



Asia Pacific Geoparks Network (APGN)

CELEBRATING EARTH HERITAGE – SUSTAINING LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Annual Report 2021

by

JIN Xiaochi, KOMOO Ibrahim, NAKADA Setsuya



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2021 was the second year we have spent with the disruption of the Covid-19 Pandemic. APGN has been learning how to function accordingly. We tried our best to conduct and support activities/events to demonstrate the resilience of our territories and to advance the idea of UNESCO Global Geopark. These activities/events increased the confidence of local communities and enforced sustainable development of the territories. We are very grateful to our members, whose enthusiasm and creativity are critical to every success.

We report hereby the main activities/events in 2021, and progresses of our social media and communication tools. Activities initiated and accomplished by various members are not repeated here; they will be described in detail in their respective annual reports to the GGN.

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1. The Second APGN Week

In an effort of striving for a normal daily life, the Second APGN Week was conducted to arouse enthusiasm, to boost confidence, to demonstrate resilience of UGGps, and to prepare for the World After. Geoparks took active part in many activities of this festival.

1.1 Sister Geoparks Mutual Exhibition and Interaction 2021

The “*Sister Geoparks Mutual Exhibition and Interaction 2021*” was launched in the morning of 22 April, the 52nd World Earth Day and the first day of Second APGN Week. The launching ceremony was held in 24 geoparks in China, Japan, Thailand and Vietnam, and attended by nearly 10,000 participants. APGN coordinator Xiaochi JIN and CGN coordinator Yuan ZHENG made short video addresses at the ceremony.

Exquisite pictures and videos of the participating geoparks shown at the launching ceremony attracted many visitors. On-site popular science guides and volunteers helped visitors to appreciate the beauty of the geoparks in multiple dimensions, and get to know the diversified geoheritage and geomorphological attractions of these geoparks. Participants were given maps and brochures, and invited to do quizzes to win souvenirs and tickets to the 19 different geoparks in China. More than six thousand tickets and 100,000 information and science popularization materials were distributed to the public.

The event continued through to 28 April. Apart from attendance onsite, people could also visit the websites and the social media of these geoparks for more information and details. The event successfully delivered to visitors the messages, such as harmonious coexistence of human and nature, respecting and protecting natural environment, sustainable development, etc.



This event was initiated by Yandangshan and Danxiashan UGGps, with the active participation of Lushan, Taishan, Zhangjiajie, Sanqingshan, Leiqiong, Leye-Fengshan, Jiuhuashan, Xiangxi, Wudalianchi, Huanggang Dabieshan, Zhijindong, Dunhuang, Hexigten, Shennongjia, Qinling-Zhongnanshan, Shilin UGGps and Longyan aUGGp in China, Muroto and Izu Peninsula UGGps in Japan, Dong Van and Cao Bang UGGps in Vietnam, and Satun UGGp in Thailand.

Besides the mutual exhibition, **Danxiashan UGGp** gave a popular science lecture to more than 300 middle school students about Danxia landscape and geology on April 22 at Danxiashan Museum. During the APGN Week, volunteers gave popular science lectures in more than 20 primary and secondary schools to more than 2,000 students and teachers.

The 1st Geopark Nature Education Forum was held online. With the support of China Nature Education Network, the forum invited Danxiashan, Yandangshan, Shilin, Dunhuang, and Hong Kong UGGps, as well as several well-known nature education institutions in China to share their good practices in nature education.

From April 26 to 28, a training course on geoheritage, biodiversity, horticulture was held for 35 trainees of enterprise employees, community workers and farmers, in order to improve their ability of doing business and to promote sustainable development.



The 1st Nature Education Forum of Geoparks

Leye-Fengshan UGGp welcomed students from the 2nd elementary school to visit the Geopark museum, where they learned the formation process of the territory, karst landform, and the knowledge of earth history. The activity inspired the students to know more about the Geopark and the importance of protecting the environment and cherishing natural resources.

On 26 April, a staff member of Leye-Fengshan UGGp gave a lecture at the No. 1 elementary school of Fengshan county, and answered the questions of students. Over 100 brochures were handed out and some souvenirs were given to the students.

