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Inside this issue

GGN Member Activities

- 01- 3rd International Symposium on Development within Geoparks
- 03- 8th European Geoparks Conference, Portugal
- 04- 3rd International Intensive Course on Geoparks 2009
- 05- 4th International UNESCO Conference on Geoparks 2010
- 05- Call for the organization of the 5th International Conference on Geoparks in 2012
- 06- Learn everything about the earthquakes in the Lesvos Petrified Forest Geopark
- 06- European Geopark Weeks 2009
- 07- Louborough's geography students study Mediterranean rural development in Psiloritis Geopark
- 08- The Sardinian Mining Geopark: The Challenge for New Sustainable Economic Development
- 08- Giant trilobites mated in groups and used their numbers for protection
- 09- Monthly Report of the Geopark Naturtejo Meseta Meridional-Issue 32
- 09- Medieval Heritage of Papuk Nature Park
- 09- News of Spring & Summer 2009 from North Pennines AONB
- 10- Two new members affiliated the GGN officially

Non-GGN Geoheritage Activities from across the globe

- 11-3 sites bid for international geopark status
- 12- Invitation from First World Young Earth Scientists Congress 2009
- 13- Introduction to the topic of Geoheritage Conservation and Geoparks

Future Meetings Calendar

2nd Asian - Pasific Geoparks Conference - 3rd International Symposium on development within Geoparks August - September 2009 - China Mt. Taisan Geopark

8th European Geoparks Conference 14 - 18 September 2009 - Portugal Naturtejo Geopark

International Intensive Course on Geoparks 2009 28 September - 5 October 2009 - Lesvos – Greece Lesvos Petrified Forest Geopark

1st Latin American Geoparks Conference December 2009 or January 2010 - Brazil Araripe Geopark

4th International UNESCO Conference on Geoparks 2010 11 - 16 April 2010 - Malaysia Lankawi Geopark

25th European Geoparks Meeting 2010 March 2010 – France Luberon Geopark

26th European Geoparks Meeting 2010 (27 - 29 September, 2010) 9th European Geoparks Conference (30 September - 2 October, 2010) Lesvos Petrified Forest Geopark

Thanks for reading this newly redesigned newsletter. While the format has changed, it will still keep you up to date on events within the Global Geoparks Network. You are receiving this newsletter as you have expressed an interest in suggestions for the next issue, please feel free to contact:

Office of the Global Geoparks Network (supported by UNESCO and MLR of China) Address: 64, Funeidajie,Beijing, 100812, P.R.China Tel: +86-10-66558777 66558778 Fax: +86-10-66558613 email: geopark@vip.163.com or luo_tuanjie@hotmail.com

Website: www.globalgeopark.org



3rd International Symposium on Development

within Geoparks

Geo-heritage Protection and Cooperation

The 3rd International Symposium on Development within Geoparks: Geoheritage Protection and Cooperation is going to be held in Taishan Global Geopark in Shandong Province, China on August 22-25, 2009.

The theme of the Symposium is to enhance cooperation and exchanges among geoparks worldwide so as to promote the protection of geoheritages.

"International Symposia on the Development within Geoparks" are held every two years in Chinese global or national geoparks in turn. So far, two symposia of this kind were

South Gate to Heaven, Taishan Global Geopark



successfully convened, with the 1st one in Yuntaishan Global Geopark in May, 2006 and the 2nd one in Lushan Global Geopark in June, 2007. With geo-heritage protection drawing

more and more attention from various social sectors and geoparks worldwide being developed into an interactive network, enhancing cooperation and exchanges among geoparks worldwide is regarded as one of the optimal approaches to protect geo-heritages.

Sponsors

Department of Science & Technology and International Cooperation, Ministry of Land and Resources of P. R. China (MLR)

Department of Geological Environment, MLR

Department of Land and Resources of Shandong Province

Geological Heritage Beijing Office, the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS)

Administration Committee of Taishan Global Geopark

Chinese Academy of Geological Sciences

China National Committee for IGCP

Organizers

Tai'an City Administration Committee of the Taishan Scenic Spot

Chinese Academy of Geological Sciences

Correspondence

All the correspondence concerning the Symposium should be sent to the Secretariat of the meeting with the following address:

Secretariat

The 3rd International Symposium

on Development within Geoparks:

Geo-heritage Protection and Cooperation

Chinese Academy of Geological Sciences

Baiwanzhuang Road 26, Beijing 100037, China

Tel: +86-(10)-6831-0893

Fax: +86-(10)-6831-0894

E-Mail: dic@cags.net.cn

Please find the Symposium' scientific topics and other information in the GGN website:

www.globalgeopark.org

or the EGN website:

www.europeangeoparks.org

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Located around South Gate to Heaven, Heaven Street covers a full length of 500 meters

