



2017 ISSUE 3

NEWSLETTER

**8th International Conference
on UNESCO Global Geoparks
in Adamello Brenta Geopark**



2017
INTERNATIONAL YEAR
OF SUSTAINABLE TOURISM
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GGN NEWSLETTER 2017 ISSUE 3

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Celebrating United Nations International Days to Raise Profile of the UNESCO Global Geoparks

UNESCO Global Geoparks is the youngest site designation of UNESCO and need visibility through communication activities to raise their profile as excellent territories hosting geological heritage sites of international importance, as sustainable tourism destinations, as learning territories promoting sustainable social and economic development, as hidden treasures to visit, explore, discover and live! At present, there are 127 UNESCO Global Geoparks in 35 countries. They are all institutional members of the Global Geoparks Network.

At the meeting of the Global Geoparks Network Executive Board held on December 3rd, 2017 in Beijing, the Board members discussed about the importance of using the UN International Days as an opportunity to promote UNESCO Global Geoparks and to underline their contribution to raise awareness on the environmental protection and care of our planet. During the meeting, the Board Members also discussed on some critical issues of global importance such as geo-hazard risk reduction and climate change awareness.

This year, several UNESCO Global Geoparks organized events in the frame of a common campaign for the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction. A variety of events coordinated by the GGN Geo-hazard Working Group included public talks, activities with schools or other groups, implementation of educational programs, small exhibitions and other actions.

On December 11th, 2017, UNESCO Global Geoparks celebrated the International Mountain Day by a campaign through social media to promote their role in raising social interest on mountains and in revitalizing mountainous communities through geotourism activities. The majority of the 127 UNESCO Global Geoparks are located in mountainous

territories. Yet mountains are under threat from climate change, land degradation, over exploitation and natural disasters, with potentially far-reaching and devastating consequences, both for mountain communities and the rest of the world.

To gain further support to their activities and promote the values of Earth heritage protection and sustainable local development, the Global Geoparks Network Executive Board encourages UNESCO Global Geoparks to celebrate jointly under common campaigns for UN International Days in 2018. The GGN will organize the common campaign for the promotion of the activities using the GGN promotional tools through internet.

The proposed International Days in which Geoparks can organize events are the following:

- International Earth Day - 22 April 2018
- International Museum Day - 18 May 2018
- World Environment Day - 5 June 2018
- International Day for Disaster Reduction - 13 October 2018
- International Mountain Day - 11 December 2018

Nickolas Zouros

Report on the GGN Contribution in the Celebration of the International Day for Disaster Reduction , 13 October 2017

The Global Geoparks Network, adapted the proposal of the EGN Working Group on Geohazards, that was taken during the September 2017 EGN meeting at Azores Geopark, to participate in the celebration of the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction that has been declared by the UN for the 13th of October each year.

A call was shared by the GGN Working Group on Geohazards to all UNESCO Global Geoparks and several Geoparks from Europe and Asia responded positively and managed to organize at a short time several public activities to raise awareness of citizens on disaster risk reduction and share information for the mitigation of risks, as well as prevention and preparedness measures. Most of the activities were organized on the 13th October 2017, but some a few days prior or after, in order to fit with other already, prescheduled activities. 12 geoparks from Europe participated in the activities, whereas 19 geoparks from Asia Pacific Network. The event was also promoted by the UNESCO's webpage for the IDDR celebration.

A short description of some of the various activities organized by the UGGs can be found below.

Haute Provence UGGp, France

Haute Provence UGGp organized activities in the school of Barras and Mirabeau villages (Alpes de Haute-Provence, France). The pupils (8-10 years old) of Barras and Mirabeau schools did attempt an educational workshop called "Understanding earthquakes help to act and react: before, during and after" with the UGHP education officer. They had the opportunity to use

and move models explaining faults and earthquakes mechanisms, related to internal and surface Earth structure. They also created their own experimental seismograph. As they learned about what to do in case of emergency, now in the current days, they keep going on preparing an escape way out of the classrooms and an emergency-kit adapted to the classrooms. They also decided to change furniture and sitting arrangements in order to limit the risk of object falling in case of tremor... will they now succeed in inducing such behaviors at home? (Contact: Marie-Jo Soncini, mj.soncini@yahoo.fr)

Lesvos UGGp, Greece

Lesvos Island UNESCO Global Geopark on the occasion of the International Day for Disaster Reduction on 13th October 2017 launched for local schools the educational program "Natural processes in our Planet. Let's familiarize ourselves with the earthquakes", which took place at the Natural History Museum of the Lesvos Petrified Forest in Sigri. Highlights of the educational program were experiential educational activities of simulating large and destructive earthquakes in the earthquake simulator of the Museum and implementation of the protection measures during an earthquake from the pupils. Motive for organizing the specific event was the destructive earthquake on the 12th June 2017 in Vrissa, Lesvos Island where happened one casualty and many damages in houses and infrastructure. The school of Vrissa was totally destroyed, during lessons when at the time of the earthquake two children and their teacher were inside. The educational program aimed

GGN Networking and Common Activities

to raise awareness, to inform and prepare pupils for the case of another earthquake and to familiarize them with protection measures that have to be taken before, during and after an earthquake. Pupils completed the program having new experiences and knowledge about earthquakes and protection measures. They participated with great enthusiasm in the experiential educational activity of simulating earthquakes. They were sensitized and understood about the need of protective measures. Very interesting was the statement of many pupils that they would inform their parents and relatives about the protection measures they have learnt and implemented during the Day for Disaster Reduction. (Contact: Ilias Valiakos, lesvospf@otenet.gr)



Psiloritis UGGp, Greece

On the occasion of the celebration of the IDRR, the Psiloritis UGGp, in collaboration with its partners, the Natural History Museum of the Uni. of Crete and the Anogia Environmental Educational Center, organized on the 13th of October two events for primary and secondary schools at Anogia. In each event, Dr C. Fassoulas gave a talk on the Natural risks of Psiloritis Geopark and the measures to improve prevention, preparedness and resilience of the communities. The schools had developed in advance several activities, which were demonstrated after the talks in front of pupils and teachers. The primary school along the whole week passed, developed small projects to identify risks at their area and to propose activities to mitigate them. Younger classes developed constructions and paintings while older classes developed posters, presentations and even theatrical plays, in collaboration with the English course to inform potential

visitors of Geopark about the existing natural risks (ie. Earthquakes, wild fires and heavy snow fall) and how to protect themselves. The secondary school classes prepared projects and power point presentations on earthquakes, tsunamis and climate change. In each event, interesting discussions followed with the participation of pupils and their teachers.



Beigua UGGp, Italy

On 13th October 2017, during the International Day for Disaster Reduction, the Beigua UNESCO Global Geopark promoted an event with local schools to remember the 40th anniversary of the dreadful flood which affected the Rossiglione Municipality on 6th October 1977. The event has been organized in collaboration with local Authorities and local civil protection volunteers. It involved 5 classes of the Rossiglione School Department (2 classes of primary school and 3 classes of high school) with a total of 110 students. The students visited the place where the flood occurred with geologists and volunteers of civil protection who told about the hydrogeological hazard, the floods of 1977 with the causes and consequences, and local policies on the reduction of natural hazards. At the end of the visit, students moved to the cinema to watch the original photos about the flood on 1997 and listen some testimonies by the older local people who experienced the natural disaster in 1977. The students participated in a very active way showing great attention especially during the stories of the people who lived the event and during the show of original photos. The event aimed to raise awareness among younger generations

of the hydrogeological hazard and natural risks through a catastrophic event in their territory lived by people very close to them. (Contact: Maurizio Burlando, direttore@parcobeigua.it)

Gea Norvegica UGGp, Norway

The period of 13th October coincides in Norway with school vacations, thus Gea Norvegica UGGp organized an event for schools on the 4th of October 2017 related with flood risk. For 2018 the geopark intends to collaborate with the Norwegian Hydrological Council to develop a school program related with flooding and connected problems. (Contact: Kristin Ragnes, Kristin.ragnes@genor.no)



Cilento Vallo di Diano UGGp, Italy

On the occasion of the International Day for Disaster Reduction, on 13th October 2017, Cilento Vallo di Diano UNESCO Global Geopark promoted an event under the title "Innovative approaches for raise public awareness on geohazards, climate changes and sustainable uses of geo-resources" and taken place at a high school in Vallo della Lucania, the Liceo Scientifico "Leonardo da Vinci". The activity concerned the presentation of several types of geohazards and how the institution creates a sustainable use of georesources, to about 50 pupils attending the secondary school. During this event the professor Setsuya Nakada explained by skype in video conference, to the pupils the natural processes and geohazards in Japan, and also about the geohazards in Italy. The pupils participated very actively showing great attention. (Contact: Aniello ALoia, a.aloia@cilentoediano.it)



Apuan Alps UGGp, Italy

On the occasion of the International Day for Disaster Reduction, on 13th October 2017, Apuan Alps UNESCO Global Geopark promoted an event with local schools under the title "Words written by the rain" to remember the awful flood which affected the Versilia and Garfagnana areas of the Geopark on 19th June 1996. The activity concerned the presentation of the project "Rains and Ruins" to about 40 pupils attending the secondary school in Ponte Stazzemese (Lucca), in the core area of the 1996 flood. The event was aimed at raising the awareness of young generations in understanding of natural processes and hazards by a short lesson about the hydrogeological risk through videos, images and practical learning experience. The pupils participated very actively showing great attention above all during the practical experience simulating a debris flow, a typical feature during the awful flood. (Contact: Alessia Amorfini, aamorfini@parcapuane.it)

Chablais UGGp, France

Chablais UNESCO Global Geopark organised



GGN Networking and Common Activities

two different workshops on the 14th of October 2017 dedicated to raise awareness on geohazards. More than 600 people participated in the event during all day. Most communication was based on tsunamis, but discussions were also made on earthquakes, landslips and rockfalls. All risks affecting Chamblais territory! (Contact: Sophie Justice, coordinationgeopark@siac-chablais.fr).



Azores UGGp, Portugal

The staff of the Azores UGG provided under the scope of the International Day for Disaster Reduction (on 13th October 2017) promoted by the EGN/GGN WG on Geohazards two talks at local schools. At Ponta Delgada in S. Miguel Island Mr J.C. Nunes talked in front of about 200 students and teachers at "Domingos Rebelo" High School about Geohazards and mitigation measures. At Horta in Faial island, Ms Salomé Menezes talked in front of about 150 students and teachers at "Manuel de Arriaga" High School on the natural risks of Azores and risk mitigation. (Contact: João Carlos Carreiro Nunes joao.cc.nunes@uac.pt)

Ore of the Alps UGGp, Austria

The 13th of October 2017 was the day, when the event "50 Years Department of Geology in Salzburg" (Austria) was celebrated. Horst Ibetsberger (scientific director of Ore of the Alps UNESCO Global Geopark) was invited to talk about "UNESCO Global Geopark". One main topic was, referring to the "International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction", the rockfall in the Liechtensteinklamm. The

spectacular gorge is one of the most important geosites in the Ore of the Alps UNESCO Global Geopark. The rockfall - approximately 300 tons - occurred during the snowmelt in spring and destroyed some walkways. This was the reason why the gorge was closed for visitors the whole season 2017. Around 80 persons attended the lecture at the University of Salzburg. (Contact: Horst Ibetsberger horst_ibetsberger@geoglobe.at)

Sitia UGGp, Greece

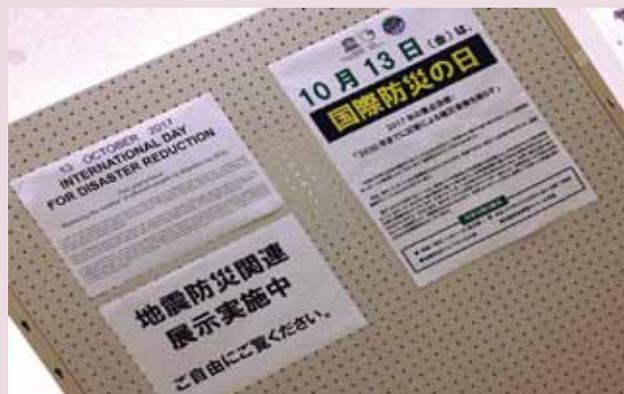
Sitia Geopark organized with the collaboration of Local Fire Brigade and volunteer groups and experiential and information action for two local schools that were focused on natural disasters, mitigation measures and evacuation drills for the case of earthquake and fire. (Contact: V. Perakis, perakisv@sitia.gr)

San'In Kaigan UGGp, Japan

San'In Kaigan Geopark in Japan organized on the 13th of October 2017 two events related to the celebration of the IDRR. The first took place at the Hyogo Prefectural Government, Tajima District Administration Office presenting the "Comprehensive flood control project, a display of rainwater storage facility materials. The second took place at the Akaishi, Tchino and Kan'nabe Areas, in Toyooka city and was actually a field trip in the nearby areas focused on disaster prevention. (Contact: Kara Furusawa, kana.furusawa@geopark.jp).

