



◆ "Fog cover whale Gulf" ©Wang Zhensong
 Yuntaishan UNESCO Global Geopark



◆ Pico Mountain in the Azores UNESCO
 Global Geopark ©P.H. Silva/SIARAM

◆ A snow covered mountain
 range in the UNESCO
 Geopark Ore of the Alps©
 Horst Ibetsberger



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GGN NEWSLETTER 2016 ISSUE2

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Editor: Yuan Zheng

Editorial board: Nickolas Zouros, Yuan Zheng, Min Wang, Zhiguang Zhang,
Wenyan Sun, Yaqi Xu

Contributors:

Nickolas Zouros, Melanie Border, G. Martini, Yuan Zheng, Jianping Zhang,
I. Valiakos, M-L Frey, A. Aloia Chilento e Vallo di Diano UGG, E. Koumoutsou -
Chelmos - Vouraikos UGG, Carlos Carvalho Naturtejo UGG, Horst Ibetsberger,
Nature and Geopark Styrian Eisenwurzen, Xiaoling Liu, Doudou Wei, Yuntaishan
UNESCO Global Geopark, J. Nunes, Zhijindong cave UNESCO Global Geopark,
Chinese Geoparks Network, Vajolet Masse, M Burlando.

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Contact:

Address: 26 Baiwanzhuang Road, Beijing, 100037, P.R. China
Tel: +86-10-68999623
Fax: +86-10-68310894
Email: cgn@cags.ac.cn
Website: www.globalgeopark.org

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1st Ordinary General Assembly of the Global Geoparks Network

Global Geoparks: building an innovative, creative, inclusive and productive network of excellence!

In September 2014, the Global Geoparks Network (GGN) became a non-profit, non-governmental organization subject to French legislation (the 1901 law on associations) after a unanimous decision of the General Assembly of the Network held in Saint John, Stonehammer Global Geopark, Canada on September 20, 2014. Two years after the 1st Ordinary General Assembly was organized on September 28th, 2016 in English Riviera UNESCO Global Geopark. The General Assembly focused on three main issues.

A. The assessment of the activities of the Global Geoparks Network under the guidance of the founding Executive Board, the adoption of the strategic plan for the next years as well as the

determination of the financial status of the network and the membership annual fee.

B. The completion of the institutional framework of the Global Geoparks Network with the adoption of the Statutes amendments, the GGN internal rules and regulations document and the GGN Code of Ethics.

C. The election of the new Executive Board and the Chair of the Advisory Committee
The General Assembly which is the legislative body of the GGN, gave the opportunity to bring together representatives from all the 120 UNESCO Global Geoparks as well as Geopark Professionals from 33 countries. The participation of the GGN members over passed even the most optimistic expectations,

as the great majority of the GGN members were present and actively participated in discussions. The 1st Ordinary General Assembly unanimously adopted the Report of the founding Executive Board for the period September 2014-September 2016. The Founding GGN Executive Board had to face major challenges, such as, the legal recognition of the Association, the establishment of its operational structure and procedures, its efficient operation and activities, as well as the transition from the previous status of Global Geoparks working under the auspices of UNESCO to the new UNESCO Global Geoparks. These challenges were tedious and time consuming. While the strategic decisions were made by the GGN General Assembly,

the implementation of the decisions by the Executive Board with the strong support of the Members was painstaking.

The transition of the Network to an International Association, the establishment of new administrative and financial organs, the creation of the new operation rules and procedures and the creation of the new communication tools have been real administrative adventures. The representation of Global Geoparks within the UNESCO structure, especially the negotiations with other stakeholders for the positive result of the Working Group on Geoparks, and with the Science Commission at the General Conference was a sailing in an unmapped ocean.

The GGN Executive Board had meetings regularly to deal with the various problems. 22 GGN ExB Meetings took place from October 2014 to September 2016, the majority through videoconference. All decisions and actions of the GGN ExB were presented at the Geopark meetings and by the GGN website. Decision making on all issues was achieved by reaching a consensus after careful discussion, evaluation and consideration.

The GGN Ordinary General Assembly adopted the GGN Statutes amendments, the GGN Internal Regulations and the GGN Code of Ethics which are essential documents for the operation of the GGN.

A great effort was made towards the determination of the GGN statutes and bylaws according to the provisions of the GGN Statutes in

order to be ready for adoption.

The GGN Code represents a minimum standard for GGN Members. It is presented as a series of principles supported by guidelines for desirable professional practice. In some countries, certain minimum standards are defined by law or government regulation. In others, guidance on and assessment of minimum professional standards may be available in the form of 'Accreditation', 'Registration', or similar evaluative schemes. Finally during the 1st GGN Ordinary General Assembly, we elected the new Executive Board of the GGN as well as the Chair and Vice chair of the GGN Advisory Committee.

Nickolas Zouros

Lesvos Geopark, GREECE

+ N.Zouros, President of the GGN



Executive Board

President: ZOUROS Nickolas - Greece

Vice - President: JIN Xiaochi - P.R. China

Vice - President: KOMOO Ibrahim - Malaysia

General Secretary : MARTINI Guy - France

Treasurer: RANGNES Kristin - Norway

Members:

BORDER Melanie - UK (EGN)

BREMNER Gail - Canada (N. America)

BURLANDO Mauricio - Italy (EGN)

FREY Marie - Luise - Germany (Ind. Member)

MELO Patricio - Brazil (L. America)

QUERBAS Mustafa - Morocco (Africa)

WATANABE Mahito - Japan (APGN)

ZHANG Jianping - P.R. China (APGN)

Advisory Committee

Advisory Committee Chair : NAKADA Setsuya- Japan

Advisory Committee Vice Chair : SILVA Elizabeth - Portugal

7th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks 2016

UNESCO Global Geoparks engaging communities in Earth heritage management and sustainable development



◆ Nick Powe at opening ceremony



◆ Patrick Mc Keever

Earth heritage sites protection and management as a tool for sustainable development through creative and active engagement of the local communities was the focus of the 7th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks, held in English Riviera UNESCO Global Geopark, UK on September 26-30, 2016.

The conference was the first opportunity to bring representatives of these unique sites together since they officially became UNESCO designated sites in 2015; it was attended by over 700 delegates from 63 countries.

Through presentations and panel discussions Geopark representatives, researchers and academicians, they discussed the links between geological heritage management, geotourism and outdoor activities, geo-education, natural hazards and disaster risk reduction, among other topics.

The representatives also reaffirmed the UNESCO Global Geoparks' commitment to sustainable development through integrated

education, outreach, research, culture, community engagement and capacity building in a declaration at the close of the conference.

