First Announcement

2nd Asia-Pacific Geoparks Network Symposium: “Geopark and Geotourism for Regional Sustainable Development”

Objectives
1. To foster networking and cooperation between members, aspiring and potential members of APGN, GNN and EGN.
2. To introduce and discuss the role of UNESCO’s new initiative on geopark and geotourism as a means for comprehensive conservation and wise use of heritage values for regional sustainable development.
3. To introduce and discuss ways and approaches in geopark and geotourism development.
4. To stimulate contributions of different economic (state, private, foreign etc.) and scientific (natural sciences and humanities) actors in geopark and geotourism development.
5. To discuss ways of networking and cooperation between different national holders of UNESCO and other international titles on conservation of nature and heritage.

Contents
1. APGN Symposium (each theme consists of keynote lectures and oral/poster presentations).
   - Theme 1: Governance and networking for geopark and geotourism development.
   - Theme 2: Stakeholder involvement in geopark and geotourism development.
   - Theme 3: Communicating geopark, geoheritage and geotourism.
   - Theme 4: New and aspiring geoparks.
2. APGN, GGN Bureau meetings.
4. Workshops/training courses, Geopark Fair, Photo Contest and Best Geotour Guide Contest.

Organizing Committee
- Mr. Nguyen Linh Ngoc, Vice-Minister, MONRE.
- Mr. Dam Van Bong, Chairman Ha Giang Province People’s Committee, Chairman of Dong Van Karst Plateau Global Geopark Steering Committee.
- Mr. Pham Sanh Chau, General Secretary Vietnam Unesco Natcom.
- Mr. Tran Tan Van, VIGMR.
- Mr. Trinh Hai Son, Department of Science and Technology, MONRE.
- Ms. Nguyen Thi Kim Quy, Department of International Relations, MONRE.

International Advisory Committee
- Dr. Margarete Patzak, UNESCO.
- Dr. Mahito Watanabe, APGN Advisory Committee Member, Japan.
- Prof. Changxing Long, APGN Advisory Committee Member, China.
- Prof. Guy Martini, GGN Bureau.
- Prof. Ibrahim Komoo, GGN Bureau, APGN Coordinator, Malaysia.
- Prof. Kyung Sik Woo, Kangwon National University, South Korea.
- Prof. Nicolas Zourous, GGN Bureau, EGN Coordinator, Greece.
- Prof. Patrick McKeever, GGN Bureau, EGN Coordinator, Ireland.
- Prof. Ross Dowling, APGN Advisory Committee Member, Chair, Australian Geoparks Network.
- Prof. Zhao Xun, GGN Bureau, APGN Coordinator, China.

Scientific Committee
- Claudia Eckhardt, Geo-Naturpark Bergstrasse-Odenwald, Global and European Geopark, Germany.
- Dr. Werner Janoschek, Austria.
- Dr. Wesley Hill, Geological Society of America, USA.
- José Brilha, University of Minho, Portugal.
- Milagros Villalba, Spain.
- Prof. Danny Wildemeersch, KUL, Vietnamese-Belgian Geopark Project Co-Promoter, Belgium.
- Prof. Jan Masschelein, KUL, Vietnamese-Belgian Geopark Project Co-Promoter, Belgium.
- Prof. Michiel Dusar, Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, Vietnamese-Belgian Geopark Project Co-Promoter, Belgium.
- Prof. Mohd Shafeea Leman, APGN Advisory Committee Member, Malaysia.
- Richard Watson, Marble Arch Caves Global Geopark, Ireland.

Places
- Fieldtrip/Excursion: a) Thanglong Imperial Citadel World Cultural Heritage; b) Dong Van Karst Plateau Global Geopark; c) Ha Long Bay World Natural Heritage; and d) Cat Ba Archipelago World Biosphere Reserve.
Time
1. July 16th and 17th (Saturday and Sunday): Pre-Symp training course, Geopark Fair, Photo Contest, Best Geotour Guide Contest and Ice-breaker.
2. July 18th and 19th (Monday and Tuesday): APGN Symposium, Excursion to Thanglong Imperial Citadel World Cultural Heritage for international guests; 8th Annual National Workshop and Business Dialogue of Vietnam’s World Heritage, MAB, Geopark and other National Park Managers, Scholars and Investors (interested international delegates are invited with translation).
3. July 20th, 21st and 22nd (Wednesday through Friday): Post-Symp Fieldtrip to Dong Van Karst Plateau Global Geopark.
4. July 23rd and 24th (Saturday and Sunday) (Optional): Post-Symp Fieldtrip to Ha Long Bay World Natural Heritage and Cat Ba Archipelago World Biosphere Reserve.

Organisation
- Vietnam Institute of Geosciences and Mineral Resources (VIGMR), Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE).
- Ha Giang Province People’s Committee and Dong Van Karst Plateau Global Geopark Management Board.

Tentative timelines
- First week of January 2011: First circular, call for abstracts and early registration, prepared and put on UNESCO, GGN, EGN, APGN etc. websites with links to an own, Symposium website prepared by VIGMR.
- First week of March 2011: Second circular, call for extended abstracts and early registration.
- First week of May 2011: Third circular, call for submission of presentations, issuance of invitation letters Deadline for abstracts.
- First week of July, 2011: Final circular, revised and final Symposium program.

Fees
- Registration fee: 300 USD, 200 for early registration, 50% discount for students.
- Fieldtrip, hotel and accommodation fee: 100 USD/person/day for official delegates, 75 USD/person/day for accompanying people.

Under the auspices of
UNESCO; Global Geoparks Network (GGN); Asia-Pacific Geoparks Network (APGN).

With the supports of
- The Government of Vietnam and relevant ministries (Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE), Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST), Ministry of Culture, Sport and Tourism (MOCT), Ministry of Education and Training (MOET), Ministry of Industry and Trade (MOIT), Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD).
- UNESCO Jakarta Regional Office, UNESCO Hanoi Office, Embassies and other international organizations e.g. UNDP, UNEP, IUCN, SeaBRnet (South East Asia Biosphere Reserve Network) etc.
- Hanoi City People’s Committee and Thanglong Imperial Citadel World Heritage Management Board.
- Quang Ninh Province People’s Committee and Ha Long Bay World Heritage Management Board.
- Hai Phong City People’s Committee and Cat Ba Archipelago World Biosphere Reserve Management Board.
- Vietnam General Department for Tourism, Institute for Tourism Research and Development (MOCST).
- Vietnam General Department of Geography and Minerals, Vietnam Geological Museum, Hanoi National University, Center for Environment Research and Education (CERE, Hanoi National University of Education), University of Geology and Mine, Hue National University, Ho Chi Minh City National University, Vietnam Academy of Science and Technology, Vietnam Academy of Social and Humanity Science etc.
- Vietnamese-Belgian GEOPARK Project (Vietnam Institute of Geosciences and Mineral Resources).
- Private businesses: PetroVietnam, Vinacomin and others active in mining sector, Vietnam Airlines, Saigon Tourist, Toserco etc.

Sponsoring Agencies
In order to raise sufficient funding to hold the Symposium, the Organizing Committee sincerely hopes to get financial supports with the following privileges:
- Supporters’ names will be printed in “Acknowledgement” of the brochures/announcements issued by the Organizing Committee.
- A section of 10-minute time will be arranged to each sponsor for a free talk and open discussion.
- Supporters will be invited to sit in the Front Platform at the Opening Ceremony.

Details can be obtained from http://www.vigmr.vn/Asia_Pacific_Geoparks_Network_2nd_Symposium_2011/

Contact address
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