



GGN 2010 ISSUE 2 Newsletter

<http://www.globalgeopark.org>

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Eleven sites added to global Geoparks Network

Source: UNESCO website

During the 9th European Geoparks Conference on the island of Lesbos (Greece) from 1 to 5 October, the Global Geoparks Network Bureau admitted 11 new members in nine countries. The Global Network of National Geoparks, created under the aegis of UNESCO in 2004, now comprises 77 Geoparks in 24 countries around the world.

The new members are:

Basque Coast, Gipuzkoa, Euskadi/País Vasco, Spain
In northwest Spain close to the French/Spanish border, the Geopark highlights a unique relationship between geological, natural and cultural heritage. The coastal cliffs and spectacular abrasion platforms of the Cantabrian Coast are bordered by a mountainous landscape rising to heights of 1000 m. A long cultural history is represented by cave paintings and shamanistic artefacts and a magnificent Gothic church, Santa Maria la Real, in Deba.

Dong Van Karst Plateau, Ha Giang province, Vietnam
Located in northernmost Vietnam, the Geopark's karst limestone landscape and geological diversity are combined with a rich cultural heritage. The Geopark will bring real and sustainable development to a very remote and economically deprived area.

Jeju Island, Republic of Korea
About 100 km south of the Korean Peninsula, the volcanic island has a vibrant economy based largely on tourism and several well preserved geosites of world importance.



Jeju Island

Thanks for reading this newsletter:

You are receiving this newsletter as you have expressed an interest in suggestions for the next issue, please feel free to contact:

Office of the Global Geoparks Network (supported by UNESCO and MLR of China)

Address: 64, Funeidajie, Beijing, 100812, P.R.China

Tel: +86-10-66558777 66558778

Fax: +86-10-66558613

Email: luo_tuanjie@hotmail.com

Website: www.globalgeopark.org



Leye Tiankeng, photo by Luo Tuanjie



Leye-Fengshan, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, People's Republic of China

Located in southwest China, the Geopark is characterized by numerous karst features: large subterranean rivers, karst windows, natural bridges, extensive cave systems, etc. The most representative landscape features are a number of large depressions, the Tiankengs, with nearly vertical walls and a depth and diameter typically more than 100 m each. The Geopark's value for geo-science, geo-tourism and development is exceptional.

Ningde, Fujian, People's Republic of China

The Geopark showcases rock and water interaction present in gigantic rock erosion shapes and impressive



Ningde Geopark

landscape phenomena.

Cilento and Vallo di Diano, Campania, Italy

Set in the Apennine mountains, the Geopark offers rich geological diversity and outstanding sites of mountainous landscapes, cave formations and coastal features. The landscape, rich fertile soils and an impressive record of culture and tradition give this Geopark major geotouristic potential.

Rokua, Northern Ostrobothnia and Kainuu Regions, Finland

The northernmost Geopark of the network, not far from the Arctic Circle, is a unique combination of northern hemisphere geology, nature and culture. Its characteristic features are the landforms shaped by the Ice Age: glacial ridges, pine and lichen-clad heaths, kettle holes and small ponds filled with crystal clear water. In addition, the area tells the story of prehistoric human settlement.

San'in Kaigan, Honshu, Japan
Inside a National Park on Honshu Island, this Geopark is a successful

example of integrating geological heritage and local development. Together its beautiful coastal features - sand dunes, beaches for sea bathing, hot spring resorts and marine resources - have created a tourist industry, which has become a pillar of the area's economy.



Stonehammer, New Brunswick, Canada

Located on Canada's east coast, this Geopark is the birth place of geological research in Canada. Moreover, geology is fully integrated into residents' daily life. Community participation and cooperation programmes with numerous leisure and tourism initiatives around geological heritage and landscape connect the local population with the economy and tourism sectors.

Tuscan Mining Park, Tuscany, Italy

The Geopark coincides with the Colline Metallifere (Metalliferous Hills), most important mining district in central Italy. It embraces coastal to mountainous landscapes and occupies a strategic position between the main cultural and artistic cities of Tuscany and some important seaside tourist centres.

Vikos-Aoos, Ioannina, Greece

The Geopark covers an area of unspoiled panoramic mountainous landscape including the most impressive gorges in northwestern Greece, Vikos and Aoos. The Geopark has high geological diversity and an exceptional variety of natural habitats, ranging from lowland to Alpine landscape. The Geopark's management consortium is responsible for a sustainable tourist industry in which local communities are integrated.

All Members list as of October 2010

Australia (1)

Kanawinka Geopark

Austria (1)

Nature Park Eisenwurzen

Brazil (1)

Araripe Geopark

PR China (24)

Alxa Geopark

Danxiashan Geopark

Fangshan Geopark

Funiushan Geopark

Hexigten Geopark

Huangshan Geopark

Jingpohu Geopark

Leiqiong Geopark

Leye Fengshan Geopark

Longhushan Geopark

Mount Lushan Geopark

Mount Taishan Geopark

Ningde Geopark

Qinling Geopark

Songshan Geopark

Stone Forest Geopark

Taining Geopark

Wangwushan-Daimeishan Geopark

Wudalianchi Geopark

Xingwen Geopark

Yandangshan Geopark

Yuntaishan Geopark

Zhangjiajie Sandstone Peak Forest Geopark

Zigong Geopark

Canada(1)

Stonehammer Geopark

Croatia(1)

Papuk Geopark

Czech Republic(1)

Bohemian Paradise Geopark

Finland(1)

Rokua Geopark

France(2)

Park Naturel Régional du Luberon

Reserve Géologique de Haute Provence

Germany(5)

Geopark Bergstrasse - Odenwald

Geopark Harz Braunschweiger Land Ostfalen

Geopark Swabian Albs

Nature park Terra Vita

Vulkaneifel Geopark

Greece(4)

