



# Asia Pacific Geoparks Network

CELEBRATING EARTH HERITAGE – SUSTAINING LOCAL COMMUNITIES

## Annual Report 2022

by

JIN Xiaochi, FURUSAWA Kana, KOMOO Ibrahim



# Asia Pacific Geoparks Network (APGN)

## Annual Report 2022

by

JIN Xiaochi, KOMOO Ibrahim, FURUSAWA Kana

In 2022, Asia Pacific countries successively opened up as the Covid-19 became apparently less dangerous. Accordingly APGN activities were arranged online, on site or hybrid. We celebrated the Third APGN Week, we successfully held the 7th APGN Symposium, we supported and actively participated in several international activities organized by our member geoparks and local/national governments. These activities/events advanced the idea of UNESCO Global Geopark, demonstrated the resilience of APGN, and further increased the sustainability of our territories. Our members' passion for UGGp and creativity ensured every success of our endeavors.

In this report, we present briefly the main activities/events organized and/or supported by APGN in 2022, as well as 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.

### Contents

1. The 3rd APGN Week
2. The 1st Thailand Geoparks Network (TGN) Symposium
3. 6th International Summer University (Webinar)
4. The Third Geotourism Festival & International Conference — Rinjani-Lombok UGGp
5. APGN AC and CC Meetings
6. The 7th APGN Symposium — Satun UGGp
7. Celebrating the First International Geodiversity Day
8. 20th International Symposium on Vulcanospeleology
9. Let's Do It—APGN ZOOM Mini-Exchange
10. APGN Social Media

## 1. The 3rd APGN Week, 22-28 April

We conducted the First and Second APGN Week respectively in 2020 and 2021, despite the difficult conditions caused by the Covid-19 Pandemic. Unfortunately, the Third APGN Week still could not be conducted outside the shadow of the Pandemic, because most Asia Pacific countries had not opened up then. In this context, we arranged the Third APGN Week with the motive to demonstrate the resilience of UGGps, to arouse the enthusiasm for promoting the philosophy of UGGp, and to strengthen networking. Major events/activities of the week are summarized below.

### Sister Geopark Mutual Exhibition and Interaction started on the 53rd Earth Day

As the most attended event of the 3rd Asia-Pacific Geopark Week, 22 geoparks (Danxiashan, Yandangshan, Taishan, Lushan, Wudalianchi, Qinling-Zhongnanshan, Sanqingshan, Leye-Fengshan, Huanggang-Dabieshan, Shilin, Zhangjiajie, Xiangxi, Dunhuang, Hexigten, Zhijindong, Leiqiong, Shennongjia, Yimengshan, Ningde, Zhangjiajie and Dali-Cangshan UGGps, and Longyan aUGGp) started the **"Sister Geoparks Mutual Exhibition and Interaction"** on 22 April, the 53rd World Earth Day. The opening ceremony was held online in the morning, at which Mr. ZHENG Yuan (coordinator of Chinese Geoparks Network) greeted all the participants, APGN Coordinator JIN Xiaochi thanked the organizers and announced the opening of the event. Delegates from several geoparks briefly presented their planned activities. Then, 7 geoparks introduced their geoparks' iconic geological or cultural heritage and raised questions about them to the online audience, right answers to which are rewarded with souvenirs or coupons from these geoparks.

The most important part of this event were numerous activities held by all the 22 geoparks respectively in their territories after the opening ceremony. This event had a theme of "Earth, Human and Nature Harmonious Coexistence" and demonstrated by various activities, most of which are related to geoscience popularization. These activities attracted a large number of attendees.

As the local epidemic prevention situation allowed, Dali-Cangshan, Yimengshan, Zhijindong, Shennongjia, Taishan, Leye-Fengshan, Danxiashan, Leiqiong, Wudalianchi, Yandangshan, Ningde, Hexigten, Huanggang-Dabieshan, Qinling-Zhongnanshan, and Zhangjiajie UGGps and



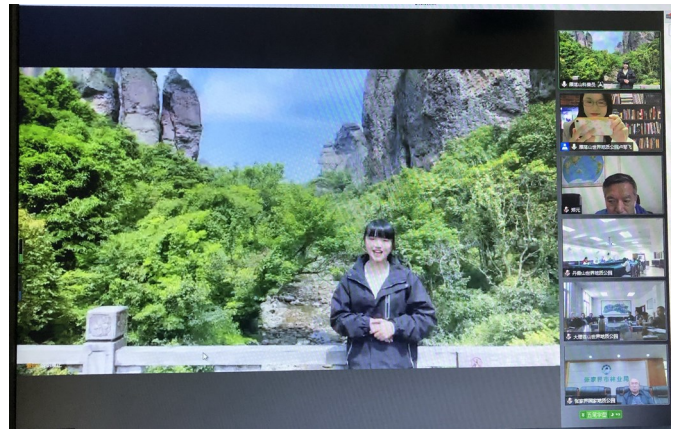


Longyan aUGGp held 39 activities, such as photo exhibitions, science popularization lectures in schools and villages, quizzes with prizes, popular science paintings, popular science essays, cycling for public welfare, etc., with the participation of more than 14,000 people of different ages. People expressed their appreciation to these activities, by which they not only learned scientific knowledge, but also got to know a large number of wonderful geoparks that would be included in their future travel plans.



Online activities organized by all these geoparks include popular science video display, work exhibition, lectures, scientific knowledge contest, geopark products exhibition, the "Most Beautiful Earth Imprint" photography contest, social media live broadcast, virtual Geopark tour, and so on. These activities have drawn extensive attention and participation from all walks of life. They not only allows visitors to enjoy diverse geological heritage, buy native products from various geoparks, listen to popular science lectures, but also participate in educational activities and scientific knowledge contests. 22 geoparks carefully prepared tens of thousands of admission tickets worth one million Yuan and thousands of traditional Chinese medicine sachets and other exquisite prizes. The contest activities attracted nearly 20,000 people to participate in the online quiz. At the same time, the social media live broadcasts of 22 geoparks and the virtual tour of Danxia Mountain and Zhangjiajie UGGps attracted 360,000 people to watch online. These have greatly improved the visibility and popularity of Geoparks. National, provincial and local news media, major websites and self-media run reports of these activities from different perspectives.

