



Tianzhushan UNESCO Global Geopark, China



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CONTENTS

Geo Tourism

- The New TERRA.track Hiking Trail Network – An Incidental Way to Strengthen Resilience2
- The 10th Ningde Global Geopark Culture and Tourism Festival was Held in Fu'an City5
- Xiangxi Global Geopark Museum Realizes Intelligent Tour Guide7

Management and Geo-Conservation

- Idrija Geopark Visitor Centre - a Place for Activities and Events8
- Tianzhushan UGGp Takes Measures to Protect Ancient and Famous Trees10
- Online Educational Programs of Terras de Cavaleiros UGGp12
- “Geopark Ambassador Club” Model in Non nuoc Cao Bang UGGp13

Promotion and Communication

- Huangshan UGGp Together with Other Geoparks Established
the Forum on UNESCO Multi-designations Sites18
- APGN Online Exchange Activities during the COVID-19 Pandemic19

Forum and Training Course

- 2020 Forum on Volcanic Rocks and Geoparks in Volcanic Areas21
- Report of the 6th Beijing International Training Course on UNESCO Global Geoparks Management and
Development, 202023

The New TERRA.track Hiking Trail Network - An Incidental Way to Strengthen Resilience

TERRA.vita UNESCO Global Geopark, Germany

Upon completion of the masterplan “Hiking” in the end of 2020, the TERRA.vita UNESCO Global Geopark (UGGp) has introduced 82 new hiking trails with a total length of 700 km – the TERRA.tracks. The trails are oriented towards geologic highlights and lead through natural and cultural landscapes, idyllic villages, and medieval castles. They were defined and signposted by TERRA.vita in close cooperation with local authorities, foresters, forest owners, local associations, and numerous volunteers. The program is financed by the municipalities via an annual care levy. The entire project was launched in 2014 with a financial support from the Osnabrück County, the local foundation “Stiftung der Sparkassen im Landkreis Osnabrück”, and the Office of Regional Development Weser-Ems.

Each track, 3 to 19 km long, is repeated with guideposts, colored markings on trees and road signs. Additionally, more than 120 map panels have been installed close to bus stops and at parking sites for hikers. All way markers and panels were designed according to the TERRA.vita’s corporate identity design. Benches and roofed shelters, which are made of weather-resistant recycling plastic and solid wood, respectively, invite hikers to have

a picnic. In order to preserve the infrastructure of the tracks, the TERRA.vita UGGp manages a maintenance program that involves professional service providers and volunteer hiking sponsors.

Apart from using map leaflets and hiking magazines, the latter are available in local supermarkets and kiosks, hikers can plan their hiking trips in a digital tour planner on the website of the Geopark. In future, the Geopark is planning to fill the TERRA.tracks with life. This will be achieved through the implementation of classical education and explorer trail stations and a new geogame app. The latter is currently under development as part of the EUREGIO INTERREG joint project with the De Hondsrug UGGp, Netherlands.

The supra-regional marketing of the TERRA.tracks will boost sustainable tourism in the region, and this will in particular benefit small towns. Above all, the number of visitors from the Netherlands, for whom the TERRA.vita Geopark offers geographically closest mountain ranges, is expected to increase. Furthermore, the implementation of the TERRA.tracks improves nature protection. Specifically, these new tracks are based on a previously existing network of chaotic, mostly unmarked and unmaintained paths with a

total length of approximately 1,500 km. The old paths led partially through sensitive nature reserves and ecologically critical areas according to the EU Habitat Directive. Rerouting and signposting the paths within the the TERRA.tracks project have enabled these valuable ecosystems to be better protected.

It was a stroke of luck that the majority of the TERRA.tracks had already been completed by the time when the Covid-19 pandemic started. The hiking trails were congested with visitors during lockdown periods in many Geoparks. Thanks to the TERRA.tracks, hikers stay on the defined routes, outside sensitive protected areas and away from geologically dangerous sites such as steep quarry rock walls. In this regard, the new hiking track network incidentally enhances the resilience of the Geopark area.



Within the TERRA.tracks, hikers walk mostly along natural paths. Paved paths (e.g. with gravel), like this road on the photo, are less common, whilst asphalt roads constitute a small fraction. The road signs and guideposts are designed according to the Geopark’s corporate design (photography: Dirk Wichmann).



The TERRA.tracks feature regular resting spots mostly at geologic highlights. This shelter is located at the “TERRA.track Wacholderhain” and provides a beautiful view over the Herdemann sand pit. The cross-bedded and drifted sand of the sand pit was deposited during and after the second last cold stage of the Quaternary ice age (photography: Hartwig Wachsmann).



