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Chinese Geoparks Network

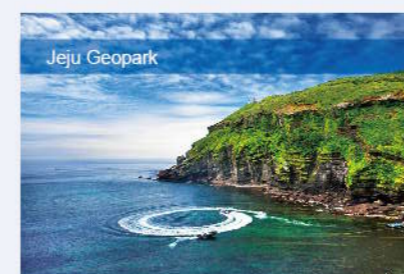
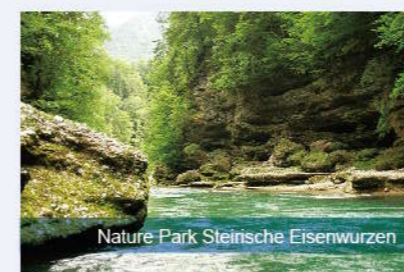
Address: 26 Baiwanzhuang Road, Beijing, 100037, P.R. China
Tel: +86-10-68999623
Fax: +86-10-68310894
Email: cgn@cags.ac.cn
Website: www.globalgeopark.org



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All GGN members list as of August 2014



- Austria**
 - Nature Park Eisenwurzen 2004
 - Carnic Alps Geopark 2012
- Brazil**
 - Araripe Geopark 2006
- Canada**
 - Stonehammer Geopark 2010
- China**
 - Huangshan Geopark 2004
 - Wudalianchi Geopark 2004
 - Lushan Geopark 2004
 - Yuntaishan Geopark 2004
 - Songshan Geopark 2004
 - Zhangjiajie Sandstone Peak Forest Geopark 2004
 - Danxiashan Geopark 2004
 - Stone Forest Geopark 2004
 - Hexigten Geopark 2005
 - Yandangshan Geopark 2005
 - Taining Geopark 2005
 - Xingwen Geopark 2005
 - Taishan Geopark 2006
 - Wangwushan-Daimeishan Geopark 2006
 - Funiushan Geopark 2006
 - Leiqiong Geopark 2006
 - Fangshan Geopark 2006
 - Jingpohu Geopark 2006
 - Longhushan Geopark 2008
 - Zigong Geopark 2008
 - Alxa Desert Geopark 2009
 - Qinling Zhongnanshan Geopark 2009
 - Leye-Fengshan Geopark 2010
 - Ningde Geopark 2010
 - Tianzhusan Geopark 2011
 - Hongkong Geopark 2011
 - Sanqingshan Geopark 2012
 - Shennongjia Geopark 2013
- Yanqing Geopark 2013
- Croatia**
 - Papuk Geopark 2007
- Czech Republic**
 - Bohemian Paradise Geopark 2005
- Finland**
 - Rokua Geopark 2010
- France**
 - Park Naturel Régional du Luberon 2004
 - Reserve Géologique de Haute Provence 2004
 - Bauges Geopark 2011
 - Chablais Geopark 2012
- Germany**
 - Nature park Terra Vita 2004
 - Geopark Bergstrasse - Odenwald 2004
 - Vulkaneifel Geopark 2004
 - Geopark Harz Braunschweiger Land Ostfalen 2005
 - Geopark Swabian Albs 2005
- Germany & Poland**
 - Muskau Arch Geopark 2011
- Greece**
 - Petrified Forest of Lesvos 2004
 - Psiloritis Natural Park 2004
 - Chelmos-Vouraikos Geopark 2009
 - Vikos-Aoos Geopark 2010
- Hungary**
 - Bakony-Balaton Global Geopark 2012
- Hungary & Slovakia**

- Novohrad-Nograd geopark 2010

Iceland

- Katla Geopark 2011

Indonesia

- Batur Global Geopark 2012

Ireland, Republic of & Northern Ireland

- Marble Arch Caves & Cuilcagh Mountain Park 2004

Ireland, Republic of

- Copper Coast Geopark 2004
- Burren and Cliffs of Moher Geopark 2011

Italy

- Madonie Natural Park 2004
- Parco del Beigua 2005
- Geological and Mining Park of Sardinia 2007
- Rocca Di Cerere Geopark 2008
- Adamello Brenta Geopark 2008
- Parco Nazionale del Cilento e Vallo di Diano Geopark 2010
- Tuscan Mining Park 2010
- Apuan Alps Geopark 2011
- Sesia-Val Grande Geopark 2013

Japan

- Toya Caldera and Usu Volcano Geopark 2009
- Itoigawa Geopark 2009
- Unzen Volcanic Geopark 2009
- San'in Kaigan Geopark 2010
- Muroto Geopark 2011
- Oki island Geopark 2013

