The Regional Conference on Asia-Pacific Geoparks and Business Dialogues 2007

“Networking within National Geoparks”

FINAL CIRCULAR (Call for Participation)

13-15 November 2007

Mahsuri International Exhibition and Convention Centre (MIEC), Langkawi, Malaysia

Langkawi Development Authority (LADA)
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM)

In collaboration with

KeKKWa
Ministry of Art, Culture and Heritage

Kementerian Pelancongan
Ministry of Tourism

Forestry Department Peninsular Malaysia

Mineral and Geoscience Department

Langkawi Municipal Council

Malaysia Airlines

Malaysian Association on Tour and Travel Agent
1. **Theme**

“Networking between National Geoparks”

2. **Background**

A Geopark is a nationally protected area containing a number of geological heritage sites of particular importance, rarity or aesthetic appeal. It is part of an integrated concept of protection, education and sustainable development. The concept of linking sustainable development with geoheritage, conservation, education and tourism is rather new to the Asia Pacific region. In order to promote the development of National Geoparks among countries in the Asia-Pacific region, the first regional Conference on Asia-Pacific Network of National Geoparks is organized to take place in November 2007. This provides platform for scholars and various stakeholders to discuss and exchange ideas on pressing issues of the sustainable use and management of geoheritage in each country. In the region, only China is vigorous in this pursuit, totaling more than 138 National Geoparks, 18 of which are currently members of the Global Network of National Geoparks assisted by UNESCO. Thus, it is in the interest of the knowledge of the natural and cultural resources and the links with landscape, that wider awareness and involvement in this region are crucial.

3. **Venue**

The Conference will be held in Mahsuri International Exhibition Centre (MIEC), Langkawi. Langkawi Island was announced as the first National Geopark in May 2006. Langkawi is one of the rare island geoparks in the world comprising 99 islands, possesses the region’s oldest rocks and the most complete Palaeozoic geological history. Several Langkawi geoheritage sites are of regional importance and are preserved for the future generations. As such, Langkawi Geopark was endorsed by UNESCO Global Geoparks Network on 1st June 2007 and the first geopark in Southeast Asia.

4. **Objectives**

- To discuss the progress of geoheritage conservation in the Asia-Pacific region
- To discuss among various stakeholders on the issues of conservation and sustainable use of geoheritage
- To promote Asia-Pacific countries to develop their own National Geoparks
- To establish Asia-Pacific Network of National Geopark
# Tentative Programme

## 12 November 2007

<table>
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<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>0930 – 2200</td>
<td>REGISTRATION</td>
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## 13 November 2007

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<tr>
<td>0745 – 0830</td>
<td>REGISTRATION</td>
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### SESSION 1: NETWORKING BETWEEN GEOPARKS

- **Keynote Paper:** Networking between Asia Pacific National Geoparks
  - Prof. Dato’ Dr. Ibrahim Komoo - UNESCO GGN Committee Member (Malaysia)

### TECHNICAL PAPERS

- **Geotourism Resources and Geopark Development Program in Iran**
  - Dr. Alireza Amrikazemi – Geological Survey of Iran

- **Activities to Promote National and Global Geopark in Japan**
  - Dr. Mahito Watanabe – Geological Survey of Japan

- **Australian Experience in Developing National Geopark**
  - Assoc. Prof. Dr. Edmund Bernard Joyce – University of Melbourne, Australia

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>1015 – 1045</td>
<td>REFRESHMENT</td>
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</table>

### TECHNICAL PAPERS

- **China/Thailand Experience in Developing National Geopark**
  - To be named

- **Indonesian Experience in Developing National Geopark**
  - Dr. Yunus Kusumahrata – Geological Agency of Indonesia

- **The Progress of Geopark Program in Korea**
  - Dr. You Bong Kim – Korea Institute of Geoscience and Mineral Resources

- **A Vision Document for Setting Up of A National Geopark Network in India**
  - Mr. Manjit Kumar Mazumdar - Gauhati University, India

