

1. Second Yandangshan Volcanic Rocks Forum in Yandangshan UGGp
2. Activities of the Fourth APGN Week

## 1. Second Yandangshan Volcanic Rocks Forum

From April 1 to April 3, the 2nd Yandangshan Volcanic Rocks Forum was held in the Yandangshan UNESCO Global Geopark. It was co-sponsored by the Igneous Rock Commission and the Volcano & Earth's Interior Chemistry Commission of the Chinese Society for Mineralogy, Petrology and Geochemistry, with the support of the Asia Pacific Geoparks Network and Chinese Geoparks Network. The forum attracted more than a hundred of experts, students, and staff members of Global Geoparks with volcanic heritage. Amongst several distinguished scholars and guests, the APGN Coordinator addressed the opening ceremony.



The venue during the a keynote presentation (left) and the speaker Prof. Xu from Nanjing University (right)

The 3-day forum comprised two parts: academic sessions and field excursions. At the sessions on April 1, more than 20 participants from universities, research institutes, geological survey, and Global Geoparks presented their achievements in igneous petrography, magmatic systems, volcanology and mineralization, volcanic disaster prevention and reduction, as well as promotion of research, protection, and management of volcanic heritage. Questions like how volcanic eruptions stir up the global climate, what kind of earth's past events are revealed by volcanic rocks, how the

marvelous landscape of the Yandangshan, Yimengshan and Jingpohe geoparks came into being, have been also addressed at the sessions.

In addition to Chinese participants, colleagues from Ecuador's Imbabura Global Geopark, the Saudi Geological Survey's Earthquake and Volcano Research Center, and the Czech Academy of Sciences presented online their research results on the volcanic magmatism, discussed the challenges and opportunities of volcanic disaster prevention, and shared the experiences of coexistence of people and volcanoes.



Karoly Nemeth of Saudi Geological Survey's Earthquake and Volcano Research Center (left) and Catherine Annen of the Czech Academy of Sciences at the sessions

Close to the end of the sessions, the Yandangshan UGGp signed Sister Geopark agreements with the Xiangxi UGGp and the Changshan National Geopark respectively. So far, Yandangshan UGGp has successively established sister relationship with 20 geoparks. They have carried out a series of activities to strengthen networking and collaboration in science popularization, geoheritage protection, cultural tourism and common prosperity.

Excursions took place on the second and third

days, consisting of several routes in the Lingfeng, Fangdong, Changyu Dongtian, Nanxi River areas of the Yandangshan UGGp, which provided a rare opportunity for participants to learn a variety of occurrences of rhyolitic rocks developed at east margin of the Asian continent during the late Jurassic to early Cretaceous times. Besides geological heritage, participants experienced rich historical and intangible cultural heritage of the territory.



Excursions examining the outcrops in the Yandangshan UGGp (upper, lower left); a mountainous village where the residents significantly improved their income by developing unique restaurants and hostels (lower right)

## 2. Activities of the Fourth APGN Week



The Fourth APGN Week with the theme of *Celebrating Earth Heritage and Strengthening Networking* was the first that we conducted in a normal condition after the Covid-19 Pandemic. Therefore, more onsite and interactive events/activities could have been organized. Many fruitful practices in the previous APGN Weeks were continued in the 4th APGN Week. These are briefed below, based on primarily the feedbacks from the organizers.

### 2.1 Sister Geoparks Mutual Exhibition and Interactions

As a major event of the 54th World Earth Day and the 4th APGN Week, the Danxiashan and Yandangshan UGGps together with other 27 Geoparks in China and the Shaw Museum of China University of Geosciences (Wuhan) jointly organized the "Sister Geoparks Mutual Exhibition and Interaction" – series of online and offline science popularization activities from April 22 to 28, 2023.

Online activities include World Earth Day Popular Science Quiz, Geopark Photo Exhibition, Geopark Science Popularization Courses and Routes, The Most Beautiful Earth Mark Geopark Photography Competition, the *Earth* magazine and *China National Parks and Scenic Sites* magazine special issue.