The “TERRA.track Venner Moorpfad” runs through a moor area and, as you can see on the photo, is very well accepted by the local bird community (photography: Erhard Frost).



The "TERRA.track Hollager Berg" leads through the inactive Middelberg quarry at the Hollage Hill, which exposes calcitic limestones, dolomites and fossils indicating a sabkha environment during the Mid-Triassic age. Visitors get geologic information at the quarry via an information panel (photography: Tobias Fischer).



Make hikers smiling – The "T" denotes the TERRA. tracks on trees. The paint is environmentally friendly (photography: Tobias Fischer).



Map panels in two languages give hikers an overview of local tracks at parking sites for hikers and close to bus stops (photography: Ingmar Bojes).

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The opening ceremony

The 10th Ningde Global Geopark Culture & Tourism Festival was Held in Fu'an City

The 10th Ningde Global Geopark Culture and Tourism Festival was held in Fu'an city from October 20th to 22th, 2020. It consists of 12 activities, including an opening ceremony, displays of intangible cultural heritage of folk custom, tasting of local flavor, a sales exhibition

of cultural tourism products, a market investment promotion of Ningde culture and tourism, a Ningde UGGp brand promotion meeting, etc.

The 10th Ningde Global Geopark Culture and Tourism Festival has given top priority to the sustainable utilization of

cultural and natural landscape resources in Ningde UGGp, and devoted to improve the integration and development of culture and tourism, in order to make contribution to the recovery of culture and tourism industries in post-pandemic period.

2020 Ningde UGGp



◆ Displaying of intangible cultural heritage of folk custom

Symposium was held during the festival. Yunming Wu, the deputy mayor of Ningde municipal city, and Binjie Zhang, the deputy mayor of Fu'an city, attended the symposium and delivered welcoming speeches. Zemin Xiao, the director of Ningde Forestry Bureau, hosted the meeting. This symposium attracted more than 100 participants, including leaders, experts, scholars and representatives from universities, institutes, and other geoparks in China. A signing ceremony was held during the symposium. Ningde UGGp tied sister geopark relationships respectively with Alxa Desert UGGp, Huanggang Dabieshan UGGp and Longyan Geopark.

Ningde UGGp



◆ Prof. Tian Mingzhong was making a presentation on the revalidation of UGGp



◆ Ningde UGGp tied a sister geopark relationship with Alxa Desert UGGp

Xiangxi Global Geopark Museum Realizes Intelligent Tour Guide



Xiangxi UNESCO Global Geopark, China

Recently, with installation of the intelligent tour guide system of Ethnic Culture Sites in Xiangxi, Xiangxi Global Geopark Museum has stepped in the age of intelligent travelling, realizing the goal of visiting the museum with a smartphone.

Located in Furong Town, Yongshun County, Hunan Province, Xiangxi Global Geopark Museum covers a total floor area of 4,876 m². It is composed of nine halls, such as GSSPs, Red Stone Forest, Mineral Resources, History and Culture. More than 200 paleontological and Paleolithic specimens, as well as cultural items are displayed in the exhibition halls, these exhibits are designed to showcase the formation and characteristics of karst landforms in Xiangxi, the geological landscapes, the local ethnic culture and biodiversity of Xiangxi. Therefore, it is considered a key popular science education base for people.

“It is inconvenient to visit the museum without interpretation of tour guide before, especially the things about geology, now, we can make a visit by ourselves and scan QR code of the related items in the museum, through the system, visitors will get the available information on their smartphones,” Mrs. Qin, a local resident, said. Instead of the service of tour guide, the installation of intelligent tour guide system apparently improves satisfaction of tourists, who can scan the relevant QR code and

hear the interpretation with a smartphone.

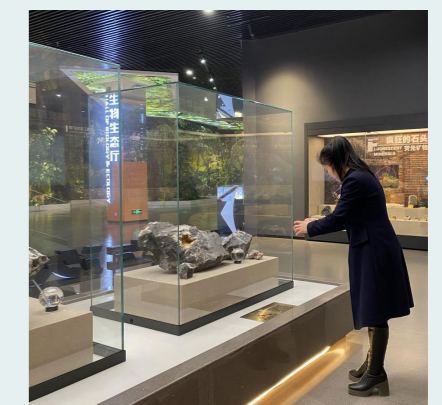
“The intelligent tour guide system, which presents audios, videos, pictures and texts to visitors with internet techniques, meets people’s need for self-service visit, prompting the popular science education more intelligent,” said one of the managers of the museum.