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1225 – 1400</td>
<td>LUNCH</td>
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<tr>
<td>Time</td>
<td>Session</td>
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<tr>
<td>1400 – 1445</td>
<td>SESSION 2: GEOPARK AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT</td>
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<td>1445 – 1505</td>
<td>TECHNICAL PAPERS</td>
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<td>1545 – 1600</td>
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<tr>
<td>2000 – 2230</td>
<td>OFFICIAL OPENING CEREMONY AND LAUNCHING OF LANGKAWI GLOBAL GEOPARK</td>
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</table>
### A FIELD VISIT TO THE THREE GEOFOREST PARK IN LANGKAWI (0830-1730)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0830 – 1730</td>
<td>1. Machinchang Cambrian Geoforest Park, which boasts the oldest rock formation in the country.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2. Kilim Karst Geoforest Park, which showcases the unique formation of limestone pinnacles.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>3. Dayang Bunting Marble Geoforest Park, which marvels at the tradition of fishing villages.</td>
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### B DIALOGUES ON PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT AND BUSINESS OPPURTUNITIES WITHIN GEOPARK (0830-1630)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0830 – 0900</td>
<td>• Langkawi Geopark – Issues and Challenges</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Dato’ Kamarulzaman Abdul Ghani – Langkawi Development Authority</td>
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<tr>
<td>0900 – 0930</td>
<td>• Product Development: Business Opportunities for Local and International Tourism – Case Study</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mr. Anthony Wong – Asian Overland Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>0930 – 1000</td>
<td>• Marketing strategies: Best Practices and Responsible Tourism – Case Study</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dr. Thomas G. Bauer – Pacific Asia Travel Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1000 – 1030</td>
<td>• Sustainable Development and Local Empowerment – Case Study</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Dr. Marie-Louise Frey - UNESCO GGN Committee Member (Germany)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1030 – 1100</td>
<td>REFRESHMENT</td>
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<tr>
<td>1100 – 1230</td>
<td>DISCUSSION</td>
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<td>1230 – 1400</td>
<td>LUNCH</td>
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<td>1400 – 1630</td>
<td>WORKSHOP</td>
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<td>Session 1. Role of Stakeholders in Enhancing Global Geopark</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Session 2. Identifying Weaknesses in Island Tourism and Ways to Overcome Them</td>
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<td>Time</td>
<td>Session Details</td>
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| 0830 – 0915  | **SESSION 3: GEOPARK AND CONSERVATION**  
**Keynote Paper:** Geopark as a tool in a holistic nature conservation  
Prof. Dr. Nickolas Zouros – UNESCO GGN Committee Member (Greece) & Dr. Patrick McKeever – UNESCO GGN Committee Member (Ireland) |
| 0915 – 0935  | **TECHNICAL PAPERS**  
- Reserve Geologique Haute Provence Geopark: experiences of geoconservation, management and actions  
  Ms. Sylvie Giraud – UNESCO GGN Committee Member (France)  
| 0935 – 0955  | - Holistic Nature Conservation Approach in Malaysian Forest  
  Dato’ Dahlan Taha – Department of Peninsular Malaysia  
| 0955 – 1015  | - Geopark Conservation in China  
  (to be named) |
| 1015 – 1045  | **REFRESHMENT** |
| 1045 – 1130  | **SESSION 4: GEOPARK AND GEOTOURISM**  
**Keynote paper:** Geotourism – Added Value for Nature Tourism  
Prof. Dr. Zhao Xun - Unesco GGN Committee Member (China) |
| 1130 – 1150  | **TECHNICAL PAPERS**  
- Geotourism Activities in Europe  
  Mr. Guy Martini – UNESCO GGN Committee Member (Spain)  
| 1150 – 1210  | - The Emergence of Geotourism in Australia/Oceania  
  Prof. Dr. Ross Dowling – Ecotourism, Australia  
| 1210 – 1230  | - Geotourism Initiatives in Malaysia  
  Prof. Dr. Mohd. Shafieea Leman - Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia  
| 1230 – 1250  | - Practising Ecotourism in Geopark – A Case Study of Leuqiong-Haikou Volcanic Cluster Global Geopark of China  
  Mr. Young N.G. – University of Sydney, Australia  
<p>| 1245 – 1400  | <strong>LUNCH</strong> |</p>
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>1400 – 1600</td>
<td><strong>FORUM ON ESTABLISHMENT OF ASIA-PASIFIC GEOPARK NETWORK</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Chairman:</strong> Prof. Dato’ Dr. Ibrahim Komoo</td>
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<td><strong>Panels:</strong> Dr. Margaret Patzak</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Dr. Patrick McKeever</td>
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<td>Prof. Dr. Nickolas Zouros</td>
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<td>Prof. Dr. Zhao Xun</td>
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<td>Prof. Dr. Ross Dowling</td>
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<td>1400 – 1500</td>
<td>Panel Presentation</td>
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<td>1500 – 1540</td>
<td>Discussion</td>
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<tr>
<td>1540 – 1600</td>
<td>Formulation and Presentation of Conference Resolution</td>
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<tr>
<td>1600 – 1700</td>
<td><strong>CLOSING CEREMONY, MOU SIGNING AND PRESS CONFERENCE</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
6. Presentation Guidelines