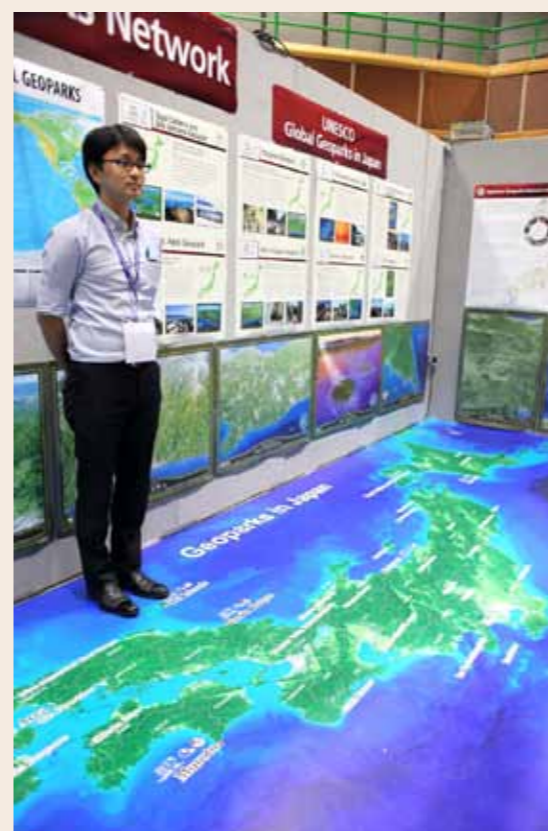
Parallel to the 7th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks, Geopark representatives had the opportunity to participate in a series of important internal meetings of the Global Geoparks Network. More specifically the 1st GGN Ordinary General Assembly, the GGN Executive Board Meeting, the GGN Advisory Committee Meeting, the APGN and EGN Advisory Committee Meetings and the APGN and EGN Coordination Committee Meetings, took place in Torbay, all with great success.

The GGN Ordinary General Assembly was characterized by the broad and active participation of the GGN members and adopted the GGN Internal Regulations and the GGN Code of Ethics which are essential documents for the operation of the GGN. During the 1st GGN Ordinary General Assembly was elected the new Executive Board of the GGN as

well as the Chair and Vice chair of the GGN Advisory Committee.

The first GGN Best Practice Awards awarded to three Global Geoparks Lanzarote (Spain), Fangshan (China) and Dali Cangshan (China) during the Gala dinner of the Conference. At the same event the first GGN Honorary Member Mrs Chen Xiaoning, China was welcomed.

The Global Geoparks Network was founded in 2004 to foster collaboration among territories with common values, linking the celebration of geological heritage with the promotion of sustainable local development. These values are aligned with UNESCO's mandate, and finally the UNESCO Global



◆ GeoFair



◆ Opening Ceremony

Geoparks have found their natural home, as stated in the English Riviera Declaration [<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0024/002462/246250E.pdf>] that was adopted during the conference.

The Declaration encourages the members of the Global Geoparks Network to continue working together to share and promote best practices, to fully realize the UNESCO Global Geoparks' potential to contribute to disaster risk reduction and preparedness, and to help aspiring Geoparks in their efforts to join the network.

Conference guests were welcomed by a 'GeoOpera' that celebrates UNESCO Global Geoparks' ability to bring people together from all continents and backgrounds. The Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra and talented young/local people worked together to create this opera, telling the 4.5 billion-year story of planet Earth.

Over the first two days, sessions

covered topics closely linked to the conservation of Earth's heritage, sustainable development, science education and community engagement. Learning from each other and sharing best practices is one of the essential components of the Global Geoparks Network. This was further encouraged by the 'GeoFair', an exhibition including UNESCO Global Geoparks from around the world and other companies and organizations showcasing their initiatives. On the third day it was time to go out, to the field and explore Torbay's geology. Situated within the stunning hills of South Devon and a beautiful coastline, the English Riviera UNESCO Global Geopark offers some unique geological features. Considering the complex challenges that Humankind is facing, the conference recognized the unique role of UNESCO Global Geoparks tackling these challenges. Not only does providing opportunities to enjoy natural environments

GGN Activities



◆ health and well being plenary

create environmental awareness, it also promotes better health, more sustainable and healthy consumption patterns, and a higher wellbeing. At the closing ceremony was announced that the 8th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks will be held in Adamello-Brenta UNESCO Global Geopark in Trentino, Italy from 8-15 September 2018.

Nickolas Zouros
Lesvos Geopark, GREECE



◆ Field Trips



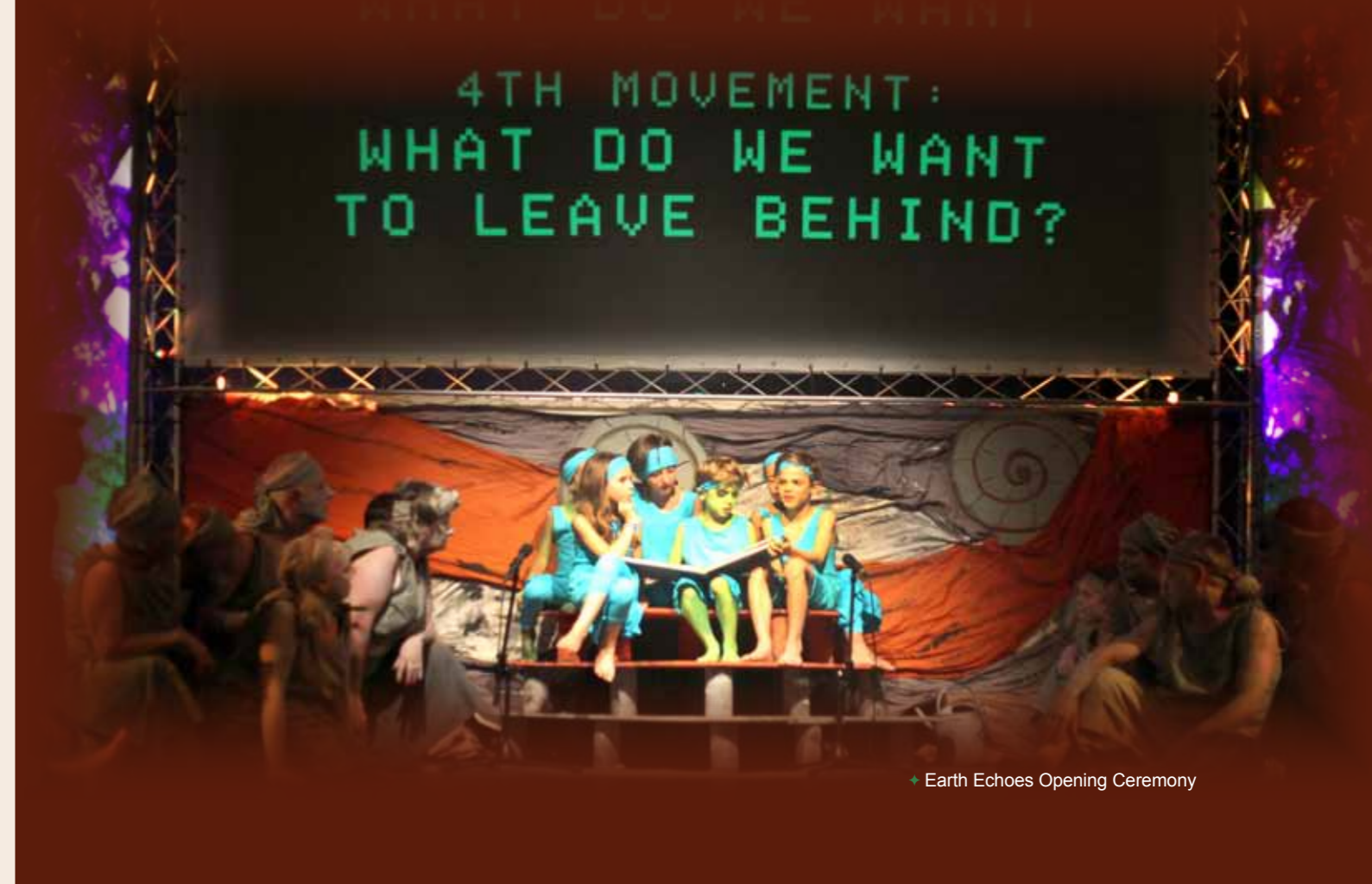
◆ Closing Ceremony



◆ Closing Ceremony



◆ Closing Ceremony



◆ Earth Echoes Opening Ceremony

7th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks

27 to 30 September 2016

“The rock connects us!”