The "Sister Geoparks Mutual Exhibition and Interaction" activity was initiated jointly by Danxiashan and Yandangshan UGGps in 2020. It

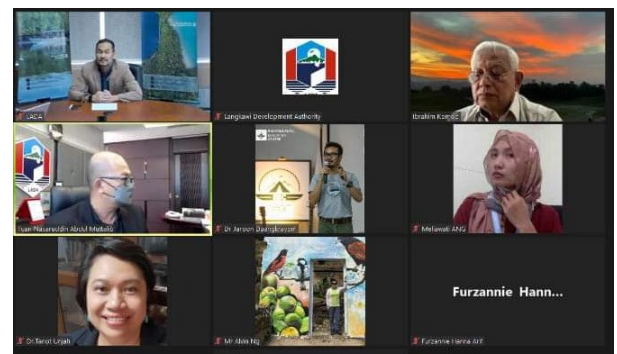
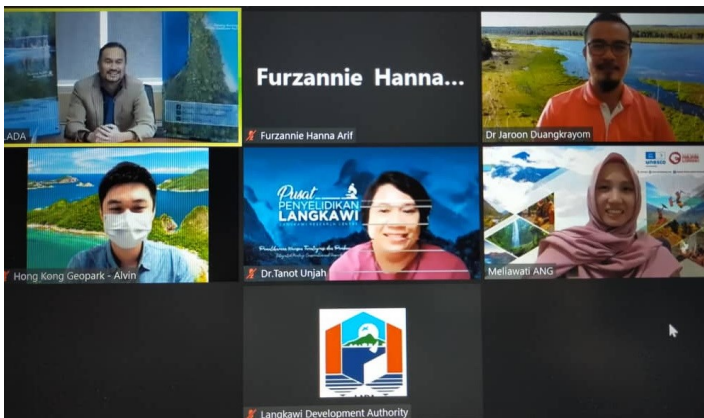


aims to further promote exchanges and cooperation between Global Geoparks and better convey the scientific, aesthetic and cultural objects of the Geoparks to the public, and promote sustainable development of Geoparks. The event has been held for three consecutive years, attracting more and more geoparks to participate in.



## International Geopark webinar in conjunction with Earth Day 2022

Langkawi, 25th April 2022 – Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark organised an International Geopark Webinar in conjunction with the World Earth Day celebration. This Webinar started with the opening remarks of Mr. Nasaruddin Abdul Muttalib, Chief Executive Officer of LADA and greetings of Prof Ibrahim Komoo, GGN Vice President. This webinar featured speakers from four geoparks, namely Langkawi UGGp (Malaysia), Khorat aUGGp (Thailand), Rinjani-Lombok UGGp (Indonesia), and Hong Kong UGGp (China). It also successfully garnered the participation of at least 240 individuals from various Asian, Middle East, and European countries such as China, Egypt, and the United Kingdom.



## Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark

To celebrate the 53rd Earth Day on April 22 and the 3rd APGN Week starting from April 22 to 28, geoparks in the region have held various publicity, education, and exchange activities to spread the message of caring for the earth. During the period, the Hong Kong Geopark held an online science lecture for young people of Wudalianchi UNESCO Global Geopark in China and participated in an international webinar held by the Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark in Malaysia which has attracted hundreds of participants from over 20 countries.



## Digital transformation Pre-Summit in Rinjani-Lombok UGGp

APGN Week this year in Rinjani-Lombok UGGp was coupled with the event of Youth 20 (Y20) Indonesia 2022, 2nd Pre-Summit: Digital Transformation, which was held in Lombok (Rinjani-Lombok UGGp area) during 23-24 April 2022. The Y20 is one of the official Engagement Groups of the G20 that provides a platform for young people across G20 countries to negotiate, build bridges, and propose solutions for the world's most pressing issues from the youth perspectives. The agenda of the 2nd Pre-Summit included Town Hall Meeting, Talk Shows, Opening and Closing

Ceremonies, and Field Trip. This event was hosted by Indonesia Youth Diplomacy (IYD), in collaboration with provincial government and local institutions (Rinjani-Lombok UGGp, LPP NTB & NTB Connect). Rinjani-Lombok UGGp is in charge of selecting youth participants, running the Town Hall Meeting, the Focus Group Discussion and mini expo (Day 1) and Field trip to Rinjani-Lombok UGGp (Sembalun Valley) in Day 2 of event. The result of Town Hall Meeting and Group Discussion will be brought by the Indonesia delegates to the Y20 Summit in July 2022.



In this event, the geopark tried to bring the outstanding young people from various youth organization including Rinjani Geopark Youth Forum and Indonesian Geopark Youth Forum to discussion and sharing knowledge about Digital Transformation through 2 priority areas, namely the Role of Youth in Digital Governance and Digital Financial Literacy. All the priority areas discussed can be applied well in the Geopark areas. So that, we also tried to introduce Geopark to all participants from 20 countries and shared ideas about the sustainable development through Geopark development.

On behalf of participants, Rinjani Geopark Youth Forum and Indonesia Geopark Youth Forum, Mr. Diemas Sukma Hawkins delivered the summary of Group Discussion to the Vice Governor of West Nusa Tenggara Province, Dr. Ir. Hj. Sitti Rohmi Djalilah, M.Pd., in the closing ceremony. Mr. Hawkins noted several issues and challenges identified by the youths, as well as policy recommendations that had been developed. Issues spanning from cyber-security, data privacy, net





neutrality to digital finance education were all discussed by the dozens of youths.

The fieldtrip to Rinjani-Lombok UGGp's Geosite Sembalun Valley had the following itinerary: Senggigi - Pusuk Sembalun - Traditional House of Sembalun - Mount Rinjani National Park, Sembalun Resort - Rinjani Volcano Observatory. Sembalun which has an altitude 800 - 1200 masl is well known for its position as the only gate to Mount Rinjani for direct Summit Trek (shortest trek to the summit). Sembalun is a remnant of an ancient caldera that is about 0.45 million years ago. It is also a fertile land with beautiful landscape and was awarded as the World Best Halal Honeymoon Destination in 2017. Sembalun is developing as a special interest tourist destination such as trekking



## 2022 Green living campaign in Dak Nong UGGp

Dak Nong UGGp (Vietnam) held the “**2022 Green living campaign**” to promote local responsibility towards our Mother Earth, as well as to spread out the mindset of recycling and create green living habits.

The main activity of the campaign was “Exchange recycle waste for gifts”. Five types of waste were collected, including: used clothes, used batteries, electronic equipment, milk box cartons, glass and plastic bags. These could be used to swap goods such as soap, shampoo, toothpaste, hand sanitizer and bags.

The collected garbage was delivered to recycling plants in Ho Chi Minh City for treatment as Dak Nong Province has not had any recycling factories yet. This activity aimed to encourage locals to classify garbage at home and reduce the amount of garbage littered.

In addition, the campaign also promoted green products of Dak Nong UGGp's partners via “Green Products Booth”. This booth introduced a variety of green products such as bamboo thermal bottles, ferns straws, herbal soaps, etc. as well as local environmentally friendly brands.

- soft trekking, camping, paragliding, enduro, mountain run, agrotourism, cul-tural trip and staycation.

