



織金洞世界地質公園
ZhiJindong Cave Global Geopark



The 5th Asia Pacific Geoparks Network (APGN) Symposium 2017

The 5th Asia-Pacific Geoparks Network Symposium will be held from 19th to 22nd, September 2017 in the ZhiJindong Cave UNESCO Global Geopark, China, under the theme of UNESCO Global Geoparks Promote the Sustainable Development of Local Economics.

ZhiJindong Cave UGG, located in the west of Guizhou Plateau, consists of ZhiJindong Cave, Qijiehe River and Dongfenghu Lake on behalf of the formation of different development process of Karst landscape system. Karst cave, natural bridge and tiankeng are the typical representatives and outstanding sceneries in the ZhiJindong Cave UGG.

Symposium venue:

Guanzhai Town, Zhijin County, Guizhou Province, China

Deadline:

Abstract submission deadline: 30th June (Friday)

General registration deadline: 31st July (Monday)

Exhibition application deadline: 18th June (Sunday)

Dates:

UGG Council Meeting: 16th -17th, September 2017

Registration & APGN AC Meeting, APGN CC Meeting: 18th., September 2017

Symposium: 19th - 22nd, September 2017

Post-Symposium Excursion(optional): 23rd-25th, September 2017

For more information:

www.apgn2017.com

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We sincerely invite you to participate in the 5th APGN Symposium!



Mid-Symposium Excursion

Route A: ZhiJindong Cave –ZhiJindong Geopark Museum – Zhijin Grand Gorge
Karst landscape system both the surface and underground, and local culture.

Route B: Dongfenghu Lake -ZhiJindong Cave –ZhiJindong Geopark Museum
Karst landscape system both the surface and underground, and local culture.

Post-Symposium Excursion

Route A: Huangguoshu Waterfall – Xingyi National Geopark- Wanfenglin – Guiyang
Guizhou typical Karst landscape.

Route B : Zunyi – Maotai – Chishui National Geopark (World Natural Heritage Site)-Guiyang

Route C: Xijiang Miaozhai – Guiyang

Local nationality culture.

Route D : Zunyi – Suiyang Shuanghedong Cave National Geopark – Guiyang

Guizhou typical Karst landscape.



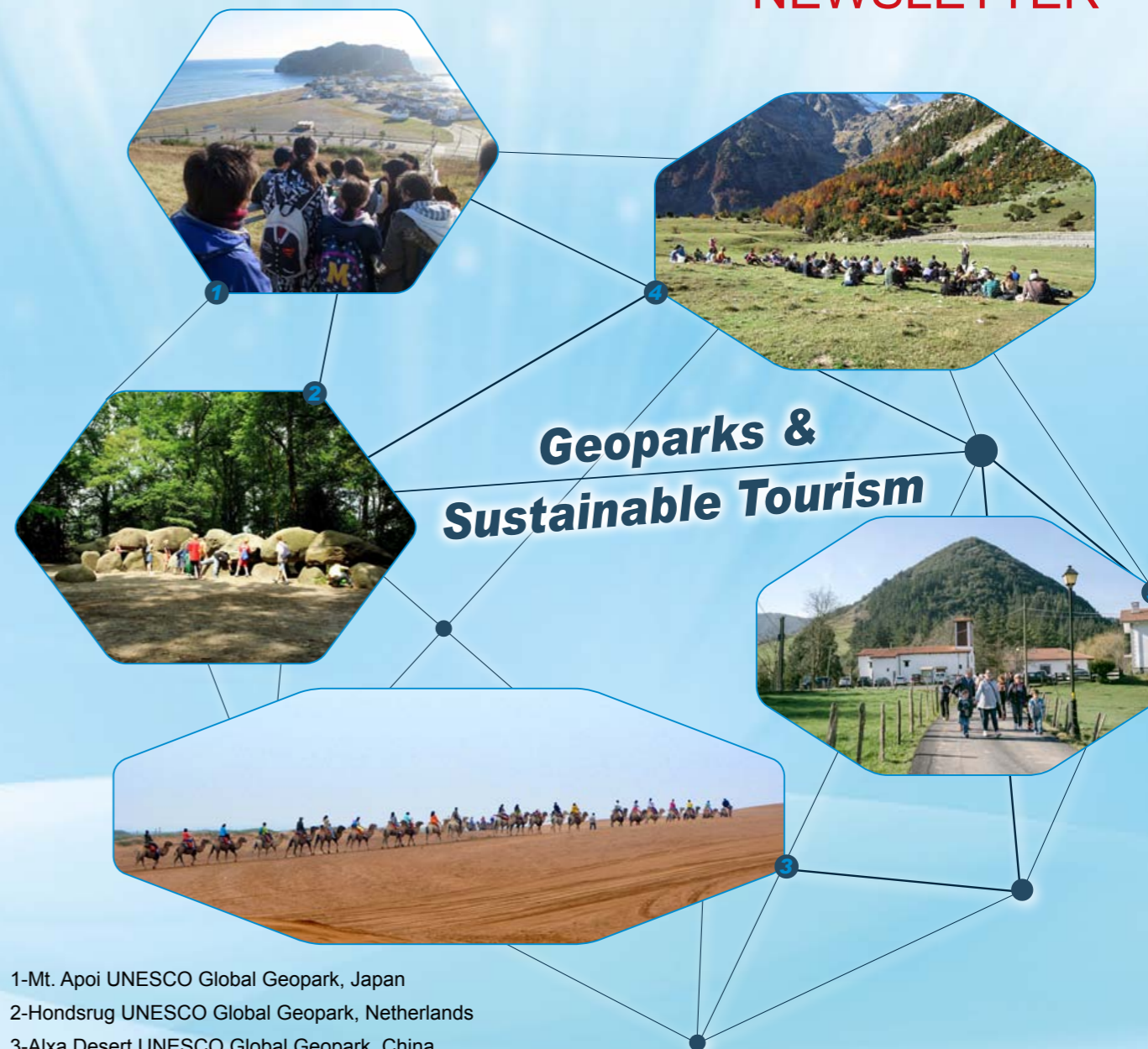
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NEWSLETTER



1-Mt. Apoi UNESCO Global Geopark, Japan

2-Hondsrug UNESCO Global Geopark, Netherlands

3-Alxa Desert UNESCO Global Geopark, China

4-Sobrarbe-Pirineos UNESCO Global Geopark, Spain

5-Basque Coast UNESCO Global Geopark, Spain



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News

- Declaration of the Spanish Geoparks Forum, FITUR 2017 (**Spanish UNESCO Global Geoparks, Spain**)2
- Successful Launch of the Interreg Danube GeoTour Project (**Idrija, Slovenia**).....3
- Guide Association of Muroto UNESCO Global Geopark Won Special Prize of 12th Ecotourism Awards
(**Muroto UNESCO Global Geopark, Japan**)4
- The Forum of Sustainable Tourism have been Created to Extend the CETS to Whole Molina-Alto Tajo Geopark
(**Molina-Alto Tajo UNESCO Global Geopark, Spain**)6