Mount Taishan, it is a natural treasury accumulated through over several billion years; it is a historical scroll of over million years; and it is a cultural monument of over 5,000 years and it is also a melody to worship the Heaven through a step way of over 7,000 steps. geological structures and important and typical geoheritage have been attended by many geologists. The geological research in Mount

Mount Taishan Geopark

Mount Taishan is located in the east side of North China Plain, and center of Shandong province. The magnificent and marvelous Mount Taishan rises above the numerous mountains in the south-central Shandong. Mount Tianshan has a long cultural history of over 5000 years, where a lot of cultural relics are preserved. This Mount is also called as the spiritual homestead, it has become a famous tourist destination both China and other countries. In 1987, this Mount was approved as the world natural and cultural site by UNESCO.

The profound cultural history and beautiful scenery of Mount Taishan are attracted by more and more tourists from both domestic and abroad. Besides, its long geological evolutionary history, complex Tiashan area started in 1868.

Mount Taishan is famed by its long geological evolution, complex geological structure and typical geoheritage. It is a typical area for studying and setting up the framework of Early Precambrian geological evolution in China. The Cambrian section in Zhangxia area is well and completely exposed, yielding abundant index trilobites, which provides major evidence for regional or international Cambrian correlation. The Neotectonic Movement has played a very important role in the geomorphic formation and shaping of Mount Taishan.



Mount Taishan Global geopark ©Zhao Hongshan



©Zhao Hongshan



Because Mount Taishan rises up on a vast plain, with a bigger altitude difference compared with other mounts, so people would feel that this mount is extremely lofty and stable, together with the long cultural history and unique Taishan's spirit, and other cultural and natural scenery, Taishan geopark has become a unique tourist destination in the world.



8th European Geoparks Conference, Portugal

"New Challenges with Geotourism"

1st Circular

The 8th European Geoparks Conference will take place in the European and Global Geopark Naturtejo, Protugal, 14-18 September 2009.

Held every 2 years, this conference is open to scientists and non-scientists, tourism and land manages, as well as politicians who wish to exchange their experience and to learn more about geoparks & tourism, geotourism & local development, geoparks & science, best practices, marketing strategies, new geopark projects etc.

Geotourism is a segment of tourism that has been developed around the world in recent years. In fact since long ago people come to visit "geological wonders", like mountains, caves and canyons. However, only in recent times there is a real challenge in this sector and it has been developing a market with very specific and novel characteristics.

Excellence in Nature Tourism is supported by the sustainable use of natural heritage, promoting Nature awareness, through interpretation. This niche has been growing worldwide in the last years and nature tourists look for certified destinations, as we want to develop in Geoparks under the auspices of UNESCO.

Geotourism is an emerging segment of Nature Tourism in which the objective focuses on Geodiversity. A new niche was created for business with new specificities and new contingencies that accompanies not only the general trends of tourism but also imposes its own trends. Geoparks are pioneers in Geotourism and an example of sustainable local development.

Geotourism needs awareness for Geological Heritage. Geological processes with high scientific interest can be associated to aesthetics and become geosites with tourist potential. It is intended to stimulate the knowledge of Geodiversity, Geoconservation and sustainable development.

It is crucial that Geotourism has other benefits than geodiversity to diversify the offer: one site with rich geological heritage should have also cultural, historical and natural (bio and geo) approaches. But it is also important to have good interpretation and supportive structures (lodging, restaurants, activities/events) to receive high-demanding geotourists.

"New challenges with Geotourism" will be the main topic of discussion of the 8th European Geoparks Conference, destined for (geo)tourism professionals, politicians, local managers, nature conservationists and geologists where will be discussed tourism, local development, geoconservation, marketing strategies, geopark projects, scientific research, good and bad practices and new projects.

For details:

www.geoparknaturtejo.com

Lesvos Petrified Forest Geopark



Lesvos Island - Greece, 29 September – 3 October 2009

In collaboration with:

Global Geoparks Network -UNESCO European Geoparks Network Organization: University of the Aegean – Department of Geography Natural History Museum of the Lesvos Petrified Forest

Application deadline:

June 30th, 2009

Invitation

The University of the Aegean -Department of Geography and the Natural History Museum - Lesvos Petrified Forest Geopark invite you to participate in the Intensive Course "Earth Heritage and Nature Conservation: Geopark's Management and Action Plans" on Lesvos Island, Greece, from September 29 to October 3, 2009. The 3rd International Intensive Course on Geoparks is co organized in close cooperation with the Global Geoparks Network, the European Geoparks Network and the Working Group "Geomorphosites" of the International Association of

Action Plans » 3rd International Intensive Course on Geoparks 2009

Geomorphology (IAG). The Course will take place on Lesvos, at the premises of the Lesvos Petrified Forest Geopark.