Xiangxi UGGp launched activities of promoting scientific knowledge to the public at different places in the geopark, and in schools, relevant offices, villages, as well as some enterprises. They distributed brochures/leaflets, and had quiz at these places.



Students at photo exhibition



Question and answer

Wudalianchi UGGp held on 22 April 2021 the Earth Day themed activity "Cherish the Earth, Harmony between Man and Nature" in Wudalianchi Volcano Museum, with the participation of students from Wudalianchi Geopark No. 1 Middle School. They visited the photography exhibitions of geoparks in the world, and took part in bonus quiz and other activities. In the afternoon, a lecture on environment protection was given to the students. On-site teaching, interactive games and video exhibition were well received by students.



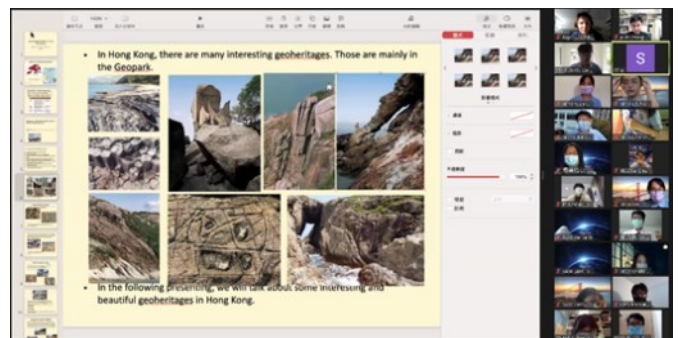
1.2 Hong Kong UGGp

Online Exchange with Overseas Students

Hong Kong UGGp co-organised two online exchange forums for students with Oki Islands UGGp (Japan) on 26 and 28 April. Students from Oki Dozen High School and Oki High School in Shimane Prefecture took part in the activities to engage with Hong Kong students from two schools of the Geopark School Programme, CCC Mong Man Wai College and Yuen Long Merchants Association Secondary School. About 60 students participated in the activities.

The online exchange forums were designed by the two geoparks, in collaboration with students and teachers from the participating schools. Each forum comprised three parts. In the first part, students from both places presented the geography and appearance of their territories, as well as the local history, culture and famous attractions. The second part was a Q&A session. Students selected some topics of interest beforehand – including geography, disaster prevention, school life, pop culture, lifestyle and local cuisine – and put questions to their counterparts to learn more about these

issues. The third part was a free-exchange session, in which students could speak their minds and engage in in-depth discussions. The students exchanged contact information at the end of the online event.



“Hong Kong Geopark” Roving Exhibition

During the 2nd APGN Week, Hong Kong UGGp co-organised the first event of the “Hong Kong UGGp” Roving Exhibition with the Environmental Association and the Sai Kung District Community Centre. The six-month

roving exhibition is being staged between April and October 2021 in shopping malls and tourist hotspots across Hong Kong. The showcase features beautifully designed panels with texts and images that present the key geosites of Hong Kong UGGp. Specimens of major rock types are also on display. Hong Kong UGGp guides are on hand to provide information about the geopark and distribute geopark flyers. The outreach programme takes Hong Kong UGGp to the urban districts to give the public a fuller picture of the geopark and hopefully promote local ecotourism during the pandemic.



1.3 Yanqing UGGp

More than 300 people, including local government officials, participated in a tree planting activity at Yeya Lake National Wetland.

A bird watching program for students was also organized in the Yeya Lake Wetland. Students of the Xiaofengying primary school watched through telescope the summer migratory birds such as heron, grass heron and brown headed finch. They learned how to identify birds in field. Staff members of Yanqing UGGp explained the evolution process of Yeya Lake Wetland and the impact of wetland on environment and our life. They also introduced the geosites, tourism resources and trails to the students.



Yanqing UGGp also held a popular science lecture for Qianjiadian Primary School. The staff member introduced the structure and the evolution history of the earth, raised the questions of global climate change, and called on the students to protect our home.



1.4 Zhangye UGGp

On 22 April, the World Earth Day, Zhangye UGGp made both online and off-line activities, promoting the idea of understanding the earth better and treasuring Earth heritage.