By bringing participants (young people) here, the geopark wished to instill in young people an understanding that there is still a gap to digital transformation. There are still many tasks that must be done by youth for the preservation of culture and nature through digital development. Digital transformation is not only about economy, but also about disaster mitigation that can save thousands of human lives. So that the role of youth is very much needed in forming a digital society that pays attention to digital skills, digital culture, digital ethics & digital security.





Besides, there was “Zero waste - Secondhand Exchange” activity, creating a platform for people to exchange used stuffs such as books, backpacks, etc. with the purpose to extend product lifecycle.

Also, in the framework of the campaign, there was the Photo Exhibition of “The beauty of Dak Nong UGGp” to show the charming moments on this marvelous geopark - the hidden gem in the Central Highland of Vietnam. Interestingly, in this zone, participants could receive one gift for one correct answer on joining the Mini games on Geoscience and Geoparks. This kind of activities motivated locals to better understand about their surrounding and be prouder of local heritages within the Geopark.



## Popular Science Activities in Zhangye UGGp

Zhangye UGGp (China) carefully planned a series of popular science activities in celebrating the 53<sup>rd</sup> Earth Day and the 3<sup>rd</sup> APGN Week.

On April 22, the Earth day and the first day of the 3<sup>rd</sup> APGN week, they started the online popular science activities. Zhangye UGGp Wechat account released earth day initiative, sister geoparks exhibition, popular science film and on-site activity short videos during 22-28 April, drawing a huge number of page views.

Offline activities were also attractive. On April 25, popular science was brought to Colorful Hills area and Liyuan Village of the geopark. Geopark staff and the villagers interacted on how to scientifically and properly protect, develop and manage the geopark by joint hands. During the event, Zhangye UGGp science film and AI dancing robots gained a great popularity; 6200 leaflets and guide books have been handed out to the attendees.

On April 27, an event was held in Zhangye UGGp school, where teachers explained the origin and objectives of the Earth Day by introducing the thematic posters of Zhangye UGGp and APGN. Students also had an interesting earth science class, which aroused their enthusiasm for drawing the most beautiful scenery of Zhangye UGGp and introducing their special Yugur culture.





## Shilin UGGp in the 3rd APGN Week

The themed activity “Love the Earth & Protect Geoh heritage” was held at the Major Stone Forest, the best known area of the Shilin UGGp, in the morning of 22 April. Geopark staff members and visitors participated in the activity, wishing everyone would cherish our living environment. Some visitors said the activity made them knew more about Shilin and the idea of the UNESCO Global Geoparks.

Running and cycling in the geopark to celebrate the 53<sup>rd</sup> Earth Day were jointly organized by Shilin UGGp and the Natural Resource Bureau of Shilin County in the morning of 23 April to arouse more awareness on green and low-carbon life. Staff members from several institutions of Shilin County attended the events.

Popular science lectures and photo exhibition of sister geoparks were conducted at Baidacun Middle School of Shilin County on 25 April. Geopark staff gave lectures to 759 school students, covering the philosophy and topics of UNESCO Global Geoparks, the distribution of UGGps in the world, the importance of geoh heritage protection, overview of the Shilin UGGp, etc.

Photo exhibition of sister geoparks demonstrating geological features, biodiversity, colorful culture, etc. helped students appreciate the exceptional beauty of the geoparks, get to know the diversified geoh heritage and geomorphological attractions of these geoparks. Mr. Huang Xiangguang, the principal of Baidacun Middle School, appreciated this kind of activities very much.



## 2. 1st Thailand Geoparks Network (TGN) Symposium

Also as a major event of the Third APGN Week, the Thailan Geoparks Network (TGN) and Satun UNESCO Global Geopark co-organized the First Thailand Geoparks Network Symposium online during 25-26 April 2022 with the theme “Together, we can — Thailand Geoparks”.

There were 420 participants from the eight



Thailand geoparks network members including local authorities, stakeholders, students, teachers, partners, and local communities, and 39 participants from China, Egypt, Greece, India,



Indonesia, Japan, Kenya, Morocco, Myanmar, North Macedonia, Germany, and United States.

The 1st Thailand Geoparks Network Symposium aims to build a platform for geopark staff and experts from different parts of the world to share and exchange their knowledge, experiences, and best practices, and to strengthen the net-working of geoparks in Thailand.

At the Opening Ceremony, Mr. Ekkarat Leesen, Governor of Satun Province, welcomed all delegates and participants. Mr. Pongboon Pongtong, Director-General of the Department of Mineral Resources, and President of the Thailand Geoparks Network gave a report summarizing the Geoparks situation in Thailand and how this TGN Symposium is important to Thailand’s geoparks development. Mr. Anucha Sasomsub, Vice Minister of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, kindly gave an opening address. Finally, Mr. Narongrit Thungprue, Director of the Satun UNESCO Global Geopark gave a special presentation on ‘The first step of success in being

the Satun UNESCO Global Geopark in Thailand’.

Keynote Presentations were given by Several distinguished speakers, who shared their views and experiences on how networking is important to the development of the UNESCO Global Geoparks. GGN President Prof. Nickolas Zouros, talked about the Global Geoparks Network and its role to support the development of the UNESCO Global Geoparks. Dr. Marie-Luise Frey, Member of UGGP Council and GGN Executive Board, presented the roles and activities of the European Geoparks Network. Prof. JIN Xiaochi, Coordinator of APGN, gave a presentation on the role of Asia Pacific Geoparks Network in the development of UNESCO Global Geoparks. Ms. Kana Furusawa, Vice Secretary-General of the JGN and member of GGN Executive Board, shared the best practices and the activities of the Japanese Geoparks Network (JGN). Finally, Dr. Apsorn Sardud, Secretary of the Thailand





Geoparks Network and Director of the Geological Survey Division of the Department of Mineral Resources, presented the roles and importance of GGN, Regional Geoparks Networks, and the mechanism to drive the Thailand Geoparks Network.

There were 15 presentations given by speakers including students, local communities, teachers from geoparks schools and colleges, researchers, local administrative organization partners, and stakeholders on the topics of Geopark

Conservation, Research & management, Climate Change and Geo-hazards, Education/Learning in Geopark, Community Engagement, Tourism & Recreation in Geopark, Interpretation for Public Learning of the Geopark, Regional and International Geoparks Collaborations. There was also a panel discussion on The opportunities and challenges in strengthening the Geopark Network in Thailand. At the moment, Thailand has Satun UGGp, Khorat aUGGp, and several aspiring geoparks.