The course is open to Geopark staff members with a degree in Geosciences, to PhD and Master students working on geopark, geotourism, geosite, geomorphosite and landscape topics, as well as to Geoscientists having a special interest on the topic. Those who are interested in participating in the course are invited to send an application form accompanied by a short CV and an abstract (one page) of their presentation (Geopark action plan, PhD thesis or Master project thesis), which they will present during the Course.

Information on the Intensive Course

Title: "Earth Heritage and Nature Conservation: Geopark's Management and Action Plans"

Language: English

the IAG

Participation: 20-30 Geoparks staff members and PhD and Master students, Organisation: Department of Geography - University of the Aegean, Natural History Museum of the Lesvos Petrified Forest Co- Organisers: Global Geoparks Network, European Geoparks Network, Working Group "Geomorphosites" of Patronage: UNESCO Date: September 29 – October 3, 2009

« Earth Heritage and Nature Conservation:

Management and

Geopark's

Venue: University of the Aegean -Department of Geography, Mytilene Natural History Museum of the Petrified Forest of Lesvos, Sigri, Lesvos, Greece.

Access: Transportation from Mytilene airport by coaches will be arranged. Application deadline: June 30th, 2009 Scientific direction: As. Prof. Nickolas Zouros, University of the Aegean Information: nzour@aegean.gr, +30 22510 36431, +30 22510 47033

Useful addresses

Some Internet addresses that might be of use to the participants: Natural History Museum of the Lesvos Petrified Forest http://www.lesvosmuseum.gr Lesvos Petrified Forest Geopark http://www.petrifiedforest.gr The Friends of the Lesvos Petrified Forest Association http://www.petrifiedforest.gr/filoi European Geoparks Network http://www.europeangeoparks.org



Langkawi Geosites



"Global Geoparks -The Natural Way Forward" Langkawi Global Geopark, Malaysia

09th - 15th April 2010

4th International UNESCO Conference on Geoparks 2010



The 4th International UNESCO Conference on Geoparks 2010 will be held in Southeast Asia very first global geopark, Langkawi Global Geopark, MALAYSIA.

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.

Objective

Closely related to geopark and geoheritage conservation is geotourism, today's rapidly growing industry that are supported by people seeking for a better appreciation for geoheritage resources and a broader understanding of their living environment in perspective of geological evolution in the past, present day geological processes and the future landscape that will be. The UNESCO Global Geopark initiative is concentrating its effort for protecting and promoting geological sites and at the same time enriching human capital through more holistic environmental protection and creating new opportunities through sustainable recreation and education tourism. The last decades have seen an increasing role played by geosciences in supporting sustainable development at local and global scale. Today, this role is becoming increasingly important as issues related to holistic environmental sustainability, climate change and natural hazard are even more frequently debated.

Venue

The conference will be held at Awana Porto Malai Langkawi.

Who should attend?

Participants are expected to come from international community of various backgrounds from researchers in the fields of geoheritage, geotourism, conservation, environment and sustainable development to policy makers, economists, geopark and local community administrators and leaders, NGOs, business operators and individuals with keen interest on geoheritage development.

See: http://www.geoparks2010.com

Call for the organization of the 5th International Conference on Geoparks in 2012

During the 4th International Conference on Geoparks in Langkawi, Malaysia, a decision will be made in consultation with UNESCO on the organization and venue of the 5th International Conference on Geoparks, due to be held in 2012. If your organization is interested in hosting the 2012 Conference, you are kindly invited to submit a well developed technical proposal specifying the offer.

Please ensure that your full bid is submitted by February 2010 to: Global Geoparks Secretariat Division of Ecological and Earth Sciences UNESCO 1, rue Miollis 75732 PARIS Cedex 15 France E-mail: m.patzak@unesco.org An original educational programme was been designed by the Lesvos

©Nickolas Zouros

Petrified Forest Geopark and runs in the Natural History Museum in Sigri. The programme has been enthusiastically welcomed by the schools of Lesvos, but also of other Greek areas that visit the island to participate in it. The theme of the programme is a burning issue in Greece and many other countries located along tectonic plate boundaries. Specifically, the programme concerns the natural phenomenon of the earthquake and seismic hazard.