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◆ The fossil specimens installed with intelligent guide panel



◆ Visitor scans the QR code and gets the available information



Idrija Geopark Visitor Centre - a Place for Activities and Events

Idrija UNESCO Global Geopark, Slovenia

Idrija UNESCO Global Geopark Visitor Centre has been opened for a year and a half, with its main purpose to present the geological history of our region and serve as a starting point for visiting attractions in our geopark. But this is not the only use of our centre – it is not just a place of geological education, but also a great venue for various activities and events. The centre, located

in the old town centre of Idrija, it is easily accessible and shares this location with the Idrija tourist information office and a souvenir and Idrija Selected trademark shop, so it represents a junction for both locals and visitors.

In the past year, we have hosted several events at the centre. As coordinators and promoters of the Idrija Selected collective trademark, we

organized catering events of local culinary products that carry the Idrija Selected trademark quality certificate. The tastings were organized as part of the tourist programmes, educational events, seminars or as individual events. We pilot tested several new tourist programmes in 2020, where visiting the Idrija Geopark Visitor centre exhibition was one of the main activities,



◆ A round table at the Visitor Centre (Photography: Mojca G. Kavčič)



◆ Idrija Selected tasting (Photography: Urška B. Rupnik)



◆ Children exploring the geological exhibition (Photography: Bojan Tavčar)

accompanied by food delicacy tasting.

Our Visitor centre is also a great place for children's workshops. During the European heritage days in September 2020, we successfully hosted an animation workshop for children, which took place in the exhibition area of the centre. Children became acquainted with the geological history of Idrija and created a "stop-motion" animated video about the Idrija fault and earthquakes in this area. The workshop was a great success and our youngest visitors were very curious about everything at the Visitor centre exhibition. In this way, geological knowledge is passed down in an indirect and unobtrusive way, children are taught through the use of workshops and also the Visitor centre themes at the same time,



◆ Stop motion animation workshop for children (Photography: Mojca G. Kavčič)

and then our exhibition becomes a place of fun and learning.

Another interesting event took place last year. We were contacted by the Austrian artist Johanna Kandl, who explores traditional (natural) painting materials, especially pigments used in creating art. She asked us for help in gathering

information about how cinnabar (a mercury sulfide of a bright red color used to create the vermilion pigment) was once produced in Idrija, and what that meant for the community and the environment. We organized a group discussion with former mercury mine workers, various experts and the guest artist. It was a really interesting and educational experience, and the Visitor centre exhibition's atmosphere added some extra charm to the whole event.

As you see, a well-situated and designed Visitor centre can have many uses, aside from presenting the Geopark's characteristics and attractions. It can be a great place for different activities, such as meetings, workshops, seminars, and tastings. Everybody who visits the centre and the exhibition for this or other reasons, also gets drawn by the information a place offers. In such a way, geological topics, which are often hard to explain, are represented and promoted in an unobtrusive manner, getting more attention among visitors and event participants.

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Tianzhushan UGGp Takes Measures to Protect Ancient and Famous Trees

Tianzhushan UNESCO Global Geopark, China

Ancient trees are important natural, historical and cultural heritages with extremely important ecological, cultural and social values, known as living cultural relics. Tianzhushan UNESCO Global Geopark has taken multiple measures to strengthen the protection and management of ancient and famous trees, to promote the identification and listing of ancient and famous trees in an orderly manner, and to actively strengthen publicity, management, protection and

scientific utilization. The first measure is to conduct basic investigations. According to statistics, 160 trees of 23 species and 14 families can be included in the ancient tree protection list in Tianzhushan (excluding the ancient tree group). Among them, *Pinus taiwanensis* has the largest number of 94. *Liquidambar formosana*, *Celtis sinensis* and *Sabina chinensis* can also be found in Tianzhushan UGGp. There are 4 first-grade ancient trees of 4 species, 15 second-grade ancient trees of 8 species,

and 141 third-grade ancient trees of 20 species. The second is to improve the interpretation system. Recently, visitors to Tianzhushan UNESCO Global Geopark have found that many towering trees have new identity cards. Tianzhushan UGGp has upgraded its plant signage system. The new signage takes the owl as the background and expresses the theme of harmonious coexistence of animals and plants. Pinyin and QR code information have been added. At the same time,

explanatory boards about water system, vegetation distribution, rare and endangered plants and key protected plants have been set up on the important platforms. The third is to carry out research on ancient and famous tree. Tianzhushan UGGp has cooperated with Anhui University and Anqing Normal University to carry out research on ancient and famous tree protection projects. In recent years, a number of research topics have been carried out, and the next step is to plan to carry out research

on the water use mechanism of *Pinus taiwanensis*. The fourth is scientific protection. Ancient and famous tree protection experts from Anhui Province were invited to formulate protection policies. The protection concept of "one tree, one policy" has been practiced, and the protection measures of "daily protection, regular monitoring, expert consultation, emergency response, and scientific management and protection" have been standardized and implemented. A biological

protection system has been set up, and scientific research and monitoring activities related to biodiversity conservation have been continuously carried out. Ancient and famous trees databases and archives have been set up on the Wisdom Tianzhushan platform to check and evaluate the growth of ancient and famous trees on a regular basis.