### 3. The 6th International Summer University (Webinar)



**6<sup>th</sup> International Summer University (WEBINAR)**  
**GEO PARKS, SUSTAINABLE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND HEALTHY LIFESTYLES**  
*"Oceans, People and Cooperation for Sustainable Development"*

UNESCO Chair on  
 Geoparks, Sustainable Regional Development  
 and Healthy Lifestyles

utad UNIVERSIDADE DE TRÁS-OS-MONTES E ALTO DOURO

School of Life and Environmental Sciences  
 University of Trás-os-Montes e Alto Douro, Portugal

unesco Chair

13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> July 2022 (11:00 to 17:30 GMT+1 – Lisbon)

Please rename as "NAME / COUNTRY"

2021 2030 United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development

30th Anniversary of the UNESCO/UNITWIN Chairs Programme

The 6th International Summer University was organized in July by the UNESCO Chair on "Geoparks, Sustainable Regional Development and Healthy Lifestyles" of the University of Trás-os-Montes e Alto Douro, Vila Real, Portugal. The theme of the Summer University in 2022 was "*Oceans, People and Cooperation for Sustainable Development*", fulfilling the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.

APGN members actively participated in the 6th International Summer University. 7 members made slide presentations, sharing their understandings and ideas with respective regional examples. Ibrahim Komoo (Langkawi UGGp, Malaysia) presented "Langkawi Island and UGGp management"; Alireza Amrikazemi (Qeshm Island UGGp, Iran) talked on "Development changes and evolution in Qeshm Island UGGp"; Kana Furusawa (Japanese Geoparks

Network) introduced "The reality of the coastal and insular Japanese UGGps"; Jeon Yongmun (Jeju UGGp, Korea) spoke on "Oceans and Volcanoes for economic development: the case of Jeju Island UGGp"; De Vonna Lauritzen (Mt. Apoi UGGp, Japan) presented "Economic activities related with ocean and beach clean-up activities"; Pakkaporn Singhwachiraworakul (Satun UGGp Thailand) talked on "The relation of the Thai Geoparks and the oceans"; and Xiaochi Jin (Chinese Academy of Geological Sciences) spoke on "Chinese UGGps and the Oceans".



## 4. The 3rd Geotourism Festival & International Conference — Rinjani-Lombok UGGp

The 3rd Geotourism Festival & International Conference (Geofest) 2022 was held in Rinjani-Lombok UGGp, throughout July - August 2022 in three phases, namely, Pre-Conference Event, Conference (Main Event) and Post-Conference Event. The main partner of Geofest 2022 was Faculty of Islamic Economics and Business, UIN Mataram. Around 750 domestic and international participants joined the activities.

**Pre-Conference Event included** 1) Workshop & Training on Geotourism Interpretation in Senaru, 13 - 15 July; 2) Geopark goes to Campus, 27 July; 3) Training on Pembuatan NIB, 29 July; and 4) Training on Making Business Identification Number (NIB) & Digital Marketing, 8-9 August.

**The Conference** was held on 11-12 August 2022 at Hotel Lombok Raya, and a field trip was done to Geosite 11c Nipah Volcanic Beach, with the support of around 120 local community people. 417 participants took part online and offline.

The conference was officially opened on 11 August 2022 by the Governor of NTB Dr. H. Zulkieflimansyah. The Minister of Tourism & Creative Economy Mr. Sandiaga Salahuddin Uno gave a keynote speech online. Before and after the talks, there were 3 cultural performances by students of the Kembang Sembah Dance (SMAN 6 Mataram), Gendang Beleq (SMKN 7 Mataram) and the Sasambo Dance from Mataram Tourism Institute (STP) Mataram.

For the panel session and sea turtle session, invited speakers were (1) Dr. Tan Tran Van



**THE 3<sup>rd</sup>  
GEOTOURISM  
FESTIVAL  
& INTERNATIONAL  
CONFERENCE**



Practice of geotourism interpretation technique

(APGN AC Member) for the topic Geotourism & Future Climate; (2) Dr. Hans Thusltrup (UNESCO Jakarta Office) for the topic Marine Tourism & Live Below Water, Challenges & Solutions; (3) Herry Rachmat Widjaja (Director of Lombok Tourism Polytechnic) for the topic of Halal Tourism Planning & Development; (4) Agus Dewmawan, M.Sc. (Senior Technical Expert for Marine & Coastal Ecosystem Management) for the topic of Turtle Conservation Management Policy; (5) Ms. Jennifer Gilbert (Veterinary Technologist) for the topic Threat, Disease and Treatment of Marine Turtles and Post Rehabilitation Success with the Use of Satellite Trackers; (6) Dr. Ida Bagus Windia Adnyana (Sea Turtle Expert) for the topic of Sea Turtle (Lay Eggs & Find Food in Lombok).

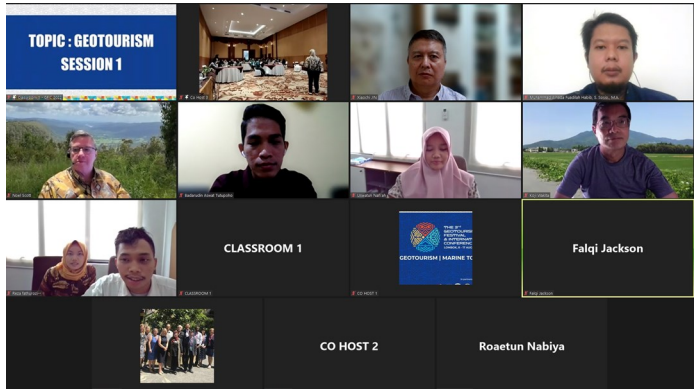


Dr. Hans Thusltrup at the panel session



33 presentations were made in parallel classes on the second day, amongst which 8 were done by invited experts, namely, Prof. JIN Xiaochi (APGN Coordinator), Ms. CHAN Yu Nam (Head of Hong Kong Geopark), Prof. Nickel NI (National Tsing-Hua University), Prof. Noel Scott (University of the Sunshine Coast), Mr. Ryanto Sofyan (Chairman of Indonesia Halal Tourism Association), Prof. Koji Wakita (Yamaguchi University), Dr. Maulita Sari Hani (UNWTO) and Dr. Enas Abd. Elhady Ahmed (Matrouh University). The abstract volume can be downloaded from the Geofest website.

On the 3rd day, took place the excursion to the Nipah Volcanic Beach on the west coast of Lombok Island. Besides ancient volcanic sites, Nipah is also well known for its beautiful beaches, culinary spots, water sports, sea turtle conservation, coral reefs transplantation and many more. The Turtle Conservation Club (TCC) Nipah manages this Essential Ecosystem Area for Sea Turtle. Since 2018, TCC Nipah has protected and has released about more than 8000 sea turtles.



Online and offline participants of sessions



excursion to the Nipah Volcanic Beach



**The Post-Conference Event included** Women Geo-Adventure Camp in Sembalun - Mount Rinjani, 13 - 17 August and Workshop on Geotrail and Storyline of Geomarine Tourism in Sambelia, 25 - 27 August.