The 2-hour programme, addressed to basic and secondary educational level, includes a presentation on the causes of earthquakes, the ways the seismic waves travel through the Earth and the catastrophic effects they might have. Subsequently, the children visit the Museum's exhibition hall where they can visualise the movements of the

Learn everything about the earthquakes in the Lesvos Petrified Forest *by Nickolas Zouros* Earth's crust and link with the desks and feel the tremors the people of Cobe, Japan, felt on the 17th

their link with the generation of earthquakes through interactive models. A real seismometer records the waves they produce on the ground while walking, while screens show the recordings of the seismographs in Sigri and the University of Thessaloniki in real time. A poster exhibition gives further information on the connection between mythological characters and natural phenomena. historical earthquakes in the islands on NE Aegean, large faults in these islands linked with the most recent tectonic activity in the Aegean area and other catastrophic natural phenomena linked with the earthquakes. The children have the great opportunity to see a real fault in the back-yard of the museum and understand how the rocks deform. fracture and move along the fault plane. The highlight of the programme, without any doubt, is the seismic table installation of the Museum. The installation, turned into a school-class, can simulate the seismic movement of some of the most destructive earthquakes of the recent years. Children can sit in their

of Cobe, Japan, felt on the 17th January 1995, or of Gujarat, India, on the 26th of January 2001. This activity aims to the familiarisation of the children with the right behaviour during and right after an earthquake, since they can practise what they learn during the programme in a perfectly safe environment. The new educational programme of the Lesvos Petrified Forest Geopark has until now a huge success, since more than 900 children have already partici- pated and about 500 more have already booked. The great value of this programme in an area with very intense seismic activity such as the NE Aegean is evident. Greece, being at the front of the Eurasian tectonic plate which collides with the African one, is the most seismic country in Europe and earthquakes are very usual and. in some areas, even every-day events. The programme targets to the familiarisation of children with earthquakes and natural phenomena that can follow them, as knowledge is the most successful weapon against an earthquake's catastrophic effects.

23rd May - 7th June 2009 Two special weeks to celebrate earth heritage

The European Geoparks Week, taking place at late May early June each year, is a European - wide festival of Geoparks aimed at raising public awareness of geoconservation and promotion of the geological heritage as well as events aimed at informing the wide public about geotouristic and educational activities in geoparks.

European Geopark Weeks 2009

Events are varied and include public talks, activity days for schools, guided walks, exhibitions, workshops ,etc. While these activities may be common geopark activities for this one week the activities are coordinated and promoted in the same week across the whole European Network. It provides the Network with the opportunity to demonstrate to our communities that they are part of a wider European Network which is promoting that the sustainable use of our geological heritage can bring the economic benefit for local people. See COMPILED TOTAL PROGRAM on the European Geoparks Network Website: www.europeangeoparks. org or the Global Geoparks Network Webstie: www.globalgeopark.org A brand new bilingual (Greek-English) Field Guide for Psiloritis Natural Park. European and Global Geopark. titled "The Geological Heritage of Psiloritis" has recently been published. The guide covers 150 full colored pages with maps, pictures, itineraries and information on the Psiloritis Geopark. It presents information on the environment. culture and geology of the geopark, describes individual geotopes and carries maps with all geotopes and other natural sites in order to facilitate the visitor of the Park to wander around and get known not only with rocks. but also with its people and culture:The collision of lithospheric

plates, as if on the anvil, carved out the mountains, raised them to the heavens, and dug them out until their very "heart".

Psiloritis offers the best example. The

The new bilingual Field Guide for Psiloritis Geopark, Crete, Greece

changes in the stone, their variety. the combinations, the shapes of the rocks, the wildness of the ravines, the echo of the gorges, the labyrinths of the caves have created the geodiversity of this mountain. And later came life itself. and it settled, and followed the heaving of the Earth, the changes of the mountains and indeed it changed with them. It created unique forms, rare and outstanding ones. Man then followed, last and perhaps a little late, to a "paradise" which had been ready for some time. The wonder, the ecstasy, the worship was to follow, engraved in their culture, and shown in their work

Every little cave became a fount, peak sanctuary, chapel and holy place. The caves and the plains were birthplaces of the gods and of its saints. Every ravine, valley or rock,



was a piece of its character, of its life and of its art. With the stone they built their houses, their workshops, managed the land, the footpaths, the pasturages. This wealth of the Land they still sing in their songs..."





development in

Psiloritis Geopark

Louborough's

geography students study

Mediterranean rural

by Dr C. Fassoulas Vice president Management Committee Psiloritis Natural Park

A group of 30 graduate students and their teacher, prof. Heike Joens, from the Geography department of Louborough University of United Kingdom, were hosted at Anogia, in Psiloritis Natural Park, (European and UNESCO's Global Geopark) on Friday 24th of April 2009. The students were visiting the island of Crete and Cyclades in Greece to study rural development examples in Mediterranean area.

Psiloritis Natural Park hosted the group at the Anogia's Environmental Educational Center where a short presentation was given about the European Geoparks Network and the activities of Psiloritis geopark. An interesting discussion took place afterwards between students and the staff of Psiloritis Geopark, concerning the efforts of the geopark in promoting and conserving the environment of Psiloritis Mountains, its relationships with local farmers and shepherds, as well as on the influence of geopark to local economy. Students were much interested on the initiative "Land of Psiloritis" which offers a quality label, based on geopark's logo, to enterprises of the area that are related with tourism services. This initiative aims to promote quality enterprises of the area as well as the local products.