November 2015 witnessed the introduction of the new UNESCO International Geosciences and Geoparks Programme (IGGP), resulting in the recognition of the 120 areas across 33 countries who automatically became UNESCO Global Geoparks. Therefore, it was no surprise that the 7th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks, the first conference to

follow this recognition, was the largest in the organizations history to date and a fantastic celebration of that achievement. Hosted by the English Riviera UNESCO Global Geopark in Torquay, South Devon, UK, the conference was attended by 700 delegates from 63 countries worldwide. In line with the conference theme of Health and Wellbeing through

Creative and Active Engagement and by conveying all of the elements that make UNESCO Global Geoparks so special, education, science, culture and community, the four day Conference began with the premiere of Earth Echoes, a unique piece of theatre specifically created for the opening that told the story of our planet, its geology and its people through music, theatre and



◆ UGG Council

The 1st meeting of the UNESCO Global Geoparks Council took place parallel to the Conference. The 16 members of the UGG Council examined the new applications for membership in UGG as well as the revalidation reports for those members of UGG who complete 4 years after the previous evaluation. The meeting was very successful and the decisions - proposals will be forward to the UNESCO Executive Board Meeting in April 2017 for justification and official announcement.

dance. The piece, co-created and performed by over 100 volunteers, aged eight to eighty, from the local community and schools, with the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, Plymouth University, Barbican Theatre Plymouth and Doorstep Arts successfully delivered a key message that despite deep time and the divisions of our lives today it is the rock that connects us. The opening ceremony also included a welcome address in a video message by Flavia Schlegel, Assistant Director General for Natural Sciences, UNESCO, and key note presentations by Prof. Iain Stewart -English Riviera UNESCO Global Geopark Patron and BBC TV Presenter, Plymouth University; Prof. Patrick McKeever - Secretary of the International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme and Chief of

Section UNESCO; and Prof. Nickolas Zouros - President of the Global Geoparks Network. Thanks to the students of South Devon College and the conference technical partners ESW the opening was live streamed online, a first for the UNESCO Global Geopark Network and therefore available to a much wider global audience.

Conference delegates and Geopark representatives participated in a packed schedule of workshops and field trips that focused on the conference's main themes, sharing approaches, innovations and best practice from across the global network for participants to take forward in their own respective countries. A Disaster Risk Reduction Panel discussion and workshop, chaired by UNESCO Representative Irina Pavlova, focused on finding ways to strengthen the potential of UNESCO Global Geoparks (UGG's) and geosites in general, to ensure the conservation of sites faced by geological and hydro-meteorological hazards. A particular highlight was the Health and Wellbeing through Creative and Active Engagement Key Note Address presented by Mathew White - European Centre for Human Health, titled The relationship between natural environments and health and well-being (and what has been missed). This was supported by the presentation entitled Earth Echoes: Resonances between arts, geology and wellbeing delivered during the Conference's Opening Ceremony by Daisy Sutcliffe.

An inspiring collection of free Earth Echoes materials including a Learning Pack, short film revealing the process, full score and script along with a full report of Daisy's findings will be published shortly www.englishrivierageopark.org.uk. Chaired by Artur Sa - Associate Professor and UNESCO Chair on Geoparks, Sustainable Regional Development and Healthy Lifestyles, University Tras-os-Montes e Alto, Portugal, together with Marko Pogacnik - UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador and Artist for Peace and other panel members, the discussion emphasized the potential for Global Geoparks to lead the way in local, national and transnational wellbeing. An additional 260 presentations delivered by delegates addressed the other Conference themes, namely: Aspiring Geoparks; Engaging Communities; Education Interpretation and Communication; Mature Geoparks – Sharing success and challenges; Conservation Science and Research; Geotourism, Cultural Tourism, Sustainable Development and Local Products; Regional and International UNESCO Global Geopark Collaborations. The conference concluded with the introduction of the English Riviera Declaration which outlines the next steps and priorities for the Global Geoparks as they embark on their new phase of growth as a formal member of the UNESCO family. In his closing speech, Torbay's elected Mayor Gordon Oliver recognised and thanked the local Geopark staff and

partners including Torbay Council and the Torbay Development Agency along with all sponsors. However, it was most certainly the incredible band of Geopark Ambassador volunteers who took centre stage for a standing ovation. The warm welcome they provided, their never ending smiles and endless support and patience helped the delegates relax and made the conference atmosphere so special. The host of the 8th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks in 2018 was announced as Adamello Brenta UNESCO Global Geopark in Italy.

Melanie Border

m.border@englishrivierageopark.org.uk



◆ English Riviera Geopark Ambassadors

◆ Delegates enjoying one of the fieldtrips



Global Geoparks network best practices award 2016

The Global Geoparks Network (GGN) Best Practices Award aims to promote, enhance and encourage the development of innovative initiatives in UNESCO Global Geoparks around the globe.

The award recognizes pioneering practices and initiatives that contribute to a more effective and dynamic network, set fantastic exemplars for others to follow and emulate, and create greater public recognition of the UNESCO Global

Geoparks.

The prize honors the management and / or a partner of a UNESCO Global Geopark for the pioneering nature and quality of the initiative, encouraging all the GGN members to work in the same line.

The 2016 GGN Best Practices Awards are selected from the 2014-2015 evaluation / revalidation missions.

The GGN Executive Board in its 21st session, held on September 14, 2016

decided to adopt the proposal of the GGN Best Practice Award Committee for the nomination of the winners of the GGN Best Practice Award 2016.

The 2016 GGN Best Practices Awards include three awards, granted by the GGN in partnership with the Organizing Committee of the 7th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks in the English Riviera Global Geopark, United Kingdom, 27-30 September 2016.

GGN Best Practice Award 2016 Winners

The winners among the 8 proposed candidates are the following:

1st GGN Best Practice Award 2016: Lanzarote y Archipiélago Chinijo UNESCO Global Geopark, Spain

2nd GGN Best Practice Award 2016: Fangshan UNESCO Global Geopark, P.R. China

3rd GGN Best Practice Award 2016: Dali Mount Cangshan UNESCO Global Geopark, P.R. China

Lanzarote y Archipiélago Chinijo UNESCO Global Geopark, Spain is awarded as Best Practice for its geotourism initiatives. Through the Geopark Centers volcanism and volcanic landscapes are presented as the core issue for the island, conditioning the landscapes, the cultural heritage, the lives and the activities of local inhabitants. Geotourism activities include a variety of terrestrial and submarine high quality experiences.