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◆ *Pinus taiwanensis* Group (Photography: Wang Lixin)



◆ Installing the Explanatory Board

◆ Explanatory Board

Online Educational Programs of Terras de Cavaleiros UGGp

Terras de Cavaleiros UNESCO Global Geopark, Portugal

In face of the public health emergency, of global impact, represented by the new outbreak of COVID-19, the Geoparks should take advantage of it to review its resiliency strategies.

In response, the Terras de Cavaleiros UNESCO Global Geopark has developed some actions in order to minimize the impact of this pandemic crisis in the territory. This way, it tried to conciliate the new technologies with the new learning process. One of the ideas put into practice was the creation of virtual classes where themes related to the territory were addressed and an instructive guide was previously given to the students. The Terras de Cavaleiros UNESCO Global Geopark offers three online programmes: “Mineral Resources/ Ecosystem Services and its importance in the society”; “Faults and Landform types”; “Ophiolite – Monte de Morais – Exotic Rocks”.

The program “Mineral Resources/ Ecosystem Services and their importance in the society” is presented to the students based on the exhibition of the Interpretive Centre of the Geopark. In this program the students observe examples of mineral resources and its practical application day by day, reinforcing the importance that mineral resources have in society.

The second educational proposal is based on one of the Interpretive Centre spaces focused on geology

and landform types where a three-dimensional table is available, highlighting the main landforms. Through this resource, the students can understand the importance that geology (faults) has in the landforms.

Finally, the third educational proposal is centered on the geological rareness - Ophiolite – Monte de Morais that exists in the Terras de Cavaleiros UNESCO Global Geopark. This program explains the history and the geological process of this Geopark, highlighting this way, the rocks and the endemic flora that exist in Monte de Morais.

Therefore, the Terras de Cavaleiros UNESCO Global Geopark continues the learning process, reinforcing one of the principles of UNESCO, Geoeducation.

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Geo Education and Science Poularization Terras de Cavaleiros UGGp Portugal

“Geopark Ambassador Club” Model in Non nuoc Cao Bang UGGp

Cao Bang UNESCO Global Geopark, Viet Nam

Global Geopark is a title recognized by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. In order to become an UNESCO Global Geopark, potential geoparks have to meet UNESCO's criteria such as: having a defined boundary, geological heritages of international significance, management and networking, particularly geopark education for schools.

Non nuoc Cao Bang was designated as a UNESCO Global Geopark in April 2018 with 6 recommendations which need to be improved for further revalidation of the geopark. Geopark education in schools is one of the 6 recommendations.

Since its establishment, Non nuoc Cao Bang UGGp has always paid attention to promoting awareness of the global geopark for communities, especially for the young generations because we understand clearly that the



The core teachers in charge of “Geopark ambassador clubs” joined field experience survey trips to Nguom Boc geosite and Ban Gioc waterfall as a part of the Training of trainers organized by the Geopark.

geopark's development requires the active involvement of the communities. For the evolution of the development of Non nuoc Cao Bang UGGp, Non nuoc Cao Bang UGGp Management Board proposed the Provincial People's Committee to issue a development plan for Non nuoc Cao Bang Geopark, including the tasks for related departments, especially Cao Bang Department of Education and Training in the implementation of the geopark education in schools. This proposal was concretized by the joint Plan No.63/KH-SVHTTDL-SGD&DT on promotion and education about Non nuoc Cao Bang UGGp in schools between Cao Bang Department of Culture, Sports and Tourism and Cao Bang Department of Education and Training. According to the Plan, from the school year 2017 to 2019, all schools of 3 levels in Cao Bang (primary, secondary and high schools) organized education and communication programs about Non nuoc Cao Bang UGGp with diverse forms suitable with different school levels, strengthening the cooperation with stakeholders to ensure quality and effectiveness of education activities. Geopark education contents cover the following information: the



Members of "Geopark ambassador clubs" of piloted secondary schools at Nguom Slua Geosite and Pac Bo national special monument.

development process of Non nuoc Cao Bang UGGp, tangible and intangible heritages, geological and geomorphologic heritages, etc. Moreover, students have learnt about Non nuoc Cao Bang UGGp in Local History and Geography lessons under the form of integrated learning. It is the fact that the geopark education in schools in the period 2017-2019 has achieved certain results, especially, in the promotion of the UNESCO Global Geopark label to school students

in Non nuoc Cao Bang geopark area. However, there still exists some problems related to the implementation of the geopark education in accordance with the Plan No.63/KH-SVHTTDL-SGD&DT and the geopark education in this period. There were some certain problems during the implementation of geopark education activities at schools in this period; especially, the teachers and students found it challenging because the contents related to the geopark education of Non nuoc Cao Bang UGGp were rather not really popular to them. The Summary Report of

Plan No.63/KH-SVHTTDL-SGD&DT also indicated that 100 percent of schools carried out communication programs about the geopark; however, the contents conveyed to the students and the forms of propaganda activities were limited (100% of schools organized extracurricular sessions).