Geo Tourism

- 32 Geo-touristic Highlights as A Special Offer (**Bergstrasse-Odenwald UNESCO Global Geopark, Germany**)8
- Group Excursion – Cycling in Search of the Ice Ages (**Hondsrug UNESCO Global Geopark, Netherlands**).....9
- Collaboration with Geoparks and Challenge of Sustainable Development of the Education and Tourism
(**Mt. Apoi UNESCO Global Geopark, Japan**)10
- Developing Sustainable Tourism in the Beigua UNESCO Global Geopark (Italy).....12
- THE KARST EXPERIENCE: A Stroll Through the Heart of the Geopark
(**Basque Coast UNESCO Global Geopark, Spain**)13
- A Brilliant Future of Tonghu of Alxa Desert UGG (**Alxa Desert UNESCO Global Geopark, China**)15
- Geological Autumn in Sobrarbe (**Sobrarbe-Pirineos UNESCO Global Geopark, Spain**)15

Geoparks Activities

- Series of Activities Warm Up the Ice and Snow Land of Jingpohu (**Jingpohu UNESCO Global Geopark, China**) ...16
- The First Cave Rescue Training Course of CNSAS was Held in Leye-Fengshan UNESCO Global Geopark(China) .18
- Little Tour Guide (**Hexigten UNESCO Global Geopark, China**).....19
- The Cultural Festival of Shennong (**Yuntaishan UNESCO Global Geopark, China**)20

Education

- Travelling Through the Earth (**Hondsrug UNESCO Global Geopark, Netherlands**).....21
- Alxa Desert UGG Held Geo-education Activities in Alxa Left Banner Mongolian Primary School
(**Alxa Desert UNESCO Global Geopark, China**)22
- Geothermal Energy – An Intensive Course in TERRA.vita Geopark (**TERRA.vita UNESCO Geopark, Germany**) ...23

Communication and Cooperation

- Hong Kong Geopark School Visits Japanese UNESCO Global Geoparks (**Oki Islands UNESCO Global Geopark**)...24
- Drifting Apart Project- Reuniting Our Geological Heritage.....26
- The first visit and exchange programme between the Chinese Geoparks Network (CGN) and the Japanese Geoparks
Network (JGN) (**China University of Geosciences, Beijing, China**)28
- Mexican Geological Survey Visited Leiqiong UNESCO Global Geopark for Inspiration (**Leiqiong UNESCO Global Geopark, China**) ...30

Promotion

- GEOfood and Sustainable Tourism Practices (**Magma UNESCO Global Geopark, Norway**)31
- Special Issue of Geoparks in the Journal of the Geological Society of Korea (**Jeju UNESCO Global Geopark, Korea**)...32

Announcement

- About Funding Delegates from Developing Countries to Participate in the 5th APGN Symposium.....33



Declaration

of the Spanish Geoparks Forum, **FITUR 2017**

Spanish UNESCO Global Geoparks, Spain

In the framework International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development 2017 (IYST2017) the Spanish UNESCO Global Geoparks have published the booklet "GEO PARKS, the most innovative destinations of sustainable tourism". The official presentation of this booklet was made in the International Tourism Fair FITUR (Spain), in the stand of Extremadura. In this act Geoparks have invited the society to live the experience of feeling the history of Earth. Institutional representatives and enterprises from all Spanish UNESCO Global Geoparks were present. In this session, the president of the GGN, Professor Nickolas Zouros, made a presentation on the Global Geoparks Network.

As a result of the meeting of the Spanish UNESCO Global Geoparks in FITUR in the context of the IYST2017, the following declaration was written:

From the dawn of life and the origin of continents to the formation of our mountains, valleys and

caves, the Earth has been leaving places in which its inhabitants can read and understand their history. These places, framed in amazing landscapes, are inside geoparks. These are territories prepared to guide and interpret a fascinating journey through geological time. Territories that preserve their heritage taking it to all spheres of social life, from education to sustainable development. Therefore, when approaching a geopark, visitors not only enjoy the rocks or the landscape, but also feel themselves within a social reality that is transmitted through its geological heritage.

The administrations and civil society signing this declaration guarantee their commitment to heritage conservation and sustainable development, and present the geotourism model, as the most innovative of its kind, in this international year of sustainable tourism for development.

Madrid, FITUR, January 19, 2017.
Spain is one of the countries with a higher number of UNESCO



◆ President of Villuercas-Ibores Jara Geopark, Charo Cordero Martín, in the presentation of the book "GEO PARKS, the most innovative destinations of sustainable tourism"

Global Geoparks. This is an example of collaboration among national UNESCO Global Geoparks.

The book "GEO PARKS, the most innovative destinations of sustainable tourism" can be downloaded in the website of the Spanish Geoparks Forum: link. (<http://geoparques.eu/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/revista-geoparques-ok-ultimo-opt.pdf>)

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Successful Launch of the Interreg Danube GeoTour Project



Kick-off meeting in Idrija, Slovenia from 13th–15th March 2017

Last week the first get-together of the project partners at the Kick-off meeting took place. All partners of the Danube GeoTour project started together in Idrija, Slovenia and presented the project to the public. The subtitle shows the goal and challenge which the 11 partners from 8 countries are facing over the next two and a half years: Valorisation of geo-heritage for sustainable and innovative tourism development of the Danube Geoparks The project is co-funded by European Union funds (ERDF, IPA).

The main project result will be joint Danube GeoTour designed to strengthen cooperation between the Geoparks regions and act as

an innovative tourism product to accelerate visibility and tourist visits in the geoparks. Sharing experiences, testing pilot geotourism products and new interpretative approaches could increase local inhabitants' engagement, enhance Geopark's management capacities and lower the quality gap between Danube and other EU Geoparks.

During the Kick-off Meeting the partners set the first tasks and activities and got furthermore inputs from the three associated strategic partners in the project. They will help to ensure the high quality of implemented actions: Human polis ltd / Rokua Geopark (Finland), Naturtejo – Tourism Company (Portugal) and

finally the Global Geoparks Network (France). In addition, the partners learned more about Idrija heritage and history during the fieldtrips and visited a local school which is working on local handmade GeoProducts.

More information about the project is available within this link: www.interreg-danube.eu/danube-geotour.

Group Picture of the Kick-Off Meeting with all three associated strategic partners and the project partners: Idrija Heritage Centre-Idrija Geopark (SLO), Balaton-felvidéki National Park Directorate (H), Styrian Eisenwurzen (A), Public institution Nature Park Papuk (HR), ARGE Geopark Karavanks (A/SLO), Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Nature Conservation (SLO), Bakony& Balaton Regional Tourism Nonprofit Ltd. (H), Bohemian Paradise Geopark non-profit organization (CZ), University of Bucharest (RO), University of Presov (SL), Public Enterprise National Park Djerdap (SRB).

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◆ Group picture of the Kick-Off Meeting of the Danube GeoTour

Guide Association of Muroto UNESCO Global Geopark Won Special Prize of the 12th Ecotourism Awards

Muroto UNESCO Global Geopark, Japan

Japan's Ministry of the Environment announced the eleven winners (selected from 51 applicants) of the 12th Ecotourism Awards. This award system aims to reward and publicize ecotourism efforts by businesses, organizations and municipalities. Japan's Ministry of the Environment started this award in 2005 in order to improve ecotourism activities in Japan, and to build up a sense of solidarity between related parties through information exchange.

The Muroto City Tourist Guide Association won the special prize of the 12th Ecotourism Awards this year. Their continuing activities, such as establishing sustainable geo-tours, and activating the whole local area by cooperating with the local government, were rated very highly.

The association was founded in 2009 by local residents soon after the Muroto Geopark became one of the first Japanese National Geopark in 2008. This guide association, one of the 3 geopark guide organizations in the Muroto UGG, mainly operates guided tours at the Cape Muroto site. Geopark guides are available all year round, and while booking in advance is recommended, it is often possible to join on the day. Considering that in



◆ The secretary general of the association awarded by the Minister of Environment.