◆ 1st GGN Best Practice Award 2016 Lanzarote y Archipiélago Chinijo UNESCO Global Geopark, Spain

Fangshan UNESCO Global Geopark, P.R. China is awarded as Best Practice for its initiatives of interpreting natural environment using modern and interactive tools and improving the safety of visitors and inhabitants. These efforts are apparent in two distinctive facilities: the New Fangshan Global Geopark Museum and the Bailixia Gorge.



◆ 2nd GGN Best Practice Award 2016 – Fangshan UNESCO Global Geopark, P.R. China

Dali Mount Cangshan UNESCO Global Geopark, P.R. China is awarded as Best Practice for integrating in Geopark important intangible heritage.



◆ 3rd GGN Best Practice Award 2016 – Dali Mount Cangshan UNESCO Global Geopark, P.R. China

The announcement of the winners and giving of certificate and local artisan piece took place during a splendid ceremony at the Gala dinner of the 7th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks on September 29 2016, in English Riviera UNESCO Global Geopark. During the plenary session of the Conference on Friday September 30 2016 the winners of the awards shared their experiences/project/particular element that has been recognised.

GGN BEST PRACTICES AWARDS AWARD COMMITTEE 2016-2017

1. Ibrahim KOMOO (Malaysia)
2. Changxing LONG (China)
3. Guy MARTINI (France)
4. Kristin RANGNES (Norway)
5. Artur SA (Portugal)

Nickolas Zouros and G. Martini

Ms Chen Xiaoning became the first GGN Honorary Member

The 1st GGN Ordinary General Assembly on September 28th, 2016 in English Riviera UGG, unanimously adopted the proposal of the GGN Executive Board to nominate Ms Chen Xiaoning, Deputy Director General, Department of Geological Environment, Ministry of Land and Resources of the People's Republic of China as the 1st Honorary Member of GGN in recognition of her contribution to the development of the Global Geoparks in China and the support provided to the Global Geoparks Network strengthening and evolution.



A short CV of Ms Chen

Chen Xiaoning, Female, was born at Oct. 5th, 1956. Deputy Director General, Department of Geological Environment, Ministry of Land and Resources of the People's Republic of China. Deputy Director, Office of the Review Leading Group for National

Geoheritage Protection (Geopark) 1982, Graduated from Hebei College of Geosciences, China. 1982, Department of Land and Region, National Development and Reform Commission, China. 1995, Director, Geological Resources Division, National Development and

Reform Commission. 1998, Department of Geological Environment, Ministry of Land and Resources of China, engaged in administration on geological environment of mine, underground water, geothermal, protection of the fossils and Geoparks.

A Short Note Related with the Development of Global Geoparks in China

During the period in the Department of Geological Environment, especially since Ms Chen is in charge of Geoparks, she insists on introducing the idea of the development of Global Geopark. Combined with the proposal

of "to insist on green development, to improve ecological environment" by Chinese government, she actively organizes and supervises all the work around the Geoparks. Through her exploration, the 'government-

led, social-participated' development model with Chinese characteristics on "Geopark" and "Mining park" formed, and the effect is remarkable, and is fully recognized by the Executive Board of the Global Geoparks Network.

She organized to draft and edit series of regulations and rules of Geoheritage and Geopark management. The issuing and carrying out of 'Regulations on Conservation of Fossils', 'Chinese National Geopark Building Guide', 'The Regulation of Application and Approval for National Geoparks', 'Technical Requirements for Formulating the Overall Plan of National Geoparks', 'Evaluation Criteria for the Nomination of National Geoparks', further led and standardized the management of geoparks in China. The quality and brand of the national Geopark is obviously improved in China. She organized and implemented the programme of National Geopark and Mining park in China. Since 2002 the programme received central financial funds of 3.329 billion RMB in total on the protection of the geological relics and the building of National Geopark, which greatly supporting the development of the National Geoparks in China. So far 190 National Geoparks and 33 Global Geoparks were nominated. Geoparks play an important role in the protection of geological relics, research, popularization of sciences, public participation and the development of local economy, increasing employment, improving the standard of public living. The brand of Geopark is widely recognized and enjoyed a good fame. The Chinese Geoparks Network will continue its contribution to the sustainable development of the Global Geoparks Network.

Nickolas Zouros

Lesvos Geopark, GREECE

Yuan Zheng

Chinese Geoparks Network



The English Riviera Declaration

The 7th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks was held from the 27th to the 30th September in Torquay, English Riviera UNESCO Global Geopark, United Kingdom, and was attended by 700 delegates from 63 countries.

After deliberation the delegates hereby affirm that;

1. We welcome the formation of the first new UNESCO site designation of its kind in over 40 years- the UNESCO Global Geoparks- and formally recognise that this was the result of a global collaborative effort over many years between the Global Geopark family, National Commission's and Permanent Delegations of UNESCO and the UNESCO Secretariat.
2. Recalling that UNESCO was established 70 years ago in the wake of World War Two with the aim of promoting peace in the minds of men and woman through international cooperation and collaboration-values which are at the heart of the Global Geopark Network-we believe that the UNESCO Global Geoparks have found their natural home.
3. Recalling that the Global Geopark Network was founded in 2004 as the international network of collaboration among territories sharing values linked with the celebration of geological heritage and promotion of sustainable local development. We encourage strengthening of networking and activities aiming to support the UNESCO Global Geoparks.
4. Considering the complex challenges that Humankind is facing, we recognise the unique contribution that the work of UNESCO Global Geoparks make in tackling these challenges through the holistic approach of integrated education, outreach, research, culture, sustainable development, community engagement and capacity building.
5. We note the contribution that UNESCO Global Geoparks can make toward promoting the Health and Wellbeing Agenda through providing opportunities to access the natural environment, engage in physical activity and gain an understanding of the planet we share.
6. We encourage the Global Geoparks Network and other stakeholders to continue to work together to promote increased understanding, disseminate evidence and outcomes from pilot projects and adopt and share best practice in this field.
7. Recognising that natural disasters represent major risk to Health and Wellbeing worldwide, we believe that UNESCO Global Geoparks have significant potential to contribute to disaster risk reduction and enhance disaster preparedness within the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. We encourage UNESCO Global Geoparks to perform and promote education awareness activities and to reinforce cooperation in the field of disaster risk reduction between sites for the sharing of good practices and the establishment of thematic projects.
8. We welcome the increased interest in UNESCO Global Geoparks from across the world and encourage greater partnership working between aspirant, new and established UNESCO Global Geoparks in order to promote best practice and increase the impact of the work of UNESCO Global Geoparks around the world.
9. At a time when conflict threatens to divide and displace many communities around the globe we would like to celebrate the ability of the UNESCO Global Geoparks to bring people together from all continents and backgrounds. "The rock connects us."