Women Geo-adventure Camp



Workshop on Geotrail & Storyline of Geomarine Tourism



## 5. APGN AC and CC Meetings

In conjunction with the 7th APGN Symposium, the **APGN Advisory Committee (AC) meeting** was held in the morning of 6 September. It aimed to finalize the host of the 8<sup>th</sup> APGN Symposium in 2024. As the candidate, Cao Bang UGGp in Vietnam presented their plan, the team and supports from different levels for hosting the 8<sup>th</sup> APGN Symposium in 2024. After the presentation, questions and comments from AC members were responded by the bidding team. All the AC members accepted the application and agreed that the 8<sup>th</sup> APGN Symposium be held in Cao Bang UGGp in 2024.



The **APGN Coordination Committee (CC) meeting** was held after the AC meeting in the morning and continued in the afternoon of 6 September. In the morning session, JIN Xiaochi, on behalf of coordinators, reported the business of APGN in the period from September 2019 to September 2022. The report was well received by CC members.



Thereafter, the election of new AC Members was conducted. The new Advisory Committee of APGN comprises the following members:

AC Members	Country	
JIN Xiaochi	China	Elected member
TRAN Tan Van	Vietnam	Elected member
KOMOO Ibrahim	Malaysia	Elected member
NAKADA Setsuya	Japan	Elected member
FURUSAWA Kana	Japan	Elected member
ZHENG Yuanyuan	China	National Representative
KUSHMHRATA Yunus	Indonesia	National Representative
AMRIKAZEMI Alireza	Iran	National Representative
SUGAWARA Hisanari	Japan	National Representative
HUH Min	Korea, R.	National Representative
MOHD BUKHARI Azmil Munif	Malaysia	National Representative
TECHAWAN Sommai	Thailand	National Representative
TRINH Hai Son	Vietnam	National Representative
ZOUROS Nickolas	GGN Representative	
VANDENBERGHE Kristof	UNESCO Representative	



In the afternoon session of the CC meeting, representative of each country made a 10-minute report of achievements made in the country, and shared the good practices with the audiences.



Thereafter, the CC members elected the new coordinator and vice coordinators of APGN. The result is as follows:

Coordinator	Country
JIN Xiaochi	China
Vice Coordinators	
KOMOO Ibrahim	Malaysia
FURUSAWA Kana	Japan

## 6. The 7th APGN Symposium — Satun UGGp



### The 7<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Geoparks Network Symposium

4 September – 11 September 2022 Satun UNESCO Global Geoparks, Satun Province, THAILAND

The 7<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Geoparks Network (APGN) Symposium was held in Satun UNESCO Global Geopark (Thailand) during 4-11 September 2022 in a hybrid manner, onsite and online. Totally 447 participants attend the symposium (284 onsite and 163 online). This symposium well demonstrated the resilience of Satun UNESCO Global Geopark, the resilience of APGN, and the resilience of GGN. Several meetings/activities associated with the symposium took place before the opening ceremony of the symposium.

The Symposium was officially opened on 7 September. At the Opening ceremony, the Governor of Satun Province and President of Satun UNESCO Global Geopark Committee, Mr.

Ekkarat Leesen delivered the welcome speech. This was followed by addresses of GGN President Nickolas Zouros and APGN Coordinator Xiaochi JIN. Then, the Minister of Natural Resources and Environment and President of Thailand National Geopark Committee Mr. Varawut Silpa-Archa delivered an Opening Speech about the development of geoparks in Thailand. Then were folk performances of Satun Province.

After a short break, began 4 Keynote speeches, namely, *UNESCO's supports and contribution to the development and continuity of UNESCO Global Geoparks during and after the pandemic* by Mr. Kristof Vandenbergh, Chief of Earth Sciences and





Geoparks Section, UNESCO; *UNESCO Global Geoparks and the Global Geoparks Network: Building Sustainable Communities*, by GGN President Nickolas Zouros; *APGN in New Normal Period* by APGN Coordinator Xiaochi JIN; and *The vision and mission of UGGp youth forum for the operation of geoparks* by Mr. Immanuel Deo Silalahi, Chairperson of UNESCO Global Geoparks Youth Forum.

A **Geo-Fair** with booths of Geoparks and related organizations officially opened on the same day, and lasted through the symposium.



### The 7th APGN Symposium had 7 theme:

1. SDGs in Geoparks
2. Geohazards Mitigation in Geoparks
3. Geodiversity and Geoparks
4. Geoparks: "Sustainable Tourism"
5. Geoparks: "Education and Interpretation"
6. Local Wisdom and Cultural Heritage in Geoparks
7. Aspiring Geoparks



Sessions with these theme were convened on 7, 8 and 10 September. A total of 138 abstracts were collected in the abstracts volume. 96 participants made oral presentations. A number of participants made poster presentations.





Mid-symposium excursion was arranged on 9 September. Three routes were offered for participants to choose. 1) The Longest Sea Cave and Abundant Biodiversity; 2) Karst Morphology to the Coast of Two Periods Trial; and 3) Land of Paleozoic History and Intangible Heritage Trail.

A Special session for celebrating the first International Geodiversity Day was arranged on 10 September. 4 invited speakers presented at the session: 1) *Understanding Geodiversity*, by Prof. Xiaochi JIN (online); 2) *Combining geodiversity, biodiversity and cultural diversity for the education for sustainable development*, by Prof. Aida MAMMADOVA (online); 3) *Physical mechanisms behind geodiversity: case of sandstone landscapes in Zhangjiajie UGGp*, by Prof. Heqing HUANG (online); and 4) *Geodiversity and everyday life* by Mr. Koki NAGATA (on-site). After a discussion on the topics, Prof. Nickolas ZOUROS made a closing remark (on-site)

All sessions successfully ended in the morning of 10 September. At the closing ceremony in the afternoon, the APGN flag was handed by colleagues of Satun UGGp, Thailand to colleagues of Cao Bang UGGp, Vietnam, where the 8<sup>th</sup> APGN Symposium will be held in 2024.





## 7. Celebrating the First International Geodiversity Day

To welcome the first International Geodiversity Day and to establish more connections amongst Global Geoparks with volcanic heritage sites, Rinjani-Lombok UGGp (Indonesia), Aso UGGp (Japan) and Dak Nong UGGp (Vietnam) jointly organized on 05 October 2022 the online workshop of **Geoheritage in Volcanic UNESCO Global Geopark**.

This workshop was moderated by Mr. Uji Gaffar from the Rinjani-Lombok UGGp. Prof. JIN Xiaochi made opening remarks and spoke on how to understand geodiversity and why geodiversity needs to be well acknowledged. Prof. Tran Tan Van introduced more specifically the volcanoes and volcanic cave system in Dak Nong UNESCO Global Geopark. This is followed by three talks from Global Geoparks. Mr. Koki Nagata talked *Geodiversity of Aso caldera and everyday life*. Ms. Meliawati Ang presented *Geodiversity and the Geotrails of Rinjani-Lombok UGGp*. Ms. Tran Nhi Bach Van spoke on *Volcanoes and volcanic cave wonders of Dak Nong UNESCO Global Geopark*.