On the following days, a training course for 200 staff members was held on how to protect

geoheritage, how to ensure tourists' safety and how to improve service standard. Meanwhile, tour & study and hiking activities were carried out with the collaboration of 3 schools, 2 universities and 1 tourism agency.

About 140 students from Zhangye Special Education School, who are unable to hear or speak, visited Colorful Hills of Zhangye UGGp, observed the colorful strata. They were all amazed by the beautiful rainbow mountain and magic power of the nature.

560 students from Lanzhou Experimental School conducted their tour & study program in Zhangye UGGp. They visited Colorful Hills area and Science Popularization Base and collected soil samples from the base, and then visited the Geopark Museum, where they did a soil sample composition experiment with the help of teachers. These activities aroused their further interest to the nature.



Around 400 students from Zhangye Comprehensive Practice School visited Zhangye Geopark

Museum and acquired scientific knowledge on natural and cultural resource of Zhangye. They felt proud when they learned that Zhangye Geopark has already been a member Global Geoparks Network.



Oil Painting Department of Central Academy of Fine Art came to Zhangye UGGp and took a sketch on Binggou Danxia area. Danxia Landform reappeared on their paintings vividly.



1.5 Global Geoparks in Japan

Muroto UGGp organized e-class with the Langkawi UGGp, entitled “Langkawi-Muroto school demon-strating resilience during COVID-19 pandemic, in conjunction with APGN Week 2021”. High school students, teachers and geopark staff of both sides shared on line the information of activities done during this period with videos and power-point presentation. They exhibited the signage of Mother Earth Day and the second APGN Week, designed by Muroto High School students. They opened the YouTube video showing their exchanges with 18 Chinese UGGps on March 16.

Oki Islands UGGp coordinated online exchange program with Hong Kong UGGp during the APGN week. Two high schools in Oki interacted with the Church of Christ Mong Man Wai College and with the Yuen Long Merchants Association Secondary School in Hong Kong, China. Three sessions were included, 1) introduction of their own local areas related to geoparks and local products/characteristics, 2) Q and A on usual and school lives, and 3) free interaction. The Oki high school students edited the 15-min videos and pictures of

several sites.

Itoigawa UGGp introduced the APGN Week and Mother Earth Day in social media (Facebook, Instagram and Twitter). The council members were noticed this activity through their mailing list. Picking up rubbishes around the visitor centers, and the photos were introduced on the social media.

Unzen Volcanic Area UGGp announced the second APGN Week on 22 April, and introduced 7 UGGPs in 7 countries of APGN in their Facebook as the activity of APGN week. That is, one UGGp every day, representing one from each country: Satun UGGp in Thailand, Belitong UGGp in Indonesia, Langkawi UGGp in Malaysia, Qeshm Island UGGp in Iran, Dak Nong UGGp in Viet Nam, Hong Kong UGGp in China, and Jeju Island UGGp in Korea.

<https://www.facebook.com/geoparks2012unzen>



Online exchanging program between Muroto and Langkawi UGGps

Mt. Apoi UGGp shortly introduced the second APGN Week in their webpage.

https://www.apoi-geopark.jp/event/2021/04/post_220.html

Izu Peninsula UGGp introduced the second APGN Week with the related materials in GEOLIA (visitor centre). They also sent materials to the Shennongjia UGGp in China to exhibit them as the event of the second APGN Geoparks Week.

https://www.instagram.com/p/CN_aCgftuF/

Toya-Usu UGGp and Leiqiong UGGp (China) actively exchanged online during APGN Week toward establishing a cooperation agreement for the sister geoparks in order to achieve a friendly cooperative relationship.



Window posters made by high school students in Muroto UGGp

1.6 Langkawi UGGp

In conjunction with the 2nd APGN Week, a talk program entitled *The Formation of the Earth from the Perspective of Al-Quran and Science* was held on 26 April 2021 at 9.00 am at LADA Auditorium, involving 120 participants from the staff of Langkawi Development Authority (LADA), Langkawi UGGp Partners, ambassadors and government agencies in Langkawi.

Two panellists were invited to discuss and analyse the topic from the perspective of Al-Quran and Islamic. The two panelists are Ms. Rasanubari Asmah Rahmah, Resident Geologist at LUGGp and Ustaz Suhaimi Bin Shuib.