◆ Reporting about the award ceremony at the event.

◆ Special tours celebrating the award were conducted in March.



the past there were no guided tours taking place even at the most popular site, Cape Muroto, the association has really come a long way. In 2015, there were nearly 10,000 visitors joined the guided tour at the Cape Muroto site.

The Muroto City Tourist Guide Association is a very active group that meets every Saturday, to improve their skills through information sharing and study. In 2016, an English conversation class which runs twice a week was commenced, and is contributing to the development of an international mindset among members of the geopark. The guides also play a very important role in site conservation. The guides go around Cape Muroto on a daily basis, which means that they can contact the managing authority to promptly deal with any

issues that may arise.

3 delegates participated in the award ceremony held at the office of the Ministry of the Environment in Tokyo on February 15, 2017 and joined the group discussion with other award winners for information exchange.

On March 12, the association held an event to celebrate the award and share information regarding the award ceremony and discussions with other members of the associations and local people. On March 26, the special tours "Cape Walk" program celebrating the award were also held and the guides enjoyed and shared their joy with the visitors from many different parts of Japan.

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The Forum of Sustainable Tourism have been Created to Extend the CETS to Whole Molina–Alto Tajo Geopark



Molina-Alto Tajo UNESCO Global Geopark, Spain



The Forum of Sustainable Tourism is made up of all the administrations and entities related to tourism and companies in the sector. Its objective is to elaborate an initial diagnosis, a strategy and an action plan for the next five years to promote the development of the tourism with sustainability criteria, under the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism (CETS) and its tools for participation, monitoring, promotion and training.

The definitive take-off of the tourist sector in Molina-Alto Tajo UNESCO Global Geopark must be based on two fundamental pillars: a determined commitment on the part of all the actors involved (administrations, associations, companies and so on) and strong association movement among the companies in the tourist sector, in order to achieve quality objectives, promotion and dissemination that individually would be unreachable.

These were the main conclusion of the meeting held on 30th March at the Visitors Center "La Dehesa de Corduente" which was concluded with the constitution of the Sustainable Tourism Forum to promote the European Charter for Sustainable Development (CETS) in the whole Geopark territory. This process coincide in time with

the celebration of the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development, declared by the United Nations.

The Sustainable Tourism Forum is made up of representatives of the Alto Tajo Natural Park, the Molina-Alto Tajo UNESCO Global Geopark, the Ministry of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Development, the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports and the Ministry of Tourism, Commerce and Crafts from Castilla-La Mancha; The Provincial Council, the Molina-Alto Tajo Rural Development Association, the Delegation of Services of Castilla-La Mancha Government in Molina, the Alto Tajo-Molina de Aragón Rural Tourism Association (ATRAMA), the Rayet Foundation and various tourism companies. This is a decisive commitment from all the

entities that have to do with tourism to develop the sector within parameters of sustainability that guarantee the protection and conservation of the environment and the socioeconomic development of the area.

As explained by Santos López, delegate of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Development, the Alto Tajo Natural Park was adhered to the CETS in 2009 with 17 companies. The main target now is to renew its commitments and expand this to the tourist businesses in the whole Geopark territory.

The next step, after Forum of Sustainable Tourism constitution, will be to prepare a good diagnosis of the situation of the territory; to draw up a strategy based on the weaknesses, threats, strengths and opportunities detected in this diagnosis and to elaborate a five-year plan of action with specific objectives to promote local development. The idea is that this enlargement process concludes with communication and certification by Europarc in 2018.

Jose Antonio Lozano, manager of the Alto Tajo Natural Park, said that one of the great benefits of the CETS is precisely the creation of a meeting point for all entities involved in Tourism. "An issue that," he said, "is very difficult without this kind of tools which, finally, make easier relations and collaboration between management agencies, such as the Natural Park and Geopark and tourism businesses."

Javier Gómez Limón, representative of the technical office of Europarc in Spain clarified that the CETS is not a certification, but a tool of participation and planning based on a voluntary commitment and an agreement of the parties. This commitment, he insisted, does not belong only to the administrations, but to all territory, thereby "you need this commitment become of yours" he said.

The adhesion to the CETS, said Gómez Limón, requires a series of previous basic actions, like the improvement of the relations of the entrepreneur with the protected natural space; the development of sustainability measures within the tourism businesses and to promote the socio-economic development of the area with measures such as the acquisition of local products, the contracting of local personnel or providing tourist information with sustainability criteria.

The territories and companies of the CETS, according



♦ Ecoturismo

to the technician, will benefit from the tools of promotion and dissemination of Europarc in its web pages and through the agreements signed with Turespaña and Spain.info page, with more than 18 million visits. They will also be able to access different training tools and edition of tourist information material.

Finally, the president of the Ecotourism Association in Spain, Jesus Pozuelo, explained the benefits of being part of this association that represents 16 tourist destinations, 58 experiences, 134 accommodations, 38 companies, 27 restaurants and 11 other businesses. The membership have to be a complement of the CETS and its working model is based on promoting an ecological tourism, whose income reverts in the conservation of the territory and in its local development.

About the CETS

The European Charter for Sustainable Tourism (CETS) is an initiative of the Europarc Federation (Federation of Natural and National Parks of Europe) which aims to promote the development of a sustainable tourism model in protected natural areas of Europe. The CETS is a method and a voluntary commitment to apply the principles of sustainable tourism, guiding the managers of protected natural spaces and companies to define their strategies in a participatory manner. It currently consists of 157 protected areas in Europe, belonging to 19 different countries. Spain is the country with the most territories adhered to the CETS, with a total of 44.

Marta Perruca Hurtado



32 Geo-touristic Highlights as A Special Offer

Bergstrasse-Odenwald UNESCO Global Geopark, Germany

The Geopark territory offers unique insights into regional Earth history, nature and culture. Guests from two European Metropolitan Regions use the territory for recreation and leisure during one-day or weekend excursions. They expect their hosts to provide good advice and special offers to discover the landscape and to find the most spectacular sites. In this context, the Geopark, the Chamber for Industry and Commerce and the regional tourist associations have compiled, in fact sheets, a list of 32 highlights which enable the gastronomy and tourism information staff to provide first class advice. An informative bus tour for more than 70 staff members completed their advanced training providing them with an authentic impression of the offers they promote to their guests.



♦ Touristic highlights



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Group Excursion - Cycling in Search of the Ice Ages

Hondsrug UNESCO Global Geopark, Netherlands

The Hondsrug region is a great place to visit for a day's cycling. This group safari will take you to amazing places on the Hondsrug where the landscape still bears traces of the Ice Age.

The 17-kilometre cycle trail begins at the Hunebedcentrum in Borger, home to the Hondsrug UNESCO Global Geopark's Expedition Gateway to the Ice Ages. Your guide will first show you the exhibition and then cycle with you along the whole trail, stopping at places of interest and telling you the story of the ice ages.

The first stop is in the village of Ees by a feature known as a 'glacial kettle' (Gletsjerkuil). Just imagine, during the last Ice Age a mountain of ice many metres high stood here ...

Cycling through the woods around Exloo you will see eroded

valleys lying along the flanks of the Hondsrug. After the last Ice Age, as summers became warmer, the snow melted and the surface of the ground began to thaw. The meltwater washed away vast quantities of mud and as that process was repeated, year in and year out, it created these wide valleys.