With the objective to solve the problems in the geopark education in schools, the Management Board of Non nuoc Cao Bang UGGp has researched and studied some activities and methodologies related to geopark education in schools and advised Cao Bang Provincial People's Committee to mobilize "Geopark ambassador club" for the evolution of the geopark education activity. This activity aimed at developing a group of students (with a passion for exploring culture, history,



Members of Hoa Chung secondary school's "Geopark ambassador club" presented pictures of heritage sites in Non nuoc Cao Bang UGGp in an extracurricular session

geology, biology, and adequate English competence) to study about the geopark under the guidance of Non nuoc Cao Bang UGGp Management Board and geological experts. Basing on document research and their knowledge, the club members organized communication activities to introduce the geopark's heritage values to other students. In order to launch the implementation of this club

model, Non nuoc Cao Bang Management Board in collaboration with Cao Bang Department of Education and Training studied and developed 2 documents: the Operational guiding document and the framework document for the implementation of the "Geopark ambassador club" model. After finalizing these 2 documents, the Management Board of Non nuoc Cao Bang UGGp cooperated with Cao Bang Department



Communication activities organized by "Geopark ambassador club" members at Cao Bang High school for gifted students and Cao Bang city high school



of Education and Training to organize field learning trips to take the teachers in charge of the “Geopark ambassador club” of 6 piloted schools (3 high schools and 3 secondary schools) to experience heritage sites of 3 experience routes.

After the field learning trips, a training of trainer (ToT) course was organized with the objective to help the teachers in management, operation of the club model and support students in the implementation of the club activities. On that basis, the piloted schools established “Geopark ambassador” clubs; under the guidance of the Management Board of Non nuoc Cao Bang UGGp developed participatory implementation plan, took the club members to experience heritage sites so that the club members could understand the meaning and role of building the UNESCO

Global Geopark model, the value of heritage sites in the geopark area, helped the club members develop teamwork, communication, and collecting information (pictures, clips) skills to serve the geopark propaganda and education activities for schools and in community.

The combination of researching documents and organizing field learning trips to heritage sites has improved the effectiveness of the geopark education in schools. The teachers in charge of the “Geopark ambassador” clubs at the piloted schools all agreed that “Geopark ambassador club” model is very practical and useful for their teaching and geopark communication activities at schools. Ms. Ha Thi Kim Anh - English Teacher - in charge of Hop Giang Secondary school’s “Geopark ambassador club” said that “This is a necessary and effective

activity. The implementation of the model is also convenient thanks to the operational guiding document, training courses on the club model implementation for teachers and students. It is the students who decide the forms and contents of geopark education propaganda activities. Through such activities, it is easy for other students to acquire information about the geopark, because the language used in communication activities is expressed through club members who are students of the same age and background knowledge as them; the propaganda activities are also more attractive to students because these activities are organized by the students. Especially, the students participating in the club have a chance to develop more skills like communication skills: taking pictures, reporting news, making propaganda clips,



Training of trainers (ToT) workshop for teachers involved in “Geopark ambassador club” of the piloted schools



Training course on the geopark for “Geopark ambassador club” members prior to field experiencing at heritage sites



Members of “Geopark ambassador club” of Cao Bang high school for gifted students and Cao Bang Ethnic minority boarding school practiced planning activities on geopark communication in schools



Workshop on sharing experience on geopark education through “Geopark ambassador club” with Dong Van Karst plateau, Ha Giang

teamwork, participatory club model implementation planning, etc”. Ms. Pham Thi Thanh Hien - Chemistry teacher of Hop Giang Secondary School shared that: “In addition to improving the effectiveness of the geopark education, the “Geopark ambassador club” model helps the students understand the subjects they learn at school more clearly and be able to relate what they have learnt at school with real life. For example, students can relate the knowledge they learn in Chemistry to explain the formation of karst caves; impacts of the use of chemicals in mining activities on the environment, etc. Moreover, the students

have opportunities to broaden socio-cultural and indigenous knowledge so that they are prouder of their homeland and actively contribute to the promotion of the province image to the world.”

