO Global Geopark, China

Muroto High School Students Strengthen Sistership-Partnership with Langkawi UGGp



Muroto UNESCO Global Geopark, Japan

Muroto High School (MHS, hereafter), the only high school within Muroto UNESCO Global Geopark started its first international exchange program with Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark. Four student representatives

(15-16 y.o.) visited local high schools and several signature geosites in Langkawi. They also experienced diverse culture and religion there.

This new program aims to nurture students who have global awareness to tackle

social issues in Muroto. In order to consider those social issues specific to Muroto, locals need to know their hometown. MHS believes that it is significant for students to know other areas than Muroto and compare differences between the two.



◆ Boat-trip at Kilim Karst Geoforest Park



◆ Showing pictures of Muroto to Langkawi Students

Langkawi UGGp, sister Geopark of Muroto UGGp is the best place for doing that. In this sense, MHS fully utilizes the global network which Muroto UGGp has.

Students seemed confused a bit by cultural differences at the first, but they gradually accepted and enjoyed it. They were also surprised by how Langkawi has been developed in terms of tourism especially when they visited Machinchang Cambrian Geoforest Park, most popular site in the Geopark. Of course, boat-trip, mangrove tour, and cultural experiences also amazed them.

During their stay in Langkawi, students often discussed about what they saw/experienced. Students realized that it was not feasible to introduce Langkawi

◆ Sharing dinner table made them good friends



way to develop tourism in Muroto UGGp because its differences in socio-economic situation, its size of Geoparks and geological features. Now they study to suggest a new plan to develop tourism of Muroto UGGp in a "Muroto way." They recognize Muroto with different perspectives than before because Langkawi experiences made Muroto's uniqueness clear

videly. Interactions with local high school students were also really good experience for Muroto students. They spent some time together at school and had lunch and dinner. Muroto students talked with Langkawi students in broken English with body language and shared laughter cheerfully. Now they still talk each other on Instagram.

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◆ Welcome ceremony at local high school in Langkawi



◆ Wearing hijab at mosque

Common Cross-border Project of the UNESCO Global Geoparks Bohemian Paradise and Muskauer Faltenbogen *in the Euroregion Neisse*

Bohemian Paradise UNESCO Global Geopark, Czech Republic

Over the course of this year, UNESCO Global Geopark Bohemian Paradise (Czech Republic) has been implementing a cross-border project together with UNESCO Global Geopark Muskauer Faltenbogen (Germany) called Cooperation and Promotion of UNESCO Geoparks in the Euroregion Neisse. The project has been selected to be funded from the European Regional Development Fund.

The project aims at achieving

deeper cross-border cooperation and exchange of experience, as well as sharing best practices between two UNESCO Global Geoparks which have had the same mission resulting from the UNESCO Global Geoparks Charter. It is focused on publicity and promotion of both geoparks' territories on social networks and websites, printing four-language promotional material, working out a bilingual manual for geo-guides and creating a photo bank for the purpose of

raising awareness of less known locations and their promotion.

Another activity of the project is training the professionals of both geoparks and other entities cooperating with them.

At the first seminar "Geological Heritage and Environmentally Friendly Geotourism, Contribution of the Geopark to the Region, Good Practice", organized by the leading partner, the Bohemian Paradise UNESCO Global Geopark for the managers and geo-guides of



◆ Seminar Bohemian Paradise Museum of Gems



◆ Seminar Bohemian Paradise Gemstone Quarry



◆ Seminar Bohemian Paradise Rotštejn

both geoparks, the participants discussed the role of a geopark in the region, its benefit to local inhabitants and communities, as well as cooperation with other entities, such as, for example, the Center of Environmental Education. In the Bohemian Paradise UNESCO Global Geopark, home to more than 250 significant geolocations, the experts have long perceived a huge problem regarding overtourism in the core territories during the summer season. Therefore, the Bohemian Paradise UNESCO Global Geopark strives to encourage visitors to see those geotouristic sites that are not visited as frequently but are certainly worth seeing. Anywhere else in the world they would be considered top attractions while being hidden in the shadow of the most famous ones here. Less known

geolocations are highlighted by Bohemian Paradise UNESCO Global Geopark via Facebook, Instagram, websites, promotional leaflets, tourist newspapers that are distributed by means of 17 information centers in the region. They also encourage the visitors to come out of high season.