Muroto UGGp, Japan

Muroto UGGp on 13th October 2017 lunched an



exhibition at the geopark's center on earthquake disaster prevention. The exhibition was mainly focused on the Nakai earthquake for which a report on its impacts and a leaflet was developed. Further displays were presenting books on the tsunami and earthquake impacts mitigation as well posters on safe evacuation measures. (Contact: Kara Furusawa, kana.furusawa@geopark.jp)

Hexigten UGGp, P.R. China

Hexigten Global Geopark Administration office organized a small exhibition for Schools and Communities, which comprised some dissemination boards in local Schools and Communities. The aim was to raise awareness on the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction and provide more information on natural induced disasters.

Leye-Fengshan UGGp, P.R. China

The Leye-Fengshan UGGp organized at the Dashiwei, Luomeidong, Wangshougu, and Sanmenhai, as well as the Main Monument Square of Leye-Fengshan UGGp public events to disseminate information and offer lectures and leaflets on geo-disasters and tourism safety. The events were addressed to geopark's staff as well as local inhabitants.

Leiqiong UGGp, P.R. China

Leiqiong geopark organized at Wuyuanhe school & Mt.Ma'an scenic district various activities including a photo exhibition on natural disasters intending to offer students and tourists an intuitive vision about natural disasters, a broadcasting video on natural disasters and special lectures on disaster reductions. Special leaflets and other printed information were disseminated as well.

Lushan UGGp, P.R. China

Lushan UGGp organized at its Science popularization base and the Kuling Street in Lushan several events including lectures, interpretation board displays and site

interpretations. Events were focused on the Climate of Lushan and prevention and reduction of natural disasters, on the popularization of skills for the prevention and risk reduction and dissemination of best practices for risk reduction.

Zhangjiajie UGGp, P.R. China

The Zhangjiajie UNESCO Global Geopark organized at its Central geopark area a science popularization activity on the 13th October 2017 to promote geoaparks activities as well as scientific research and results from the management of geohazards mitigation in geopark territories. On the event posters and photos were displayed, presentations and question-answers discussions provided, brochures and other printed materials distributed to visitors.

Jingpohu UGGp, P.R. China

The Jingpohu administration committee and Mudanjiang University organized three events at the Jingpohu UGG square and scenic spot and Mudanjiang Normal University where publications and leaflets on natural disasters, geological relics and other related information were demonstrated and shared. Lectures were also given on geo-hazards and useful information were provided on risk mitigation to tourists.

Lectures, displays and other public activities were also organized at the Polino UGGp and Sesia Val Grande UGGp in Italy, and at the Danxiashan, Huanggang-Dabieshan, Huangshan, Shennongjia, Songshan, Taishan, Tianzhushan, Yanqing, Yandangshan, Xingwen and Wudalianchi UNESCO Global Geoparks of the P.R. of China.

We hope that after an earlier and better organization, more Geoparks will be able to participate in the IDDR 2018 celebration.

For the GGN Geohazards Working Group
Mahito Watanabe and Charalampos Fassoulas

The Activities to Commemorate the 28th International Day of Reducing Natural Disasters in Leiqiong UNESCO Global Geopark

Leiqiong UNESCO Global Geopark, China

In response to the call of Geohazard Working Group of GGN on Oct.13, 2017, Leiqiong UNESCO Global Geopark held activities to commemorate the 28th International Day of Reducing Natural Disasters with the theme of “Build a safe home away from disasters and reduce losses”. More than 500 local school students and visitors participated in the activities.

Leiqiong UNESCO Global Geopark held a photo exhibition focusing on natural disasters, intended to give students and visitors an intuitively vision about natural disasters. Science popularization materials were distributed and natural disaster popularization films were played in a continuous loop, which could

encourage students and visitors to have a better understanding of natural disasters.

We invited Prof. Tao Kuiyuan, the famous volcanic geologist in China, and Mr. Wang Zhenya, Deputy Director of Zhanjiang Seismological Bureau, to give lectures on earthquake disaster prevention and natural disasters reduction in Haiyuan Wuyuanhe School and Huguangyan Park. They explained types of volcanoes, current situation of volcanoes, serious damages when volcanoes erupt or several other disasters such as tsunami, earthquake occur and how the earthquake monitoring system works as well as the knowledge of disaster prevention, rescue and mutual

help. Students actively joined in the discussion, learned a lot through lectures and understood the causes and impact of natural disasters. The lectures succeeded in raising their awareness of disaster prevention.

As a vital issue that concerns the interests of human, reducing disaster is an important measure to ensure safety of our lives and promote harmony of the society. Through these activities, people could strengthen their awareness of reducing natural disaster and the ability of dealing with unexpected disasters.

Jie Yusheng, Zhan Shuai

Leiqiong UNESCO Global Geopark

Leiqiong2006@163.com



◆ The Activities to Commemorate the 28th International Day of Reducing Natural Disasters in Leiqiong UNESCO Global Geopark



◆ Lecture was held in Haikou district of Leiqiong UNESCO Global Geopark



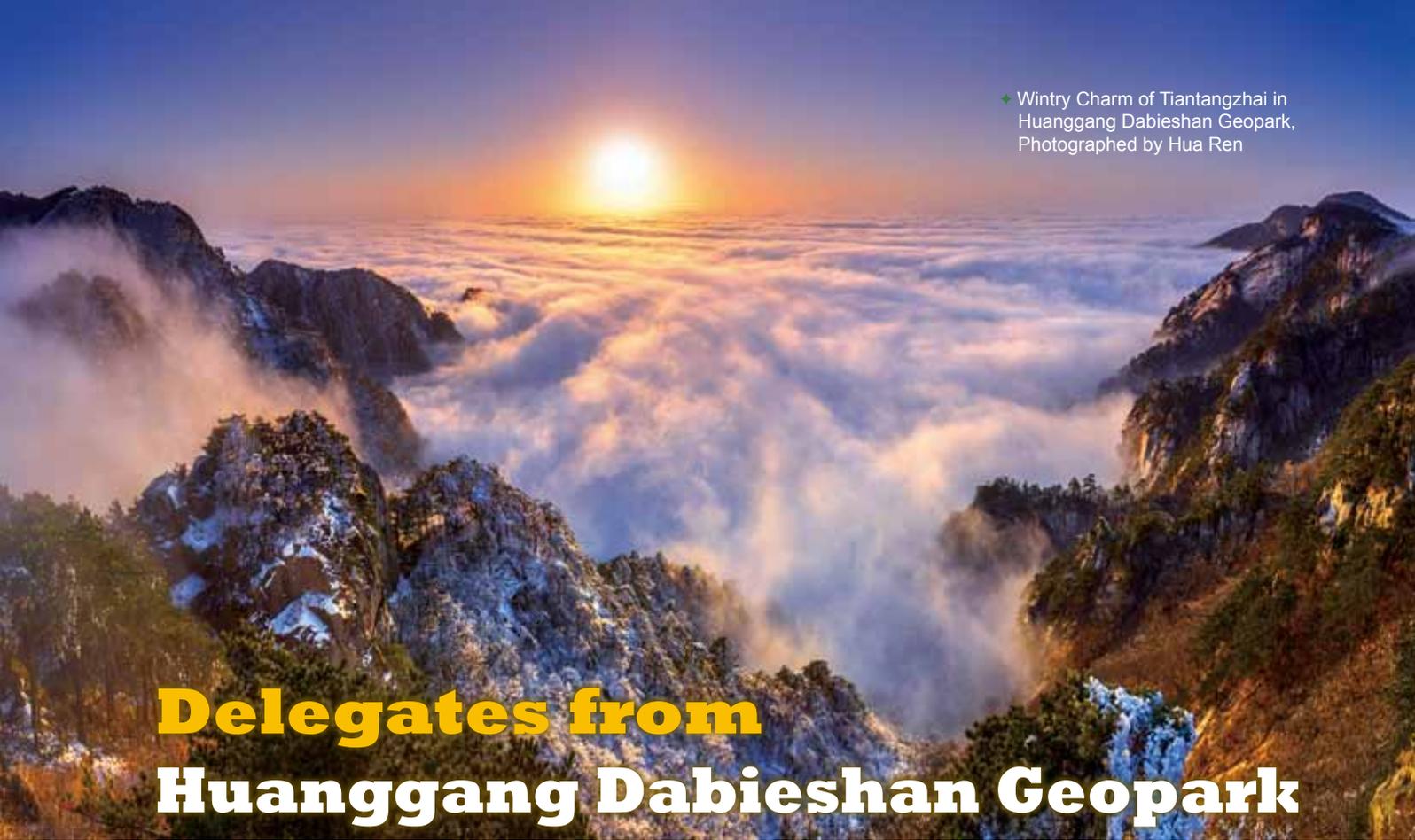
◆ Distributed science popularization materials



◆ Photo exhibition of International Day of Reducing Natural Disasters



◆ Lecture was held in Zhanjiang of Leiqiong UNESCO Global Geopark



Delegates from Huanggang Dabieshan Geopark Visit Three European Geoparks for Communication and Cooperation

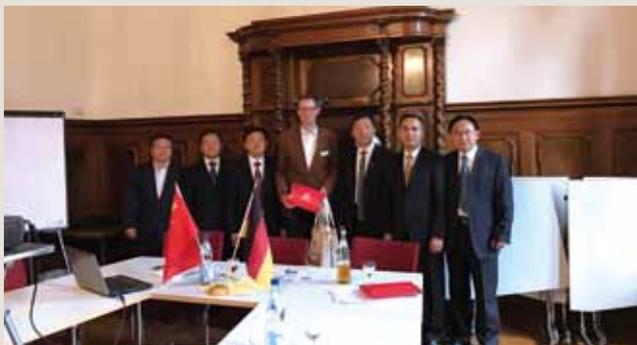
Huanggang Dabieshan Global Geopark, China

To further network with foreign geoparks, delegates from Huanggang Dabieshan Geopark paid a visit to three Geoparks respectively located in Portugal, Germany and France for cooperation and collaboration from Sept 7th to 15th, 2017.

From the start of this journey,

delegates from Huanggang Dabieshan Geopark arrived in Azores UGGp, Portugal to attend the 14th European Geoparks Conference. The Azores UNESCO Global Geopark is supported on a network of 121 geosites located in all the nine islands and the surrounding

seafloor, with a total area of 12,884 km², where they have visited Sao Miguel volcanic Geo-heritage and its local communities. It is the first time that delegates from Huanggang Dabieshan Geopark participated in such kind of international Geopark Conference, which shows



◆ Delegates from Huanggang Dabieshan Geopark in Bergstrasse-Odenwald UGGp, Germany



◆ Delegates from Huanggang Dabieshan Geopark in Chablais UGGp, France

GGN Networking and Common Activities

Huanggang Dabieshan Geopark's determination, ability and confidence to be a member of UNESCO Global Geoparks.

After that, delegates from Huanggang Dabieshan Geopark arrived in Bergstrasse-Odenwald UGGp, Germany. Invited by Dr. Marie-Luise Frey, director of Messel Pit WHS, they visited Messel Pit and its Geopark Museum. Impressed by its magnificent geheritages and various activities for popular science on different subjects, which have attracted a large number of visitors both indoors and overseas, delegates from Huanggang Dabieshan Geopark have had an extraordinarily unforgettable journey.

Delegates from Huanggang Dabieshan Geopark ended their journey in Chablais UGGp, France, where they had met its managers and geologists. Unanimously agreeing with each others' Geopark management concept and future development plan, they both have reached a preliminary intent of being sister geoparks.



◆ landscape of Rhododendron in Huanggang Dabieshan Geopark, photographed by Xu Yuanchao

Huanggang Dabieshan Geopark launched the programme to cooperate and collaborate overseas since 2015, when they have the intent to apply for the membership of UNESCO Global Geoparks. So far delegates from Huanggang Dabieshan Geopark have visited about 10 African and European countries. In the future, Huanggang Dabieshan Geopark will of course observe all rules of Global Geoparks to protect geological relics, to promote science

popularization, scientific research and to stimulate the development of local communities. Moreover, it is bound to promote the coordinated development of economy, society and environment via geological tourism to achieve sustainable development of the geopark and continues to contribute to the development of Global Geoparks Network.

Li Feng

Administration Committee of
Huanggang Dabieshan Geopark
hgdzgy@163.com



◆ Paradise Lake in Huanggang Dabieshan Geopark, photographed by Chen Yongbin

Successful Meeting of the Interreg Danube GeoTour Project



Project meeting in Wildalpen, Austria from 20th – 23rd September 2017

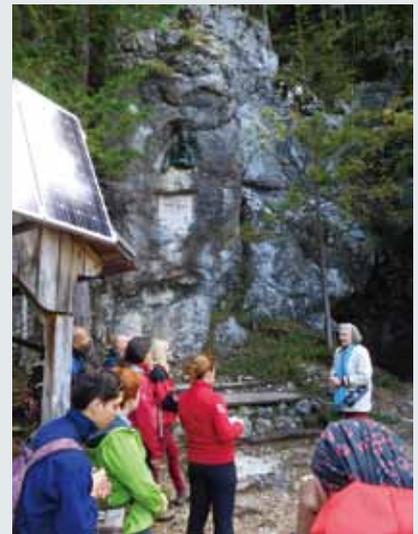
Styrian Eisenwurzen UNESCO Global Geopark, Austria

Last week the second get-together of the project partners took place in Austria. The UNESCO Global Geoparks Karawanken-Karavanke and Styrian Eisenwurzen had the chance to welcome the 11 project partners from 8 countries. The subtitle shows the goal and challenge which the partners are facing: Valorisation of geo-heritage for sustainable and innovative tourism development of Danube Geoparks. The project is co-funded by European Union funds (ERDF, IPA).