Offline activities of include the launch ceremony of the Earth Day event, the thematic exhibition of Scenery Photography Works of Global Geoparks in China in all the 29 participating geoparks, and the popular science lectures of "Famous Mountains Entering Schools". These activities attracted a large number of students, science enthusiasts and tourists. Some representing pictures are shown below to highlight the event.



An information desk in the Yandangshan UGGp (left) and the thematic exhibition of the *Photography Works of Global Geoparks in China* in the Danxiashan UGGp (right)

These activities were broadcasted on several social media, which drew extensive attention and responses of the audience. These activities strengthened the collaboration and exchanges between the geoparks, promoted the understanding of geological heritage, science education and the development of geotourism.

The "Sister Geoparks Mutual Exhibition and Interaction" has been held four times successively since the First APGN Week. It improved the public's awareness and understanding of geoparks and community sustainable development, and has become one of the most influential geoparks events.



Onsite lectures for school pupils in the Yandangshan UGGp



School pupils visiting the exhibition in the Zhijindong UGGp



"Geoparks enter Schools" conducted by Yimengshan UGGp (left) and Leye-Fengshan UGGp (right)

## 2.2 Activities in Dak Nong UGGp

### 1) Guided tours for the youth

The Dak Nong UGGp organized two guided tours for students of the Nhan Van Secondary School and Dak Song High School on April 27 and 28. The students and teachers were fascinated to visit the sites, including the Lava cave, Explorasound, Nature Forest Pathway, etc. These tours provided them a nice opportunity to closely experience the nature and the valuable local earth heritage.



## 2) Workshop on waste recycling

The Dak Nong UGGp organized workshop on waste recycling in collaboration with Gen Xanh Social Enterprise and Dak Nong Community College on 22<sup>nd</sup> April.

The program attracted 70 students from Dak Nong College and more than 30 volunteers of Dak Nong Geopark. Old clothes were reformed into different useful goods such as hair ties, bookmarks, and water bottle bags. In addition to

renewing the products' life cycle, this activity contributed to reducing the quantity of trash released into the environment. The workshop also guided the participants to utilize local fruit to make a Kombucha drinks, which are helpful for digestion and health. Furthermore, the students also have a chance to gain knowledge about the Dak Nong UNESCO Global Geopark through an interesting presentation along with mini-games.



In the framework of the program, there was an exhibition of typical heritage sites of the Dak Nong UGGp.



## 3) Online exchange

On April 25, under the umbrella of 4<sup>th</sup> APGN Week, the Management boards of Dak Nong UGGp and Mt. Apoi UGGp co-organized an Online Exchange between high-school students and tour guides of two geoparks, in order to increase the mutual understandings. This exchange has created a lot of fun for the students and contributed to increasing local youth's pride on their geoparks.



## 2.3 Kids' workshop in Izu Peninsula UGGp

The Izu Peninsula UGGp organized a kids' workshop on shore walk. This was closely related to the natural environment of the geopark, where marine environment and sea life are essential components. The geopark always keeps in mind that its activities should not be only limited to rocks.

Kids and their parents walked along the rocky shores and enjoyed observing a variety of marine

organisms, including fishes and seaweeds, with the explanation of the certified geopark guides. Finally, participants had seafood for lunch. Kids made a rice balls wrapped with seaweeds and enjoyed their natural flavor. Learning about local food, marine biodiversity, and connection of terrestrial and marine life is quite essential for kids.



APGN Week Kids' Workshop on Shore Walk



Observing sea lives instructed by geopark guide



Kids learning marine biodiversity



Rice ball lunch wrapped with seaweed

## 2.4 Hong Kong UGGp organized various activities tackling "Marine Litter"

During the 4th APGN Week, Hong Kong UGGp organized various promotional and educational activities with the theme "Marine Litter" to raise public awareness of environmental protection and to celebrate the Earth Day. These activities included public lectures, campus talks, and community coastal cleaning activities.

On April 29, Hong Kong UGGp and the Environmental Association held a special lecture, titled "Marine Litter in Hong Kong", in the Hong Kong Science Museum Lecture Hall. The lecture

introduced the current situation of marine litter in Hong Kong and exhibited interesting samples of litter. During the Q&A session, the attendees actively asked questions and engaged in lively discussions with the speaker.