The 2nd International Training Course on Global Geoparks, Beijing, China

Under the strong supports from the Global Geoparks Network, UNESCO Beijing Office, Department of Geoenvironment at the Ministry of Land and Resources, China, Chinese Geoparks Network, Office of China Paleontological Experts Committee, and University of the Aegean, Greece, the 2nd International Training Course on Global Geoparks themed the Geoparks Management and Geoconservation was held. The Course was jointly organized by the China University of Geosciences, Beijing and Yanqing UNESCO Global Geopark, successfully held in Beijing, China from November 7 to November 12. A total of more than 140 participants from 26 UNESCO Global Geoparks of China



(including many high-rank geopark managers), more than 10 aspiring UNESCO Global Geoparks from China, Japan and Myanmar, and more than 10 geopark technical supporting organizations and universities from China attended the training course. The opening ceremony was held on 8:30am November 7, 2016. Mr. Guan Fengjun, director-general at the department of geoenvironment,

Ministry of Land and Resources, Mr. Wang Xiaolie, director of China Geoparks Network, Dr. Hans Thulstrup, Project Head at the UNESCO Beijing Office. Li Zhijun, Director of Management Committee for Yanqing UNESCO Global Geopark, and Professor Wang Hongbing, Chairman of China University of Geosciences (Beijing) delivered their addresses on congratulating the opening of

The invited lectures included 8 GGN ExB members, they are: N. Zouros (Greece), G. Martini (France), Xiaochi Jin (China), I. Komoo (Malaysia), M. Watanabe (Japan), M. Frey (Germany), Q. Mustapha (Morocco) and Jianping Zhang (China), as well as the geoparks and geoconservation experts L. Alcala (Spain), I. Valiakos (Greece) and Yuan Zheng (China).



the training course, and expressed their strong support on the geopark capacity building activity in Beijing. The training course comprises two parts: the first part was dedicated to the new challenges in Geoparks and the second part was dedicated

to geo-conservation activities in geoparks. The first part of the Course from November 7-8, was held at the China University of Geosciences, Beijing. The invited lecturers focused their presentations on the geopark concept and management, IGGP Statutes and

UGG Operational Guidelines, GGN Statutes and Code of ethics as well as UGG evaluation and revalidation processes. The similarities and differences between the Chinese National Geoparks and UNESCO Global Geoparks was also discussed. Special emphasis was given to the explanation of the requirements of the UGG application procedure as well as to the relationship between a Global Geopark and a World Heritage Site which lie on the same territory. The GGN experts answered the participants' questions on many aspects.

The training course also organized two field trips. The first one to the petrified woods sites in Yanqing UNESCO Global Geopark as good practice of petrified wood conservation. The second field trip focused on the relationship of the Geological and Cultural Heritage sites within a UNESCO Global Geopark.



The second part of the Course from November 9-12, was hosted by the Yanqing UNESCO Global Geopark. The presentations focused on various examples of Geo-conservation strategy, practice and techniques applied in various Geoparks all over the globe. The invited lecturers' presentations included geoconservation concepts, methodology, and successful casestudies. There were more than ten geoparks sharing their practice and experiences on geoconservation

and geoparks management with attendance.

The results of the joint project on petrified wood conservation between the Lesvos UNESCO Global Geopark, Greece and Yanqing UNESCO Global Geopark were presented in the field.

The experts made their comments and suggestions.

During the training course, there were many parallel bilateral and multi-lateral meetings on Geoparks management experience exchange and collaboration interviews among the attended Geoparks.

Parallel to the Course the attending GGN ExB members (plus Mauricio Burlando through Skype) held the 27th GGN ExB meeting (November 6 afternoon and November 7 evening). Meanwhile, the GGN ExB members met the Zhijingdong UNESCO Global Geopark delegate, discussing the organization and related issues of the 2017 APGN Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks.

In general, this training course was greatly successful on many aspects, the most of presentations were arranged with the Chinese translation, which was helpful for attendance to clearly understand the contents offered by experts. This arrangement was warmly welcomed by the most participants, especially the higher-rank geopark managers. Besides, this training course was also providing an opportunity for many UNESCO Global Geoparks to get together for sharing their experiences on geoparks



✦ The GGN Executive Board Meeting on November 6th, 2016

management and building, improving mutual understanding and carrying out the potential collaborations among geoparks. We believe that the 2nd International Training Course on UNESCO Global Geoparks will make positive contribution to the further development of the UNESCO Global Geoparks in Asia-Pacific Region.

Jianping Zhang and Nickolas Zouros
co-coordinators of the training course

An important meeting of the GGN ExB took place in Beijing parallel to the Course focusing on GGN operation and management. The creation of GGN Task forces have been decided as well as the distribution of duties and responsibilities among the GGN ExB members.

International Intensive Course on Geoparks 2017 "UNESCO Global Geoparks and Geotourism development" Lesvos island, Greece 12-22 June 2017

The Intensive Course on Geoparks "UNESCO Global Geoparks and Geotourism Development" will be held on Lesvos Island, Greece, from June 12th to June 22nd, 2017 at the premises of the Lesvos Geopark.

The theme of the course is influenced by the UN decision to declare the 2017 International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development.

The course is co-organized by the University of the Aegean - Department of Geography and the Natural History Museum of the Lesvos Petrified Forest.

It is an official capacity building activity of the Global Geopark Network. Lecturers include some of the most experienced international experts on Geoparks and Geotourism.

The course aims to train Geoparks' managers and executive staff members, researchers, professionals, PhD and Master students in UNESCO Global Geoparks management and activities through sharing of best practices between recognized Global Geoparks and aspiring Global Geoparks.

The is open to Geopark staff members, geoscientists, local development professionals and PhD and Master students involved in geo-conservation, geo-tourism, earth sciences popularization, Geopark management and sustainable development in rural areas.

The International Intensive Course on Geoparks 2017 is among the main activities of the Global Geoparks Network.

New Global Geoparks and aspiring Geoparks are strongly encouraged to participate and gain

experiences and best practice on Geopark building and operation.

<http://www.petrifiedforest.gr/geoparks2017>

E-mail: lesvospf@otenet.gr

Tel: +30 2251047033

I. Valiakos

Global Geoparks Network Internal Rules and Regulations



The Global Geoparks Network (GGN) Internal Rules and Regulations document, is a regulatory text to supplement and specify the provisions of the Statutes regarding the operation of the Global Geoparks Network. This has been prepared by the Executive Board of the Global Geoparks Network and has been adopted unanimously by the 1st Global Geoparks Network Ordinary General Assembly on September 28th 2016.

The GGN Internal Rules and Regulations is a basic document for GGN operation which following the provisions of GGN Statutes refers specifically to the issues below

- Procedures for inscription and exclusion of the Institutional Members.
- Procedures and criteria for inscription and exclusion of the

- Individual Members
- Electoral procedures for the election of the Executive Board
 - Advisory Committee composition and duties. Election of the Advisory Committee Chair and Vice Chair
 - Composition and duration of the Technical Committees
 - Distribution of power between the GGN governing bodies
 - Elected and nominated members charter
 - General operational provisions

The GGN Internal Rules and Regulations document regulates the main operational procedures of the GGN and can be improved or enriched by the GGN Ordinary General Assembly.

Nickolas Zouros
GGN President

Global Geoparks Network Code of Ethics

for UNESCO Global Geoparks and Global Geopark Professionals

for UNESCO Global Geoparks and Global Geopark Professionals

The Global Geoparks Network (GGN) Code of Ethics has been prepared by the Executive Board of the Global Geoparks Network and has been adopted unanimously by the 1st Global Geoparks Network Ordinary General Assembly on September 28th 2016, according to the GGN Statutes to complete the operational framework of the Global Geoparks Network. The Global Geoparks Network (GGN) Code of Ethics reflects principles generally accepted by the UNESCO Global Geoparks community

The GGN Code of Ethics for GGN Members is a basic document for GGN operation following the provisions of GGN Statutes. The whole ethos of the document continues to be that of celebrating Earth heritage, sustaining local communities and the professionalism of Geopark practitioners.