The main project result will be joint Danube GeoTour designed to strengthen cooperation between

the Geoparks regions and act as an innovative tourism product to accelerate visibility and tourist visits in the geoparks. Sharing experiences, testing pilot Geotourism products and new interpretative approaches should increase local inhabitants' engagement, Geopark management capacities and lower the quality gap between Danube and other EU Geoparks.

During the first day in the Geopark Karawanken-Karavanke in Carinthia, the partners had the possibility to learn more about GeoInterpretation during a workshop in the municipality Zell/Sele. A visit



✦ Visit of the Kraus cave in Gams

to the Geopark Information Centre in Bad Eisenkappel/Železna Kapla took place to explore various best practice examples for GeoInterpretation. In addition, the partners enjoyed three days within the heart of Austria at the UNESCO Global Geopark Styrian Eisenwurzen. In the Hotel Bergkristall Wildalpen the partners found everything they needed for their meeting and workshops. During “Capitalization” our partners learned more about other Interreg Danube projects especially Danubeparks and ECoKarst (www.interreg-danube).



✦ Visit of the Info Centre in Bad Eisenkappel

GGN Networking and Common Activities



◆ Group Picture

eu). The Welcome Dinner at the Spring Water Museum Wildalpen and the field trip within the GeoVillage Gams were a welcoming diversion to see the different GeoSights within the Eisenwurzen. In conclusion, every partner was satisfied with the successful meeting. At the end, we'd like to add many thanks to the organizers from Karawanken-Karavanke and Styrian Eisenwurzen including all their involved helpers and partners.



◆ Visit of the Noth Gorge in Gams

More information about the project and organizers are available within the following links:
www.interreg-danube.eu/danube-geotour
www.eisenwurzen.com
www.geopark-karawanken.at



◆ Visit of the GeoCentre Gams

First Workshop

on Sustainable Tourism

and Geoparks

Sevilla 25-26 November 2017

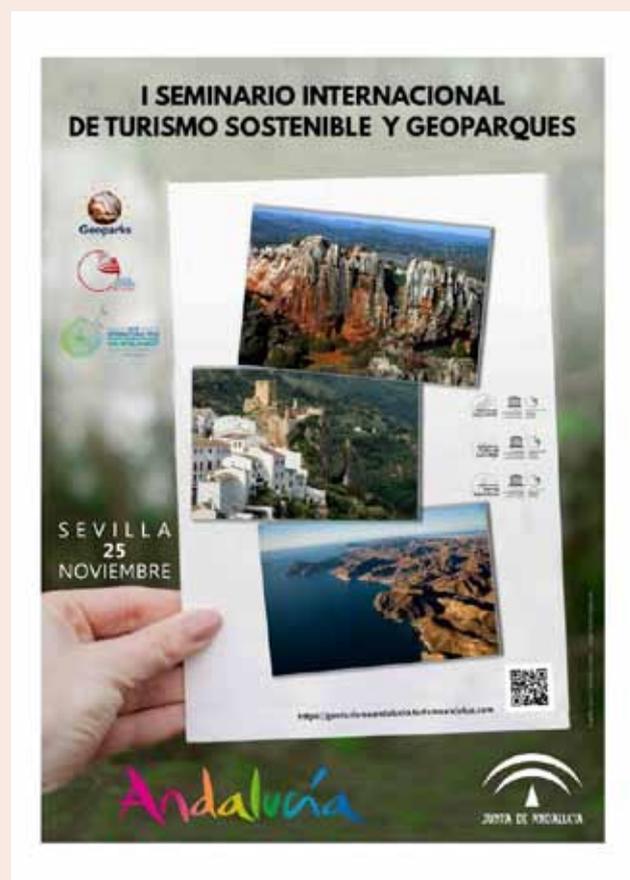
The 1st International Workshop on Sustainable Tourism and Geoparks was held in Seville, 24-26th November, 2017. This event, celebrated in the framework of the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development 2017, was organized by the Andalusian Ministry of Tourism and Sport, and the Andalusian Ministry of Environment and Territorial Planning.

The International Seminar on Sustainable Tourism and Geoparks held in Seville was inaugurated by the Minister of Tourism and Sports Francisco Javier Fernández; the Vice Minister of Environment and Territorial Planning, José Luis Hernández, and the representative of the Division of Earth Sciences of UNESCO, Katriene Heirman. The latter was very honored by the work that is being done from Andalusia with the geoparks.

The Deputy Minister of Environment, explained the incorporation of sustainability to different strategies, as well as geodiversity with specific tourism product. "From the Junta de Andalucía we are aware that natural resources and geoparks promote economic development and conservation."

The Minister of Tourism, Francisco Javier Fernández, recalled the commitment of the Junta de Andalucía for the role of Andalusia in sustainable tourism for development. In this regard, he recalled the work is being done. On the other hand, he pointed out the need to take care of the cultural aspect of these territories "because the natural heritage and its use must go together with the development of the population and be considered as a generator of employment and wealth," said Fernandez.

The Minister of Tourism Francisco Javier Fernández and the Vice Minister of the Environment José Luis Hernández presented the reasons for the organization



of the international seminar and the importance of the Geoparks development to the media in a gala event.

The event included the presentation of the Spanish UNESCO Global Geopark earth heritage and their contribution to local economic development through geotourism activities, by Jose Barrera, Villuercas-Ibores-Jara UNESCO Global Geopark and Lucia Tejero, Cabo de Gata Nijar UNESCO Global Geopark.

UNESCO Global Geoparks experts participated in this event, which is targeted to managers and technical



advisors on Environment and Tourism, and enterprises, all related to natural protected areas, especially Geoparks. Representatives and local authorities from the Andalusian UNESCO Global Geoparks (Cabo de Gata-Níjar, Sierras Subbéticas, Sierra Norte de Sevilla) and the aspiring Geopark (Cuaternario Valles del Norte de Granada) participated in the seminar and presented the achievements of the Geoparks to support local economy and employment through Geotourism.

Ms. Carmen Arjona, General Director of Quality, Innovation and Tourism Promotion of the Junta de Andalucía presented the policy for Sustainable Tourism in Andalusia: Challenges for Development focusing on Geoparks.

The Andalusian Strategy for Integrated Management of Geodiversity and Andalusian Geoparks was presented by Javier Madrid - General Director for Natural Resources Management and Protected Areas in Andalusia.

The President of the Global Geoparks Network Prof. N. Zouros presented the initiatives to promote Geoparks as sustainable tourism destinations in partnership with the World Tourism Organization in the frame of the International Year of Sustainable Tourism through participation in international Tourism fairs, International Conferences, meetings, seminars and press conferences with international journalists throughout 2017.

The Coordinator of the European Geoparks Network K. Rangnes presented the role of Geoparks in sustainable development goals of the United Nations.

Ángel García Cortés representing Spanish National Committee of Geoparks presented the contribution of Geoparks in sustainable tourism in Spain.

Two round tables were organised to discuss good practices in geotourism and promotion and commercialization of ecotourism experiences.

Antonio García Jiménez, Sierras Subbéticas UNESCO Global Geopark coordinated the discussions.

Antonino Sanz Metencio Sierra Norte de Sevilla UNESCO Global Geopark, Javier López Caballero Villuercas-Ibores-Jara UNESCO Global Geopark in Extremadura, Carlos Carvalho Naturtejo UNESCO Global Geopark in Portugal, Prof Jose Luis Palacio Mixteca Alta UNESCO Global Geopark in Mexico and Marie Luise Frey Messel Pit WHS in Bergstrasse Odenwald UNESCO Global Geopark in Germany shared their experiences on Geotourism development.

Geoparks were promoted as the most innovative places for the development of Sustainable Tourism in the national and international tourism market. Geotourism was presented as an emerging typology in the national and international tourism market. Tourism stakeholders of natural areas were offered guidance to manage tourism in a sustainable manner.

More than 150 participants were present and among them tourism enterprises and journalists of media who made the event widely known.

The main conclusions of the Seminar are:

1. Geoparks are helping to put in practice the UN sustainable development targets, especially in relation with the need to confront problems from a holistic point of view, the importance of local empowerment, especially women and consider apart from the diversity, the culture and the rest of territories heritage.

2. There is agreement on the importance of sustainable tourism in Geoparks as an important activity towards territories development, where there are also depopulation problems.

3. It is agreed that the challenge is to make geoparks into outstanding destinations for quality tourism always within sustainability.

4. There are some important tools which are already working in Geoparks and Tourism like the European charter for sustainable tourism, Global Geopark network, Sustainable tourism Plan.....

5. The real challenge is to look for communication channels to work in an integral way which includes the administrative coordination considering the private sector and especially local communities.

6. The development of the European charter is a good example of integrated work that generated positive synergies to get important socioeconomical changes.

7. There are valuable examples of how to create local socioeconomic structures and getting effective local participation supported by new technologies.

Nickolas Zouros



Benefiting Geopark Communities through Capacity Building and the Promotion of Responsible Green Tourism

Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark, China

The geopark concept has provided new ideas and momentum for the development of sustainable green tourism in Hong Kong. In this regard, Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark (HKUGGp) continues to make good use of local knowledge and at the same time explores and enriches tourism products and projects with the support of the local communities and our partners in the tourism industry.

Being the best location to observe Hong Kong's world class hexagonal rock columns at close range, the 2.8 km High Island Geo-trail was recently voted "My Favorite Hiking

Route in Hong Kong" by readers of a popular tourism magazine. The recognition by local media and their readers helps promote HKUGGp as a premier world-class tourism destination and a valuable platform for long-term collaboration among the geopark, its partners and the local communities.

To benefit geopark communities through the promotion of responsible and sustainable geo-tourism, HKUGGp provided capacity building opportunities for the local community



◆ Visit to the award-winning High Island Geo-trail with Tourism Commission of the Hong Kong Government

in both Ap Chau and Tai Po, training villagers to engage them in the long-term development of the geopark

◆ Community leaders visited High Island Geo-trail, HKUGGp





◆ Dr. Helga Chulepin met local communities and partner of HKUGGp at Ap Chau



◆ Dr. Marie L. Frey met local communities and partner of HKUGGp at Ap Chau

and their community. Around fifty participants from Ap Chau and Tai Po completed the training and are now ready to provide local guided tours of the HKUGGp. "The training allows the participants to acquire valuable knowledge and be well-prepared for rising demand from the geo-tourism market. We are ready to receive geopark visitors and is looking forward to the opening of the Ap Chau Visitor Centre." said Mr. Chan Kai-shing, head of the Ap Chau village.

To assist the trade and local communities in providing better services and to generate socio-economic benefits, HKUGGp continues to play a role in the development of skills that enhance the capacity of businesses and local communities to deliver a high-quality visitor experience. In this regard, Dr. Marie L. Frey and Dr. Helga Chulepin, members of the Global Geoparks Network and the UNESCO Global Geoparks Council, were invited to meet our geopark partners and representatives of the communities and to deliver sharing sessions to the

geopark guides during their visits to HKUGGp in September and October 2017.

Concurrent with the successful completion of the capacity building programme was the official reopening of the Tai Po Geoheritage Centre after its latest enhancements. To mark this major milestone and to celebrate the graduation of the villagers in their capacity building journey, a graduation and centre reopening ceremony was held on 31 October. Officiating guests at the ceremony included Mr Wong Kam-

sing, Secretary for the Environment of the Hong Kong Government, community leaders of the Tai Po and North District, and geopark partners from the tourism sector.

"Geoparks is not just about rocks. They are also about people and how they value their natural and cultural heritage," said Mr Wong Kam-sing. "We have been pleased to witness the long-term collaboration among our geopark partners and to be part of this local engagement effort."

Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark, China



◆ Graduation ceremony of capacity building programme and Tai Po Geoheritage Centre reopening ceremony at Sam Mun Tsai Village



Geotourism on the Oki Islands

Oki Islands UNESCO Global Geopark, Japan

◆ Candle Rock Sightseeing Boat

The Oki Islands UNESCO Global Geopark is made up of isolated islands and islets located in the Sea of Japan, which lies between the Japanese Archipelago and the eastern side of the Eurasian continent. Being surrounded by the sea, bordering sea area is also included in the territory of the geopark. One of the highlights of the Oki Islands UNESCO Global Geopark is the landscape created by the erosion that takes place where the sea meets land. We use the natural scenery of these eroded landscapes to promote geotourism.