Among the things discussed includes the formation of the universe and the creation of planets as well as the formation of the earth from a scientific point of view.

Meanwhile, Ustaz Suhaimi talked about the formation of the universe is based on the facts

in the Al Quran, which was created by Allah SWT in 6 phases of events.

This talk forum has intrigued the minds of the participants to the creation of the universe.



1.7 Dak Nong UGGp

The Vietnam Association for Protection of Nature and Environment recognized on 20 April 2021 the first ancient tree of Dak Nong UGGp. This banyan tree is over 200 years old, 30 meters high, has a main stem circumference of 15 meters, wide canopy covering more than 1,000 square meters. This tree has long been the place where people organize all local cultural and spiritual activities. Thus, it is not only a beautiful symbol of natural cultural value but also a historical witness.

Dak Nong UGGp Management Board organized courses, training local people to make souvenirs from dried pine cones. This not only helps to bring economic benefits for locals but also to raise their awareness of environmental protection.



On 28 April, the Ma people in Phi Mur village, Quang Khe commune (Dak Glong) held a water wharf worshiping ceremony, with the purpose of giving thanks to "God of Water" for bringing the villagers good luck in the past year and praying for the good weather and favorable crops for the following year.

2. Geotourism Fest & Int'l Conference 2021



Geotourism Fest & International Conference 2021

Rinjani-Lombok UGGp successfully held on August 5-7 the Geotourism Fest and International Conference 2021. Participants from 11 countries and regions attended virtually, while the participants in Lombok attended at the Tourism College (STP) Mataram, the main location for this activity.

It was co-organized by the Rinjani Lombok UGGp Management Agency, the Mataram Tourism College (STP-Mataram) and the Association of Geologists (IAGI) of the NTB Regional Government. It received moral and material support from the Ministry of Tourism & Creative Economy through the Deputy Tourism Products and Activities (Events) Directorate of MICE, Bappenas RI, NTB Provincial Government, Indonesian Geopark Network (JGI), Japan Geopark Network (JGN) and Asia Pacific Geoparks Network (APGN) and from the sponsor, PT. PSI and PT. Sumbawa Million.

The event was opened by the Minister of Tourism and Creative Economy Sandiaga Salahuddin Uno virtually. Also present were the representative of the NTB Provincial Government, Mrs. Dr. Sitti Rohmi Djalilah, M. Pd, The Deputy Governor of Just Tenggara Barat.



This year's activity also included a cultural workshop on Rinjani with the theme "Enforcing Rinjani's Spiritual Regime in the Midst of Modernization". It held on the second day virtually, with 3 speakers, namely Lalu Agus Fathurrahman (Cultural Leader), Dr. H. Nuriadi

(Academic) and Dr. H. Sudriman (Academic).

The National Geopark Network of Indonesia was also involved in virtual tour events. 6 virtual tour packages were held on the third day, each from the Rinjani Geopark, Tambora Geopark, Gunung Sewu Geopark, Maros Pangkep Geopark, Ijen Geopark and Aspiring Gorontalo Geopark. This provided an opportunity for the audiences to get to know geoparks in other places in Indonesia.

A panel session was held immediately after the opening ceremony. Three panelists, Dr. Eko Budi Lelono, Dr. Guy Martini and Dr. Hans Thulstrup talked respectively on Geoheritage Development Opportunities for Geotourism in Indonesia, Geotourism for Sustainable Development, and The Role of UNESCO-designated Sites in Promoting Sustainable Tourism.



In the afternoon of the first day, 8 expert presentations were given by Prof. Ibrahim Komoo, Prof. Noel Scott, Prof. Xiaochi Jin, Prof. Nickel Ni, Australian Consulate-General in Bali, Dr. Patricia Erfurt, Mr Kazuhiro Nobe & Ms Jagoda Woloszyn, and Prof. David Newsome, introducing their experiences in and understandings on Global Geoparks and geotourism.