Finally, the students were guided by Dr C. Fassoulas, at the nearby "Migia's trail" where they were informed about the regional geology, the individual hydrological conditions and the karstic structures. They visited the famous "mitata", the dry stone shepherd's houses and were introduced to the traditional Psiloritis' shepherd's life.



The Sardinian Mining Geopark: The Challenge for New Sustainable Economic Development

By Ernestina Giudici, Enrico Secchi and Cristina Secci.

Published by The International Journal of Environmental, Cultural, Economic and Social Sustainability

The institution of the Sardinian Mining Geopark represents a development opportunity for an area hit severely by the end of its local mining industry. Sardinian mines have been in operation for over 8,000 years, making them one of the most important economic resources throughout the island's history. The Geopark, awarded with UNESCO recognition, is a new effort to convert – following a previous tough reclamation initiative – the old

Researchers, led by Dr Juan Carlos Gutierrez-Marco from the El Instituto de Geologia Economica in Madrid, Spain, discovered trilobites from 15 genera in 465-million year old rocks in Arouca Geopark in northern Portugal. The discovery of giant trilobites in northern Portugal reveals the once ubiquitous marine creature mated in groups and used its numbers for protection.

Trilobites once roamed the sea floor, but were wiped out in the Permian-Triassic extinction, 250 million years ago. These marine arthropods, typically less than 8 centimeters long, are distant relatives of modern-day lobsters and spiders. But, the new find describes giants that grew to 90 centimeters in length, the largest ever found.

They found a complete specimen 70 centimeters in length and others whose tail remnants indicated they grew to up to 90 centimeters long.Most of the trilobite species they collected have been found mining industry into a new economic develop- ment based on sustainability and, to reach this purpose, on a service-based economy.

To do so, it is first imperative that the community's activities significantly reduce environmental pollution, the consequence of so many years of mining exploitation; second, it is necessary to emphasize the importance of human beings and their knowledge, their culture and their ability to create relations and operate together. The development of appropriate connections between all aspects of the closed mining areas – the environment, the typical handcraft, the culture, the traditions,



and so on – is the key to the success of the Sardinian Mining Geopark project.

Our research aims to analyze what kind of policy decisions are being made in the Geopark area and specifically if and how the people are involved and acquainted with the project.

The research will be carried out with a survey with semi-structured interviews based on two different questionnaires: one for policy decision makers, and one for some opinion leaders and managers, teachers, and so on.

Giant trilobites mated in groups and used their numbers for protection

elsewhere in Western Europe, but never before of such giant size. Their size was probably an adaption to the polar waters where they dwelt, according to the researchers. "Metabolism of invertebrates is slower in cold water, so it takes longer to reach adulthood and they also tend to live longer. Also, if you are bigger you are better able to deter a predator attack," said co-author Dr Diego Garcia-Bellido, also of the El Instituto de Geologia Economica. The researchers found clusters of trilobites with up to 1000 individuals. indicating they grouped together to molt, much like modern-day horseshoe crabs. They assume that like horseshoe crabs, the trilobites may have also mated en masse. "The hormones that instigate molting are related to those that induce sexual reproduction," said Garcia-

Bellido.

Several trilobites in the deposit were also found in burrows and under the shells of larger organisms, where they may have hidden after molting as their soft bodies made them more vulnerable to predators.

The trilobites are believed to have died when the stagnant seawater became oxygen-depleted, which also helped their preservation as fossils, the researchers said.

Palaeontologist Dr John Paterson from the University of New England in Armidale, describes the find as "spectacular".

"It's really exceptional in that you rarely find trilobite fossils complete," he said. "Mostly you find a piece of the head or the tail, so to find them in congregations where there are many complete individuals is astounding," he added.





Monthly Report of the Geopark Naturtejo Meseta Meridional-

Issue 32

On May 15th, Geopark Naturtejo Meseta Meridional published its latest issue of Monthly Report(Issue 32).

In this issue:

- International Day of Earth broadcasted from the Geopark to all Portugal
- Latinamerican students observe
 Naturtejo Geopark
- Forest clubs challenged

- Geointerview with Trilobite.Aventura and more...

For details: www.globalgeopark.org





Medieval Heritage of Papuk Nature Park

Papuk Nature Park has published new publication – Medieval Heritage of Papuk Nature Park. It is kind of guide where you can find basic information about Papuk medieval monuments. There are descriptions of 18 different cultural monuments such as medieval fortresses, mostly located in Papuk's forest, which have become important and inseparable elements of the landscape or churches which represent town's or village's main features. The book is aiming at Papuk visitors and lovers of historical heritage.