A discussion was took place after the talks. Participants made comments and remarks on the speeches. The workshop attracted ca. 65 participants from Asia Pacific countries.

**unesco** **GEOPARK RINJANI LOMBOK** **ASO Geopark** **UNESCO Global Geopark**

### GEOHERITAGE IN VOLCANIC UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK

Celebrating The First International Geodiversity Day 2022

**OPENING REMARKS & KEYNOTE SPEAKER**  
**PROF. JIN XIAOCHI**  
 (Coordinator of Asia Pacific Geoparks Network)  
 Understanding & Celebrating the Geodiversity Day

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER**  
**PROF. TAN TAN VAN**  
 (Global Geoparks Network/UNESCO Global Geopark Council Geoparkism & Future Climate)  
 The Volcano & Volcanic Cave System in Dak Nong UGGp

**MELIAWATI**  
 (Manager of Rinjani-Lombok UGGp Management Board)  
 Geodiversity & the Geotrail in Rinjani-Lombok UGGp

**KOKI NAGATA**  
 (Member of Aso Geopark Management Board)  
 Geodiversity of Aso Caldera & Everyday Life

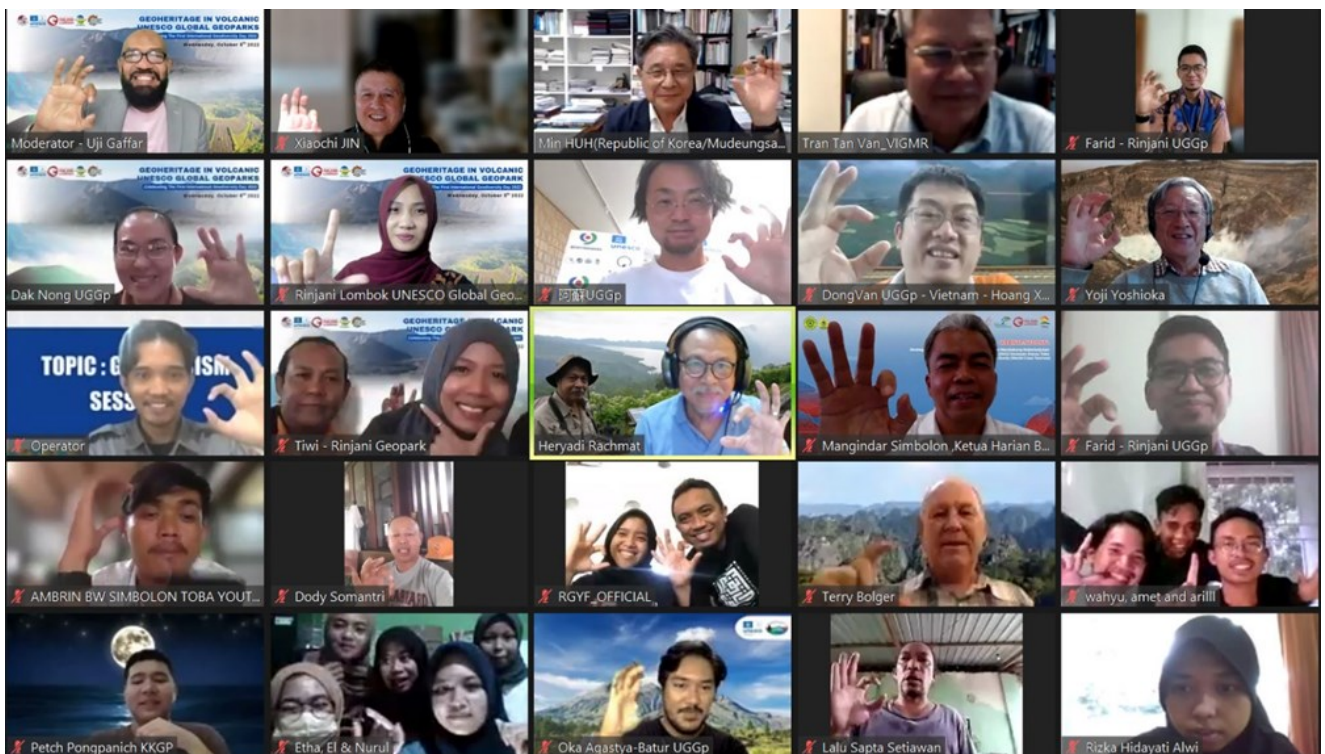
**TRAN NHI BACH VAN**  
 (Member of Dak Nong UGGp Management Board)  
 Volcanoes & Volcanic Cave Wonders of Dak Nong UGGp

**MODERATOR**  
**UJI GAFFAR**

Wednesday, October 5<sup>th</sup> 2022, 14.00-15.30 GMT +8  
 E-certificate Registration : [bit.ly/GeodiversityDay](https://bit.ly/GeodiversityDay)  
 Platform : Zoom Meeting([bit.ly/Geodiversity](https://bit.ly/Geodiversity))

Farid - Indonesia (+628176602066) | Koki - Japan (+819073842813) | Van Tran - Vietnam (+849327617 77)

[@infirinjani](https://www.instagram.com/@infirinjani) [Rinjani Lombok UNESCO Global Geopark](https://www.facebook.com/RinjaniLombokUNESCOGlobalGeopark) [www.rinjani-geopark.com](https://www.rinjani-geopark.com)