Petrified Forest of Lesvos

Psiloritis Natural Park

Chelmos-Vouraikos Geopark

Vikos – Aaos Geopark

Hungary-Slovakia(1)

Novohrad-Nograd geopark

Iran(1)

Qeshm Geopark

Italy(7)

Madonie Natural Park

Parco del Beigua

Geological and Mining Park of Sardinia

Adamello Brenta Geopark

Rocca Di Cerere Geopark

Parco Nazionale del Cilento e Vallo di Diano

Tuscan Mining Park

Japan(4)

- Itoigawa Geopark
- Toya Caldera and Usu Volcano Geopark
- Unzen Volcanic Geopark
- San'in Kaigan Geopark

Korea(1)

- Jeju Island Geopark

Malaysia(1)

- Langkawi Geopark

Norway(2)

- Gea-Norvegica Geopark
- Magma Geopark

Portugal(2)

- Naturtejo Geopark
- Arouca Geopark

Republic of Ireland(2)

- Copper Coast Geopark
- North West Highlands Geopark

Rumania(1)

- Hateg Country Dinosaur Geopark

Spain(5)

- Cabo de Gata Natural Park
- Maestrazgo Cultural Park
- Sobrarbe Geopark
- Subeticas Geopark
- Basque Coast Geopark

United Kingdom(7)

- Forest Fawr Geopark – Wales
- Marble Arch Caves & Cuilcagh Mountain Park – Northern Ireland
- North Pennines AONB Geopark
- Lochaber Geopark – Scotland
- English Riviera Geopark
- Geo Mon– Wales
- Shetland Geopark - Scotland

Vietnam(1)

- Dong Van Karst Plateau Geopark



4th International UNESCO Conference on Geoparks was held in Langkawi

"The natural way forward"--the 4th International UNESCO Conference on Geoparks was held in Langkawi from April 12-15, 2010.

The conference aims to provide a best platform for researchers and planners to discuss the relevancy of geopark concept as the best way in pursuing holistic regional sustainable development. Participation was overwhelming with around 430 delegates from 27 countries from every continent attend the conference and discussed geotourism, management, governing and policy-issues as they apply to Geoparks.

The five days conference successfully ended with The Langkawi Declaration 2010.



THE LANGKAWI DECLARATION

The 4th International UNESCO Conference on Geoparks was held from April 12 – 15 2010 in Langkawi Global Geopark, Kedah, Malaysia, and attended by 408 delegates from 27 countries. After deliberation, the delegates hereby affirm that:

1. The philosophy and vision of geoparks provide a balance between conservation of heritage, local socio-economic development and local community empowerment. Thus geopark is an effective and practical tool for regional sustainable development.

2. Geoparks emphasize on having effective governance system in the form of co-management and stakeholders' collaborative management

3. Successful and high quality geoparks development requires all stakeholders' awareness, understanding, and appreciation of the vision as well as their support towards the activities of geopark. This can only be achieved through continuous capacity-building at various levels.

4. Public education and communication of geopark for all and not for geologists only.

This require the translating of scientific

knowledge for simple public information through various media.

5. Geopark will not have its soul if the local communities are not involved. Empowering them will increase their sense of ownership to conserve their resources whilst improving their quality of life.

6. Detailed scientific knowledge will not only increase the heritage value of a geosite, but also encourage sustainable resource utilization. This will include other natural and cultural resources within the geopark.

7. The success of any geoparks is highly associated with its ability to network at local, national, regional and global levels. Sharing experiences and best management practices among geoparks will allow each geopark to be developed to its highest potential.

8. Need to respect the use of the term and safeguard the reputation of 'geopark' to ensure that it reflects quality in all aspects of its heritage, products and services.

Langkawi Global Geopark, Malaysia
14 April 2010

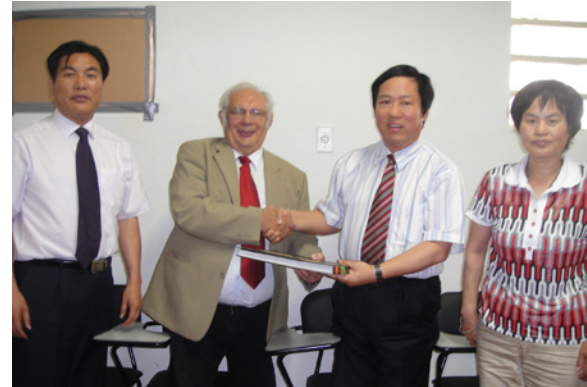
Friendship established between Wangwushan-Daimeishan Geopark and Geopark Araripe



On June 4, the Wangwushan-Daimeishan Global Geopark dispatched its representatives to the Geopark Araripe and then concluded a friendship agreement with it.

The Geopark Araripe is located in the sedimentary territory of southern Ceará, Brazil. With the area of 148,000 km² and the population of 6,800,000, the Ceará is near the equator, close to the Atlantic. It is the nearest point of Brazil to both Europe and North America. Covering about 5,000 km² in Ceará, the Geopark was founded in response to the proposal of the Science, Technology and Higher Education Secretariat of Ceará and the coordination of the Kariri Local University. The Geopark joined the Global Geoparks Network in December 2005. It is well-known mainly for ancient fossils.

After the two geoparks establish friendship, they will boost their friendly communication and cooperation; co-launch irregular programs to promote tourism; invite the management, personnel of tourism authority and academic specialists of the opposing party at an appropriate time to publicize each other, enlarge the brand influence of both parties



and accelerate the development of tourism economy of both parties; learn the management mode and experience from each other and use them for reference; conduct the research in education and geosciences; and exploit the talents of existing professionals to actively increase the educational publicity and conserve their valued geoh heritage.