In the coastal area we have “Kuniga Coast Hiking Track”. The track starts from Matengai Cliff, one of the largest sea-eroded cliffs in Japan, which boasts a height of 257 meters, and is located on Nishinoshima Island. Strong seasonal winds and waves shaped the cliff's steep walls. A 1.8 km walking path begins from the top of the cliff; along the path you can enjoy pleasant scenery of grazing horses and cows as well as the breath-taking views created by the nature here. If you venture all the way down to the bottom, you can also see Tsūtenkyō Arch and other wind and sea eroded rocks.

In the sea area we have the Rōsokujima (Candle Island) Sightseeing Boat and sea kayaking. Candle Island is

located off the coast of Dōgo Island. It is an example of a geological landform found in eroded coastlines called a sea stack. If you view Candle Island from the sightseeing boat as the sunset cascades down over it, it almost looks like a candle being lit. Many visitors come just to glimpse this moment. With sea kayaks, you can enjoy views of sea cliffs and plants that can only be seen from the sea. At our geopark, children and the elderly are welcome to participate in kayaking; kayaking is not only used in tourism, but also in geopark education for local residents. Additionally, through combining sea kayaking with beach cleaning activities, we are able to spread more awareness about environmental conservation in the geopark.

In order to continue utilizing the

nature and scenery here in sustainable geotourism activities, it is important to maintain practices of environmental protection and conservation. For this to be possible, we must also continue the initiatives to educate the residents of the geopark. At our geopark, we provide environmental education that utilizes the nature and scenery found in the geopark through conducting workshops and classes designed with the interests of local residents. Some sections of the geopark are designated areas of the Daisen-Oki National Park, so many of these initiatives are carried out in cooperation with national government institutions.

Oki Islands UNESCO Global
Geopark Promotion Committee
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◆ Sea Kayaking (photo credit to Club Noah)



Connecting Geoheritage and Society at the Comarca Minera UNESCO Global Geopark, Mexico

✦ Barranca de Metztitlán Biosphere Reserve at sunset (Photo by Iván Razo)

Comarca Minera UNESCO Global Geopark, Mexico

Just about 100 km north of Mexico City—one of the most populated in the Americas, with about 20 million people—encompassing remarkably well-preserved subtropical coniferous forests (El Chico National Park) and xeric shrublands (Barranca de Metztitlán Biosphere Reserve), the geological framework of the Comarca Minera Geopark points to an unsurpassed mineral richness that gives to science more questions than answers. The contrast among the lush forests and quiet, scenic landscapes with the convulsive volcanic past has a huge potential to engage settlers and visitors with the valorization and conservation of an outstanding geoheritage at this recently endorsed

UNESCO Global Geopark.

Mexico is a country of outstanding natural and cultural diversity. At Comarca Minera we demonstrate that, besides good gastronomy, charming villages and an excellent hospitality, geology is the perfect way for approaching this Latin American country. Mineral deposits and historical mining provided a kaleidoscope of features worth being seen in many Mexican cities and those of Comarca Minera are on the exception. Pachuca, the largest city in Comarca Minera, pioneered the worldwide successful method for mineral processing—the mercury amalgamation method for extracting silver and gold from the ores. As well,

Comarca Minera hosts the world-class Pachuca-Real del Monte silver mining district, whose fame started in the XVI Century, under the Spanish Colonial rule. However, mining activity dates back to pre-Columbian times, when the Aztecs extracted green and shine obsidian from the Cerro de Las Navajas (“Hill of Knives” in Spanish) and exported it all across the Mesoamerica. This leads us to an important lesson: mineral veins and obsidian deposits that originally gave to this region a strategic role for economy and military power are now a resource for geoeducation and geotourism.

But how to deal with one of the most populated geoparks in the

Geo Tourism

world? Comarca Minera has around 500 thousand inhabitants. This is probably our biggest challenge and finding appropriate strategies for communication and geoeducation are our greatest goals. Linked with the regional Tourism Secretary of Hidalgo State and the National Autonomous University of Mexico — one of the largest and best-ranked in Latin America—, the Comarca Minera Geopark has a strong scientific, technical and logistics team that works in these lines.

Furthermore, in May, 2017, the new Geopark Network of Latin America and the Caribbean was founded, thus starting a new connection among territories and people around geoheritage. Four territories compose this network: Araripe, in Brazil; Grutas del Palacio,



◆ Columnar basalts of Huasca de Ocampo (Photo by Tourism Secretary of Hidalgo State)

in Uruguay; Mixteca Alta, in Oaxaca, southern Mexico; and Comarca Minera, in Hidalgo, central Mexico. In this respect, a first meeting is to be held from 21 to 25th January, 2018 at one of Comarca Minera's most

picturesque towns: Mineral del Chico. There, our guests will participate in discussion groups, field visits, and future planning. This unprecedented event gives the perfect opportunity to continue connecting people with geoheritage and bringing ideas that foster responsibility towards nature. So, come and take a visit at this Mexican geopark and experience the geology of ore deposits, volcanism and ancient mining!

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◆ Real del Monte mining workings (Photo by Tourism Secretary of Hidalgo State)



• Huanggang Dabieshan Geopark Museum

Huanggang Dabieshan Geopark Museum ——the Paradise of Geoscience Popularization

Huanggang Dabieshan Global Geopark, China

With a total investment of more than 70 million RMB and a total construction area of 4,100 square meters, Huanggang Dabieshan Geopark Museum is a significant ancillary facility of Huanggang Dabieshan Geopark. Built in 2009 and after eight years of continuous improvement and updating, this Museum became a branch museum of Geological Museum of China on July 15th, 2017.

The theme of Huanggang Dabieshan Geopark Museum is “orogenic belt”. It is a natural laboratory displaying the early evolution history of the earth and the orogenic belt geology. It consists of eight exhibition halls, which are Story of the Earth, Backbone of China, Majestic Dabie Mountains, Ecological Garden of Dabie Mountains, Hall of Fame, Geological Specimen Exhibition Hall, I am a

Little Dr. Geology (a DIY workshop for children) and Multi-functional Hall. The entire exhibition well reflects the characteristics of Huanggang Dabieshan. By skillfully using multi-touch, OLED, VR/AR and other technical means to help people understand some abstruse geological knowledge, the Museum not only enhances the interaction, but also improves the viewing experience. It is a museum as well as an active



◆ Geological Specimen Exhibition Hall



◆ Paleontological fossils-yellow river stegodon

laboratory where people can become engaged in science.

Huanggang Dabieshan Geopark Museum develops and operates various educational activities for all ages to spread geological knowledge. It aims to reconnect human society at all levels with the planet we live and to tell us how our planet and its 4,600 million years long history have shaped every aspect of our lives and our societies. Now, the daily average number of visits has reached more than 200, with a peak of more than 1,200. So far it has become an important popular science place for undergraduates, primary and secondary students in Huanggang City and even in Hubei Province. It is also an important platform for cultural exchange and cooperation of Huanggang City.

Huanggang Dabieshan Geopark

Museum systematically displays the knowledge of earth science, as well as the rich geological relics, ecological resources and human history of Huanggang Dabieshan. At the same time, it vigorously promotes the concept of sustainable development and green development. It is a modern and intelligent museum integrating vivid geoscience education experience, humanized functional zoning and advanced exhibition technology.

Huanggang Dabieshan Geopark Museum has always been improving the scientific quality of public and serving young people as its duties. It focuses on better playing the role of geoscience research base and geoscience education base.

Liu Fang

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◆ Students from Huanggang Xiaolongren Kindergarten

Sant'Otiero Geological Site

Madonie UNESCO Global Geopark, Italy

The primary interest of the site is stratigraphic, paleontological and geo-anthropological. The site is the most important testimony of the presence of Ladinian in Sicily, being a well-established, continuous succession with the presence of important bio-stratigraphic indicators such as *Daonella tyrolensis* (Upper Ladinian). To this you have to add the findings to conodonts, which characterize the lower part of Ladinian (Triassic middle upper). Sant'Otiero geological site is also naturalistic and historical interest. In the immediate vicinity of the site, there are rocky outcrops from which the columns that were served in the construction of the Moster Church of Petralia Sottana, a village of Madonie Park, the remains of quarry action are still present in both the north face



◆ Rocca di Sant'Otiero (Photo by di Stefano Piazza)

of the rock, which are scattered in the vicinity, where one of these columns is left in place probably because it is

broken during processing.

Institution of Madonie Park
info@parcodellemadonie.it



◆ Rocca di Sant'Otiero (www.parks.it)



◆ Lumachella column in Sant'Otiero site (www.settimanadellaterra.org)

Elementary School Exchange Program and Experience Tongari Program in Mt. Apoi Geopark

Mt. Apoi UNESCO Global Geopark, Japan



After participating in the elementary school exchange program last year, Toya Caldera and Usu Volcano UNESCO Global Geopark participated in the program again. This year, in addition to the two UNESCO Global Geoparks in Hokkaido, there are three other Japanese Geoparks that students planned to visit in order to experience a wider array of geoparks. In this August, the students visited Samani Town.

In the end, students were only able to visit a single region's Geopark, however, 28 students from three separate regions gathered at Mt. Apoi for the exchange. Some students participated in the exchange program for both last and this year. On the first day the students split into five groups, then searched for the 17 main Geosites and learned about their special characteristics. Students participated in a quiz related to the first 10 Geosites, which deepened their knowledge of the Mt. Apoi Geopark. The students also participated in various activities such as Rock Caruta (the same as the previous year), visited the Visitor Center, and made keychains. They also had

chance to spend time together with the local children.

In order to allow others to enjoy the geoparks, Mt. Apoi Geopark is holding a variety of tours. Samani Town, in collaboration with four neighboring towns, is organizing a project titled "Tongari Road." In the beginning of this fiscal year, we are promoting the "Experience Tongari Program" pamphlet that encourages visitors to climb Mt. Apoi and visit various Geosites.

This program combines each town's individual tourism sites and available experiences in the "Experience Tongari Program" pamphlet, with the intent to increase the overall regional appeal. With this program we are able to advertise to more people who may not be familiar with the Mt. Apoi Geopark, fulfill a wider domestic and foreign advertising that was previously unattainable, and increase the sustainable tourism of the Mt. Apoi Geopark.

Hiroaki Takanishi

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Jeju Island Geopark Interpreter Bearing a Torch for the 2018 Winter Olympics

Jeju Island UNESCO Global Geopark, Korea

The Winter Olympics will be held in Pyeongchang, Korea from February 9 to 25, 2018. This is the first Winter Olympics held in Korea over the past 30 years since the 1988 Seoul Olympics.

A symbol of the 2018 Winter Olympics, the Olympic torch, was lit in Athens, Greece on October 24, 2017. Traveling to major Greek sites for a week, the flame finally flew in Korea 100 days ahead of the Olympics. Directly moved from Incheon to Jeju Island, the torch continued its journey on the island, transferring from one torchbearer to another. Among the torchbearers in this relay was a Jeju Island Geopark

interpreter, Yong Ha Kim. According to Kim, he had cold feet at first but was overjoyed to be part of this great adventure.

A few days after completing the torch relay, Kim was guiding a foreigner along the coast called Jusangjeolli Cliff explaining the geological features of the imposing stone pillars. When asked several questions about the nature in Jeju Island, Kim tried to answer all those questions with his basic conversational English ability. After exploring a breathtaking view of the ocean surrounding the pillars, he was kindly requested to



◆ 2018 Winter Olympics torch relay

sign his name in the visitors' book. He replied, "I am Fraser Stoddart, the Nobel Prize winner." Kim could feel his heart pounding in his chest as it did at the Olympic Torch Relay. Hardly did he conceal his joy to see the Nobel Prize winner for the first time. They took a picture together and Sir James Fraser Stoddart wrote, "This is a beautiful natural place where that reminds me of The Giant's Causeway in Northern Ireland. Excellent!"

Two to four Geopark interpreters welcome visitors and serve as a free of charge guide every day at the representative attractions of Jeju Island Geopark. These interpreters help and support visitors with all their hearts, whether or not they have received the Nobel Prize.



"Haría Extreme Lanzarote"

A Running Competition Across Lanzarote and Chinijo Islands UNESCO Global Geopark

Lanzarote and Chinijo Islands UGGp, Spain

The 7th edition of the sport running ultramarathon by mountain called "Haría Extreme Lanzarote" took place from 16 to 19 November 2017. After six previous editions, it has established itself as an indisputable mark in the regional and national panorama. The previous editions have been recognized internationally for their good organization, the paths characterized by its demand and the spectacular nature of its landscapes.

The Haría Extreme combines: rural development, environment, tourism and sport. Four basic pillars to continue constructing the dream of creating an event related to its organizational seriousness and the use of resources offered by a town as unique as Haría and in an emblematic island for sports such as Lanzarote.