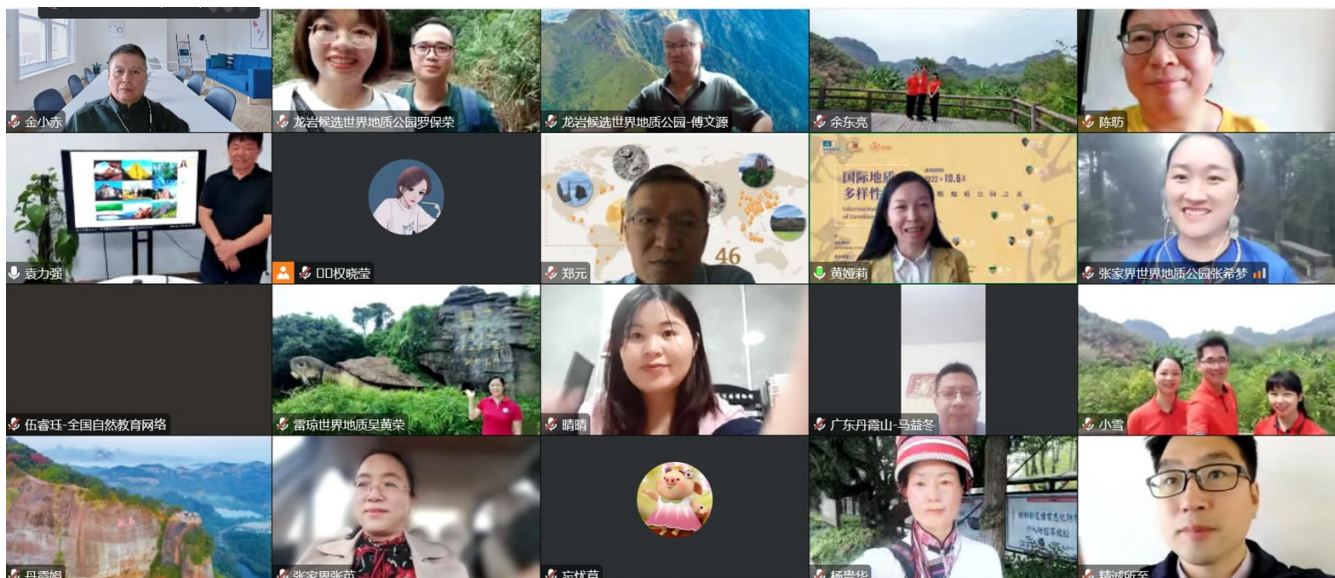
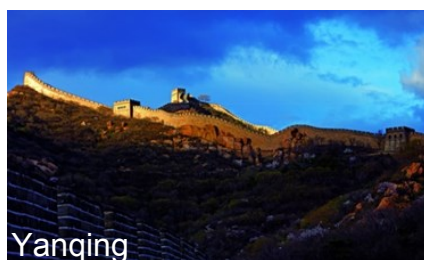
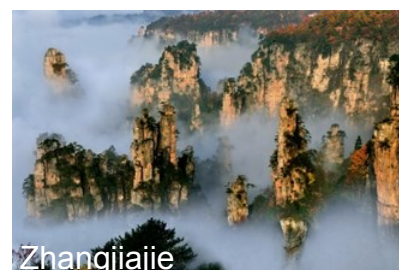
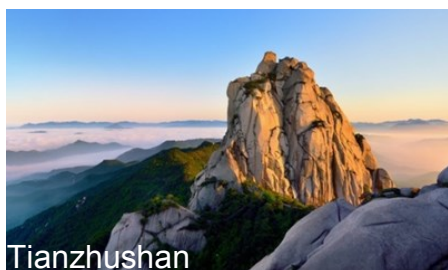
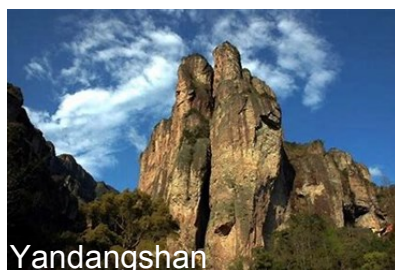




On the morning of 6 October, 9 geoparks (Danxiashan, Yandangshan, Zhangjiajie, Stone Forest, Taishan, Leiqiong, Tianzhushan, and Yanqing UGGps, and Longyan aspiring UGGp) jointly launched the first International Geodiversity Day activity "Visit Global Geoparks and appreciate the beauty of geodiversity". It aimed to better demonstrate the diversified geoh heritage in geoparks and convey earth sciences to visitors.

JIN Xiaochi, delivered a speech at the event, introduced the background and significance of the International Geodiversity Day, demonstrated the beauty of diversified geoh heritage sites in geoparks of Asia-Pacific region, and shared the achievements of the APGN. ZHENG Yuan, coordinator of Chinese Geopark Network presented the "Colorful

Global Geoparks in China", showing the geological features and magnificent landscapes of geoparks from the perspective of geological structures and geomorphological types. Prof. SU Dechen of Chinese Academy of Geological Sciences gave a popular science lecture on "The Beauty of Geology and the Exploration of the Earth", sharing the causes and mysteries of various geological features and landforms. Then, 9 geoparks connected to the live broadcast room, and carried out interactive geosites show and science popularization through several internet platforms. 14 popular science guides made live interactive broadcasts in these geoparks. Nearly 10,000 people watched the live broadcast online on various platforms.





## 8. 20th International Symposium on Vulcanospeleology

On 22-26, 2022, Dak Nong UNESCO Global Geopark, Vietnam successfully hosted the **20th International Symposium on Vulcanospeleology (ISV20)** and the **Symposium on “15 years of Geopark development in Vietnam”**, which received hundreds of scientists and colleagues from GGN, APGN and UIS-Commission on Volcanic Caves.

At the opening ceremony, official of Vietnamese central movement, Chairman of Dak Nong Province, Head of UNESCO Office in Vietnam Mr. Christian Manhart, Chairman of the UIS Commission on Volcanic caves Mr. John Brush, General Secretary of the GGN and Chair of the UGGp Council Mr. Guy Martini delivered speeches.

Three keynote presentation were done by John Brush with the title “Sustainable use of volcanic caves – an impossible dream? ”, Gregory Middleton with the title “Pyroducts (lava tubes) - their genesis and importance ”, and Xiaochi Jin with the title “A personal account of Global Geopark development in last 15 years in the Asia Pacific region ”

Within the framework of both symposiums, the MoU Signing Ceremony between Vietnam Geoparks Network, including Dak Nong and Dong Van Karst Plateau UNESCO Global Geopark with Mudeungsan UNESCO Global Geopark (Korea) were successfully held. In addition, a digital meeting among the volcanic cave UGGps in APGN such as Jeju Island (Korea), Rinjani – Lombok (Indonesia), Aso (Japan) and Dak Nong (Vietnam) was also the highlight of the symposiums’ activities.

The symposium participants had chances to explore not only magnificent traces of Mother Earth on Dak Nong UGGp but also its diverse local foods, products, handicrafts and cultural traditions during their stay in Dak Nong UNESCO Global Geopark – The Land of Sounds.

Post-symposium field-trips provided the participants convenient chances to explore the Dok Nong UGGp.