News of Spring & Summer 2009 from North Pennines AONB

The 20-page full colour Spring and Summer issue is bursting with articles on the special flowers and plants that can be found in the North Pennines, and what is being done to protect them. There's news on the spectacular helicopter 'rescue' of threatened rare wild flowers on the Pennine Way in Teesdale, and how plants not previously known to exist on Cross Fell in Cumbria are now flourishing.

For details: www.northpennines.org.uk





Austria (1) Nature Park Eisenwurzen

Brazil (1) Araripe Geopark

PR China (20) Mount Lushan Geopark Geopark Wudalianchi Songshan Geopark Yuntaishan Geopark Danxiashan Geopark Shilin Geopark Zhangjiajie Geopark Huangshan Geopark Xingwen National Geopark Hexigten National Geopark Yandangshan National Geopark Taining National Geopark Fangshan Geopark Leigiong Geopark Funiushan Geopark Wangwushan-Daimeishan Geopark Jingpohu Geopark Taishan Geopark Longhushan Geopark Zigong Geopark

Croatia (1) Papuk Geopark

Czech Republic (1) Bohemian Paradise Geopark

France (2) Reserve Géologique de Haute Provence Park Naturel Régional du Luberon

Greece (2) Petrified Forest of Lesvos Psiloritis Natural Park

Germany (6) Vulkaneifel European Geopark Nature park Terra Vita European Geopark Geopark Swabian Albs Geopark Harz Braunschweiger Land Ostfalen Mecklenburg Ice age Park European Geopark Bergstrasse– Odenwald

TWO new members affiliated the GGN officially

Iran (1) Qeshm Island

Italy (4) Madonie Natural Park Parco del Beigua Parco Geominerario Sardegna Adamello-Brenta Geopark Rocca di Cerere

Malaysia (1) Langkawi Geopark

Norway (1) Gea-Norvegica

Portugal (2) Naturtejo Geopark Arouca Geopark

Republic of Ireland (1) Copper Coast

Rumania (1) Hateg Country Dinosaur Geopark

Spain (4) Maestrazgo Cultural Park Subeticas Geopark Sobrarbe Geopark Capo de Gata

United Kingdom (7) Marble Arch Caves & Cuilcagh Mountain Park North Pennines AONB Geopark North West Highlands – Scotland Fforest Fawr Geopark - Wales Lochaber – Scotland English Riviera Geopark – England Geo Mon Geopark - Wales

Australia (1) Kanawinka



23rd Coordination Committee Meeting of the European Geoparks Network was held from the 30th March - 3rd April in the Geological and Mining Park of Sardinia - European and Global Geopark. During the meeting, the European Geoparks Network has awarded European Geopark status to the two new Geoparks - Geo Mon Geopark, Wales, UK and Arouca Geopark, Portugal.

Up to Now, 58 Geoparks in 18 Member States are members of the Global Network of National Geoparks assisted by UNESCO.

Arouca Geopark, Portugal



Geo Mon Geopark, Wales, UK





3 sites in Japan bid for international

geopark status

by Kyoichi Sasazawa

Three domestic locations have applied to become Global Geoparks Network (GGN) members, places internationally recognized as having important geoscientific heritage.



itolgawa, Nilgata Prefecture, located on the itolgawa-Shizuol Tectonic Line. a fault zone that runs through central Japan

The Paris-based GGN selects as geoparks sites with large volcanoes, fossils, fault zones or other significant geological features as part of an international initiative to promote tourism and educational opportunities in those locations.



Shimabara Península Mont Fugen 1330 métres région de Nagasa

The candidates are Itoigawa, Niigata Prefecture, located on the Itoigawa-Shizuoka Tectonic Line, a fault zone that runs through central Japan; the Shimabara Peninsula, Nagasaki Prefecture, an area containing the Fugen peak in the Unzen cluster of



Lake Toya and Mt. Usu in southern Hokkaido

volcanoes; and the area around Lake Toya and Mt. Usu in southern Hokkaido.

All three sites submitted their bids to UNESCO in December, and seem to be promising candidates for selection as the nation's first Global Geoparks in the autumn.

"Getting listed as a Global Geopark would be a great opportunity for the world to learn about the [geological] value of the region known as Japan," said Michiko Yajima, director of the Geological Information Utilization and Promotion Initiative and advisor to the domestic network.

The movement to create international geoparks began in Europe, based on the concept of making the most of such regions for a variety of purposes by managing and administering them as natural parks.

Geoparks should have distinct topography or valuable geographical features, such as rocks or strata. Listed locations are required to conserve and utilize the site for tourism and educational purposes via measures such as establishing museums and conducting tours guided by experts.

Sites must also emphasize efforts to prevent damage resulting from natural disasters.