A lecture on the Bohemian Paradise was also given on the seminar, the participants were searching for the gem stones in the most famous location – the quarry on a slope of Kozákov volcano, they visited the rock castle Rotštejn and the trail in the rock town Klokočské skály (Klokočské Rocks), adapted for visually and auditory handicapped visitors; the Geopark Bohemian Paradise

collaborated on creating it. Interpretation Center in the House of Nature was visited by participants as well.

Refreshment for the participants consisted exclusively from the products from local farmers who hold the certificate of "Regional Product of Bohemian Paradise" (the Bohemian Paradise Geopark has been involved in awarding the Certificate).

Both project partners plan to organize a common seminar at the UNESCO Global Geopark Muskauer Faltenbogen in Germany in April 2020.

The partners have in mind further activities based on mutual cooperation.

Blanka Nedvedicka

Bohemian Paradise UNESCO Global Geopark, Czech Republic



Conference on Volcanic Caves

in Lanzarote and Chinijo Islands UNESCO Global Geopark

Lanzarote and Chinijo Islands UNESCO Global Geopark, Spain

The Lanzarote and Chinijo Islands UNESCO Global Geopark organized in collaboration with the Association of Tourist Caves of Spain (ACTE), the Association of Ibero-American Tourist Caves (ACTIBA) and the Association of the International Show Caves Association (ISCA) the Conference on Volcanic Caves, on November 21 and 22, 2019. The conference was proposed as a bet for professionals in the

sector to publicize the benefits and opportunities offered by the underground world in volcanic territories. The framework for the celebration of these days is the natural wealth of the Canary Islands, one of the most interesting volcanic regions on the planet, considered by scientists and naturalists.

During the development of the conference, underground volcanic treasures and the immense scientific value were

discovered, as well as its conservation for the future. Topics of interest to managers and workers in the sector were discussed through more than 15 speakers, on topics such as management, sustainability, tourism promotion, geology, biology, safety and health, etc.

The Conference had a great success of audiences from many places in Lanzarote, the Canary Islands and Spain and it took place in several sessions. The first

session addressed the world of the tourism caves of the Canary Islands, the geological origin of the volcanic tubes and their stability problems. In a second session, a case study was discussed, La Corna Lava Tube, one of the jewels of the UNESCO Global Geopark Lanzarote and the Chinijo Archipelago where different projects undertaken along its route were also presented to the public such as cleaning of graffiti, a 3-dimensional scan and the stability of the vault of the Jameos del Agua Auditorium. Information was also provided from the biological and geological point of view of the Tunnel of Atlantida, the largest submerged lava tube in the world and restricted access due to its sensitivity and danger. The following day, at the end of the Conference, what was learned on the previous day was verified on the ground, by visiting the lava tube in the Cueva de los Verdes and the Jameos del Agua.

From the Geopark, work will be done to make this the first Conference and to be able to celebrate the second edition in 2020.

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✦ Poster of the Conference



✦ Cueva de los Verdes

Annual Meeting on Paleontology 2019 Held in Tianzhushan Geopark

Tianzhushan UNESCO Global Geopark, China



✦ The Academic Annual Meeting

From Oct. 31 to Nov. 2, 2019, the academic annual meeting of paleontology society of Anhui Province & the Academic Exchange Meeting on Paleontology of Anhui, Jiangsu, Henan and Hubei Provinces were held in Tianzhushan Geopark. With the theme of “New Progress of Research and Protection of Paleontological Fossils and

Geoheritage in the New Era”, the annual meeting summarized the achievements and experience of the paleontology research and protection, research and protection of geological environment and geoheritage, the development and management of geoparks and geoscientific education made by four provinces (Anhui,

Jiangsu, Henan and Hubei) in recent years. More than 120 representatives and experts from universities, research institutes, natural resources system, geoparks, geomuseums from Jiangsu, Henan, Hubei and Anhui provinces attended the meeting.