Delegates to ISV20



MoU signing between Dak Nong UGGp (Vietnam) and Mudeungsan UGGp (Korea)



Cultural performance



Post-symposium field-trips



## 9. Let's Do It—APGN ZOOM Mini-Exchange

The “Let’s Do It” online exchange meeting was first initiated by Hong Kong UGGp in the first quarter of 2020 under the COVID-19 pandemic to facilitate exchange and collaboration between Network members. The online exchange has continued in 2022 once every two months, with 20-30

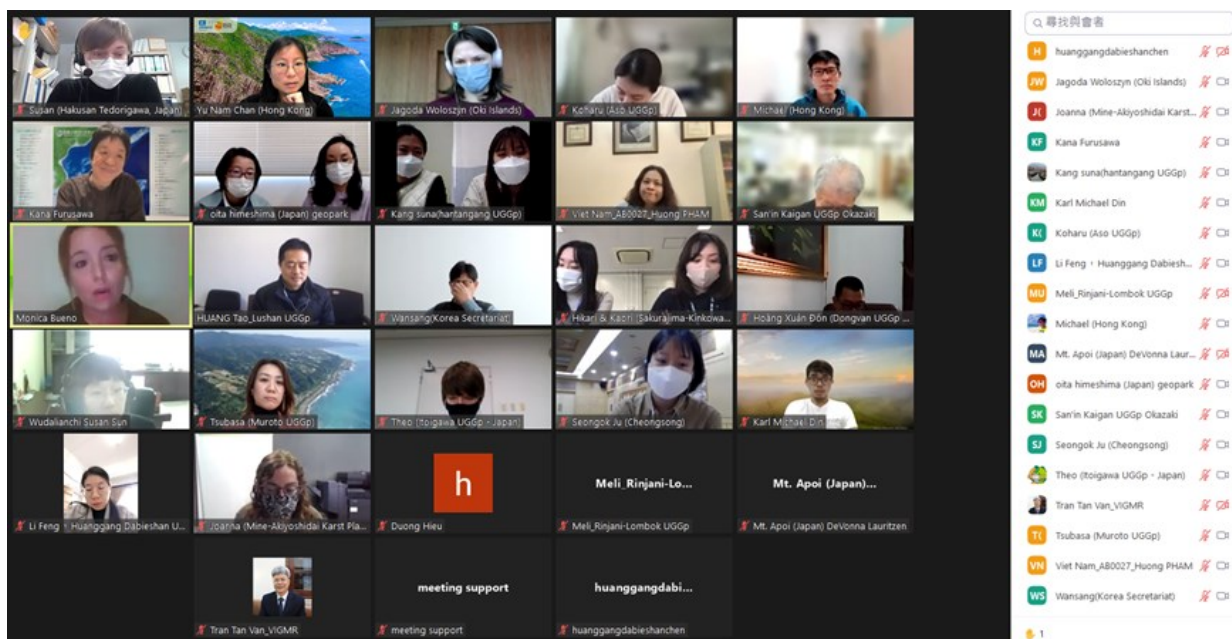
participating UGGps and aspiring UGGps each time. To facilitate a more focused exchange, a topic was designated for each zoom meeting, ranging from geopark facilities, gender equality, to themes coincided the international days:

Month	International Day	Presentation	Speaker
January 2022	-	Langkawi UGGp Activities	Hanna, Langkawi UGGp
March 2022	International Women’s Day	Work of the Gender Equality Working Group of GeoLAC Network	Monica Bueno, Rio Coco UGGp
May 2022	International Museum Day	Visitor Centres and Story Rooms of Hong Kong Geopark	Yu Nam CHAN, Hong Kong UGGp
July 2022	International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples	Engaging Indigenous Communities	José Luis Palacio, Mixteca Alta UGGp
September 2022	International Day of Tourism	Selling Rocks & Landscapes at Naturtejo UGGp	Carlos Neto de Carvalho, Naturtejo UGGp
November 2022	International Day for Disaster Reduction	Disaster/Geohazard Reduction at Psiloritis UGGp	Charalampos Fassoulas, Psiloritis UGGp

Each online exchange started with a short presentation on the designated topic, followed by small group sharing of 15 minutes, utilising the “breakout rooms” function of Zoom. The participants had found the presentation inspiring for review of the similar initiatives in their geoparks, and the small group discussion was treasured as it allowed more in-depth discussion and networking

with each other.

Although travel limitation was relaxed in late 2022, the APGN Let’s Do still served as a way to facilitate networking, communication and collaboration. It will be continued in 2023 in order to strengthen the bond and solidarity in the Network.



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

## 10. APGN Social Media

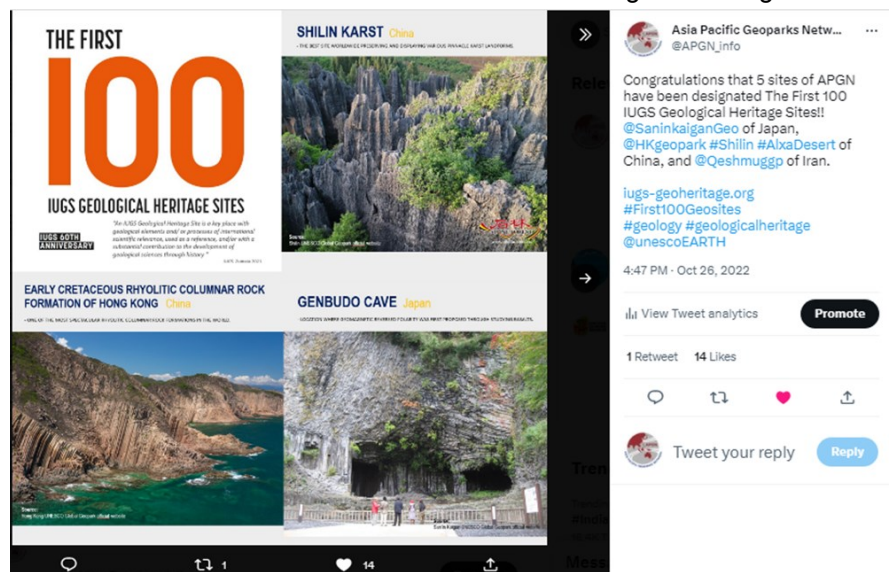
In 2022, the Covid-19 pandemic had a severe impact on the networking among geoparks, making it challenging to carry out physical exchange activities. Despite these obstacles, APGN's social media platforms remained active, playing an irreplaceable role in promoting communication and information sharing among members.

APGN primarily utilized Instagram and Twitter to share news of events and activities initiated by United Nations, UNESCO, GGN, and other geoparks networks, as well as best practices and experiences of global geoparks within the Asia-Pacific region. Throughout the year, APGN's Instagram account published a total of 76 posts and received more than 2,300 responses. APGN's Twitter account published a total of 67 posts and received more than 800

responses. Notable posts included congratulations to Asia-Pacific Geoparks on being selected as a member of the First 100 IUGS Geological Heritage Sites, the promotion of the first International Geodiversity Day, the 7th APGN Symposium in Satun UGGp, Thailand, 3rd APGN week, and various webinars.

APGN's social media channels obtained wider acceptance in the year, as evidenced by a 20% increase in followers. This growth reflected the success of the management and promotion strategy. Overall, despite the challenges of 2022, APGN's social media presence allowed for continued communication and collaboration among geoparks in the Asia-Pacific region.

The First 100 IUGS Geological Heritage Sites



Third APGN Week 2022