The next stop is at the Poolshoogte Teahouse near Odoorn. Here you

can climb to the top of the high look-out tower for a magnificent view over the tops of the trees across the woodlands of the Hondsrug region. In the Teahouse you can enjoy an excellent lunch.

The last stretch of this cycle safari brings you back to Borger. If you're not too tired, it's worth spending time here to look around the Hunebed Centre.



Collaboration with Geoparks and Challenge of Sustainable Development of the Education and Tourism

Mt. Apoi UNESCO Global Geopark, Japan

The main spot that in the Mt. Apoi UNESCO Global Geopark, the 'Mt. Apoi' is famous for worldwide rock specialists due to the unique rock 'peridotite'. However, considering and aiming the sustainable tourism development in Geoparks, Mt. Apoi UNESCO Global Geopark have faced some issues as a tourist destination. Mainly, although the Mt. Apoi was well known for researchers and mount climbers with limited visibility, it was not well known as a so-called 'tour spot' until it started Geopark activity. To do activity for sustainable development in tourism, there is a great difference between Geoparks which have been famous as a prime tourist destination and the Mt. Apoi Geopark.

After the establishment of the Geopark, to achieve sustainable development in tourism industry, Mt. Apoi Geopark promotion council implemented several Geo-tours that participants would be able to enjoy the Geopark in different seasons. Participants could experience and learn about the features of Mt. Apoi and enjoy eating seasonal local specialty foods with our well-trained Geo-guides. In addition, with growing recognition of Geopark, the number



of visitors increase gradually. During the eight years after starting Geopark activity, it is clear that the tourism industry has positive effect on local economy. However, there is still difference of visitors in between the on and off peak seasons through the year. In order to fill the visitors difference, we have made a plan that focuses on collaboration of education and tourism especially in the off-peak season.

In the year 2016, we collaborated with the Toya Caldera and Usu Volcano UNESCO Global Geopark which is in Hokkaido same as the

Mt. Apoi. These two Geoparks have started an elementary school student exchange program. Elementary school students from the Mt. Apoi's town Samani went to visit and learn at Toya Caldera and Usu Volcano Geopark located in the town Toyako in September. On the other hand, in November these students live in Samani warmly welcomed the student from Toya Caldera and Usu Volcano Geoparks' area as a host.

To focus on the activities implemented in Samani town, on the first day, students were divided into six groups and collected stamps by

visiting key areas around town and learning about their significance. The tour included going to the Visitor Center and playing card games in the evening where they had to know names of various types of rocks. In the following day they made key chains and wrote final messages. The students were served with local specialise and exchanged goods as

souvenirs with each other as well. Between the two visits, the students became much closer and learned a lot about new places and even their own areas. One of the student from Toya area said he hoped that he could come to visit here again in the near future. Aiming at sustainable development of this collaboration on education

and tourism section for the future, Geopark staffs assess the detailed tour route and reputation of activity program by questionnaire from both student and their parents. We are very glad we were able to have this exchange program with a fellow Global Geopark and looking forward to more opportunities in the future.

Hiroyuki Tamura and Yuka Omae

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Mountain bike trail



Dedicated nordic walking path in Pratorotondo



A stroll through a karstic valley

Developing Sustainable Tourism in the Beigua UNESCO Global Geopark (Italy)

The Beigua UNESCO Global Geopark is located in Liguria, in the north-western part of Italy, near the boundary with France. The Geopark is characterized by a natural heritage linked to the various disciplines related to Earth Sciences. In particular, its geological features reveal a great importance in the reconstruction of the Italian geological history and the understanding of the evolution of the Alpine chain and its relationship with the Apennine chain. Several studies pointed out the extraordinary geodiversity of the area as well as a large variety of landscapes, morphologies and processes with outstanding scientific value.

Becoming an international recognized Geopark, the Beigua territory has gathered increasing attention from local authorities, tourism operators, universities

and research institutions, schools, volunteers and environmental associations. Based on a shared local strategy for the enhancement and development of the territory, the Beigua Geopark activated several initiatives to encourage and to promote new opportunities of sustainable tourism. Thematic interpretation facilities have been developed in the Beigua Geopark area: three Visitor Centres, two

Educational Centres and two Information Points. They have the primary function to provide practical tourism information about the activities which can be done in the Beigua Geopark, but can also host educational programmes and exhibitions. In order to achieve the goal of popularization of natural and cultural heritage, many thematic trekking trails have been equipped with panels and other



Snowshoes activities

interpretative tools, which allow visitors to appreciate and understand geological, botanical, faunistic, historical elements which can be recognized in the field. Several outdoor activities are promoted in the Geopark's territory through specific and dedicated trails and areas for nordic walking, trail-running, canyoning, free-climbing, bouldering, orienteering, horse-trekking, mountain-bike, paragliding, snowshoeing, and also surfing, diving and snorkeling along the coast. A very good local network of entrepreneurs has been activated regarding agricultural products, gastronomy, handicrafts with the opportunity for tourists to taste and appreciate Beigua's traditions and culture. Finally, the Beigua Geopark schedules events all year round and offers different kinds of accommodation: farm holidays and mountain shelters mainly in the hinterland, B&B or luxurious hotels and residences in the seaside towns.

Maurizio Burlando
Director of Beigua UGG, member of the UNESCO UGG Council

THE KARST EXPERIENCE: A Stroll Through the Heart of the Geopark

Basque Coast UNESCO Global Geopark, Spain

The Basque Coast Geopark has launched a sustainable tourism experience where geotourism and rural development go hand in hand. The initiative is based in the Olatz karst valley, a place where the culture and traditions of the Basque people have been preserved in surroundings that have barely changed in the last few decades. The Geopark's karst zone hides caves within, many of them archaeological sites, such as Ekain cave which was declared a UNESCO World Heritage site in 2009.

These valleys are generally cut off from urban centres and have used traditional approaches to develop the tools for a sustainable

way of life. They are farmers and shepherds who turn raw materials into cheese, cider and wine, and there are traces of other trades which have now disappeared, such as limekilns and mountain foundries.

The Karst Experience brings visitors closer to the culture and traditions of the place and helps diversify the local economy by showcasing local produce.

The Goienetxe cheese factory, where the visit takes place, is a good example. The shepherd looks after his flock of sheep, and uses their milk to make a top-quality cheese which has recently attracted numerous prizes. They use their own livelihood to bring



Children visiting the stable



Flock of sheep grazing next to a lime kiln

in visitors, and have adapted their facilities so that groups can make the most of their visit, with an audiovisual zone that explains the cheesemaking process and a tasting area. Visitors can also enjoy a shepherding demonstrating with trained dogs in the fields next to the farm.

The excursion is family friendly and particularly enjoyable for children. Visitors can spend a morning in contact with nature and end the trip with a home-made cheese tasting session accompanied by txakoli, the local white wine.

The Geopark has included the excursion within its annual programme of guided visits, and the initiative is another step towards sustainability in a tourism programme which gets farmers involved, showcases the Geopark's inner landscape, and puts culture, traditions and local produce at the forefront.