Hosted by Paleontology Societies of Anhui, Jiangsu, Henan and Hubei Provinces and the Special Science Popularization Committee of China Paleontology and Fossil Conservation Foundation, the meeting was organized by Anhui Geomuseum, Tianzhushan Geopark Administrative Committee and the Natural Resources and Planning Bureau of Qianshan City. The meeting totally received 25 papers or

✦ Visit the Granite Landscape

abstracts, covering paleontology, geo-environment, geoheritage protection, the management and development of geoparks, science popularization and development of geomuseums, etc. 18 experts, scholars and representatives delivered reports and made academic exchanges at the meeting, sharing their research achievements and work experience in recent years with different topics, such as paleontology and fossil research, fossil conservation, geoparks construction and geoscience popularization. Mr. Wang Yuanqing, research fellow of Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, gave an academic presentation entitled “Paleocene strata and vertebrate fossils in Qianshan Basin and

their comparison”. In addition, representatives also made a field trip to the granite landform of Tianzhushan, Tianzhushan Geopark Museum and two fossil sites. So far, 62 species of vertebrates have been discovered at 42 fossil sites

within the Qianshan Basin, including 13 species of reptiles, 2 species of birds and 47 species of mammals. These discoveries provide evidence and have a unique position in studying the evolution of mammals in the early Cenozoic era.

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✦ Visit Tianzhushan Geopark Museum





Group photo at the Geosquare of Songshan UNESCO Global Geopark



Group Photo of the Training Course

The 5th International Training Course on UNESCO Global Geoparks Management and Development Held Successfully

The 5th International Training Course on UNESCO Global Geoparks Management and Development was organized jointly by the China University of Geosciences (Beijing) (CUGB), Songshan UGGp and

Chinese Academy of Geological Sciences (CAGS) from Oct. 28 to Nov. 3, 2019 respectively in Beijing and Songshan UGGp. This Training Course is strongly supported from the UNESCO Global Geoparks Secretariat

and Beijing Office, Global Geoparks Network, Asia Pacific Geoparks Network, and Chinese Geoparks Network. About 80 Participants from China, Viet Nam, Saudi Arabia, North Korea and Kyrgyz attended the training course. The Organizers financially supported some foreign participants.

Organizers and representatives from the UNESCO Global Geoparks Secretariat, Beijing Office, GGN and APGN delivered the welcoming speeches in the opening ceremony on October 29 in Beijing. Lecturers from UNESCO Global Geoparks Council members, GGN Executive Board members, UGGps and CUGB, offered

the lectures on the UNESCO Global Geoparks philosophy, criteria, management and operation, evaluation and revalidation, opportunity and challenges, networking in the first part of the training course, sharing their experiences and knowledge with attendance.

The second part of the course was held in Songshan UGGp in Dengfeng Municipality, Henan Province. The lectures on Geopark museum and visitor center management and operation, interpretation tools and methodology, signage system, sister geoparks agreements and examples, and the one-day field trip were highly

appreciated.

The exchange during the training course was also impressive. Representatives from Songshan, Huangshan, Hong Kong, Dong Van UGGps, Zhangye, Xiangxi and Longyan Aspiring Geoparks shared their experience on geoparks management and development. The teams from Saudi Arabia and North Korea introduced their on-going geopark projects with all participants. The lecturers gave their constructive comments to each presentation.

Many other activities were

also organized before the training course. On October 28, the 63rd Global Geoparks Network Executive Board was held, and many important GGN issues were discussed and reached some decisions. The training course was specially organized some activities for the Saudi Arabia Team, such as discussion with Chinese Geoparks experts, UGGp visit and exchange (Yanqing UGGp), interview with authorities from the National Forestry and Grassland Administration, and others.