The GGN reviews designated geoparks every four years and can delist a site if it is deemed insufficiently active in promoting itself. UNESCO World Heritage Sites, based on the treaty governing them, must make preservation of rare cultures and natural heritage their top priority. The focus on geoparks, however, is their utilization as parks. They are compelled to increase economic activity by means such as operating cafes.

The Japan Geopark Committee, a domestically approved body of experts such as members of the Geological Society of Japan, was established in May last year.

A domestic network responsible for mediating with the GGN and matters

such as advertising was launched earlier this month.

Japan is located in an unusual geological environment, lying on four tectonic plates that drive into one another in a complex formation. This brings about volcanic activity and causes seismic faults--built up from numerous strata--that intricately twist across the land.

The nation's three geopark candidate sites are typical examples. Japan is a complex of island arcs--arch-shaped archipelagos formed by volcanic activity stemming from the subduction of sea plates into an oceanic trench. These arcs include the country's four main islands--Hokkaido, Honshu, Shikoku and Kyushu--as well as the Izu and Ogasawara islands and areas surrounding Okinawa Prefecture. The candidate sites, all of which display the topography and geological features of this kind of island arc. are the first of their sort in the world to apply for international geopark status. Candidates must first be identified by the Japan Geopark Committee as domestic geoparks.

Seven other locations also have been identified as domestic geoparks. Additional sites, including dinosaur fossil grounds such as the Fukui Kyoryu Keikoku, a ravine in Fukui Prefecture, and Gosho-no-ura-jima island in Kumamoto Prefecture, also are considering applying for domestic geopark status.

Should there be no hitches in the application procedures, GGN inspectors will visit the three candidate sites this summer. The GGN is expected to make its decision around October.

The Japan Geopark Committee believes the GGN will recognize the uniqueness of Japan's geological environment and expects all three sites to be listed.

"We're working hard to prepare, doing things such as putting English on signs and creating English pamphlets, "Yoshiyuki Iwasaki of the Itoigawa bid committee said. "We're eagerly anticipating the results in the hope we'll become the 'World's Itoigawa."



Hosted by the University of Geosciences, Beijing, China 25 – 28 October 2009 Invitation from First World Young Earth Scientists Congress 2009

Honorable Sir/Madam:

Thank you for your interest and support of the upcoming First World Young Earth Scientists (Y.E.S) Congress. This Congress for early career Earth Scientists is planned to take place at the University of Geosciences of Beijing, China on October 25-28, 2009. The Congress aims to address two key objectives of the IYPE: making Earth Science knowledge accessible to society and promoting the education of Younger Earth Scientists.

The Congress includes four main parts: Oral program, Poster, Round-table and Business Expo. Recently, the Organizing Committee of Y.E.S has decided to set up a new oral program theme on "Geoheritage Conversation and Geoparks". Therefore, we sincerely invite you as the representative of your geopark to take part in this specific oral program. It is our great honor to have you attend to the Congress, and your esteemed counsel is greatly appreciated.

The participants have to cover travel, registration fee, accommodation and other costs themselves during their stay in Beijing. Additional information is available at:

www.yescongress2009.org.

Please contact us for any further detail. Thank you for your support. With kind regards.

Wan Li

Tel/Fax: 008610 82321805 Web-site: www.yescongress2009.org E-Mail: yesc2009@yahoo.cn China University of Geosciences, Beijing Xueyuan Lu 29, Beijing 100083 P.R.China

Enclosed:

First Circular of Y.E.S. Congress (http://www.yescongress2009.org/) Second Circular of Y.E.S. Congress (http://www.yescongress2009.org/) Introduction to the topic of Geoheritage Conservation and Geoparks (*See next page*)



China University of Geosciences of Beijing



China Organizing Committee Meeting with Y.E.S. President and Executive Director April 3, 2009 at China University of Geosciences of Beijing









WWW.GLOBALGEOPARK.ORG-12.

Introduction to the topic of

Geoleritage Conservation and Geoparks



1.Introduction

On the 33rd Session of the International Geological Congress which was held in Norway on August 2008, the commissaries of young earth scientists decided that the First World Young Earth Scientists (Y.E.S) Congress would be held on October 25 - 28, 2009 at China University of Geosciences (Beijing).

Supported by the International Year of Planet Earth (IYPE) Committee and International Union of Geological Science (I.U.G.S), the Y.E.S. Congress is the first ever congress dedicated to young earth scientists worldwide. With the motto of "Young Earth Scientists for Society" following the IYPE global motto, the Congress will be open to scientists and professionals working in the field of Earth Sciences, and it will also involve young political leaders, representatives of civil society, organizations and associations worldwide to create a dynamic network, and give them opportunities to discuss on several topics connected to environmental crises, and facilitate the sharing of best practices. The Y.E.S. congress will be of great significance for the education of young scientists and the development of earth sciences.