Hong Kong UGGp also held campus talks on the same topic, conveying messages about cherishing the ocean, reducing litter in the ocean, and not littering. The talks not only raised students' awareness of the importance



Campus talk

of environmental protection, but also enabled them to understand what they could do to help protect the environment.

As a follow up event, the geopark organized on May 6 a coastal cleaning activity, providing a valuable practical opportunity for teachers and students. About 60 students from local high schools and members of the Association for Geoconservation of Hong Kong went to two geopark communities – Ap Chau and Kat O – to clean up the litter on the coast. After the activity, the participants spoke with the village head, and learned about the local history and culture.



Coastal cleaning activity at geopark communities

## 2.5 Hantangang River UGGp held the "Hantangang River UGGp Hanmadang"

Hantangang River UGGp held the "Hantangang River UGGp Hanmadang" on April 24.-25. About 70 people, including geopark Interpreters and related experts, attended the event. During the event, they held the 4th APGN Week Commemoration, a geopark Interpreter competition, and field geology education. Through this event, they were able to enhance the professional skills of Hantangang River Global Geopark Interpreters, boost morale, and increase awareness of Earth Day.

\*Hanmadang: Korean word for "a situation in which something happens"



## 2.6 Activities in Non nuoc Cao Bang UGGp

### 1) Promoting Non nuoc Cao Bang UGGp and the Earth Day

In the evening of April 21, the Management Board of Non nuoc Cao Bang Geopark conducted a communicational event at the Cao Bang pedestrian street, in that they held a quiz for the public about the values of UGGp, the Earth Day and environmental protection, and exhibited the products of the Competition on "Environmental protection initiatives" in Non nuoc Cao Bang Geopark 2022 for Secondary and High school students.



Locals and tourists joining the quiz about Non nuoc Cao Bang Geopark and the Earth Day

### 2. Workshop on Preservation of Dia Tren traditional paper-making village

On April 26, the Non nuoc Cao Bang UGGp in collaboration with the Phuc Sen commune of the Quang Hoa district organized a workshop on preservation of the Dia Tren traditional paper-making village (a village of 64 households, 100% are Nung An ethnic people practicing paper-making craft for many generations). Participants of the workshop were from the Zo project company (a social enterprise focusing on preservation and promotion of poonah paper), artisans from a poonah paper-making village in Bac Ninh province and 64 households in Dia Tren village.

At workshop, the Management Board of the Non nuoc Cao Bang UGGp informed the villagers

of Dia Tren about the activities on craft village preservation for sustainable tourism development. Representative of the Zo project company gave brief information about Zo project, the demand, aims and potential for cooperation establishment between Zo project and Dia Tren village. They also introduced some of their handmade souvenirs of poonah paper for tourists that can be followed by Dia Tren villagers. The two sides also discussed issues related to improvement of paper quality, development of material sources for the manufacturing demand, manufacturing plan to ensure the supply of Dia Tren paper to



Artisan Nguyen Thi Do demonstrates to villagers of Dia Tren the solution screening technique



Products of Dia Tren village



Zo project to sell in domestic and oversea markets, and the cooperative mechanism between Zo project and paper-makers of Dia Tren village.

In addition, at the workshop, Mrs. Nguyen Thi Do, an artisan from a traditional paper-making village in Bac Ninh guided the villagers of Dia Tren the solution screening technique for high quality paper products (size, smoothness, thickness, etc) to meet the requirements of

domestic and international markets.

In the upcoming time, the Management Board of Non nuoc Cao Bang UGGp will continue its activities on supporting the outcome of Dia Tren paper products and organize training classes on reception skills, tour guiding skills for the villagers of Dia Tren village.

## 2.7 Some more activities



Staff members of Huanggang-Debieshan UGGp enter communities



Themed Handcraft Painting Competition in Xiangxi UGGp



Popularizing geopark knowledge to tourists in Yimengsn UGGp



Staff member of Wudalianchi UGGp interacting with school students