The Co-coordinators of the training course: Prof. Zhang Jianping and Nickolas Zouros



Qian Junfei, UNESCO Global Geoparks Secretariat, and UNESCO Beijing Office; Prof. Xiaochi Jin, APGN coordinator; Prof. Nikolaos Zouros, GGN president; Prof. Prof. Zhenhan Wu, vice-president of Chinese Academy of Geological Sciences; Mr Zhansheng Shi, vice-mayor of Dengfeng Municipality; and Prof. Junjie Ma, Chairman of China University of Geosciences, Beijing



Training Course Venue in Songshan UNESCO Global Geopark



Saudi Arabian delegation visiting Yanqing UNESCO Global Geopark

For Better San'in Kaigan UNESCO Global Geopark SDGs and Local Communities

San'in Kaigan UNESCO Global Geopark, Japan

The San'in Kaigan Geopark Promotion Council is working to unify the idea and share the value of San'in Kaigan. Due to this, since 2017 the Council has been organizing 'Step-up Conference' as well as sharing the idea of SDGs and inviting all of stakeholders and local people so on to participate in different approaches. Through this conference, San'in Kaigan aims to reflect the opinions of everyone to 'Action Plan' which is the goal and efforts for the coming 4 years. Participants have been changing their views, as well as realizing the relationships between geopark activities and SDGs. I'll talk about some results.

The most important thing is that SDGs is very close to our life, as well as geopark activities. To disseminate SDGs widely in local life, geologists who work for San'in Kaigan got licensed qualification. In deciding upon

these goals and targets, the council focuses on each SDGs at 'Step-up Conference'.

First is 'SDGs No.14', in particular, to prevent spreading of marine garbage. More than 150 people participated. Almost all of participants were motivated to take actions on these international problems. They realized to be involved in.

Second is 'SDGs No. 13', particularly, disaster prevention. In Japan, severe disasters such as large-scale flood, earthquake and extreme hot day are becoming big problems recently. However, local high school teachers have been telling about big local earthquake that occurred 100 years ago. Former local servants as civil engineer have been putting his skills to develop local municipalities. They know big disasters have

been occurring since old days and tell about the lessons and safety measures to overcome. Their efforts and experiences are essential to taking measures to disseminate disaster prevention.

In addition, at the seminar organized by local groups of young business persons, San'in Kaigan introduced geopark activities and targeted at creating sustainable local communities. Participants understand our activities as advanced idea, and young business person groups signed business partnership (SDGs No. 17)

SDGs in the part of Geopark activities is the greatest global challenge. All of the stakeholders including local municipalities are committed to taking the bold and transformative steps to shift the world into sustainable methods.

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2019 Annual Conference of Geotourism and Geopark of China & Longyan Geopark Seminar was Successfully Held.

Longyan Aspiring Global Geopark, China

From November 11th to 12th, 2019 Annual Conference of Geotourism and Geopark & Fujian Longyan Geopark Seminar was successfully held in Longyan. This annual conference was jointly sponsored by Chinese Academy of Geological Sciences, Longyan Municipal People's Government, and Geotourism and Geopark Research Branch of Geological Society of China, and was held in the form of "symposium + excursion". About 150 representatives from research institutions, colleges, and national geoparks, etc. participated in the event.

Opening Ceremony

In the opening ceremony, Mr. Zhang Chaoyang,

Deputy Mayor of Longyan, Mr. Wu Zhenhan, Vice President of Chinese Academy of Geological Sciences, Mr. Liu Yuan, Inspector of Department of Nature Reserve Management of National Forestry and Grassland Administration, Mr. Li Tingdong, Academician of Chinese Academy of Sciences, and Mr. Lu Yaoru, Academician of Chinese Academy of Engineering, delivered speeches respectively. The opening ceremony was chaired by Mr. Jiang Jianjun, former Director of Department of Science, Technology and International Cooperation of Ministry of Land and Resources.

Zhang Chaoyang, Deputy Mayor of Longyan, delivered a welcome speech on behalf of the



◆ Symposium



◆ Longyan Geopark Museum



◆ Site of Gutian Conference

Excursion: an educational and entertaining research tour

On November 12, the participants went to the Guanzhaishan Mountain National Geopark, Longyan Geopark Museum and the Site of Gutian Conference for excursions.

Guanzhaishan Mountain was approved as the National Geopark in 2011. The Danxia landform in Guanzhaishan Mountain took on a more typical form, with a more complete type series and a picturesque landscape, which is a representative of monocline Danxia landform of the rock wall and valley. Participants inspected the Danxia landform, ecological environment, biodiversity, and culture like cliff carvings. The visitors were impressed by the stunning natural landscape, and the experts and scholars put forward valuable suggestions for the development of this Geopark.