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A Brilliant Future of Tonghu of Alxa Desert UGG

Alxa Desert UNESCO Global Geopark, China

Tonghu is a unique and typical wetland born from the vicissitudes of a lake in Alxa Desert UGG. It located in the Left Banner of Alxa, Inner Mongolia, China, 185km from the north of Bayanhaote town and 26km from the east of Zhongwei city, Ningxia Province and at the counterpart of Shapotou. Surrounded by sand dunes, Tonghu contains green grassland, salt lake, sand

spring, wetland, oasis and other natural landscapes. It is an area with a dramatic cultural combination of the Silk Road culture, Mongolian Yuan Dynasty culture, grazing and farming culture, accompanied with the Mongolian, Hui and Han ethnic groups here.

Tonghu has created a new travel business mode by building the cooperative with geopark scenic

companies and local rural residents. The new cooperation has offered more than 200 job opportunities by offering camels, horses, off-road vehicles from local rural residents. The farmers and herdsmen have become the scenic runners, and fulfilled their obligations of geoheritage protection. The cooperative has actively enhanced employment, local income, and sense of ownership of geopark.

Geological Autumn in Sobrarbe

Sobrarbe-Pirineos UNESCO Global Geopark, Spain

The Sobrarbe-Pirineos UNESCO Global Geopark is a territory of contrasts, with a mixture of the Mediterranean and alpine vegetation that makes of Sobrarbe a really unique place during the autumn season, with an explosion of colours varying from the south to the north of the Geopark.

It is already several years ago, that the Geopark decided to take advantage of this impressive season colours to make the great geodiversity of the Sobrarbe region even more attractive for its visitors.

For the last years, the Geopark has organised this

activity called "Geological Autumn in Sobrarbe", consisting of guided geological tours carried out every weekend during the autumn season.

This is a quiet and environmental friendly activity that on the other hand is meaning quite an increase of tourism in the Sobrarbe Geopark during one of the lowest tourist seasons in this area, such as October and November.

Ana Ruiz Conde
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Series of Activities Warm Up the Ice and Snow Land of Jingpohu

Jingpohu UNESCO Global Geopark, China

In order to promote sustainable development of the tourism, as well as ice and snow, culture and sports, a series of activities were carried out in the Jingpohu UGG in early 2017.



Spring snow hiking, the first hiking activities through volcanoes

I. The Sixth Jingpohu Winter Fishing Event was Officially Opened

On January 6th, the sixth Jingpohu Winter Fishing Event was officially opened in Xihuxiu of Jingpohu, which was the beginning of the Jingpohu winter tourism. As the birthplace of Manchu tradition, Jingpohu has a long history of fishing and hunting

culture. The record of winter fishing could be traced back to the Liao and Jin period, which was over a thousand years ago. After then, in the Tang dynasty, Jingpohu had its reputation for winter fishing all over the nation and the heritage was

passing on until now.

On the very day of the 6th Jingpohu Winter Fishing, 50,000 kilograms of fish got captured with the heaviest fish weighting 37 jin (18.5kg). "The Head Fish" releasing ceremony was held where the gangmaster released the heaviest fish back to the lake, which express citizens' will to protect the ecosystem, and follow the hunting and fishing culture of the Saman ethnic group.

This year, we have designed series of activities like the winter fishing, together with marvelous snow scenic views of ice waterfall, ice lake, snow fort, Saman village to enrich and build the high-quality tourism product and enhance attraction of the ice and snow tourism.



The Sixth Jingpohu Winter Fishing Event was Officially Opened

II. National Youth "Future Star" Winter Sports Event

On February 5th-8th, the 2017 National Youth "Future Star" Winter Sports Event was held in the Jingpohu UGG, 689 people of 37 teams from 31 provinces, including Macao, attended activities in the main venue of Mudanjiang City. The Winter Sports Event was made up of four main activities, which were sport competitions, the ice and snow sports park, cultural exchange of Winter Olympic Games and patriotism education. The sports events included snow football, ice hockey, figure skating, snow hiking, ice dragon boat racing and etc.

The purpose of the event is to



National Youth Future Star Winter Sports Event

promote and popularize the ice and snow sports to teenagers, stimulate their interests in ice and snow sports, improve their health, cultivate their

virtue, and increase their geological knowledge on volcano at the meanwhile.

III. "Spring snow hiking, the first hiking activities through volcanoes

On March 18th, the first hiking event was held by the Jingpohu tourism group. More than 1,200 outdoor sports enthusiasts and 8 Russian girls challenged their physical abilities to hike for 4 kilometers, and walk through the primeval forest in crater. The challengers traced the Anti-

Union's footprints, experienced the hardships of national heroes lived in the 1930s-1940s. The participants were impressed by the miracle and magnificence of volcanic geology and snow forest, and enjoyment of activities such as challenging cold, snowball fight etc.

As a tourism product of ice and

snow in Jingpohu, these activities will continue ever after.

Welcome to the ice and snow land of Jingpohu!

Chonghua Fu
Jingpohu UGG Management
Committee



2017 National Youth Future Star Winter Sports Event

The First Cave Rescue Training Course of CNSAS was Held in Leye-Fengshan UNESCO Global Geopark (China)



On Feb. 28th, 2017, the first cave rescue training course of CNSAS was opened in the Leye-Fengshan UGG.

Jointly sponsored by the Leye-Fengshan UGG Administrative Committee and Italian Alp Cave Rescue Team, the training course lasted for 8 days. 6 senior coaches dispatched by the Italian Alp Cave Rescue Team gave lessons on the spot. 50 cave exploration amateurs from dozens of cities including Beijing, Guangdong, Hong Kong and China Taiwan, partial officers of the China's Land Rescue Team and representatives of the China's Cave Rescue Alliance attended the training. The Beijing Chongshang



Peak Sports Development Limited Corporation, Hong Kong Luda International Commercial Trading Company, French cave explorer Mr. Jean Bottazzi and other enterprises and individuals gave great support to this training.

The objectives of this training course are mainly to upgrade the cave rescue level of china, to boost the reputation of exploration tourism of the Leye-Fengshan UGG, to cultivate a professional cave rescue team for the Leye-Fengshan UGG, and to ensure safety of tourists who have cave exploration and travelling in the geopark, as well as to make the Leye-Fengshan UGG to become an international exploration training base and better popularize scientific knowledge of the karst cave.

The training was carried out through field training during the daytime and indoor study of theories at nights, and in this way, students achieved great progresses in the cave rescue knowledge, technological level and capacities.

Participant experts and students were all amazed at natural landscape and eco-environment of the geopark, at the same time, experts from the Italian Alp Cave Rescue Team were appreciated that the Leye-Fengshan Geopark provided an opportunity for them to communicate with the Chinese exploration amateurs, and they expressed their willingness to share knowledge and skills.

Leye-Fengshan UGG



Little Tour Guide

Hexigten UNESCO Global Geopark, China

As the practitioner and propagandist of science popularization, with the help of geopark's tour guides, little tour guides of the Hexigten Global Geopark get full grasp of the knowledge of geoheritages, history, nature and culture of Hexigten.

We make the training course focus on the etiquette training, pronunciation and intonation, gesture language and basic knowledge training etc. The four tour guides of the museum demonstrated for the litter tour guides. All the students put themselves into the training.

This activity has stimulated interest and enthusiasm of students to know and love our geopark, popularized scientific knowledge, cultivated their expression abilities, and let them to respect others. It's not only an excellent experience for students, but also a beautiful landscape in the Hexigten UNESCO Global Geopark.