The GGN Code of Ethics represents a minimum standard for GGN Members. It is presented as a series of principles

supported by guidelines for desirable professional practice.

The GGN Code of Ethics provides a means of professional self-regulation and sets minimum standards of conduct and performance to which all GGN Members throughout the world may reasonably aspire as well as a providing a statement of reasonable community expectation from the Geopark profession.

The GGN Executive Board is the decision making body on any issue dealing with the implementation of the GGN Code of Ethics. The GGN Ethics Committee which includes 5 GGN members elected by the General Assembly deals with any issue which may consist breached of the GGN Code of Ethics and reports to the GGN Executive Board. Ethical issues that require the attention and/or consideration of the GGN Ethics Committee may be addressed to its Chair.

Nickolas Zouros
GGN President



GEOPARKS: sustainable tourism destinations

The Global Geoparks Network becomes partner of the International Year for Sustainable Tourism

The United Nations (UN) has declared 2017 as the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development. The resolution, recognizes the importance of international tourism, and particularly of the designation of an international year of sustainable tourism for development, in fostering better understanding among peoples everywhere, in leading to a greater awareness of the rich heritage of various civilizations and in bringing about a better appreciation of the inherent values of different cultures, thereby contributing to the strengthening of peace in the world. The International Year (IY 2017) aims to raise awareness on the contribution of sustainable tourism to development among decision-makers and the public, while mobilizing all stakeholders to work together in making tourism a catalyst for positive change. The Global Geoparks Network Executive Board in its 27th meeting on November 6th in Beijing, China decided to become partner of the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development, 2017 (IY2017), following the decision on the GGN Strategic Plan 2017-2020 agreed at of the 1st Ordinary General Assembly of GGN in the English Riviera UNESCO Global Geopark in September 2016. The main goal of the partnership is to

promote UNESCO Global Geoparks as sustainable tourism destinations to the International Tourism market, to promote Geoparks and build new links with the tourism market, raise the profile and visibility of the UNESCO Global Geoparks among the main players in tourism industry, to promote Geoparks collectively through this UNITED NATIONS' initiative operated by the World Tourism Organization. A series of events are going to be organized by the UNESCO Global Geoparks all over the globe in order to gain the biggest visibility through the IY2017, to promote sustainable tourism as a tool for development, to encourage its full integration in national, regional and global development agendas, to highlight its catalytic function for economic and sustainable development and to increase awareness among all stakeholders – including tourists – of the impact of travel and tourism on society and the environment, and how responsible travel can contribute to sustainable development.

The International Year shall explore and highlight tourism's role in the following five

key areas:

1. Inclusive and sustainable economic growth
2. Social inclusiveness, employment

- and poverty reduction
 3. Resource efficiency, environmental protection and climate change
 4. Cultural values, diversity and heritage
 5. Mutual understanding, peace and security
- The Dandelion in the IY2017 logo represents Planet Earth where people—as seeds—travel in a sustainable, clean and responsible way. By travelling, these seeds connect to others through knowledge and culture, and thus build a better future. These are the principles that have inspired the IY2017, and hence, what we want to achieve through our mutual cooperation.

M-L Frey



Three UNESCO Global Geoparks in Europe awarded with the European Charter of Sustainable Tourism!

UNESCO Global Geoparks

On December 7th 2016, three UNESCO Global Geoparks from three European countries were among 19 destinations that gain recognition at the European Parliament and awarded the “European Charter for Sustainable Tourism”.

From the 19 areas in Europe awarded, 11 have just started their path towards becoming a Sustainable Destination and 8 have renewed their commitment on working with the

local stakeholders for a higher quality tourism experience, for people and nature alike.

The Charter Award Ceremony 2016 hosted by the Member of the European Parliament (MEP) Ramon Tremosa i Balcells.

The ceremony was an outstanding opportunity to look at the benefits that sustainable tourism strategies provide for people, environment and local economy within protected areas. It was an opportunity to raise

✦ Cilento Vallo di Diano and Alburni National Park in Cilento e Vallo di Diano UNESCO Global Geopark of Italy



the voice of Protected Areas at the highest European institutional level and to share good practices and case studies from the ground. Members of the European Parliament, representatives of the European Commission and Members of the Committee of the Regions contribute to the debate, providing the EU perspective, with highlights on recent policy developments and upcoming priorities.

The three UNESCO Global Geoparks from three European countries are:

- Cilento Vallo di Diano and Alburni National Park in Cilento e Vallo di Diano UNESCO Global Geopark of Italy,
- Chelmos - Vouraikos National Park, in Chelmos - Vouraikos UNESCO Global Geopark of Greece and
- Malcata Nature Reserve in Naturtejo UNESCO Global Geopark of Portugal

This award is just another example of the UNESCO Global Geoparks recognition as sustainable tourism destinations by the European Union institutions! UNESCO Global Geoparks in Europe celebrate the International Year of Sustainable Tourism as an opportunity to raise their profile in Europe and the World.

A. Aloia Chilento e Vallo di Diano UGG
 E. Koumoutsou - Chelmos - Vouraikos UGG
 Carlos Carvalho Naturtejo UGG

◆ Chelmos - Vouraikos National Park in Chelmos - Vouraikos UNESCO Global Geopark of Greece



◆ Malcata Nature Reserve in Naturtejo UNESCO Global Geopark of Portugal



Absolute powder, untraveled slopes coupled with fascinating winter wonderland for skiers © Horst Ibetsberger