Oral

Kindly prepare oral presentations in the format of PowerPoint for Windows 2000 or XP, or PowerPoint for Macintosh OSX. PowerPoint presentation files can be submitted when registering on the day of the Conference. Please submit PowerPoint presentation files to the secretariat upon registration.

Posters

Kindly prepare posters in A1 size (23 x 33 inches). Posters should be set up after registration from 8.00 a.m. to 10.00 a.m. Each poster presentation should include the following TITLE, AUTHORS NAMES, AFFILIATIONS, and ADDRESSES. A simple format should be used, with letters large enough to be easily read from a distance of 2 meters.

7. Important Dates:

Abstract deadline: 15 October 2007
Full paper submission deadline: 30 October 2007

8. Registration:

8.1 Kindly emailed, faxed or posted your registration form to the Secretariat and send it before 15 October 2007.

8.2 Conference fee rates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Registration</th>
<th>Late registration (After 15 October 2007)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ordinary</td>
<td>USD 250 (RM 875)</td>
<td>USD 350 (RM 1255)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accompanying person</td>
<td>USD 150 (RM 525)</td>
<td>USD 250 (RM 875)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Student</td>
<td>USD 100 (RM 350)</td>
<td>USD 200 (RM 700)</td>
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*Note: Proof of student status is required upon registration. This can be an email/post/fax from your advisor of photocopy of student identification.
8.3 Method of payment

The registration fees should be paid in full when submitting the registration form with penalty.

The payment should be made in USD, Ringgit Malaysian or in the equivalent of foreign currencies with bank draft, Telegraphic Transfer (TT) payable to the LANGKAWI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (LADA).

The account number for TT is:

Swift Code: RHBBMYKL followed by account number 20211700014450 (RHB Berhad Langkawi)

The bank draft should be mailed or faxed to:

Secretariat
The Regional Conference on Asia Pacific Geopark
Langkawi Development Authority (LADA)
Persiaran Putra
07000 Langkawi
KEDAH DARUL AMAN
Malaysia
Tel: 604-9667186
Fax: 604-9667233
Email: apgc2007@langkawigeopark.com.my

Once payments have been made please produce proof of payment by fax or email the details to the Secretariat of the Conference.

The conference fees cover access to all sessions, registration, documentation, conference materials, tea breaks and lunches, welcome dinner, and field trips. Accompanying person fee includes registration, documentation, welcome dinner and field trips.

Registration fees exclude accommodation, travel and airport transfers, personal and optional social events.

The registration desk will be set from 0900 to 2200 on 12th November 2007 in the lobby of the MIEC. Participants arriving early are encouraged to register at the desk early to pick up conference kit.
9. Travel and visa

Please refer to your consulate for visa requirement. Participant who not entitled to visa exemption by agreement between Malaysia and the country concerned should hold valid passports and contact their travel agent or the Malaysia Embassy, Consulate or other representative agency in your country or region regarding the need for visa to enter MALAYSIA.

a. Visa application (if applicable)

The secretariat of the conference will send an invitation letter to participant from oversea who need to apply for visa.

b. Travel insurance

The Secretariat cannot be held responsible for any accident or injury that may happen to the participants during the conference and other activities. Therefore participants are strongly encouraged to buy personal insurance before leaving home.

10. Confirmation letter

A Confirmation Letter will be sent to participants to confirm their early registration.

11. Accommodation

These accommodations have good access to the airport as well to Kuah, the biggest town in Langkawi. Participants may choose to stay nearby resorts listed below (refer to the map attach). Bookings can be made online direct to the respective hotel.