The race "Haría Extreme

Lanzarote" is a mountain race that takes place in 90% of paths and dirt roads across Lanzarote and Chinijo Islands Geopark where participants need to demonstrate their sporting qualities in areas of different technical difficulty. It is developed in several scoring modalities for several competitions: Ultramarathon (94 kms), Marathon (44 kms), Medium (23 kms) and Starter (10 kms). In addition the younger ones will also have their place in the competition called "Kids Extreme" with a course that varies between 800 meters and 3 kms. To Complement the sports competitions, a wide program of different events during the weekend including: talks, concerts, fairs, exhibitions, workshops, etc. will be developed.

The sports event "Haría Extreme Lanzarote" is organized by the

municipality of Haría but this year has signed a collaboration agreement with the Lanzarote and Chinijo Islands UNESCO Global Geopark and fruit of this collaboration will have a race with the name of the geopark, the "GEOPARQUE STARTER" race, with a journey of ten kilometers that will take the runner to the highest point of Lanzarote, lining crests and parts of the Risco de Famara that brighten the view and leave the legs satisfied and the effort made. The race is suitable for the fastest hikers and walkers who want to enjoy the surprising and intoxicating beauty of the Haría Extreme Lanzarote.

**Elena Mateo Mederos
and Clara Bonilla Cabrera**

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The Dong Van Karst Plateau UNESCO Global Geopark held several activities in response to the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development of the United Nations



Dong Van Karst Plateau UNESCO Global Geopark, Vietnam

In order to respond to the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development of the United Nations funded by the gold sponsor – the Global Geopark Network (GGN), the Dong Van karst plateau UNESCO Global Geopark (Dong Van Geopark) organized several activities during the third Buckwheat Flower Festival in 2017.

*** A Culture – Tourism Space and An Exhibition of Ha Giang products** were held in Hanoi from 27th to 29th October, 2017 with many typical activities such as performing folk songs and pan-pine dances of the Mong ethnic group, new crop celebration of Giay ethnic group and “cap sac” ritual of Dao people. In addition, visitors not only could take part in the folk games such as: tug of war, “con” jugglery or peng-top playing but also enjoyed an exhibition of artwork photos depicting the land and people of Ha Giang and tasted some traditional cuisines of the local people such as triangular cakes, seedless persimmons and Shan Tuyet Tea as well.

The program was held in order to



◆ Delegates attending the opening ceremony of the third Buckwheat Flower Festival

promote and introduce the image of Ha Giang land and people to domestic and international visitors.

*** The 2017 Geopark Fair** was held from 23-26 November at Dong Van geopark with the participation of many delegates from the Volcanic

Geopark of Krong No, the Non Nuoc Geopark of Cao Bang province, the Ly Son Geopark of Quang Ngai province and some from Ninh Binh, Hoa Binh and Lai Chau provinces. The organization of the fair aimed at creating an opportunity for all Geoparks of Viet Nam and some neighboring provinces to



◆ Ha Giang Culture-Tourism Space at Ha Noi



◆ Delegates visiting some pavilions at the 2017 Geopark Fair

Activities and Events

introduce their typical geological and cultural heritages, exchange and learn experiences in building and developing geoparks from each others.

* **Music Concert “Lung Cu sound”** was held on November 25th at the foot of Lung Cu National Flagpole. With the theme of singing the praise of love for the country and feelings of tourists to Ha Giang, the Music Festival helped create a very special tourism product associated with the site of Lung Cu Flagpole and the local people can keep holding this kind of music festival daily and weekly to attract tourists.



◆ Music performance at the opening ceremony of the third Buckwheat Flower Festival



◆ Paragliding Performance on the season of Buckwheat Flower Festival

* **A Paragliding Program during the season of Buckwheat Flower Festival** was held for two days from December 2nd to 3rd at Dong Van Geopark. This is a special event that created a strong point of Ha Giang tourism this year and helped attract

a great number of athletes, local people and visitors to visit, discover and experience. Thanks to the success of this program, it is hoped that unique tourism products will be designed to promote and introduce the majestic beauties of Dong Van Geopark worldwide.

A Series of Science Popularization Activities by Jingpohu Global Geopark

Jingpohu UNESCO Global Geopark, China

In order to strengthen the protection, construction, scientific research and science popularization of Jingpohu Global Geopark, we promote the combination of theory and practice and enhance awareness of geosciences and

environmental protection among university students. From October 27th to November 3rd, 2017, Jingpohu Global Geopark Management Committee carried out a series of science popularization activities with the theme “Protecting



the Earth starts from us” for a week in the Arts & Sports Building of Mudanjiang Normal University.

1. Construction of practical training base jointly by Jingpohu Global Geopark and Mudanjiang Normal University

On October 26th, 2017, in the concert hall of Mudanjiang Normal University, Jingpohu Global Geopark and Mudanjiang Normal University jointly held the signing ceremony for “Practical Training Base of Jingpohu Global Geopark in Mudanjiang Normal University”, and representatives of the two sides signed the “Agreement on Practical Training Base of Jingpohu Global Geopark in Mudanjiang Normal University”.

2. Lectures on science popularization

Prof. Li Jiangfeng from China University of Geosciences (Wuhan) gave a lecture entitled “Volcano World of Jingpohu”. Prof. Zhou Xuewu made a special report entitled “Geology and Geomorphology: Tourism Resources”. Prof. Li Jiangfeng and Prof. Zhou Xuewu introduced the evolution process of Jingpohu Global Geopark in the context of volcanic geology and geomorphology from the Wilson cycle, the theory of continental drift, global volcano belts and other aspects, and laid emphasis on research, the value



of tourism and the protection of the geological relics of Jingpohu Global Geopark. The lectures were well received by the teachers and students of the Mudanjiang Normal University and the management staff of Jingpohu Global Geopark since they are able to understand the knowledge of geosciences, the concept of geological tourism and the method of scientific protection of geological relics.

3. A series of science popularization activities

In the hall of Arts & Sports Building of Mudanjiang Normal University, nine boards for science popularization on exhibition displayed the understanding of the Earth, the formation of volcanoes, the lava landforms, the Jingpohu. Visitors signed on the signature wall “Protecting the Earth starts from us”. Moreover, the staff of Jingpohu Global Geopark Management Committee and the student volunteers also distributed more than 1000 brochures for science popularization and disaster prevention and mitigation. “Jingpo Lake Volcano Geological Museum”, “Geological Mineral Specimens Museum” and “History and Culture Museum” have been convened in Mudanjiang Normal University. Professors in China University of Geosciences (Wuhan) are specially invited to provide commentary. The Museums receives continuous stream of teachers and students.

This activity has raised students’ interest in and awareness of geological and geographical knowledge. Moreover, it advocates the learning and life concept of “science, environmental protection, civilization and

innovation” to teachers and students, and guides the students to set up the consciousness of “loving home, protecting the ecological environment of tourism and realizing sustainable development”.

Fu Chonghua & Liu Zhansen

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A Lecture on Geopark Development and Science Popularization Given to Volunteers

Zhangjiajie UNESCO Global Geopark, China



◆ Prof. HUANG He-qing is giving a lecture



◆ A volunteer is asking a question

On November 26th, Prof. HUANG He-qing, a geomorphologist and Director of the Joint Research Center for Zhangjiajie Geomorphology, gave a lecture on science popularization of Zhangjiajie landforms under the invitation of the Administrative Committee of Zhangjiajie UNESCO Global Geopark. Forty volunteers from Jishou University and Zhangjiajie City Museum attended the lecture. Prof. Huang firstly introduced the development of Global Geoparks Network and then introduced the characteristics and formative mechanisms of Zhangjiajie Landforms as well as the differences between Zhangjiajie Landforms and other commonly seen landforms in details. All volunteers listened carefully and raised questions actively. Prof. Huang answered all the questions and meanwhile elaborated

how to make self-improvement and how to do science popularization for people of different levels and circles.

All volunteers are excellent college students with different majors, who have great interests in geoparks, eco-environmental protection and public activities. They have been an effective force on strengthening science popularization

in Zhangjiajie UNESCO Global Geopark. As demonstrated in many circumstances, electing volunteers from college students not only inherits the excellent spirit of volunteers, but also helps to promote science popularization in Zhangjiajie UNESCO Global Geopark.



◆ Group photo

EARTHQUAKE OF SOUTH LESVOS 12/6/2017 (M=6.3M)

Lesvos Island UNESCO Global Geopark Share Experience in Earthquake Disaster

Contribution to Education of the Children and Monitoring of Seismic Activity

Lesvos Island UNESCO Global Geopark, Greece

A powerful earthquake struck the island of Lesvos on 12 June 2017. The earthquake hits with 6.3 magnitudes on the Richter scale.

The village of Vrisa, in south Lesvos, is devastated and hundreds of inhabitants are homeless. The earthquake left behind a 43-year-old woman dead when the roof of her home collapsed, 15 people injured and huge material damage. 70% of the houses have collapsed or half-collapsed and these houses still standing show signs that they will have to be demolished. Vrisa, the village with 850 habitants, has been evacuated. Residents moved in relatives' homes, in summer houses and in tents in neighboring villages, or in their cars.

At the time of the earthquake at the Primary School of Vrisa students and their teacher were in the school. The school collapsed, but the students and teacher applied the protection measures they had been trained for at the Natural History Museum of the Lesvos Petrified Forest, participating in the educational program "Natural Processes on our Planet - Come to

Meet the Earthquakes" and managed to evacuate safely the building after the earthquake.

The aim of the educational program "Natural processes on our planet - Understanding earthquakes" is to raise awareness, to educate the students about the prevention and treatment of seismic risk and their familiarization with the protection measures before, during and after from an earthquake. Its innovations are the use of the Museum's seismic

table, which simulates seismic motion and educates students about how to react in the event of an earthquake and prevent panic emotions.

The Natural History Museum of Lesvos Petrified Forest also has a new seismic station (SIGR) connected with the National Seismological Network which records seismic events. At its premises, in collaboration with the Institute of Technical Seismology and Earthquake Engineering of OASP



◆ Vrisa Lesvos



◆ Patrick Mc Keever, Setsuya Nakada, Nickolas Zouros_Vrisa Lesvos



◆ Educational programme-Simulation of the seismic motion

(ITSAK / OASP), a new accelerator has also been installed, which also contributes to better monitoring of seismic activity.

At the same time, in collaboration with the Department of Geography of University of Aegean and the Department of Geology of Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, in recent years, the Museum carried out major research projects to monitor seismic activity and address seismic risk in the northeastern Aegean islands.

Although the earthquake activity of Lesvos has created a great deal of concern for the inhabitants of the island, continuous education of the students and citizens of Lesvos and continuous monitoring of the geodynamic processes by the Natural History Museum of the Lesvos

Petrified Forest helps to inform and prepare for avoiding panic and correct reaction of people in case of a strong earthquake that will prevent any negative impact of earthquakes within the area.

Prof. Patrick Mc Keever, head of UNESCO Earthsciences and Disaster Risk Redaction Section, and Prof. Setsuya Nakada from the Earthquake Research Institute of the University of Tokyo, accompanied by Professor Nikos Zouros from University of Aegean, President of the Global Geoparks Network who were in Lesvos on the occasion of the 9th International Intensive Course on Geoparks 2018 entitled "UNESCO Global Geoparks and Geotourism Development", visited Vriza village immediately after the Earthquake

in order to monitor casualties and support the local community by accurate scientific information.

Lesvos UNESCO Global Geopark carried out a variety of initiatives to raise awareness and educate the people and especially young people to deal with natural disasters and reduce their impacts. The Natural History Museum of the Petrified Forest with the organization of the International Intensive Course on Geoparks 2018 and the presence of Geopark experts all over the globe highlights the contribution of the UNESCO Global Geoparks as open classes to support local communities to mitigate the consequences of natural disasters.

Nickolas Zouros

Amateur Astronomers Gathered *for Star Party* at Danxiashan UGGp

Danxiashan UNESCO Global Geopark, China

From December 16th to 17th, 2017, over a hundred astronomy enthusiasts and photographers gathered in Danxia, participated in the Second Guangdong Star Party, and shared same astonishing view of the night starry sky over Danxia.

This event is hosted by the Danxiashan Administrative committee, organized by Guangdong Province Star Roaming Astronomical Association and dozens of astronomy enthusiasts organizations inside and outside of the





province participated in this party.

Mr. Liang Hongjia, an official from the Star Roaming Astronomical Association began to use Danxiashan as a base for astronomical observation in August, selected the best observation site regarding to Danxiashan landscape, and accurately estimated the weather condition to ensure this year's star party proceed smoothly.

Many experts in the field of astronomy photography and science population participated in this event, including Mr. Xie Renjiang, chief editor of Bootes Astronomy Forum; Ms. Tang Junlin, reporter of China Meteorological News, member of Fujian Xingye Photography Club; Mr. He Jianguo, president of Guangdong Southern Cross Society; Mr. Luo Zhenyv, director of Guangzhou Astronomy Enthusiasts Society; Mr. Liang Hongjia, president of Guangdong Star Roaming Astronomical Association.