“Geopark ambassador club” model is one of the initiatives that the Management Board of Non nuoc Cao Bang UGGp shared in the Vietnam Geoparks Network for implementation. We hope this initiative can work and help improve quality of geopark education in NNBUGGp and in Vietnam geopark network.

The geopark education has always played an important part in the development strategy of

Non nuoc Cao Bang UGGp. With the objective to promote the effectiveness of the geopark education in communities, especially the geopark education for schools and carrying out 6 recommendations of UNESCO for Non nuoc Cao Bang UGGp, the Management Board will continue to cooperate with Cao Bang Department of Education and Training to support “Geopark ambassador” clubs operate effectively, and actively share the implementing experience of the model within Vietnamese Geoparks Network.

Cao Bang UGGp

Huangshan UGGp Together with Other Geoparks Established the Forum on UNESCO Multi-designations Sites



Huangshan UNESCO Global Geopark, China

Huangshan UGGp has held an exchange meeting for integrated management of UNESCO multi-designations on December 13, 2020, at which the first Forum on UNESCO Multi-designations Sites was held. Shennongjia UGGp (China), Jeju Island UGGp (Korea) and Philippe Pypaert, programme specialist for natural sciences from UNESCO Beijing Cluster Office attended the forum and shared experience and suggestions on multi-designations management.



With the increasing influence

of UNESCO Global Geoparks, growing number of UGGps have been included also in the World Heritage list and/or World Biosphere Reserves.

There are many problems

in the management of multi-designations need to be address. In order to facilitate the integrated management, enhance management capacity of UGGps with multi-designations,



give better play to the value of UNESCO designations, and inspire more sites with similar conditions in the world, 6 geoparks jointly launched the forum. They are Huangshan UGGp (China), Shennongjia UGGp (China), Jeju Island UGGp (the Republic of Korea), Hantanjiang UGGp (the Republic of Korea), National Park of Cilento, Vallo di Diano e Alburni UGGp, Azores UGGp (Portugal).

In the past three months, Huangshan UGGp has held several online meetings with Cilento UGGp, Jeju Island UGGp and Shennongjia UGGp, having in-depth exchanges on issues related to integrated management. And Philippe Pypaert put forward valuable suggestions on the establishment of the forum and the compilation of the forum's guideline.

Next, forum members will further discuss the guideline and share their management experience. We are looking forward to more multi-designations UGGps joining us. If you are interested, please contact us: chinahsgeopark@163.com.

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APGN Online Exchange Activities during the COVID-19 Pandemic

Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark, China

To maintain international exchanges and collaboration during the COVID-19 pandemic, Hong Kong Geopark has actively explored the possibility of applying internet technology for online exchanges when face-to-face communication is not possible.

In the first quarter of 2020, Hong Kong Geopark launched "Let's Do It", an online exchange meeting, which engages members of the Asia Pacific Geoparks Network (APGN) and invited speakers from other geoparks and networks. Exchange sessions of about one hour were held every month to share news, ideas and work progress, including COVID-19 updates, approaches

to combating the pandemic, and how to conduct geopark operations during this period. There have been some challenges to making the online

exchange platform work. For example, certain popular web-conferencing software programs are restricted in some countries and regions, and unreliable network stability and slow data transmission speed affect picture and voice quality. The multiple languages involved are also a hurdle.

To overcome these hurdles, the following measures were adopted:

- Hong Kong Geopark started a group on mobile communication media software (smartphone messaging apps, like LINE). APGN geoparks interested in online exchange sessions were invited to join the group.
- Prior to every meeting, we discussed the meeting date and time, discussion topics and detailed arrangements to identify the best options.
- During the meeting,

volunteers from the various geoparks were on hand to provide simultaneous voice interpretation or translation of text-based exchanges in the chat room.

- After each meeting, valuable reference materials were uploaded to a cloud drive for sharing, and one-on-one chats were arranged to provide further details.

Despite the challenges, many APGN geoparks have participated with great enthusiasm and helped us solve the various problems. To date, we have held more than 10 online exchange meetings.

With the experience gained from the online exchanges, APGN's "Let's Do It" group joined the 6th International

Training Course on UNESCO Global Geoparks Management and Development, held in Yimengshan UNESCO Global Geopark of China in December 2020. An English presentation on geopark visibility was delivered to participants live in a classroom and to other geopark colleagues online, with Chinese and Japanese interpretation provided by volunteer group members. This pioneering initiative broke language and geographical barriers, enabling some 140 participants from different countries to share valuable information in real time.