Sheraton Langkawi (5*)

www.sheraton.com/langkawi
Tel: (604) 9551901 Fax: (604) 9551931
Email: langkawireservation.00281@sheraton.com
Rates: USD 145-172 (RM 500-RM600)

The Westin Langkawi Resort and Spa (5*)

www.westin.com/langkawi
Tel: (604) 9608888 Fax (604) 9666414
Email: westin.langkawi@westin.com
Rates: USD 158 (RM 550)
Berjaya Beach Resort and Spa (5*)
www.berjayaresorts.com/beachresorts_langkawi.htm
Tel: (604) 9591888 Fax (604) 9591886
Email: resvn@b-langkawi.com.my
Rates: USD 130-386 (RM 450-RM1350)

Meritus Pelangi Beach Resort and Spa (5*)
www.pelangibeachresort.com
Email: resv.pbl@meritus–hotels.com
Tel: (604) 9528888 Fax: (604) 9552170
Rates: USD 158 (RM 550)

Holidayvilla Beach Resort and Spa Langkawi (4*)
www.holidayvillahotellangkawi.com
Email: reservation@lgkhvl.com
Tel: (604) 9551701 Fax: (604) 955 2211
Rates: USD 80 (RM 280)

The Frangipani Langkawi Resort and Spa (4*)
www.frangipanilangkawi.com
Tel: (604) 952 0000 ; Faks: (604) 952 0001
Email: rsvn@frangipanilangkawi.com
Rates: USD 72 (RM 250)

Helang Hotel (4*)
www.hotelhelang.com.my
Tel: (604) 9553030 Fax: (604) 9622021
Email: hotelhelang@po.jaring.my
Rates: RM 160 (USD 46)

Langkasuka Beach Resort (4*)
www.langkasukabeach.com.my
Tel: (604) 9556888; Faks: (604) 95555888
Email: salelangkawi@myjaring.net
Rates: USD 68 (RM 235)

Awana Porto Malai (4*)
Email: azizah.aziz@genting.com
Tel: (604) 9555111 Fax: (604) 9552600
Rates: USD 68 (RM 235)

Mutiara Burau Bay Resort (3*)
www.mutiarahotels.com/mutiara_buraubay
Tel: (604) 9591061; Faks: (604) 9591172/ (604) 9591897
Email: cro@mutiarahotel.com
Rates: USD 60-106 (RM 210-370)
Geopark Hotel (3*)

www.geoparkhotel.com
Tel: (604) 9592300; Faks: (604) 9594200
Email: info@geoparkhotel.com
Rates: USD 49 (RM 170)

Notes: For further information about Malaysia and tourism in Malaysia, please visit the official website of Malaysia Tourism Development Board at www.tourism.gov.my. Participants are encouraged to make early reservation directly with the hotel. Arrangements are being made with the participating hotels to obtain special rates for the participants. This rate is valid for those reservations before 30 October 2007. Please visit also www.langkawigeopark.com.my for further information on Langkawi.

12. Flight Information

For flight information and booking, please visit the official website of Malaysia Airlines (www.malaysianairlines.com.my). Malaysia Airlines provides connections to major destinations within the country.

13. Climate information

Malaysia enjoys an equatorial climate ranging from 22° C to 32° C, with cooler temperatures in highland areas. Annual rainfall averages 200cm to 400cm with regional variation and a distinct rainy season.

14. Time Information

The standard Malaysian time is eight (8) hours ahead of GMT.

15. Field trips

There are two trips included in the package, the Machinchang excursion (A), which is compulsory plus either trip B or C. Registration of the trips can be made at the registration desk.

A. The Machinchang Cambrian Geoforest Park Excursion (Compulsory)

A cable car ride to the peak of Machinchang offers a scenic view of the majestic mountain. The nearly vertical lift from the Terminal to the Middle Station is quite daunting but you will enjoy breathtaking views of the Telaga Tujuh Waterfall, Pulau Anak Burau (remnant island) and hundreds of meter sequence of Machinchang sandstone exposures. You could enjoy a short trail through the Machinchang forest between the Middle Station and Top Station, and come face to face with rare and endemic species of plants, such as the Climbing Bamboo (Dinochloa malayana). Excellent sequence of
Cambrian (500 million years old) rocks, the Machinchang sandstone with its well-preserved sedimentary structures can be seen just below the Top Station. Once at the top, one could enjoy cool breeze and beautiful scenery of Langkawi from 360° angle and learned the rock types from their different type of landscapes.