Ski mountaineering

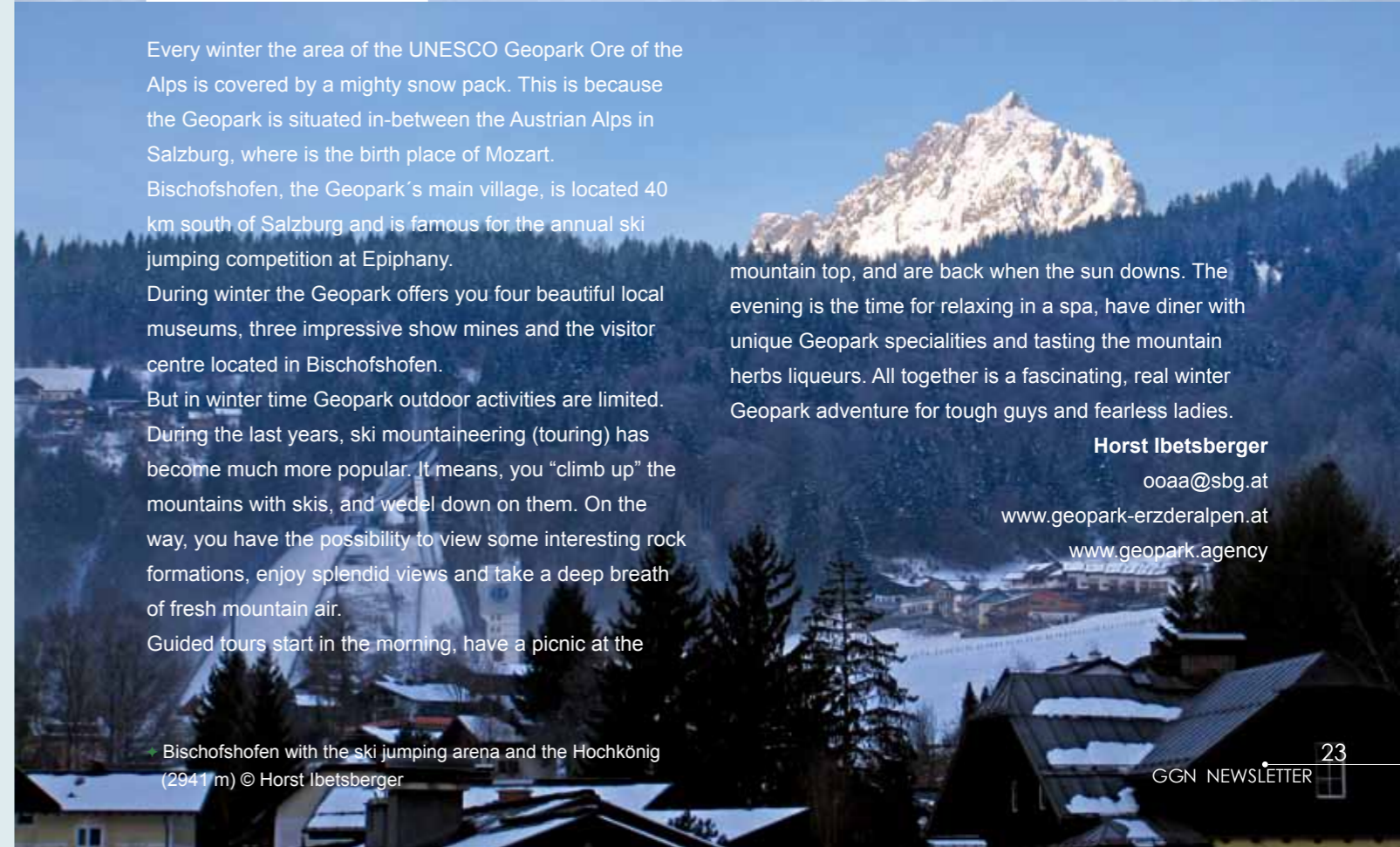


in the Geopark Ore of the Alps / Austria

Every winter the area of the UNESCO Geopark Ore of the Alps is covered by a mighty snow pack. This is because the Geopark is situated in-between the Austrian Alps in Salzburg, where is the birth place of Mozart. Bischofshofen, the Geopark's main village, is located 40 km south of Salzburg and is famous for the annual ski jumping competition at Epiphany. During winter the Geopark offers you four beautiful local museums, three impressive show mines and the visitor centre located in Bischofshofen. But in winter time Geopark outdoor activities are limited. During the last years, ski mountaineering (touring) has become much more popular. It means, you "climb up" the mountains with skis, and wedel down on them. On the way, you have the possibility to view some interesting rock formations, enjoy splendid views and take a deep breath of fresh mountain air. Guided tours start in the morning, have a picnic at the

mountain top, and are back when the sun downs. The evening is the time for relaxing in a spa, have diner with unique Geopark specialities and tasting the mountain herbs liqueurs. All together is a fascinating, real winter Geopark adventure for tough guys and fearless ladies.

Horst Ibetsberger
 oaaa@sbg.at
 www.geopark-erzderalpen.at
 www.geopark.agency



◆ Bischofshofen with the ski jumping arena and the Hochkönig (2941 m) © Horst Ibetsberger



♦ Courtyard of the castle hotel Kassegg with the festival market

20 YEARS of nature and geology protection in Austria



The UNESCO Global Geopark Styrian Eisenwurzen is located almost in the middle of Austria within the Northern Limestone Alps. This year the Nature and Geopark had its 20th anniversary. Founded as Nature Park in 1996, the park includes four municipalities with 586 square kilometres and 6100 inhabitants. The Styrian Eisenwurzen was one of the first European Geoparks in 2002 and

is part of the Global Geopark Network since 2004. The characteristic elements within the area are formed by water: Rivers, creeks, springs, lakes, marshes, gorges and caves are popular destinations and jewels of the Geopark. It has to be pointed out that the so called "Salza" is one of the last unspoiled and original whitewater rivers in Austria. Furthermore the geological era of

the Mesozoic is described in the village "Grossreifling", as Anisian (latin: Anisusfluvius named after the river "Enns") and is defined by the evolution of ammonites. In August, locals and guests, political representatives, partners and staff members of the Geopark celebrated the foundation of the Styrian Eisenwurzen at the fabulous castle hotel "Kassegg". The scenic surroundings of the castle in the municipality of "Sankt Gallen" were the perfect location for the festival including a nationwide radio show and performances of local folk bands. Furthermore, the guests enjoyed the children's program in the afternoon and a market with regional farmers' and craft products. Thank you to everyone who made this outstanding event possible. We, the Geopark and its team, are already looking forward to our future events and projects.



♦ The staff members of the Geopark were proud and pleased to host such a successful event

Contact:

Nature and Geopark Styrian Eisenwurzen
Street: Markt 35 / Postal code: A-8933 / Municipality: St. Gallen
Phone +43 3632 7714
naturpark@eisenwurzen.com
www.eisenwurzen.com



♦ A lot of guests celebrating 20 years of the Nature and Geopark Styrian Eisenwurzen

Trips to geopark are trips to study and learn



◆ The students are very interested in the displays of Wangwushan-Daimeishan Geo-museum



◆ The students are visiting Wangwushan-Daimeishan UNESCO Global Geopark

As an education and science popularization base for students, Wangwushan-Daimeishan UNESCO Global Geopark has received students from more than 30 schools since October this year. This may help to promote the extracurricular activities for kids by inviting them to geopark to learn and study.

The idea of having trips to geopark is aimed at broadening the horizon of kids, getting them study and learn more about the nature and society outside school and improving their life skills such as impudence and how to get along with others and solve problems together during the trip. The city of Jiyuan is one of ten demonstrational areas nationwide for students to have trips to study and learn designated by the Ministry of Education and the only one demonstrational area in Henan Province. As a result, the geo-museum of Wangwushan-Daimeishan UNESCO Global Geopark is the most important stop where kids not only can learn about geopark and the globe in which we live, but realize the importance of protecting our planet when they visit Jinyuan. More than 20 thousand students have visited the geopark to study and learn while appreciating the beautiful landscapes.