On another note, the APGN's social media platforms (e.g. Twitter and Instagram) have remained active since its launch in late 2019. During the

pandemic, in particular, social media has been an effective channel for publicising the latest geopark news and has played a positive role in promoting exchanges among APGN members.

The experience of maintaining networking activities during the pandemic through social media and online meetings has not only benefited us during this difficult period, but also strengthened our collaboration and solidarity, which will continue in the future.

APGN "Let's Do It" online exchange meeting with the participation of the Latin America and Caribbean Geoparks Network; exchange activities like this have become part of the new normal during the pandemic.



2020 Forum on Volcanic Rocks and Geoparks in Volcanic Areas

Yandangshan UNESCO Global Geopark, China

The "2020 Forum on Volcanic Rocks and Geoparks in Volcanic Areas" was held in Yandangshan UNESCO Global Geopark from 17 to 20 November, 2020. Over 60 delegates attended the forum. They were from Chinese Academy of Sciences, Chinese Academy of Geological Sciences, Nanjing University, Zhejiang University, University of Chinese Academy of Sciences, Chang'an University, Capital Normal University, Nanjing and Wuhan Branches of China Geological Survey, Leiqiong UGGp, Wudalianchi UGGp, Ningde UGGp, Jingpohu UGGp, Hexigten UGGp, Taining UGGp, Leye-Fengshan UGGp, and Jiuhuashan UGGp. APGN was one of the supporting organisations of the forum, and APGN Coordinator Prof. JIN Xiaochi, amongst others, addressing the opening ceremony.



◆ Prof JIN addressing the forum at the opening ceremony

This forum brought together professionals of magmatic rock studies and experts of geoparks in volcanic areas, sharing each other's ideas and achievements. Presentations from academic institutions demonstrated their recent results of studying late Mesozoic magmatic developments along the east Asian continent margin, where the Yandangshan and several other UGGps are located. These presentations provided the newest data for interpreting

the genesis of the geoheritage sites and related landscapes in these geoparks. Presentations of Leiqiong UGGp, Wudalianchi UGGp, Ningde UGGp, Jingpohu UGGp, and Hexigten UGGp showed their achievements in geoheritage protection and geopark management, and sustainable development of communities in volcanic areas. Scientific studies on geology and geomorphology of volcanic areas provided an excellent opportunity for integrating science



◆ Plaque presentation of “East China Mesozoic Volcanic Geological Research Centre” to Yandangshan Global Geopark

with local culture and history for the promotion of geotourism. Participants exchanged views on magmatic evolution, its petrogenesis, mantle and crustal processes, tectonic setting, and mineralization in the southeast coast of China, as well as the volcanic geology, landscape, and management of China’s global geoparks in volcanic area. Online presentations were also given by Professor Setsuya Nakata of National Research Institute for Earth Science and Disaster Resilience and Professor Joao Carlos Nunes of Azores University of Portugal. Post-forum excursion in the geopark allow attendees to visit the major geosites such as Lingfeng, Fangdong, Changyu Dongtian and Nanxijiang, and gave participants a better understanding of the volcano structure and geomorphology of Yandangshan UGGp.

At the opening ceremony, the Nanjing Branch of China Geological Survey awarded Yandangshan Global Geopark the plaque “East China Mesozoic Volcanic Geological Research Centre”, launching a long-term co-operation on study of Yandangshan’s geological heritage and geoscience popularisation.

During the forum, Hexigten Global Geopark submitted a



◆ Field excursion

membership application to the Secretariat of the Chinese Alliance of Geoparks in Volcanic Area, and was accepted as a member. In the meantime, it was decided that Wudalianchi UNESCO Global Geopark will host of the next forum.

Professor Wu Fuyuan of the Institute of Geology and Geophysics, CAS made conclusive remarks, who spoke highly of the achievements of the Forum and affirmed that it was a great initiative to bring together scholars of magmatic rock studies and geopark experts to share their ideas and experiences. Yandangshan will certainly continue to play a leading role in connecting geoparks in volcanic area, as well as encouraging and promoting researches on volcanos and volcanic rocks.

Report of the 6th Beijing International Training Course on UNESCO Global Geoparks Management and Development, 2020

Yimengshan UNESCO Global Geopark, China

The 6th Beijing International Training Course on UNESCO Global Geoparks was conducted during the period from 07 to 12 December 2020 in the Yimengshan UNESCO Global Geopark, Shandong, China, with the strong support of UNESCO Global Geoparks Secretariat, the Global Geoparks Network (GGN), the Asia Pacific Geoparks

Network (APGN), Department of Protected Area Management of National Forestry and Grassland Administration (NFGA), and the Chinese Commission for UNESCO. This course was jointly organized by China University of Geosciences Beijing (CUGB), Yimengshan UGGp, Office of Chinese Geoparks Network, Chinese Academy of Geological