◆ Excursion of Guanzhaishan

Longyan Geopark Museum is a necessary condition for Longyan Geopark to apply for the Global Geopark. In the museum, the participants visited different exhibition halls such as Overview of Longyan Geopark, Earth Exploration, Geological Treasure, World Biological Gene Bank, Interactive Games, etc. They fully affirmed the museum's infrastructure and popularization of geological knowledge.

Longyan Geopark not only retains the unique and rich natural landscape, but also combines the Hakka culture and Red culture. As the last stop of the trip, the participants went to the Site of Gutian Conference at the southern foot of Meihuashan Nature Reserve to learn about the history of Hakka and experience the Red culture.

The success of this conference will inject strong new vitality into Longyan's application for UNESCO Global Geopark.

municipal government and extended a warm welcome to the leaders and guests present at the event and heartfelt thanks to the leaders, experts and participants who have supported the construction of Longyan Geopark for a long time. Longyan Municipal People's Government will uphold the concept of "Celebrating Earth Heritages, Sustaining Local Communities" of the UNESCO Global Geoparks, and make every effort to accelerate the construction of Longyan Aspiring Global Geopark.

Symposium: a feast for the exchange of ideas

A symposium was held immediately after the short opening ceremony. Experts and scholars discussed topics such as the protection and development of Global Geoparks, sustainable popular science education in geoparks, how to improve the quality of geotourism, as well as the scientific value, cultural connotation and sustainable development of Longyan Geopark, etc.

More than 20 experts, scholars and graduate students made academic reports respectively in this symposium. Participants fully discussed the content of the reports, and experts and scholars proposed amendments to related papers. The academic atmosphere on the scene was strong, and the participants had extensive academic interactions.



◆ Longyan Geopark Museum

Regional Course on UNESCO Global Geopark 2019

Theme: Geotourism and Community Participation

Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark, Malaysia

The 4th Regional Course on UNESCO Global Geopark 2019 has been successfully organised from 7 – 11 October by Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark (LUGGp) with the theme of 'Geotourism and Community Participation'. There were 40 participants from 5 countries namely Malaysia, Indonesia, Japan, Morocco and Uzbekistan. A total of 10 renowned speakers from Malaysia, China and Kazakhstan shared the experience in managing geopark. Indonesia has the biggest delegation from 5 National Geoparks and 2 UNESCO Global Geoparks. To date, Regional Course UNESCO Global Geopark has trained more than 200 participants from

10 countries. Regional Course target group are managers and technical staffs of UNESCO Global Geopark, Aspiring UNESCO Global Geopark and National Geoparks.

Regional Course was held with the aim to boost and enhance connectivity of Global Geoparks Network members,

share experiences and challenges, as well as advocate the sustainable management within the Geopark. At the end of the course, all participants would be able to disseminate and exchange ideas and knowledge on the concept of sustainable development as well as promote better understanding on the



◆ Field trip – Machinchang Cambrian Geoforest Park



◆ Prof. Zhang Jianping
Vice Chairperson of UNESCO Global Geoparks Council
Chinese Geoparks Network Expert



◆ Dr Kristine Tovmasyan
UNESCO Kazakhstan



◆ Dr Kristine Tovmasyan
UNESCO Kazakhstan

concept of Global Geopark in this region.

The course is designed in such a way it combines talk by experts, group discussions and activities, thematic forum, field trips to geo-sites and 'My Geopark Story' sharing sessions. From the course, the participants not only get the valuable knowledge, but also

had hands-on experience on geo-site development.

Participants gave very positive feedbacks and reviews about the course. Uzbekistan for the first time send two participants from Ministry of Science and Environment with the aim to establish Geopark in Central Asia. The Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark hopes that

the next course would be even greater and wider number of participants. It will be a yearly training course for Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark.

Last but not least, Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark is really proud to organise this course as it helps to promote geoparks agenda all around the world.



◆ Prof. Emeritus Dato' Dr. Ibrahim Komoo
Vice President of Global Geoparks Network
Advisor of Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark



◆ Talk and Sharing Session by Speaker