The Cultural Festival of Shennong

Yuntaishan UNESCO Global Geopark, China

The shennongshan is an important part of the Yuntaishan UGG. There is not only the Geological relics of the world, but also abundant in animal and plant resources, such as the Dragon Crest Great Wall, the most representative geological landscape, like a dragon coiled at the top of the Taihang mountain; the Taihang macaque monkeys, the elves of shennongshan, living a carefree life in China's most north of macaques nature reserve; the Pinus Bungeana, growth at an altitude of 800 meters above the cliffs, unique in China, also known as "the world's top five beauty pine".

Shennongshan has a long history and brilliant culture. The ancestors Yan emperor Shennongshi, together with the Yellow emperor in the Chinese literature and history, distinguished the grains, tasted all kinds of herbs, created farming, set the altar to worship, initiated the



beginning of agriculture and medicine, as well as the Chinese civilization. So it is named shennongshan.

The local people of shennongshan organize large activities which named "sanyuesan temple fair" spontaneously in the lunar calendar in March 3rd. The custom began in the Jin dynasty, thrived in the Tang and Song dynasty, lasted for over 1700 years, one of the four big

ancient temple fairs in the central plains. As the local county annals named "Huaiqing prefecture annals" record, both men and women, old and young, everyone came out from home in the evening to celebrate activities from new moon to full in the lunar calendar March every year.

The "sanyuesan temple fair" has been evolved from the earliest pilgrims worship, incense, temple



fairs, into the annual "shennong cultural festival". Local people will organize the Yan emperor worship activities to honor the emperor shennongshi. Even the chronology of the local people is shennong Annals.

Shennong cultural festival lasts from March 3rd to 15th of the lunar calendar. Friends from all over the world are welcome to shennongshan to feel the shennong culture!

Travelling Through the Earth

Hondsrug UNESCO Global Geopark, Netherlands

The Hondsrug UNESCO Global Geopark, de Nederlandse Aardoliemaatschappij (NAM) and IVN Drenthe launch a curriculum called "Travelling through the earth", which has been developed specially for upper primary school. "Travelling through the earth" covers the bottom of Drenthe and the genesis of the Hondsrug area.

Geopark and NAM have much to do with the deep subsurface and (sediment/rock) layers. It looks at the creation of the strata. How Drenthe was once at the South Pole and later

in the tropics, about the ice ages and strata which were then formed, but also the minerals and their everyday use. IVN is launching the project through its network of schools Drenthe. Teachers are familiarized with the package and can then themselves with their students to work.

The education is made "Travelling through the earth" for groups 6, 7 and 8 of primary school. We work with various themes with subjects like a fossil forest, the formation of salt, Drenthe under the ice, etc. Primary school pupils go through challenging

assignments and materials discovery and encounter a history of millions of years. This discovery takes place through the various strata around. Life in those days, but also the minerals that we use every day are formed in that period. There is delved into remains in the soil and in the landscape of Drenthe. The Hondsrug area (the Hondsrug Geopark) is central.

Liesbeth Simon

www.geoparkdehondsrug.nl

www.facebook.com/geopark.dehondsrug

dehondsrug



Alxa Desert UGG Held Geo-education Activities in Alxa Left Banner Mongolian Primary School

Alxa Desert UNESCO Global Geopark, China



In order to guide students to explore the mystery of geo-science in Alxa, as well as to advance the cooperation agreement between the Geopark and local Mongolian primary school in Alxa, series of activities were held by Alxa Desert UNESCO Global Geopark in China.

New Educational Geo-science Gallery.

With Mongolian and English version and lots of colorful pictures, a new educational geo-science gallery was built at school, which is 9 meters long, and 2.3 meters high. At the gallery, earth science of the Geopark, such as geological significance, rare natural characters, interesting geological phenomena in the desert, were illustrated to the students.

Geo-science Camp.

To enhance the direct communication with students, management staffs of the Alxa Desert UGG organized a geo-science camp activity with the theme of "Fulfilled Geo-heritage and Living Environment Protection from Our Daily Life" in the Alxa Left Banner Mongolian primary school, and more than 70 students participated. In the camp activity, the students visited Exhibition Center of the Alxa Desert UGG and went to the National Geopark Main Monument

Square, making acquaintance of wild desert plants and basic geo-science knowledge by desert hiking adventure, and playing treasure hunt game at the edge of Tengri Desert. With great enthusiasm, students' questions about geo-science knowledge, such as how to become a geopark, how many types of geoheritages, where water is from in the desert and how the canyon was shaped etc. Were to be answered. The students actively acted as a little desert environmental interpreters or guardians. At the end, they all wrote down their best wishes for the geopark on the geo-science propaganda banner.

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Geothermal Energy - An Intensive Course in TERRA.vita Geopark

TERRA.vita UNESCO Global Geopark, Germany

In co-operation with the Climate-Protection-Department of the County of Osnabrück, the TERRA.vita Geopark (NW-Germany) wants to initiate the use of geothermal energy in the region. An intensive course was organized in the beginning of March especially for architects, planners and members of the communities, to explain the potential of this technology.

100 participants met in a conference center within the natural history museum, to learn about "surface-near geothermal energy". County chairman Dr. Winfried Wilkens used his welcome to explain the regions climate-protection goals and stressed the fact, that heat is an issue that comes into focus more and more: "Concerning the production of renewable electricity, we are already

on a good way" Wilkens outlined, "substituting fossil fuels for heating is by far the harder work to do". What he meant was the high number of gas- and oil-based heaters that are still thought to be the standard. And yet the building of a new home or a basic reconstruction is an ideal opportunity, to get rid of the traditional technology. Wilkens: "Every new gas- or oil heater is a missed chance for climate protection for the next 20 years."

The talks given in the following hours shone a light on the issue of geothermal energy from different perspectives. Beside technical aspects that were explained by various examples also issues of permissions and funding were discussed.

A new aspect for many of the

participants was the fact, that geothermal systems can also be used for cooling in summer: "In this case, the heat from the buildings' rooms is reinjected into the ground" explained engineer Kim Schwettmann from the GeoEnergy-Celle association that was co-organizing the event. "In this case the system is even more efficient".

The question that is probably the most important one was asked by an employee of a community in the southern district: How can one convince a house-builder to use this technology, if it's more expensive, and permission and funding are noticeably more complicated than a traditional system?

The answer was given by Kim Schwettmann straightforwardly: "In an intermediate term a well calibrated system delivers four fifth of the energy needed from the ground. Such a heater is therefore always the most economical solution and the owner becomes independent from fluctuation of prices. Earth delivers it's heat for free."

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100 participants learned about Geothermal Energy in an intensive course organized by TERRA.vita



Hong Kong Geopark School Visits Japanese UNESCO Global Geoparks

Oki Islands UNESCO Global Geopark, Japan

To kick off this year's Asia Pacific Geoparks Network (APGN) Exchange Programme, as discussed among the participants during "APGN Exchange Week", held at the Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark (HKUGG) from 14 to 20 December 2016, a science transfer programme, co-organized by HKUGG in China and the Oki Islands and San'in Kaigan UNESCO Global Geoparks in Japan, concluded successfully on 22 March 2017.

Thanks to the co-ordination and efforts of the three geoparks, around 30 students from a Hong Kong Geopark School visited San'in Kaigan and Oki UNESCO Global Geoparks from 19 to 22 March 2017, enjoying a unique opportunity to explore the social, geological and cultural history

of Japan.

During the tour to Japan, the participating students offered virtual tours to their schoolmates back home who did not have the chance to join the Programme, sharing their excitement and knowledge acquired during the visit as part of the 'Global E-classroom' programme organised



by the LIONS Nature Education Foundation.