Sciences (CAGS), with the contribution of University of the Aegean, Greece. More than 100 participants from UNESCO Global Geoparks, Aspiring UNESCO Global Geoparks, academic institutions, geopark developers and presses attended the course. The Training Course had a lecturer team of Prof. Nikolaos ZOUROS (GGN president, UGGp



◆ Group photo of participants

Council member, Greece), Dr. Guy MARTINI (UGGp Council chair, GGN secretary-general, France), Prof. ZHANG Jianping (UGGp Council vice-chair, GGN ExB member, China), Prof. JIN Xiaochi (GGN vice-president, APGN coordinator, China), Prof. Ibrahim KOMOO (GGN vice-president, APGN vice-coordinator, Malaysia), Dr. Marie-Luise FREY (GGN ExB and UGGp Council member, Germany), Ms. YUAN Xiaohong (Division Chief, Department of Protected Area Management, NFGA), Mr. Yuanyuan Zheng (CGN coordinator, China), Prof. ZHAO Zhizhong (CAGS), Dr. KM YEUNG (Hong Kong UGGp), Prof. TIAN Mingzhong (CUGB), and Prof. WU Fadong (CUGB).

In the morning of December 08, Dr. Kristof VANDENBERGHE (UNESCO Global Geoparks Secretariat), Dr. Guy MARTINI, Professor Nikolaos ZOUROS, Prof. JIN Xiaochi, Ms. YUAN



◆ Dr. Vandenberghe



◆ Prof. Zouros



◆ Dr. Martini



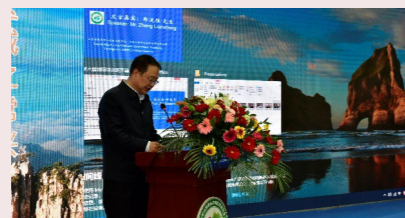
◆ Prof. Jin



◆ Ms. Yuan



◆ Mr. Ma Yan



◆ Mr. Zheng Liansheng



◆ Prof. Ma Junjie

Xiaohong, Mr. MA Yan (vice-president CAGS) and Mr. ZHENG Liansheng (Deputy Mayor of

Linyi City) and Prof. MA Junjie (Chairman CUGB) addressed the opening ceremony.

This training course consists of two parts, the first part (December 8-10) dedicated to the UNESCO Global Geoparks' philosophy, management, exchange and sustainable development; UGGp application, evaluation and revalidation processes; and the second part (December 11-12) focused on the Geopark



◆ Opening ceremony chaired by Prof Zhang



◆ Presentations and panel discussion

inspection and exchange, Geopark challenges and opportunities, Brand building and promotion, case studies.

Lectures in the first part include keys to building a successful Geopark, the basic knowledge of UNESCO Global Geoparks philosophy, statutes and operational guidelines, the criteria of UNESCO Global Geoparks, the Geoparks evaluation and revalidation procedures, operations of the Global Geoparks Network and Regional and National Geopark networks, the current situation and management of Chinese UGGps, experiences from Asia and Pacific region and Chinese Global Geoparks on the local community involvement, marketing and sustainable development, scientific research in geoparks, World Heritage Sites and UNESCO Global Geoparks, Geopark brand building and visibility promotion. The speakers clarified many global geopark

concepts and answered the participants' questions.

The second part focused on case analysis. Yimengshan, Shilin, Huangshan, Tianzhushan, Yanqing, Xiangxi, and Zhangye UGGps, as well as Longyan and Linxia aUGGps, shared their experiences and the challenges they face. Constructive comments and suggestions were given by the lecturers and the participants. Dr. Yeung's (Hong Kong UGGp) presentation on Geopark brand building and visibility promotion was also attended online by Japanese colleagues. There was good discussion afterwards via Zoom.

The excursion of the training course was organized on December 11, the International

Mountain Day. It started with the visit of Geopark museum of Yimengshan UGGp, and then other parts of the geopark. Participants exchanged ideas on geoheritage interpretation and geopark museum exhibition. The exciting moment of the excursion was celebrating the Mountain Day at the top of the Yimengshan (Yimeng Mountain). Specially prepared the posters and pictures were displayed. Of course there was also the shouting.

The training course was well received by the participants. Most of them found that the course helped clarify their understandings of UNESCO Global Geoparks and provided the solutions of their problems.

It is very encouraging that several UGGps expressed their willingness to co-host the next training courses in their Geoparks. After friendly discussion, a decision was made that the 7th International Training Course on UGGps Management and Development will be held in Zhangye UGGp in the last week of October, 2021.



◆ Participants celebrating International Mountain Day in the Geopark