In addition, to show the diversity of geotourism, this event also featured entertainment, shows featuring art, and cultural creations in NTB. During the opening ceremony, participants were entertained by the appearance of a local band named NAMONE SARRE who created a special song for the Geotourism Festival entitled 'HOPE' which stands for Harmony of Precious Earth. The lyrics and song arrangements were written by a 14-year-old talented young musician from Mataram City named Kevin Leon, who is a keyboardist as well as a reliable saxophone player. There is also a typical NTB dance performance that combines the 3 ethnic cultures in NTB, that are the Sasak, Samawa and Mbojo tribes presented by STP Mataram students. In the closing ceremony, there was a bottle puppet show performed by younger students from the Sasak Puppet School. Uniquely, the puppets played by these little puppeteers are made by themselves from recycled plastic bottles.



3. Satun UGGp Virtual Tourism Festival

The Department of Mineral Resources (DMR) of Thailand in cooperation with Satun UNESCO Global Geopark organized a virtual festival entitled "Satun UNESCO Global Geopark Virtual Tourism Festival in the New Normal Year 2021" on 23-24 September 2021. The objective of this online festival was to promote geotourism in Satun UNESCO Global Geopark, to convey knowledge and administrative procedures on geopark management to local community and tourists and to share experiences in developing geotourism sites among geopark stakeholders in Thailand. This event also got strong support from Satun Province.



Government official addressing at Opening ceremony

Event moderator

As an event of the Geopark family, it received support from GGN and APGN. GGN President N. Zouros gave a presentation on "Role and Direction of UNESCO Global Geoparks to Serve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)"; APGN Coordinator X. Jin spoke on "The role of APGN in development of Geotourism in the Asia Pacific region"; and APGN Vice-coordinator I. Komoo talked about "Southeast Asia's UNESCO Global Geoparks Cooperation".

EARTH HERITAGE
Ngorongoro WHS, UNESCO Global Geopark, Tanzania



Director of Satun UNESCO Global Geopark Mr. Narongrit Thongprue introduced the "Geotourism and Local Communities in Satun UNESCO Global Geopark"

It was very encouraging that representatives from different organizations took part in two discussions on

"Tourism Development in Satun UNESCO Global Geopark: Various Perspective on Similar Goal" and "Satun UNESCO Global Geopark in New Normal Tourism", which were arranged respectively in the morning and afternoon of the 23 September.

Local Representatives from, Satun UNESCO Global Geopark, Khorat Aspiring Geopark, Pha Chan - Sam Phon Bok Aspiring Geopark, Phetchabun Aspiring Geopark, Khan Kaen Aspiring Geopark had a discussion on “Thailand’s Geopark Products”.

Virtual Travel in 6 Satun UNESCO Global Geopark's Trails were arranged on the second day. After that Directors and Local Representatives from Satun UGGp, and Khorat, Pha Chan - Sam Phon Bok, Phetchabun, and Khan Kaen Aspiring Geoparks shared their experiences on Geopark Tourism.

4. Webinars for the development of UGGps in SIDS

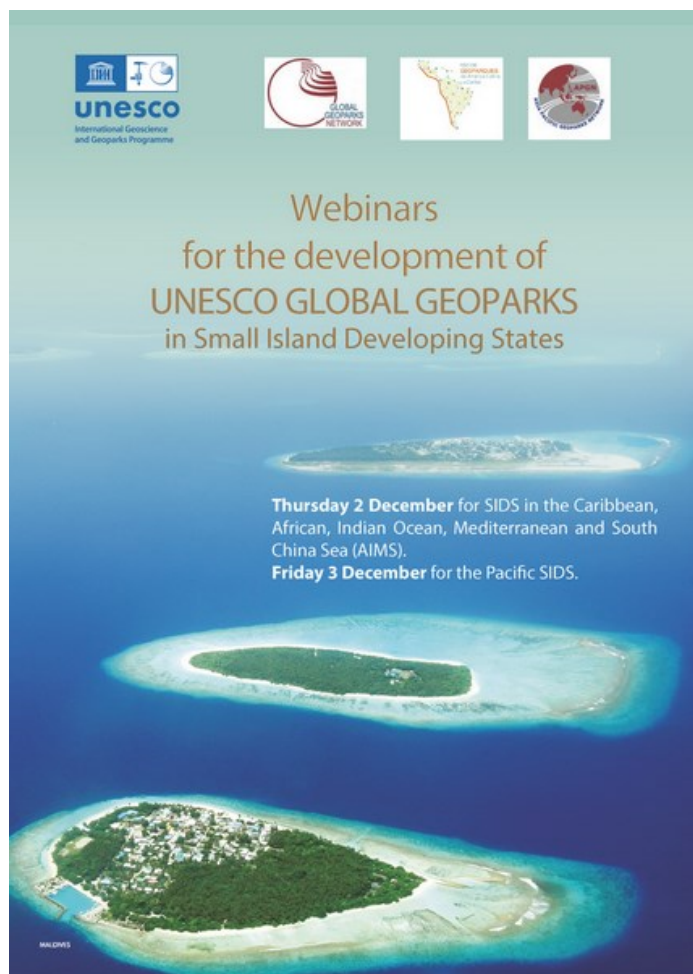
Given the situation that the UGGp concept remains largely unknown in some parts of the world, e.g. the Small Island Developing States (SIDS), UNESCO and its partners, the GGN in the first place, developed a strategy to promote the concept and provide training and support. For that purpose, the webinars for the development of UGGps in SIDS were organized on 2-3 December.