Mr. Xie Renjiang said: "I've seen a lot of old friends in this event, and many new faces too. I hope in the future there will be more people joining us. I will also devote myself to promoting development of the astronomy scientific popularization.

In this year's star party, astronomy



enthusiasts inside and outside of the province gathered together where Mrs. Tang Junlin shared her knowledge about field photography under the star; Mr. Xie Renjiang shared his experience of astronomy photography and astronomy tours of self-driving oversea; Mr. Wei Guo from Southern Cross Society hold an astronomy class themed "discover the sky" for those who attended the event that night and local families and gave them a deeper understanding of the universe.

After sharing interesting lectures, star observation and photography in the field pushed this event to a crescendo. Strong cold air blew the thick cloud over the night sky, and the stars were shining brightly, which aroused enthusiasm of the star enthusiasts, thus they lost

themselves in night photography.

Photography viewpoint especially excited people in the field, numerous marvellous astronomy photography are born in Danxiashan.

As a Globe Geopark, Danxiashan is rich in natural and humanity resources. Rely on the Danxia's abundant resources, Danxiashan nature school already established classes that covers fields like geography, zoology, humanity and astronomy. Using practice techniques such as lecture, outdoor exploration and experiments, we are pushing forward on building wellknown scientific mountain. We welcome science popularization organizations and individuals to join us on our journey.

Yu Dongliang & Zhao Wenxuan
Danxiashan UGGp

A Miniature Village

–the Project “Petralilium in Praesepio”

Madonie UNESCO Global Geopark, Italy

In the Madonie Park, an ancient village at 1,100 m, a group of young people from 1998 with great artistic and craftsmanship every year in December represent "Il Presepe", the representation of the birth of Jesus in a scenic and realistic miniature setting of the ancient village. The event reflects the context of the local civil society and of the history of this territory. Inside a 1500's church, the artists faithfully reproduce the glimpses and monuments existing. The reconstruction of ancient environments to revive the past eras, the realistic reproduction of ancient crafts now disappeared and no longer

handed down as the blacksmith, the carpenter, the shoemaker. Religious project, Artistic for its realistic scenography of environments, Anthropological as Journey into the

past for the memory of the future in a territory made by small communities of the Madonie Park.

Institution of Madonie Park
info@parcodellemadonie.it



✦ miniature of old crafts



✦ miniature of the historical center



✦ miniature of the main square

Shennongjia UGGp's Promotion Aims to Boost Local Economy

Shennongjia UNESCO Global Geopark, China

To enhance the marketing of sustainable tourism and boost the local economy, Shennongjia UNESCO Global Geopark sent a geo- and eco-tourism promotion team to Taiwan, China on July 5th – 11th, 2017, expecting to further expand the market in Taiwan.

The team held two promotion meetings respectively in Taipei and Kaohsiung, which were the first independent tourism promotion campaigns outside the mainland China. Representatives from over 160 tourism companies, over 10 airlines and more than 10 media agencies were invited to the promotion meetings.

Wang Changbin, Vice Mayor of Shennongjia said in the campaign: "the wonderful geo-heritage, bio-diversity and culture are the most valuable geo- and eco-tourism resources of Shennongjia UGGp; with multiple international and national designations such as UNESCO Global Geopark, World Heritage, MAB Reserve and Ramsar Site, etc., Shennongjia enjoys high reputation around the world; Shennongjia attaches great importance to the strategic cooperation with the tourism agencies in Taiwan, and will create a favorable environment and build a win-win platform to realize in-depth cooperation between the two sides in



tourism development".

Hsu Youngche, Chairman of Travel Agent Association of Taiwan spoke highly of the achievements made by the tourism businesses of Shennongjia and Taiwan in respect of mutual exchanges. He said that both Shennongjia and Taiwan had rich tourism resources and good tourism infrastructure and the differences between the two places in landscape and scenery meant great potential for future cooperation. This promotion campaign in Taiwan, as a new start for further cooperation between Taiwan and Shennongjia in tourism development, will play a positive role in enhancing the friendship between the two sides.

At the promotion meetings representatives from Shennongjia UGGp introduced its strategic plan

and development prospect of geo- and eco-tourism, major scenic sites, preferential policies for tourists from Taiwan, and outdoor sports activities and important international sports events, etc. Both sides made detailed communication on tourism product development, marketing, service management and cooperation. On the site Shennongjia signed cooperation agreements with Castle Tours and Flying Tour.

It is estimated that in 2017 the number of tourists from Taiwan to Shennongjia will be three times bigger than the number in 2016. Taiwan will bring new growth to Shennongjia's tourism income, which will significantly boost the local economy.

Chen Jinxin, Wang Zhixian
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◆ 2016 Tianzhushan International Mountainous Cross-country Challenge took by Wang Lixin

“Sports & Tourism” Boost the Green Development

Tianzhushan UNESCO Global Geopark, China

From Oct. 28 to Oct. 30, 2017, the Tianzhushan International River-tracing Cross-country Challenge & National Skyrunning Championship was held in Tianzhushan UNESCO Global Geopark, comprised of three sporting events: 50 km-long river-tracing cross-country challenge, 22 km-long river-tracing cross-country challenge and 6 km-long mass fitness

activity. More than 5,500 athletes from 17 countries and regions took part in the competition. The 50 km-long racing track which climbed 1,700m in total passed through bamboo forests, streams, waterfalls and other natural landscapes, and became a splendid racing track featured by majesty, rarity, oddness and elegance. Player Yao Miao couldn't help exclaiming after

the match: “It's really an excellent experience that I could enjoy the picturesque scenery of Tianzhushan while I was running”.

The magnificent geomorphologic landscape, favorable eco-environment and profound culture make up the wonderful resources for outdoor sports and geotourism of Tianzhushan, which becomes a paradise to outdoor



◆ Bicycle Challenge (by Lin Qiansheng)



◆ 2017 Tianzhushan International River-tracing Cross-country Challenge

sports amateurs. From Sep. 15 to Sep. 17, 2017 China ·Tianzhushan International Long Board Downhill Competition was also held in the geopark and 97 players from USA, Canada, Spain, Australia and China attended to show the fast and furious of Long Board Downhill, attracting more than 200 foreign and domestic long board hardcore gamers to enjoy the happiness brought by the natural landscape and extreme sports.

In the past years, Tianzhushan Geopark has made efforts to create “sports & tourism” compound products relying on the favorable eco-environment, promote the deep integration of tourism and sports, and continuously improve the infrastructure and service of sports and tourism. Tianzhushan successively established health preservation base, rock-climbing and drifting base, cross-country base and vehicle camping

base, and successively held series of competitions on tennis, rock-climbing, mountaineering and cross-country, etc. In 2017, Tianzhushan successfully held a tourism festival and forum on the health preservation, and promoted Tianzhushan Health Preservation Culture in Russia. Tianzhushan Health Preservation Kung Fu is deeply favored by Russian tourists and attracts many Russian guests to go sightseeing, take holidays and enjoy the health preservation in Tianzhushan.

The geopark strengthens cooperation with relevant departments. On Oct. 28, the local government and mountaineering management center of SSAC signed a strategic cooperation agreement, which combines professional resources of the mountaineering management center of SSAC and abundant outdoors resources, cultural resources and convenient

transportation of Tianzhushan UNESCO Global Geopark. In the coming five years, high-level cross-country competitions will be held successively in Tianzhushan, which will be forged into a national demonstrative site for outdoor mountaineering industry.

The deep integrative development of “Sports & Tourism” presents the beauty of sports and nature, disseminates the concept of harmony between man and nature, promotes the conservation of the geo-environment and the extensive mass fitness programs, upgrades residents’ happiness index, and enhances the visibility and influence of Tianzhushan UNESCO Global Geopark, which boost the vigorous development of green economy and achieve favorable comprehensive benefits.

Yu Guosheng

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◆ 2017 Tianzhushan International Long Board Downhill Competition (by Wang Lixin)

Terras de Cavaleiros

UNESCO Global Geopark

Terras de Cavaleiros UNESCO Global Geopark, Portugal

The Terras de Cavaleiros UNESCO Global Geopark is located in the north interior of Portugal. An incredible territory, with approximately 700km², which coincides with the limits of the municipality of Macedo de Cavaleiros and has been recognized by the European and Global Geoparks Network since September 2014, it is a member of the "International Geosciences and Geoparks Programme of UNESCO". A territory where the essence and serenity of the northeast of Portugal combine, and whose breath-taking landscapes; the vestiges of the multiple and unique geological phenomena, which allow us to travel to the interior of the Earth through a more than 500 million years old history; its biodiversity; the regional gastronomy and also its people's art of welcoming are truly inspiring.

The territory of this UNESCO Global Geopark offers 180km of walking routes, a Biodiversity Station and also a 110km Geological Route. It is here that you can also find one of the 7 Wonders - Beaches of Portugal, Ribeira Beach, inserted in the Protected Landscape of the Albufeira do Azibo (Azibo Dam), a place whose fauna and flora translate into remarkable species simply worthy of this true natural sanctuary. In the territory of Terras de Cavaleiros UNESCO Global Geopark a geological history that began more than 500 million years ago is well documented. This complex history is preserved in 42 geosites and it is here, in one of these geosites, that you have the opportunity to both set foot on an ancient ocean and a foot on an ancient continent.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES! A territory of education and science

From northern to southern Portugal, there are



multiple schools that choose this territory to carry out the Educational Programmes that the Terras de Cavaleiros UNESCO Global Geopark develops. For the 2017/2018 academic year, the GTC proposes a set of 20 Educational Programmes designed to meet every single level of education and which includes different areas of knowledge, such as geology, biology, history and geography, among others. Programmes that are articulated with the different curricular syllabi, from basic to secondary education, that enrich the learning process in a playful way, and that tighten the relations between the territory, the local community, and all those who visit us.

EDUCATE TO PRESERVE is the premise of these educational proposals. Thus, geo-preservation and environmental education are two of its priorities, always aiming at safeguarding the natural and historical heritages, fostering the progressive transformation of both youngsters and natives' values, attitudes and behaviours. Learn more about Terras de Cavaleiros Geopark Educational Programmes in:

<http://www.geoparkterrasdecavaleiros.com/pt-pt/content/programas-educativos>



Terras de Cavaleiros UNESCO Global Geopark, a territory with unique and differentiating experiences!

“Histories told by the rocks”, “Finding Treasures”, “The Museum Route - Heritage Route of the Terras de Cavaleiros UNESCO Global Geopark” and “The Museum Route - Tastes and Wisdom of the Terras de Cavaleiros UNESCO Global Geopark” are some

of the examples of a tourist offer that provides unique experiences as far as natural and historical heritages, gastronomy, and human relationships are concerned. These Programmes and Tourist Packages provide the visitor with the opportunity to participate in social experiences that allow them to contact and be involved with the local community, in order to learn the arts and expertise of the people who inhabit the territory. The Terras de Cavaleiros UNESCO Global Geopark is a destination that offers, through its Programmes and Tour Packages, the possibility of enjoying the landscapes that are astonishing, of discovering extraordinary chromatic, textual and morphological diversities that seem to have no end and which enchant those who visit it.

Macedo de Cavaleiros breathes history and tradition, as well as rich and natural values, which make it a land of future and kindness, and therefore compel those who visit to come back.

Alongside the landscape, geology, water, mountains, gastronomy, heritage and hotels, the county still has something else: people! People whose greatest joy is to once again see those who have already visited the territory.



Geotourism Infrastructures in the Beigua



UNESCO Global Geopark

Beigua UNESCO Global Geopark, Italy

A well-developed network of facilities has been realized in the Beigua UNESCO Global Geopark (in Italy) in order to support activities of interpretation and dissemination of the local geological, biological and cultural heritages but also to promote geotourism initiatives. Three Visitor Centres, three Info Points and one Educational Centre disseminate the most important topics about the Geopark's territory, give tourists practical information about the activities which can be done, but also host educational activities and exhibitions. To be underlined that inside each Visitor Centres, a Geopark Corner has been set up in order to provide information on the UNESCO Global Geoparks and the international Geoparks' networks (GGN, APGN, LACGN, EGN).

“Palazzo Gervino” Visitor Centre

This visitor centre is located in Sassello and is entirely dedicated to the theme of Geoparks and Geodiversity. It consists of a ground floor and first floor dedicated to the paleontological heritage of the territory of the Beigua Geopark. The main attraction of this visitor centre are the rests of the *Antracotherium gastaldii* (Squinabol, 1891), an Artiodactyl mammal widespread in Europe, Asia, and probably Africa between the Eocene and Oligocene periods (50-23 million years ago). This serves as “flag”



♦ “Palazzo Gervino” Visitor Centre in Sassello

for the explanation of the field evidences of the geological evolution of the geopark's territory during the Oligocene period, around 28-30 million years ago. The Tropical Sea and Corals sections host Oligocene fossil collections found in the area of Ponte Prina–Maddalena (Sassello) and allow the visitors to compare them with those living in a modern coral reef.