B. The Kilim Karst Geoforest Park Excursion (Optional)

Your journey begins at the Kilim Jetty, where you board a boat to embark on an amazing journey through mangrove forests along hidden canyons of limestone rock formation, caves, and rugged coastlines. The often blue skyline is set on top of gray limestone crowned with pinnacles, the variety of which is beyond description. Much of Kilim’s rock is made up of the Setul Formation, the oldest carbonate rock in the region, formed 490-370 million years ago. Fossils are abundant in Kilim’s rock, especially at Pulau Anak Tikus and Pulau Langgun. Mysterious sites of ancient seashells deposition (aged between 4000 and 7000 years), placed between 5 m and 23 m above present sea level, awaits you. The mangrove forests here are unique as they thrived on a limestone surface. Wildlife is bountiful, with the likes of long-tailed macaques, silver leaf monkeys, monitor lizards, kingfishers, and eagles soaring high in the sky. Areas of interests are the Gua Kelawar (Bat Cave), Pulau Anak Tikus, Telok China Mati, Pulau Tanjung Dendang and Teluk Mempelam.

C. The Dayang Bunting Marble Geoforest Park (Optional)

Dayang Bunting Geoforest Park covers Pulau Dayang Bunting, Pulau Tuba and islands located around them. Several rock formations describe these areas including Kuah Granite (Triassic), Setul Limestone (Ordovician-Middle Devonian) and Chuping Limestone (Permian). From certain angle, the undulating hills of Pulau Dayang Bunting resemble a pregnant woman laid on her back hence the island was named as Pregnant Maiden Island. This Geoforest Park showcases excellent karst island morphology such as sea notch, sea cave, sea tunnel and sea arch of various sizes and shapes. Several geosites of interest in this park include Pulau Tepur Dropstone, which implies that the Langkawi Islands were once part of the Gondwana super continent during late Carboniferous to early Permian. Pulau Ular (Snake Island) Geological Monument is another interesting site to visit. It is a small island formed by erosion by ancient wave thousands of years ago. Several undulating hills separated by abrasion platforms above the present tide level have rendered the island its snake-like shape. Pulau Tuba, traditional fishing village island is another interesting island to visit.
16. **Side event**

In conjunction with the conference, the committee also organizing side event take place at MIEC. The side event includes cultural show, handicraft stall, and others.

17. **Golf Tournament**

In conjunction with the conference, there will be a golf tournament on 16 November 2007. The tournament fee is USD 100 (RM 350) and is limited to 40 participants only. The fee for the tournament is to be paid separately (i.e. not included in the conference fee). The registration desk for the tournament registration will be set from 12.00 to 18.00 on **15th November 2007** in the lobby of the MIEC.

18. **Others**

Participants are advice to spend more time in Malaysia in this special Visit Malaysia Year 2007, which also coincides with the Malaysian special 50th Merdeka (Independence) Celebrations. In conjunction with this very special year of Malaysian achievements, there are numerous events organized by various parties. For further information about Malaysia’s events, please visit the official website of Malaysian Tourism Development Board at [www.tourism.gov.my](http://www.tourism.gov.my)
The Regional Conference on Asia-Pacific Geoparks
Organizing Committee

International Advisors

Dr. Margaret Patzak  
UNESCO Paris

Prof. Dr. Ross Dowling  
Member Australian UNESCO

Prof. Dato’ Dr. Ibrahim Komoo  
Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia

Prof. Dr. Nickolas Zouros  
European Geopark Network

Prof. Dr. Zhao Xun  
UNESCO China

Dr. Patrick McKeever  
European Geopark Network

Chairman
Prof. Dr. Mohd Shafeea Leman  
Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia

Co Chairman
Dato' Kamarulzaman Abdul Ghani  
Langkawi Development Authority

Secretary
Dr. Norhayati Ahmad  
Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia

Finance
Mr. Ahmad Zaki Mahmood

Promotion
Mr. Megat Shahrul Azman Abas

Logistics
Mr. Ismail Abdul Manaf

Field Excursion
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kamal Roslan Mohamad

Scientific
Prof. Dr. Mohd. Shafeea Leman

Social
Ms. Sharina Halim

Technical
Ms. Tanot Unjah

Business Dialogues
Mr Anthony Wong