Blending earth science and cultural exchange, the exchange sessions fostered active dialogue on issues such as geo-tourism, nature conservation and geopark communities, the arts, and cultural differences between China and Japan.

"For our young people, the APGN offers an excellent platform for learning about each other and cultural exchange. By working alongside our partners in Japan and sharing their stories after joining the student-exchange programme, the students learn more about themselves, other cultures, and the natural world around them," a spokesman from HKUGG said.

"It was encouraging to see so many students benefit from the APGN Student-Exchange Programme," said

Ms Lancy Tam, headmistress of a Hong Kong Geopark School. "The visits and exchange among students on both sides reinforced the personal contact and earth science curriculum of the Geopark School".

As part of an on-going initiative since 2010, two more Geopark Schools from Hong Kong will visit the Japanese sister geoparks in April and June, and in July and August, students from the Japanese geoparks will visit Hong Kong UNESCO

Global Geopark. The upcoming Asia Pacific Geoparks Network (APGN) Exchange Programme co-ordinated by HKUGG will also include a science popularisation workshop which will be held next week and the Visit and Exchange Programme for the Chinese Geoparks Network (CGN) to the Japanese Geoparks Network (JGN) from 11 to 20 April 2017.

Hong Kong, San'in Kaigan, & Oki Islands UNESCO Global Geoparks.



DRIFTING APART

Reuniting Our Geological Heritage

Drifting Apart aims to reconnect and promote the shared geological heritage of seven countries including Canada, Iceland, Ireland, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Norway and Russia.

Representatives from each of the seven partner areas met for the fourth time in November in Fort William, Scotland. Lochaber Aspiring Geopark hosted this intense two day meeting where project partners reviewed progress and looked forward to what actions need to be

completed in the the next six months including 360 degree filming of key geological sites, creation of teacher field notes for at least thirty locations and community geology information sessions, to name a few.

On the second day of meetings partners were joined by the Northern

Periphery and Arctic Region Progammes Scottish regional contact Kateryna McKinnon who provided advice and information regarding further funding opportunities and project progress.

Find out more about this most recent meeting.



Communication and Cooperation

The Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust launched a geology course for teachers of all ages and abilities in early November. Working with geologist Dr. Lemon, geology teacher Nicole Sloane and outdoor activity centre, Magilligan Field Centre, the course introduced the basic principles of geology, supplied each teacher with literature and rock samples, outlined classroom activities related to the curriculum and provided a health and safety overview for taking children out on field trips.

Four evening classroom sessions were followed by a day out in the field where each teacher presented activities they developed based on knowledge gained during the previous sessions.

First stop on the field trip was



✦ Causeway Coast and Glens Teachers are learning a thing or two!

Limavady town to explore urban geology. Then it was on to two coastal sites already popular with

schools for geology and environment classes, Ballintoy Harbour and White Rocks beach.

Teachers from this course are now equipped to introduce geology into their everyday teaching and bring classes out on field trips to explore the local geology.

A second geology course for teachers in this area will be launched later in 2017, as will similar training courses and geology guides for teachers across the Drifting Apart project area.

Keep up to date with upcoming courses:

<http://driftingapart.ccght.org/category/drifting-apart-news/>

Heta Inoma

The First Visit and Exchange Programme between the Chinese Geoparks Network (CGN) and the Japanese Geoparks Network (JGN)

China University of Geosciences, Beijing, China

The first ever visit and exchange programme between the Chinese Geoparks Network (CGN) and Japanese Geoparks Network (JGN) came to an end on the 19th of April. The programme lasted over one week. Programme participants included Taishan, Alxa Desert,

Hexigten, Hong Kong and Arxan UNESCO Global Geoparks from the CGN, and Itoigawa, San'in Kaigan, Unzen Volcanic Area, Muroto and Oki Islands UNESCO Global Geoparks, as well as Hakusan Tedorigawa, Tateyama Kurobe and Dinosaur Valley Fukui Katsuyama

National Geoparks from the JGN. It included a visit to the Japanese UNESCO Global Geoparks office in Tokyo where participants exchanged information about the two networks and visits to Itoigawa, San'in Kaigan and Oki Islands UNESCO Global Geoparks.



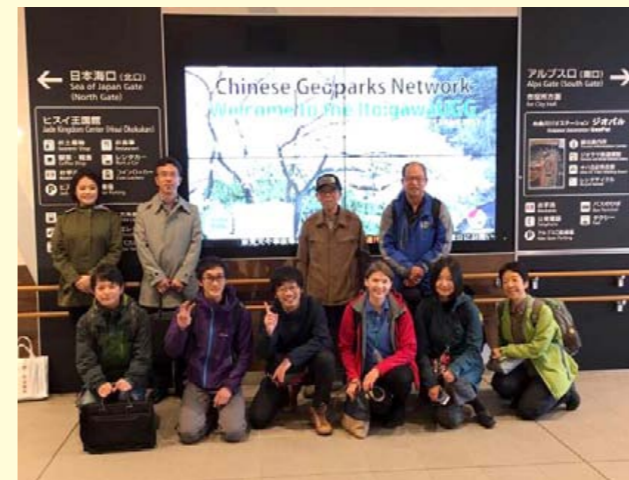
Meeting at JGN Office & exchanging information about the two networks



Throughout the program, participants learnt a great deal about each other and identified many common features and challenges such as geopark visibility, local awareness and promotion, branding, geoheritage conservation and so on. At the same time, the delegates of CGN presented Chinese geopark souvenirs to JGN and three Japanese UNESCO Global Geoparks. At the end of the San'in Kaigan UNESCO



Exchange geopark souvenirs



Exchange session at Itoigawa UNESCO Global Geopark



Global Geopark expedition, the delegate of CGN was interviewed by local television reporter and expressed their impressions and experience of this exchange programme. CGN is co-operating with JGN for the first time for knowledge exchange and peace-building in order to promote development of UGGs and GGN as a whole. The networking programme is has exerted a profound effect on the further exchange.



Mingzhong Tian

On-the-spot Investigation at San'in Kaigan UNESCO Global Geopark



Geotour at Oki Islands UNESCO Global Geopark



Mexican Geological Survey Visited Leiqiong UNESCO Global Geopark for Inspiration

Leiqiong UNESCO Global Geopark, China

As part of implementation of the co-operation agreement between China and Mexico on establishing geoparks in Mexico, Jose Luis Lee Moreno and Rosa Marla Tremari Trueba of the Mexican Geological Survey visited Leiqiong Geopark on 9 and 10 March, 2017. They were accompanied by Professor Tao Kuiyuan and Dr. Shen Jialin from the Nanjing Geological Survey to visit the important geosites such as volcanoes and craters of Ma'anling and Fengluling, the lava tunnel of Seventy-Two Cave, the ma'er volcano at Shuangchiling and the flow tuff at Yiziling.

The Mexican guests also visited the Tourist Centre and Science Museum to have a better understanding of tourist management and science popularisation of the geopark. The interpretive boards and signs were studied in detail. They had also visited the adjacent Rongtang Ancient Village and lychee plantation. Plenty of ideas and experiences were exchanged during their visit. The two Mexican guests were impressed by the tremendous works Leiqiong had done for popularising

geosciences through its interesting museum and interpretation system. They also appreciated the very obvious economic benefits brought by the geopark to the local people through sustainable tourism and economic development, particularly the development of locally produced geopark products.