“Villa Bagnara” Visitor Centre

Located in Masone, includes permanent and temporary exhibitions, audio-visual hall and conference room. This Center is dedicated to the issue of traditional activities and



✦ “Bruno Bacoccoli” Info Point in Pratorotondo (Cogoleto)

typical products of the Beigua territory. The permanent exhibition is composed of four different halls dedicated to the Geopark area and his natural resources, the local products and the historical of the Geopark’s valleys.

“Alpicella” Visitor Centre

This center is located in Alpicella (Varazze) and works as a permanent archeological exhibition with lithic and bronze objects, ceramics and animal findings coming from the surrounding areas, frequented by hunters and shepherds from the middle Neolithic to the Copper and Bronze Ages.

“Bruno Bacoccoli” Information Point

This info point is located in Pratorotondo (Cogoleto), 1,100 m above sea level. It houses a collection of rocks specimens and interpretation panels displaying the geological history of Beigua territory. During all the year the Info Center hosts educational programs and training courses. Outside the Info Center a “rocks garden” was created; it contains different patterns of rocks belonging to the ophiolitic area in Beigua Geopark.

“Palazzo Beato Iacopo” Information Point

Housed in the prestigious Palazzo Beato Iacopo, in the historical center of Varazze, the info point is a crucial



✦ “Case Vaccà” Educational Centre in Arenzano

reference in the coastal area for promoting the territory and its several tourism initiatives. It is also used to host conferences, interpretation activities and temporary exhibitions.

“Banilla” Information Point

This info point, located in Tiglieto, is dedicated mostly to the wood and its characteristics, which are of importance for both biodiversity conservation issues and sustainable development of the local communities. At the same time, it serves as a reference point for providing information on the different thematic trails in the Geopark’s area.

“Vaccà” Educational Centre

This facility is located in Arenzano, inside the Special Protection Area “Beigua-Turchino”, one of the most interesting areas for the migration of Birds of prey. The Center is mainly dedicated to ornithological topics and linked to educational programs. It also hosts permanent temporary exhibitions, workshops and several activities of scientific research.

Maurizio Burlando

Director of Beigua UGG

Member of the UGG Council

The Latest Research Tells the Best Angle to Observe Geological Heritages

Muroto UNESCO Global Geopark, Japan

Muroto UNESCO Global Geopark held an exhibition of Chikyu at Muroto Global Geopark Center (MGGC, hereafter) from November 2017 to the end of the year. Chikyu (literally means the Earth in Japanese) which is the drilling vessel specifically designed for scientific research, investigated the deep biosphere off Muroto from September to November in 2016 and successfully detected microbial cells from layers down to the depth of 550 meters under the sea floor. It also collected core samples at maximum 1,180 meters below seafloor at Nankai Trough, 120 km southeast of Cape Muroto.

As a main program of the exhibition, 3 researchers were invited to give a lecture at MGGC. They are from research institutions (Kochi University and Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology) which have cooperated with Muroto Geopark for both conveying scientific knowledge widely and doing research. Approximately 100 people attended the lectures in total and most of them were locals.

Dr. Satoshi Tonai, actually boarded Chikyu as a geologist during the last mission mentioned above, showed us a figure of core samples taken this time. According to him, it revealed an environment of the convergence zone at Nankai Trough where two tectonic plates meet; the oceanic plate dives under the continental plate. It is also the place where the very first foundation of land was formed, called 'accretionary complex.'

You can easily find that there are various shapes and

colors of rock layers on the ground along the coast line in Muroto UNESCO Global Geopark. This is because that on-land feature of layers we see today totally depend on the environment surrounding those accretionary complexes under the sea. Now, the latest research results made it much clearer to presume where, when, and how each formations on-land was formed under the sea.

Dr. Tonai shared the best angle to observe each outcrop on the coast of Muroto. If we carefully look at rock body from a certain angle and become more sensitive about the shape and the color of it, we will notice the landscape in front of us on-land is a messenger what happened under the sea very long time ago.

Many geo-guides of Muroto Geopark of course attended his lecture. What he shared was a helpful information for them to guide visitors at geo-sites in Muroto UNESCO Global Geopark. Visitors can experience more dynamic life of the Earth with deep information our guides will tell.

In addition to such fantastic lectures, one-100th scale model of Chikyu, replica of geological samples, and several posters on results of the drilling mission were also exhibited to deepen visitors' understandings. Even those who could not come to the lectures enjoyed the exhibitions.

Tsubasa Ogasawara

Muroto UNESCO Global Geopark

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Leiqiong UNESCO Global Geopark Promoted the Sustainable Development of Shishan Town Tourism by Holding Special Activities

Leiqiong UNESCO Global Geopark, China

Shishan town agriculture tourism carnival was held in Leiqiong UNESCO Global Geopark in Haikou on October 1, 2017, the first day of the National Day Holiday. During the time (October 1 to October 8) of agriculture tourism carnival, Leiqiong UNESCO Global Geopark attracted thousands of visitors by holding a series of activities, such as farmers' market, folk culture performance, geological landscape tourism, characteristic agriculture display, country food culture experience and so on.

Through the agriculture tourism carnival, Leiqiong UNESCO Global Geopark integrated Shishan town's ecotourism resources into a whole one to promote the development of the modes of "tourism+", such as tourism+culture, tourism+popularization of science, tourism+agriculture and tourism+special food, etc. These kinds of mode boost the economic development by means of tourism development, which not only provided colorful activities to the visitors who visited our geopark, but also highlighted the tourism products of the volcano ecological tourism, Shishan characteristic products and special folk customs, so that more visitors can become the witnesses to the

development of Shishan town.

One of the special activities is the Farmers' Market. The geopark invited farmers who live in the geopark region to sell their organic products and provided them free sales platform in the geopark. These activities increased the farmers' income while providing high quality products to the tourists. From another point of view, it also improved the popularity and reputation of the geopark.

As an important business card to the Haikou tourism, Leiqiong UNESCO

Global Geopark is a great creation of Shishan tourism resources and the concentrated reflection of the volcano folk culture. From georelics, ecological square, ancient corridor to village dishes, characteristic agriculture and folk custom, all of these things represent the core value of Shishan town tourism resources, which improve sustainable development of the Shishan tourism industry.

Chen kaili

Leiqiong UNESCO Global Geopark
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◆ The entrance of the Agricultural Tourism Carnival



◆ Folk dance display shows the folk culture



◆ The tourists

International Workshop on Cave Protection and Disaster Prevention in 2017

Zhangjiajie UNESCO Global Geopark, China



◆ Opening ceremony of the workshop

From 28th to 30th of November, the “International Workshop on Cave Protection and Disaster Prevention in 2017” was held in Zhangjiajie UNESCO Global Geopark, aiming at identifying the approaches to the protection of Karst caves and prevention of disasters. This workshop was hosted by the People’s Government of Wulingyuan District of Zhangjiajie City and the Administrative Committee of Zhangjiajie UNESCO Global Geopark, and co-organized by the Joint Research Center for

Zhangjiajie Geomorphology, the Geopark Management Office of Zhangjiajie City, Zhangjiajie City Museum, Zhangjiajie UNESCO Global Geopark Museum and Huanglongdong Cave Tourism Investment CO., Ltd.

More than 60 participants attended this workshop, including internationally renowned experts on Karst caves and the representatives of 10 sister geoparks of Zhangjiajie UNESCO Global Geopark, which are English Riviera, Bohemian Paradise, Lesvos Island, Jeju Island, Alax,

Zhijindong Cave, Wangwushan-Daimeishan, Leye-fengshan, Ningde, and Shennongjia UNESCO Global Geoparks.

Prof. HUANG He-qing, the director of the Joint Research Center for Zhangjiajie Geomorphology, chaired the opening ceremony of the workshop and presented an introduction of the organization of the workshop. Mr. LUO Zhibin, vice-mayor of the People’s Government of Zhangjiajie City, Mr. HOU Tiefu, vice-director of the Administrative Committee of Zhangjiajie UNESCO



◆ Mr LUO Zhibin, the vice-major of Zhangjiajie City, met the experts and the representatives of sister geoparks



◆ Signing ceremony of sister geopark agreement between Lesvos Island and Zhangjiajie UNESCO Global Geoparks

Global Geopark, Prof. Ibrahim Komoo, vice-president of Global Geoparks Network Bureau, and Prof. HE Qingcheng, vice-president of the Chinese Academy of Geological Sciences and the coordinator of the Asia-Pacific Geoparks Network presented welcome addresses.

During the workshop, the representatives of sister geoparks shared their experience on global geoparks management

through presenting keynote reports and case discussions. After a detailed investigation of Huanglongdong Cave, a major geoheritage site in Zhangjiajie UNESCO Global Geopark, the experts and representatives of sister geoparks provided valuable advices for Karst cave protection and disaster prevention, including systematical monitoring, use of cold lights, infrastructure construction,

vegetation protection on the top of the cave, etc. In addition, all participants visited Zhangjiajie Global Geopark Museum and Tianzishan and Yuanjiajie georegions of Zhangjiajie UNESCO Global Geopark.

After the workshop, Lesvos Island and Shennongjia UNESCO Global Geoparks signed sister agreements with Zhangjiajie UNESCO Global Geopark.



◆ Group photo of the workshop

T raining Course on Using Space Technologies for UNESCO Global Geoparks Convened in Beijing

International Centre on Space Technologies for Natural and Cultural Heritage, Beijing, China

In partnership with the UNESCO Global Geopark Network Office, the International Centre on Space Technologies for Natural and Cultural Heritage (“HIST”) organized a Training Course on Using Space Technologies for UNESCO Global Geoparks in Beijing during 23-24 November, 2017. The Course was aimed to promote better understanding of space technologies by managers of UNESCO Global Geoparks in China, hence application of space technologies for the monitoring and management of the geoparks. 15 managers from Shennongjia, Danxiashan, Xingwen and Huangshan UNESCO Global Geoparks as well as representatives from the World Biosphere Reserves in China participated in the training.

Mr. Zheng Yuan, Coordinator, Chinese Geoparks Network, and Mr. Hong Tianhua, Executive Deputy Director of HIST, both addressed the opening ceremony of the Course. In



✦ Opening ceremony

his address, Mr. Zheng thanked HIST for organizing such a course and then introduced the characteristics and nature of UNESCO Global Geoparks. He pointed out that space technology would undoubtedly become an important means for the management and sustainable development of the UNESCO Global Geoparks. He hoped that, through this training, Geopark managers could have a deeper understanding of how to use space technologies for monitoring and management of the geoparks, thus contributing to the cooperation between HIST and UNESCO Global Geopark administrative committees. Mr. Hong gave a presentation titled

“Space Technologies Assisting Conservation of UNESCO Global Geoparks”. He briefed the trainees on the initiative of the Course and the role of space technology in the management of UNESCO Global Geoparks. He expressed his wish that this Course be a facilitator to collaboration between HIST, the UNESCO Global Geopark Network Office and the UNESCO Global Geoparks in China.

During the two-day training course, the participants attended courses such as Characteristics and Practical Application of Remote Sensing Technologies, System of Virtual Satellite Receiving Station, Early Warning System of Forest Fire and Virtual Reality Technology which are informative and beneficial. Meanwhile, they toured the research facilities of HIST’s hosting institution – Institute of Remote Sensing and Digital Earth of the Chinese Academy of Sciences including the first ever satellite receiving station in China – Miyun Satellite Receiving Station. What’s more, all the participants were very pleased in the end to have obtained the valuable satellite data which can tell the changes of their respective UNESCO Global Geoparks over the past 30 years, and a software of how the system of the virtual satellite receiving station is used.



✦ Group photo

Review of the 3rd International Training Course on Global Geoparks, Beijing, China

Following the great successes of the 1st and 2nd International Training Courses on Global Geoparks, Beijing, China in 2016, and under the strong supports from the Global Geoparks Network (GGN), UNESCO Jakarta Office, Department of Geo-environment at the Ministry of Land and Resources, China, Chinese Geoparks Network, and University of the Aegean, Greece, the 3rd International Training Course on Global Geoparks themed the 'Geoparks Management and Earth Heritage Interpretation' was successfully held in Beijing, China from December 3 to 8, 2017. This Course was jointly organized by the China University of Geosciences, Beijing and Fangshan UNESCO Global Geopark, China.

A total of 100 participants from 25 UNESCO Global Geoparks of China (including many high-rank geopark managers), several aspiring UNESCO Global Geoparks from China, and more than 10 geopark technical supporting organizations and universities took part in the training course.

The invited lectures included 7 GGN ExB members (or UGGp Council members), they are: N.



◆ The training course venue



◆ Group photo of invited lectures and Chinese authorities

Zouros (Greece), Jin Xiaochi (China), I. Komoo (Malaysia), M. Watanabe (Japan), M. Frey (Germany), K. Rangnes (Norway) and Zhang Jianping (China), as well as the geoparks experts I. Valiakos (Greece), KM Yeung (Hong Kong,

China), Zheng Yuan (China), Tian Mingzhong (China) and Wu Fadong (China).