SIDS are often extremely rich in geological features of a tremendous diversity and have enormous potential to build Geoparks. Asia Pacific region holds a large number of SIDS, which are eagerly waiting to be informed with ideas and know-hows of the development of UGGps.

The Webinar on 3 December was for Pacific SIDS. Amongst others, Guy Martini (UGGp Council President) and Asier HILARIO (IUGS Geoheritage Commission President) spoke on “UNESCO Global Geoparks, territories for the future/territories of resilience –concrete examples from UNESCO Global Geoparks”

Gary Lee (Geotechnical Adviser at Pacific Community-SPC, Suva, Central, Fiji) and Christina Leala Gale (the Pacific Tourism Organization) presented the “Opportunities, Challenges, and Emerging Initiatives in the Pacific SIDS”

JIN Xiaochi (APGN Coordinator) talked what can APGN do for the development of UGGps in SIDS.



5. Preparation of 7th APGN Symposium

Colleagues of Satun UGGp and Department of Mineral Resources (DMR) of Thailand had made great effort to prepare the 7th APGN Symposium. The postponement of the symposium from 2021 to 2022, due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, caused more inconveniences to the organizers. In the last quarter of 2021 the preparation work was in an intensified mode; many issues were finalized. Several online meetings were held between Thai colleagues and APGN Coordinators, in addition to frequent email exchanges.



The details of the preparation work were reported by the director of Satun UGGp at the APGN CC Meeting on 13 December 2021. Subsequently, the website of 7th APGN Symposium was in operation. All the important information can be found on it. It will be constantly updated. For these crucial progresses, we are very grateful to our Thai colleagues. APGN Members are encouraged to take active part in the symposium.

7th APGN Symposium

The 7th Asia Pacific Geoparks Network Symposium

4 - 11 September 2022, Satun UNESCO Global Geoparks, Thailand

Important Date	
Conference registration	
Early registration	15 March - 30 April
Regular registration	1 May - 15 Jun
Late registration	16 Jun - 15 Aug
Geo-fair registration	1 - 15 Jun
Intangible Heritage Exhibition	1 - 15 Jun
Abstract Submission	16 April - 31 May

Programme, Registration, Abstract, Geofair, Excursions, Newsletter

<http://satunapgn2022.org/>

6. APGN CC meeting

Normally, APGN will hold an AC Meeting and a CC Meeting at every International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks. However, the 9th Conference was held online, due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. There were limited time slots suitable for participants from different time zones. After consultation with the Conference organizers, APGN got a time slot of two hours on 13 December 2021, GMT 06:00-08:00 (Beijing Time 14:00-16:00, Seoul, Tokyo Time 15:00-17:00). In this case, APGN had a compacted CC meeting with also the participation of AC members. The agenda of the meeting was as follows.