Korea

- Jeju Island Geopark 2010

Malaysia

- Langkawi Island Geopark 2007

Netherlands

- Honsrug Geopark 2013

Norway

- Gea-Norvegica Geopark 2006
- Magma Geopark 2010

Portugal

- Naturtejo Geopark 2006
- Arouca Geopark 2009
- Azores Geopark 2013

Rumania

- Hateg Country Dinosaur Geopark 2005

Slovenia

- Idrija Geopark 2013

Slovenia & Austria

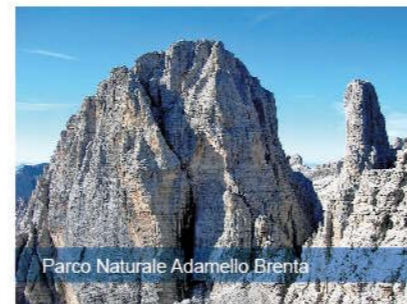
- Karavanke/Karawanken Geopark 2013

Spain

- Maestrazgo Cultural Park 2004
- Cabo de Gata-Nijar Geopark 2006
- Sobrarbe Geopark 2006
- Subeticas Geopark 2006
- Basque Coast Geopark 2010
- Villuercas Ibores Jara Geopark 2011
- Sierra Norte di Sevilla, Andalusia 2011
- Central Catalonia Geopark 2012

Turkey

- Kula Volcanic Geopark 2013



United Kingdom

- North Pennines AONB Geopark 2004
- Forest Fawr Geopark – Wales 2005
- North West Highlands – Scotland 2005
- English Riviera Geopark 2007
- Geopark Shetland 2009
- Geo Mon Geopark - Wales 2009

Uruguay

- Grutas del Palacio Geopark 2013

Vietnam

- Dong Van Karst Plateau Geopark 2010

Geoparks in Purple characters are new members based on the 5th International UNESCO Conference on Geoparks, May 12-15, 2012

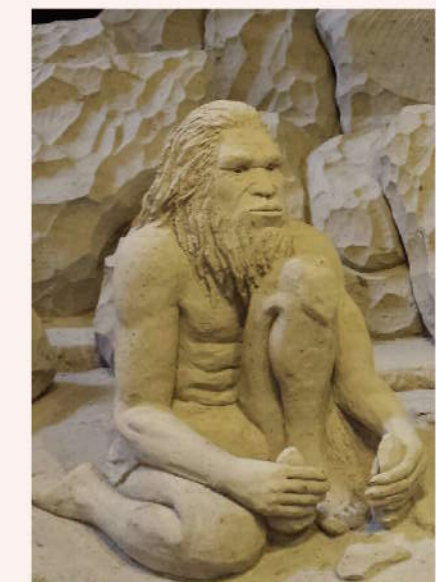


A story of sand, loam and boulders

Source: Honsrug Global Geopark, Netherlands

The Honsrug Geopark in the east of the Netherlands is a region with a story which begins in the Ice Ages, a story about 150,000 years of history. A story of sand, loam and boulders. And this story has now been captured in sand sculptures which can be seen at the largest exhibition of its kind in Europe in the village of Zuidlaren. 25 artists from all over the world have transformed 7,000 tons of sand into impressive sculptures which bring to life the origins of the Honsrug region. The event continues for six months and over 100,000 visitors are expected. The Honsrug Geopark and its partners will be present throughout the event to provide visitors with plenty of information. For

a new geopark this is an excellent opportunity to introduce the Honsrug story to many more people.

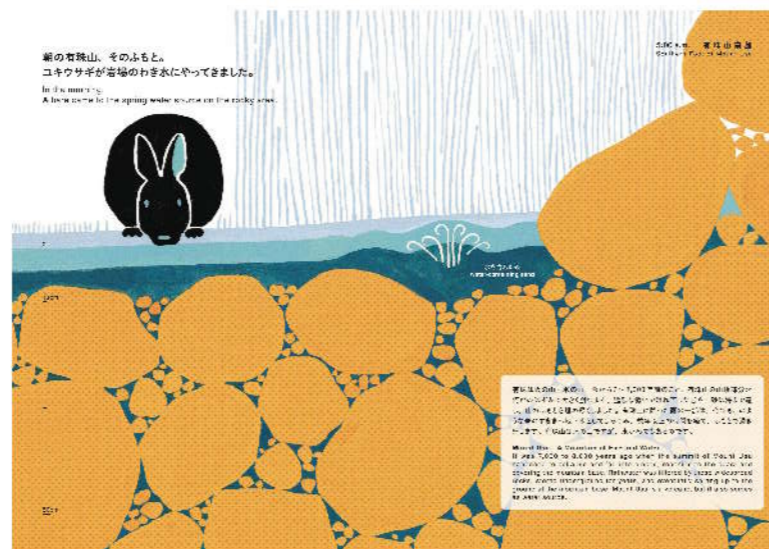


"1 DAY on top of 110,000 YEARS"