The Training Course started with an opening ceremony on 8:30am December 4, 2017. Mr. Liu Yuan, inspector at the department of geo-

Workshop and Course



✦ Mr. Liu Yuan addressing his speech



✦ N. Zouros delivering his lecture



✦ K. Rangnes giving her presentation

environment, Ministry of Land and Resources, Mr. He Qingcheng, executive director of Chinese Geoparks Network, Mr. Qi Wendong, vice mayor of Fangshan District, Beijing, and Professor Wang Xunlian, vice president of China University of Geosciences (Beijing) delivered their speeches on congratulating the opening of the training course, and expressed their strong support on the geopark capacity building activity in Beijing. Professor S. Khan, director of UNESCO Regional Science Bureau for Asia and the Pacific (Jakarta) also delivered an address to congratulate the opening of the training course through internet.

As same as previous courses, the training course comprises two parts: the first part was dedicated to the UNESCO Geoparks Management, and the second part was dedicated to the Geopark Museum, Visitor Centers, and Earth Heritage Interpretation.

The first part of the Course from December 4-5, 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.

Meanwhile, the UNESCO Global Geoparks and Geo-conservation in Asia and Pacific; Global Geoparks Network and Regional Geoparks Networks: Networking and Common Activities; UNESCO Global Geoparks in China: Quo Status and Challenges; UNESCO Global Geoparks Collaboration Agreements: Framework – Common activities and Results. Global Geoparks Network Working Groups – structure and operation; the GGN WG on Tourism and the Geoparks activities on Tourism; Geosciences Research in Geoparks; Geoparks Contribution to UNESCO Sustainable Development Goals, and Management System of Geoparks in Japan and Community Involvement were also presented.

The invited lecturers answered the participants' questions on many aspects.

The second part of the Course from December 6-8, 2017, was held in the Fangshan UNESCO Global Geopark.

The contents concentrated on the Geopark Museum: management and

operation; the role of visitor centers in UNESCO Global Geoparks and World Heritage sites; how to Design and Develop a signage system for geopark: Examples from Hong Kong UGGp; Geological Heritage Interpretation Facilities and Tools. Examples from UNESCO Global Geoparks; Geoheritage interpretation: Examples from Alxa, Hexigten and Arsan, Dunhuang and Langkawi UNESCO Global Geoparks. By the way, how to correctly use the different logos related to geoparks is also introduced.

There were more than ten geoparks sharing their practice and experiences on geoparks management, geopark museums and interpretation with attendance, the invited lecturers gave them excellently constructive advises.

The training course included one-day field trip. On December 7, all participants of the course took a field trip in Fangshan UNESCO Global Geopark, including visiting its geopark museum, Peking Man Museum, as well as some visitor centers and interpretation panels in the geopark territory.

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 held the 38th GGN ExB meeting (December 3).

Meanwhile, the major GGN ExB members met Professor Cheng Qiuming, the president of IUGS, and had an informal interview, which improved mutual understanding between the GGN and IUGS. The attended GGN ExB members visited the GGN Beijing Office and met Dr. Yan Guangsheng, Executive Vice-President of Chinese Academy of Geological Sciences, Director for the Chinese Geoparks Network (CGN), and Ms Yuan Xiaohong, responsible person for geoparks affairs at the Ministry of Land and Resources, China. They had discussed many geopark issues between the GGN and China, exchanged mutual concerns and obtained numerous consensuses.

During visiting the Peking Man Site, Marie-Luise met the director of Peking Man Museum, and had a good discussion on enhancing the cooperation among the world heritage site-bearing geoparks and other common interests.

In general, this training course was greatly successful on many aspects, all presentations were arranged with the Chinese translation, which was helpful for attendance to clearly understand the contents offered by experts. At the same time, many Chinese young geopark experts (most of them are the UGGp evaluators) were well trained and improved during their doing translation.

Another good phenomenon is that most participants actively participated in discussions and communications during the training course, it marks that Chinese UGGps are willing to more deeply involving in the UGGp family and more actively participating in geoparks issues.

This reasonable, targeting arrangement and extensive contents

of the training course were 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 management, museum and interpretation system designs and building, improving mutual understanding and carrying out the potential collaborations among geoparks.

The students majoring on Geotourism from China University of Geosciences, Beijing took part in the training course.

We do think that the 3rd International Training Course on UNESCO Global Geoparks will make positive contribution to the further development of the UNESCO Global Geoparks not only in China, but also the Asia-Pacific Region.

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

◆ Visiting the Stone Flower Cave, Fangshan UGGp



◆ Visiting the interpretation system, Fangshan UGGp

The Basque Coast UNESCO Global Geopark Hosts the 3rd Basque Country Geodiversity Conference

Basque Coast UNESCO Global Geopark, Spain

The 3rd Basque Country Geodiversity Conference was successfully held in the Basque Coast UNESCO Global Geopark on November 22nd to 24th, 2017. Nearly 120 representatives attended the Conference. It was organized in partnership with the Basque Government's Department of the Environment. The Conference included lectures, round tables with professional participants and a field trip to observe the management of the key places of interest in the Basque Coast Geopark.

This is the first time that the Basque Coast UNESCO Global Geopark takes charge of hosting the Basque Country Geodiversity Conference. The Conference was organized by the Basque Coast UNESCO Global Geopark in partnership with the Basque Government's Department for the Environment, University of the Basque Country and the Professional Association of Geologists.

The summit gathered around 120 people who are interested and involved in driving forward the Basque Country Geodiversity Strategy 2020 for preserving and managing the geological heritage identified in the "Basque Country Inventory of Places of Geological Interest".

The main aim of the conference was to offer a vision of how geological diversity, or geodiversity, can act as a complement or even a distinguishing feature to open up new educational and tourism possibilities that can boost an area's appeal. Furthermore, the conference asserted that the management of natural heritage includes geological heritage among its fields of work.



Three days of lectures, round tables and a field trip

The first day of the conference kicked off with an institutional round table which included the mayors of the three municipalities comprising the Geopark (Deba, Mutriku and Zumaia) and the Basque Government's Director of the Natural Environment and Climate Change.

The lectures followed, presented by five experts in the field, including Luis Carcavilla of the Geological and Mineral Association of Spain, who advocated promoting and exploiting the interest and value of geological heritage with the main aim of ensuring its conservation.

The scientific director of the Basque Coast Geopark, Asier Hilario, also participated in the conference to present the development process for the Basque Country Inventory of Places of Geological Interest and to highlight the region's possession of first-rate geological heritage and geodiversity.

On the second day of the conference, two round tables took place between professionals and public and private partners who are directly involved in projects related to geotourism, education and the promotion of geodiversity in the Basque Country. The first of them tackled the issue of geotourism, focusing on building its foundations, identifying priorities and driving geotourism forward. The second round table dealt with the area of education and raising awareness of geodiversity. Around 30 people participated in each round table.

On the last day, the conference concluded with a field trip to the Basque Coast Geopark to observe its key places of interest, as well as its management and daily use for tourism.



International Intensive Course on UNESCO Global Geoparks 2018

“UNESCO Global Geoparks and Geoheritage management”

June 7-17, 2018, Lesvos island – Greece

UNESCO, and the Global Geoparks Network are co-organizing the 10th session of the International Intensive Course on Geoparks 2018 “UNESCO Global Geoparks and Earth heritage management”

The Course is organized by the University of the Aegean – Department of Geography and the Natural History Museum of the Lesvos Petrified Forest, in Lesvos island – UNESCO Global Geopark, North Aegean Region, Greece, one of the first Global Geoparks in the world.

The Course will take place from June 7th to 17th June, 2018.

The Intensive Course on Geoparks 2018 aims to focus on the UNESCO Global Geoparks contribution on shared and sustainable outcomes related to Earth heritage protection, conservation and management – tying sustainability together with community pride and benefit, economic development and new employment as well as holistic territorial identity promotion.

UNESCO Global Geoparks, through broad stakeholder engagement, celebrating the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals, provide a global

platform of cooperation for Earth heritage management supporting sustainable local development, local communities’ cohesion and development world-wide.

Through the Intensive Course on Geoparks 2018, the annual capacity building activity of the Global Geoparks Network, attendees will have the opportunity to widen their knowledge and expertise on UNESCO Global Geoparks and Earth heritage protection, conservation and management as a tool for sustainable tourism development, to cooperate with different disciplines and countries.

The Intensive Course on Geoparks 2018 comprises of theoretical background together with extensive fieldwork.

The main activities of the Course include:

- pre-lectures activities which will take place through e- class on May 30th 2018 and distribution of the latest documents regarding Geoparks and Earth Heritage Management,
- 11 days – 80 hours ‘hands on programme’ distributed as following: 40 hours lectures by top UNESCO and Global Geoparks Network

experts, as well as specialists in Earth heritage management in theory and practice and 40 hours field training and activities.

- an Activity Report, long distance assisted work, which shall take place after the end of the course.

The course is open to Geopark staff members, geoscientists, local development professionals and students involved in geo-education in relation with geo-conservation, popularization of Earth sciences, geopark management, geotourism and sustainable development of rural areas.

Those who are interested in participating in the course are invited to submit the respective application form accompanied by a short CV and an abstract (one page) of their presentation, which they will present during the Course.

ECTS Credits

Participants will gain 5 ECTS credits after successful completion of the Intensive course on Geoparks.

Application deadline:

May 10th, 2018

Further information: <http://www.petrifiedforest.gr/geoparks2018/>



8th International Conference

Adamello group (Photo by F. Arnoldi)

on UNESCO Global Geoparks

—Adamello Brenta UNESCO Global Geopark Italy,

10-14 September 2018

Adamello Brenta UNESCO Global Geopark, Italy

The Adamello Brenta UNESCO Global Geopark has the honour to host the 8th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks. The Conference will be held in Madonna di Campiglio, Trentino, Italy, from 11st to 14th September 2018, with the theme: “Geoparks and sustainable development”.

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 geotourism and activities of sustainable development. You are all invited to discover the uniqueness of its geodiversity: two different geologic and geomorphologic mountain ranges facing each other, glaciers, lakes, waterfalls, karstic springs, fossils, caves, magmatic, sedimentary and metamorphic rocks all in one place. And also brown bears, chamois, deers, eagles, marmots and many other animals. As well as forests of fir, beech, larch, flower-filled meadows,

pastures and much more. And last but not least, the people living in these mountains, proudly following the traditional activities engaged in promoting a social and economic sustainable development.

The Adamello Brenta Geopark is located on the west side of Trentino, in north-eastern Italy. It's reachable through numerous airports in north of Italy served by daily flights to Asia Pacific, Europe, America and Africa, and it's also easily accessible by train or car.

The Conference will take place at Pala Campiglio in Madonna di Campiglio town, at the heart of the Geopark.

The Conference will be preceded, from 8th to 10th September, by the Meetings of UGG Council, GGN ExB and Regional Networks Meetings.

The main theme of the Conference is "Geoparks and Sustainable Development" and the deadline for the abstract submission is the 15th of April, 2018.

During the Conference, in addition to the conference sessions, special workshops will be organized in collaboration with the relevant GGN Working groups.

The third day of the Conference, 13th September, is dedicated to the mid-conference field trip. Participants will have the opportunity to choose among the six available options, in order to know and experience the geological, natural and cultural peculiarities of the Adamello Brenta UNESCO Global Geopark.

A set of social and cultural events are planned during the Conference, with the opportunity to get in contact with the local people and their traditions and the Italian lifestyle as well.

In addition, there will be available the adequate space for the exhibitions at the Geo-fair, to showcase and promote the own territories and UNESCO Global Geopark, its services, activities and typical products to over eight hundred delegates from all over the world.

A singular exhibition about the Intangible Heritage from the UNESCO



◆ Brenta Dolomites (Photo by M.Bening)

Global Geopark will be hosted at the Conference centre in collaboration with the GGN Working group on Intangible Heritage.

A special programme is offered to the accompanying persons of the delegates (partners, families and friends), including excursions, activities and guided tours in order to live and discover the Adamello Brenta Nature Geopark in its entirety during the Conference, from 11th to 14th September.

For those who would like to take the advantage of the journey to Italy and have the possibility to move up or extend their stay, Pre and Post Conference Tour are organized together with the Italian Geoparks, where it will be possible to visit and admire the geological, natural and



◆ Fossil(Photo by F.Velo)

cultural heritage of Italy and its main cities.

For more information: www.ggn2018.com

Come and visit the Adamello Brenta UNESCO Global Geopark and participate in the 8th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks in September 2018 to find out the secrets of the Earth's history and live the Italian natural and cultural heritage!

Vajolet Masè

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◆ Mountain Huts(Photo by A.Cotti)



MADONNA DI
CAMPIGLIO
 PINZOLO VAL RENDENA
 TOP DOLOMITES

TRENTINO



ADAMELLO BRENTA GEOPARK
 Madonna di Campiglio - Italy

8th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
 ON **UNESCO** GLOBAL GEOPARKS

8-14 SEPTEMBER 2018

www.ggn2018.com



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