Agenda of CC Meeting on 13 December 2021

1. Welcome and adoption of the agenda
2. Business report by Coordinators 15 minutes.
3. Report about APGN social media (by Hong Kong UGGp), 10 minutes
4. Sharing good practices of APGN members, especially on those showing the resilience of UGGps; each country gives a 10-minutes presentation (in alphabetic order: China, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Korea R., Malaysia, Thailand, and Vietnam; altogether 80 minutes)
5. Future work and measures in such a prolonged period of Covid pandemic
6. Any other businesses.

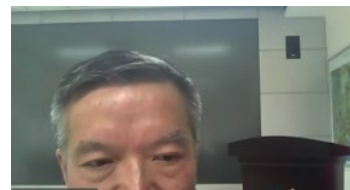
At the meeting X. Jin reported on behalf of coordinators the activities and achievements of APGN since the last CC Meeting in 2020. He also pointed out the challenges. Ms Y.N. Chan briefly introduced the ideas and posts of APGN Twitter and Instagram accounts, as well as the response from the viewers. Representatives from China, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Korea R., Malaysia, Thailand, and Vietnam (pictures below) reported activities and good practices of geoparks in their countries. These presentations let all our members have a comprehensive understanding of the jobs done in the network.

Narongrit of Satun UGGp also reported the preparation of the 7th APGN Symposium.

Suggestions from the members to our future work were sincerely acknowledged.



Y. N. Chan, Social Media



Y. Zheng, China



Y. Kusumahbrata, Indonesia



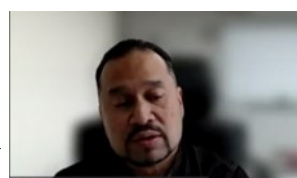
A. Amrikazemi, Iran



Oki Islands UGGp, Japan



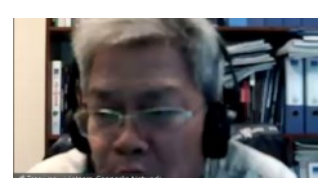
Hantangang UGGp, Korea



Azmil, Malaysia



Narongrit, Thailand



V. Tran, Vietnam

7. APGN Social Media

APGN began social media campaign since late October 2019. It promotes and shares news, experience, activities and best practices of Global Geoparks within the Asia-Pacific region, and constantly promotes the campaigns or activities initiated by the United Nations, UNESCO, GGN and other geoparks networks as well as aspiring global geoparks.

APGN adopted Twitter and Instagram as the two major social media platforms. They have obtained a wide acceptance in the year. The number of followers has increased from 173 to 358 for Twitter, and increased from 229 to 512 for Instagram. The doubled number of followers has reflected the successful visibility of the channels, especially to the younger generation.

Some representative posts on APGN’s social media:



Starting with celebrating the Earth Day, APGN organized the 2nd APGN Geoparks Week from 22 to 28 April 2021 and gained strong responses from members within the network (April 2021).



Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark organized a successful international webinar – “UNESCO Global Geoparks in Malaysia and Indonesia – The Voices of Indigenous People” (August 2021).



Promotion of the winning entries of the 1st GGN Film Festival at the Digital 9th GGN International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks held in Jeju, Republic of Korea (December 2021).

8. Let's Do It – APGN ZOOM Mini-Exchange

Under the COVID-19 pandemic, face-to-face exchange and collaboration between Network members was not possible. The “Let’s Do It” online exchange meeting initiated by Hong Kong UGGp in the first quarter of 2020 continued to be an important networking tool throughout 2021, engaging members of the APGN and invited speakers from other geoparks/networks.

The main “Let’s Do It” online exchange was held on the Zoom meeting platform once every two months, while a communication group was setup on the Line messaging app for other day-to-day exchange and sharing.

During the meeting, which usually lasts for about 1 – 1.5 hour, each participating geopark would share their latest news, ideas and work progress, including approaches to combat the pandemic and how to conduct geopark operations during this period. This would be followed by a guest speaker invited to share an interesting topic with all participants. In 2021, invited guest speakers included APGN coordinator Prof. Jin Xiaochi, GGN Geopark Council and Executive Board member Prof. Zhang Jianping, as well as guests from geoparks outside of the APGN, e.g. Tuscan Mining UGGp (Italy) and Hateg Country UGGp (Romania), further expanding the networking reach of participating APGN geoparks.