2.Objective

Geological heritage retains memories of the processes that generated and formed the Planet Earth as part of the Solar System, as well as of the history of climate, life and humanity. The common future of the mankind lies in the possibility of exploring, developing and revealing the known and unknown values and resources of the Earth in a wise manner. Geological heritage is nonrenewable resource and the priceless assets of all human being, it should be protected and its resources sustainably developed to provide society with the appropriate means for living.

Young geologists are the hope of the development of geological sciences. Now the time has come to intensify the global efforts, especially the efforts of young earth scientists worldwide to safeguard and promote geological heritage.

Aiming at inspiring more youth to play a more active role in promoting the awareness of Geoheritage Conservation and establishing Geological Nature Reserves and Geoparks, as well as providing a platform for young scientists to exchanged views and practical experience concerning the protection of geoheritage conservation and sustainable development, the Organizing Committee of Y.E.S. decided to set up a new oral program theme on "Geoheritage Conversation and Geoparks".

3.Organizations of the Topic -- Geoheritage Conservation and Geoparks

The goals of the branch meeting will be met through oral session, poster

session and business expo that focus on the topic of Geoheritage Conservation and Geoparks.

Every branch meeting has a president and a committee constituted of conveners and advisors who will take charge of convening people from the world, selecting papers and arranging order of presentations, etc. in the oral program.

3.1Abstracts and Papers

The topic of Geoheritage Conservation and Geoparks was determined later than other topics, so the deadline for the abstracts and papers is a little different from what have been announced on the second circular and website of Y.E.S.

All abstracts must be written in English and may be up to 250 words in length. All abstracts must be submitted online through the YES website abstract submission page: http://www.yescongress2009.org/ abstract-submission.html.

The deadline for abstract submission

is June 15, 2009. Abstracts will be reviewed for their scientific merit and applicability, and send to each specific branch meeting by the Scientific Committee. Participants will be notified if their abstracts have been accepted by July 15, 2009. And then they may submit the corresponding full paper on which their accepted abstracts based. The deadline for full paper submission is July 30, 2009.

With approval of the authors, selected





full abstracts will be submitted for publication to "Earth Science Frontiers" (Science Citation Index, SCI search), in a special section dedicated to YES Congress 2009. This journal is the official journal of CUGB and is published by Elsevier. Similarly, with approval of the authors, selected papers will be submitted for publication to the "Acta Geologica Sinica" journal in a special section dedicated to Y.E.S Congress 2009, and then delivered to headquarter of Index to Scientific & Technical Proceedings, ISTP. The authors of the abstracts will be responsible for any associated publication fees.

3.2 Poster Session and Business Expo

The Congress will offer an unique networking opportunity for young earth scientists to meet representatives from research institutes and companies. It will also allow companies to carry out marketing, business development and recruitment.

Poster Session:

All participants attending the congress will have full access to the posters room throughout the 4 days of the congress. And all participants who will do poster presentation could display their posters in a fixed location, in different time during the four days. Poster standard:, Participants are allowed to take two posters along with them, with the size of 1.0M × 1.2M each.

Business Expo:

The Business Expo offers an exhibition area for companies, organizations, and institutions. The Expo will be opened for the duration of the Congress. You can connect with Li Ruixin by e-mail for more information or see the website:

http://www.yescongress2009.org/yesbusiness-expo.html, it will be a good time for you to show your geoparks to the young earth scientists all over the world.

5.Contact

Luo Tuanjie (Office of the Global Geoparks Network) Email: luo_tuanjie@hotmail.com

Wang Sizhuo (YES Committee of China) Zheng Yan (YES Committee of China) Tel/Fax: 008610 82321805 Email: athene-0521@163.com hope_zhengyan@126.com

	_	Fees		
	Туре	RMB	Euro	USD
Congress Participation (regular)	Until 30 May 2009 1 June 2009 to 10 August 2009 After 10 August 2009 / On-site	1500 2000 2500	180 230 280	230 300 360
Congress Student Participants (also PhD students)	Until 30 May 2009 1 June 2009 to 10 August 2009 After 10 August 2009 / On-site	500 1000 1500	60 115 180	75 150 230
Accompanying members	Until 30 May 2009 1 June 2009 to 10 August 2009 After 10 August 2009 / On-site	500 1000 1500	60 115 180	75 150 230
Submit a abstract (to be published in congress acts)		240	25	35
Submit a full paper (to be published in congress acts)		costs in accordance with the requirements of the journal		

Field trips: See circulars and website



Important dates:

Abstract Submission Deadline: June 15th, 2009

Notification of Abstract Acceptance: July 15th, 2009

Full Paper Submission Deadline: July 30th, 2009