Through discussion between

colleagues from the Leiqiong and the Mexican geopark, Leiqiong's experiences and future development ideas were shared without reservation. The Mexican visitors were very satisfied and looked forward to strengthening relationship between the two parks by maintaining regular exchanges in the future.

Paul Yu

Leiqiong UNESCO Global Geopark



GEOfood and Sustainable Tourism Practices

Magma UNESCO Global Geopark, Norway

From 2013 to 2015 Magma UGG lead the GEOfood project with partners:

Reykjanes UGG on Iceland, Odsherred UGG in Denmark, Rokua UGG in Finland.

The GEOfood concept is focusing on the connection between the geological characteristic and the development of raw material for local food, underlining the importance of the connection between geological heritage and quality food.

Geoparks combined local GEOfood with geotourism possibilities: offering to tourist the possibility to experience real Geopark's sustainable way of living.

The main outcome of the project was the GEOfood brand following shared criteria for local food and restaurants. Criteria allows only UNESCO Global Geoparks members to use the logo, the products must on the label promote the products connection with the local geological heritage and that the raw materials come from the Geopark area. We developed several branded products in the Geopark areas, one promotional video and an app for smartphones and tablets. During the project development and after the project conclusion the GEOfood project has been promoted and shared within the European Geoparks Network. The criteria have been



GEOfood and
sustainable tourism
practices

shared and distribute to the Geoparks that want to use it, so far 10 Geoparks are using the criteria and developing products. During January -February Magma Geopark circulated a questionnaire asking the EGN members about GEOfood. The response was very positive: 50 Geoparks on 68 responded to the questionnaire and the majority was positive and would like to use the brand. Magma Geopark have created the homepage: www.geofood.no and protected the brand GEOfood in Norway. The idea is to expand the page within professional commercial strategies that also includes tourist possibilities that combines food and geotourism, promotion and selling products online within the GEOfood and Geoparks web pages, develop the app further and protect the brand within Europe.

We hope to strength the brand and support local Geopark communities to promote and sell their products within their Geoparks!

Sara Gentilini, Pål Thjømøe

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Special Issue of Geoparks in the Journal of the Geological Society of Korea

Jeju UNESCO Global Geopark, Korea

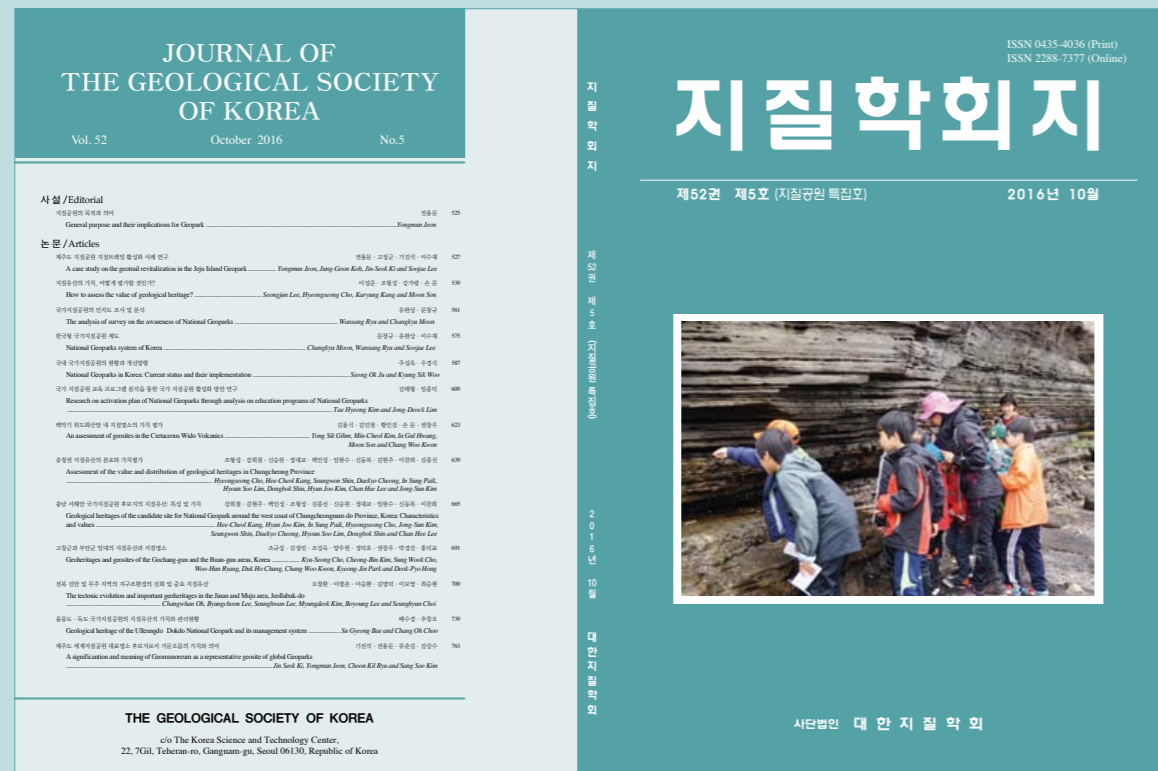
In October, 2016, a special edition of Geoparks was issued in the Journal of the Geological Society of Korea. This special issue contains a total of 14 papers and covers various topics such as operation cases, various academic values, education, and management directions of Geoparks. The special issue of Geoparks was led by the Jeju Global Geopark. It includes a study, 'A case study on the

geotrail revitalization in the Jeju Island Geopark,' on the transformation of a fishing village into a geopark attraction through geotrail that 300,000 people visit every year.

With the designation of Jeju Geopark in 2012, Korea currently has 7 designated national geoparks and the Korea Geopark Network (KGN). In recent years, the number of areas desired to become designated as

national geoparks is also rapidly increasing. The growing interest of Geoparks is reflected in the inclusion of geological parks in the national statute, which enables not only budget support from the central government but also sustainable tourism using local values.

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About Funding Delegates from Developing Countries to Participate in the 5th APGN Symposium

The 5th Asia Pacific Geoparks Network Symposium will be held from September 19 - 22, 2017 in the Zhijindong Cave UNESCO Global Geopark, China. In order to promote the development of UNESCO Global Geoparks in developing countries, the organizing committee has decided to support 10 delegates from developing countries (preferably 6 from Africa, the rest from other regions) to participate in the Symposium. Successful applicants should meet the following conditions:

- (1) They should be engaged in UNESCO Global Geopark research, development and management.
- (2) They must submit a signed paper (oral or poster presentation) in accordance with relevant provisions.
- (3) They should have the ability to converse in English for the purpose of paper presentation and academic exchanges etc.
- (4) They should submit an attendance report to the organizing committee after the Symposium.

The organizing committee will support the following expenses: (1) Return-trip air tickets (economy class) from departure airport to the Symposium venue, (2) Accommodation and meal costs during the Symposium.

The application procedure: (1) Any eligible applicant should register on the official website, as well as fill and submit an application form (download from relevant website) before 15th June to the organizing committee and the Chinese Geoparks Network by email. (2) The organizer will select applicants according to eligibility, regional balance and the relevance of the submitted papers etc. with regard to UNESCO Global Geoparks. The list of successful applicants will be announced on relevant websites before 30th June.

Contact information:

- (1) Official website: <http://apgn2017.com/>
- (2) CGN Email: cgn@cags.ac.cn