The “Let’s Do It” meetings were met with great enthusiasm from APGN geoparks, with 20-30 participating geoparks each time. As the number of participating geoparks increased, we have initiated a small group sharing session for each meeting in 2021, when participants were randomly split into small groups for 10-15 minutes of in-depth discussion, utilising the “breakout rooms” function of Zoom. Should the need arise, voice interpretation or text-based translation

were provided by volunteers from the various participating geoparks to overcome the language barrier.

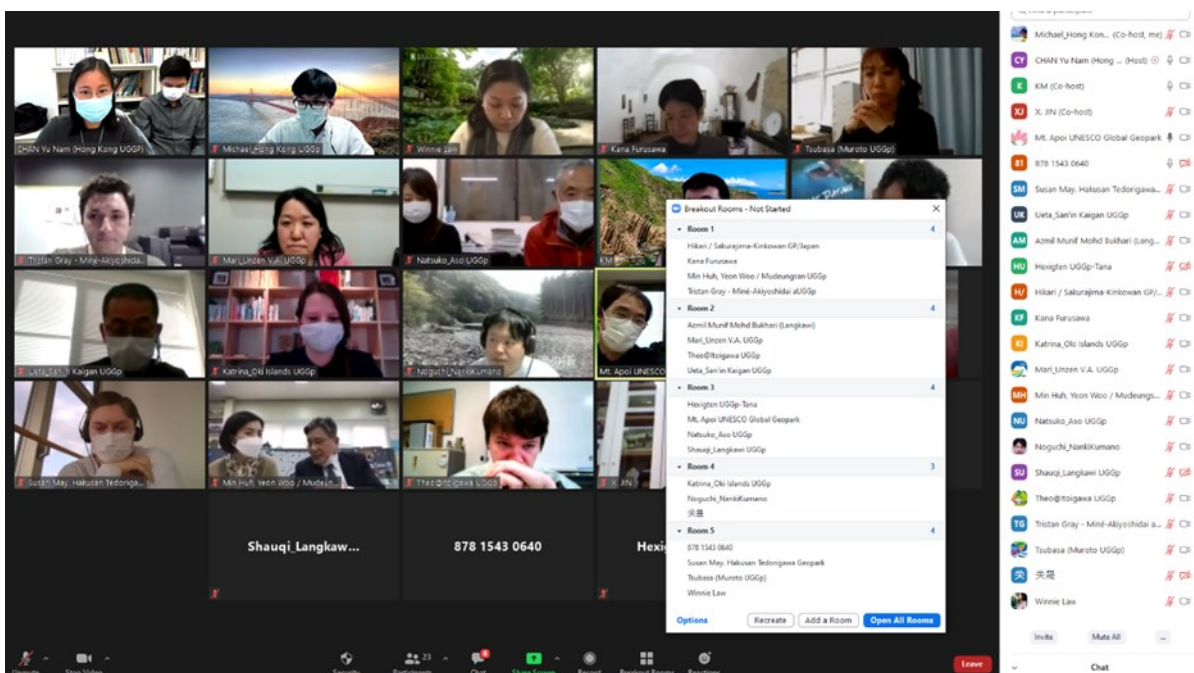
With the COVID-19 pandemic still at large globally, online exchange has become the new norm, and the “Let’s Do It” meetings have become a staple in networking and collaboration among APGN members.

By maintaining networking, communication and collaboration, APGN geoparks can share experience, learn from each other, and gain strength to get through this difficult period. It is also a great way to strengthen the bond and solidarity in the Network.

Screenshots of “Let’s do it — APGN ZOOM Mini-Exchange:



Participants of APGN Let’s Do It online exchange cover most countries of APGN.



A small group sharing session utilising the “breakout rooms” function of Zoom.

VOLUNTEERS FOR THE GEOPARK

Youth as repository and vehicle for UNESCO values
in Hațeg Country UNESCO Global Geopark

CRISTIAN CIOBANU
University of Bucharest - Hațeg Country UNESCO Global Geopark

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization | Hațeg Country UNESCO Global Geopark | Geoparks | GLOBAL GEOPARKS NETWORK | UNIVERSITY OF BUCHAREST

Guest speaker from Hateg UGGp sharing their work on youth volunteers.