Xiaoling Liu and Doudou Wei
Wangwushan-Daimeishan UNESCO
Global Geopark



◆ The students are watching Jiyuan Bread-making, the intangible heritage of Wangwushan-Daimeishan UNESCO Global Geopark



◆ The students are reading the interpretative panels of Wangwushan-Daimeishan UNESCO Global Geopark



◆ Visiting the Wangwushan-Daimeishan Geo-museum



◆ Visiting the geological Geo-museum with the interpreters



◆ The group photo of Xiguan Primary School Excursion

Red autumnal leaves in the geopark

The Qingtianhe park is an important part of the Yuntaishan UNESCO Global Geopark. The canyon twists and turns, form continuous horseshoe-shaped turns, known as the Northern Three Gorges. The spring water is mighty and torrential, Shuijingzhu has a detailed description of it. Here is rich in cultural resources, the ancient people as early as the Northern Wei period found a natural statue of Buddha on the mountain, and carved inscriptional record. Now the cliff inscriptions are known as age's oldest and best-preserved one in our country. Qingtianhe is dressed up more beautiful by the red leaves in autumn every year. The red autumnal leaves of Qingtianhe has following characteristics:

- The red leaves cover area is large. The area covered by the red leaves is more than 65 square kilometers, more than two-thirds of the park area.
 - The color is varied. Usually, the red leaves are red, but Qingtianhe's are layered. The green leaves change color to blue, yellow, orange, and red, formed a colorful landscape, which is the special point of Qingtianhe's red leaves.
 - The cycle is long. The red leaves viewing time can be up to two months (September 25 - November 25).
 - The trees are high grade. The red leaf tree species of Qingtianhe are rare plants, their value of ornamental, commemorative and research is very high. There is a *Cotinus coggygria* Scop more than 2500 years, attracts many Chinese and foreign famous plant experts.
 - The viewing way is abundant, such as walking in waterfront plank road, boat ride, taking the cable car, glass plank road.
- In the golden autumn, welcome to Qingtianhe to visit the precious geological heritage, view and admire the unique landscape of the red leaf, experience the unique charm of nature.

✦ Bird peak Autumn view © Zheng Xiao
Yuntaishan UNESCO Global Geopark

Yuntaishan UNESCO Global Geopark

14th european geoparks conference

EGN.AZORES.2017

The Azores UNESCO Global Geopark welcomes the 14th European Geoparks Conference, to be held in the S. Miguel Island, Azores Archipelago, Portugal, 7th–9th, September 2017, under the theme “GEO PARKS: PATHWAYS OF SUSTAINABLE TOURISM FOR DEVELOPMENT”.

The Azores Archipelago, in the North Atlantic Ocean, has a rich and considerable geodiversity and an important geological heritage. These are revealed in the network of 121 geosites of significant scientific, educational and touristic value dispersed across the nine islands and the surrounding seafloor. Volcanoes, calderas, maars, lakes, lava fields, fumaroles, thermal waters, volcanic caves, “fajãs”, fault scarps and marine fossil deposits, among many others, can be seen within the Azores UNESCO Global Geopark.

Committed through the development of sustainable tourism to improve the quality of life in the territory and making it a better place for future generations, the Azores Geopark offers unique natural and cultural experiences, supported by an international reputation for authenticity, responsibility, and the exemplary management of tourism

as one of the world's Top 100 Sustainable Destinations for 2016. Thus, we invite you all to visit the Azores UNESCO Global Geopark, to participate in the EGN Azores 2017 Conference, meet the Azorean people and volcanoes, and enjoy an eruption...of Flavors, Aromas and Experiences!

Place:

Ponta Delgada city, S. Miguel Island, Azores Archipelago, Portugal

Dates:

EGN AC Meeting: 5th September, 2017
EGN CC Meeting: 6th September, 2017
Conference: 7th – 9th September, 2017
Post-Conference Field Trips (Optional): 10th – 12th September, 2017

For more information:

www.egnazores2017.com
info.egnazores2017@azoresgeopark.com

J. Nunes





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



The 5th Asia-Pacific Geoparks Network Symposium (hereinafter “the 5th APGN Symposium”) will be held from September 19 to 22, 2017 in the Zhijindong cave UNESCO Global Geopark, China and will provide participants from Asia-Pacific National Geoparks with the opportunity to actively share ideas while deepening understanding among APGN members. This symposium is co-organized by Department of Land and Resources of Guizhou province, the government of Bijie, Chinese Geoparks Network and Zhijindong cave Global Geopark.

About 750 people are expected to participate in this symposium including geopark managements, scientists, policy makers and government representatives from all over the world.

The themes of the 5th APGN Symposium are as following:

- Empowering local socio-economic sustainable development
- Communicating geopark, geosite and geotourism
- Popularizing scientific knowledge for public education
- Promoting aspiring global geopark
- Networking karst landscape global geoparks

The 5th APGN Symposium registration will open in late February 2017. And the organizers have decided to support certain number of participants from Africa and other developing countries, in order to promote the development of the local Geoparks.

The UGG Council meeting and APGN AC meeting will be held during the symposium.

**Zhijindong cave UNESCO Global Geopark
Chinese Geoparks Network**



8th GGN conference 2018 in Adamello Brenta UGG

The 8th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks will take place in the Adamello Brenta UNESCO Global Geopark in Trentino, Italy, from the 8th to the 15th of September 2018. The Adamello Brenta Geopark territory represents an area of extraordinary geological-environmental interest and value,

that the Geopark aims to promote and protect through the development of suitable and sustainable geotourism. The whole community looks forward to welcoming you all and to show you the great geology of the Adamello Brenta Dolomites and the tradition of the people living in these mountains!

Vajolet Masse



Tradition photo by Bosetti



Sust tourism photo by Ronnie Kiaulhen

Brenta Adamello photo by archive Park

2017 Calendar of events

- 18th January 2017 :** in FITUR International Tourism fair in Madrid, Spain
Launching Event of the International Year of Sustainable Tourism with the participation of the GGN
- 19th January 2017 :** in FITUR International Tourism fair in Madrid, Spain
Presentation of the Global Geoparks and the Spanish Geoparks Forum Booklet "Geoparks as innovative sustainable tourism destinations"
- 27th – 28th January 2017:** International Tourism Congress
Terras de Cavaleiros UNESCO Global Geopark, Portugal
www.geoparkterrasdecavaleiros.com
- 24th – 25th February 2017:** International Conference on Sustainable Tourism
Naturtejo UNESCO Global Geopark, Portugal
www.naturtejo.com
- 8th – 12th March 2017:** in ITB International Tourism Fair Berlin, Germany
Presentation of the Global Geoparks Network and the UNESCO Global Geoparks. Promotion of the Global geoparks as sustainable tourism destinations.
- 21st – 25th March 2017:** 39th European Geoparks Network Meeting
Burren and Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Global Geopark, Ireland www.burrengeopark.ie/egn-meeting
- 4th – 7th May 2017:** Workshop for Middle East Region
Qeshm Island, Iran
- 8th – 12th May 2017:** 2nd Regional Workshop on Sustainable Geoparks Management – “Geosites development & Geotourism”
Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark, Malaysia
- 22nd – 24th May 2017:** Workshop for South America
Arequipe, Perú
- 24th May – 11th June 2017:** European Geoparks Network Week
in all European Geoparks, Europe
www.europeangeoparks.org
- 12th – 22nd June 2017:** International Intensive Course on Geoparks
UNESCO Global Geoparks and Geotourism Development
Lesvos Island UNESCO Global Geopark, Greece
www.petrifiedforest.gr/geoparks2017
- 5th – 6th September 2017:** 40th European Geoparks Network Meeting
- 7th – 9th September 2017:** 14th European Geoparks Conference
Azores UNESCO Global Geopark, Portugal
<http://www.egnazores2017.com/>
- 16th – 17th September 2017:** UGG Council Meeting
- 18th APGN September 2017:** APGN AC and CC Meetings
- 19th – 22th September 2017:** 5th Asian Pacific Geoparks Network Symposium
Zhiijindong Cave UNESCO Global Geopark, China

M. Burlando