The Picture Book about Geo-Stories of Toya-Usu Global Geopark

Toya Caldera and Usu Volcano global geopark is a volcanic geopark located in Hokkaido in northern Japan. We can find a lot of hidden tales "Geo-Stories", associated with the activity of the living Earth when we focus on the different aspects of local industry, people's livelihood, and the natural habitats of living things in our geopark.

In 2014, Toya-Usu global geopark produced the picture book Toya-Usu Global Geopark Storybook "1 DAY on top of 110,000 YEARS" in order to comprehend the relationship between the worlds above and under the ground world. It is edited to include easy-to-understand text and illustrations to reach local people of all ages.



Maen Lia and the new roadside interpretation panel.

Fforest Fawr Geopark in Wales: The new transparent interpretation panel at Maen Lia



Fforest Fawr Geopark's spectacular upland landscape, in which a number of prominent peaks rise to altitudes of 700 metres above sea level, contains a rich legacy of prehistoric field monuments. These were created during a period of agricultural expansion and deforestation in late Neolithic and early Bronze Age times approximately 4,500 – 3000 years ago and include standing stones, stone circles, stone rows and cairns. Maen Lia, a 3.7 meter high monolith in the dramatic and remote Lia Valley, is a site of national archaeological importance. This monument, erected in late Neolithic

or Bronze Age times between 4,500 and 3,800 years ago, is now interpreted with the aid of an innovative panel at the roadside near the standing stone. The panel entitled "I am the Doorway to Your Past" mirrors the shape of the monolith. The inclusion of a subtle transparent component facilitates a view through the panel of the Lia Valley, the Landscape in which this monolith stands.



Strengthen the cooperation between scientific institutions, and promoting the sustainable development of Geoparks

Source: Alxa Desert Global Geopark



Recently, the Eighth International Conference on Aeolian Research held in Lanzhou organized by Alxa Desert Global Geopark, Cold and Arid Regions Environmental and Engineering Research Institute, Chinese Academy of Sciences etc. More than 300 renowned experts, scholars came from 20 countries include China, the United States, Britain, Germany, France, Australia etc. attended the conference.

During the conference, Administration for Alxa Desert Global Geopark took advantage of the conference to carry out the publicity activities through provide publicity brochures, CD, album. In order to further expand reputation and influential of Geopark that has played a positive role in promoting.

Cold and Arid Regions Environmental and Engineering Research Institute, Chinese Academy of Sciences as the main co-organizers reached cooperation with Alxa Desert Global Geopark about consultation service, established the scientific research base, and built "the Scientific Research Base of Cold and Arid Regions Environmental and Engineering Research Institute, Chinese Academy of Sciences" at Badain Jaran Desert.

At the end of the conference, according to the procedures 260 delegates went to the scientific research base of Cold and Arid

Regions Environmental and Engineering Research Institute, Chinese Academy of Sciences, namely Alxa Desert Global Geopark Badain Jaran Geo-region to carried on indeed investigation. On arrival, delegates were immediately attracted by the inviting ocean of sand, oasis landscape in Alxa Desert Global Geopark, and also got a warm welcome. Meanwhile, they consulted the basic situation of Geopark and climbed to the sand peak to watch a showcase of graceful and unforgettable works and took photos.

This was a largest field activities since built the scientific research base, also was a substantial cooperation between Chinese Academy of Sciences and Alxa Desert Global Geopark. The successful cooperation will certainly promote more cooperation and communication in border areas between two cooperators in a positive way.

Schoolboys strike gold at archaeological dig

Monday, August 12, 2014. From North Pennines AONB European Geopark



A group of English schoolboys have struck gold, unearthing one of the most significant recent archaeological finds in the United Kingdom.

The boys, aged from 7 to 10, were on a local dig at Kirkhaugh in the North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and Global Geopark, arranged by the AONB Partnership's Altogether Archaeology project, when they saw a glint of gold which turned out to be a 4,300-year-old ornament, probably worn as a 'hair tress ring'.

The ornament is one of the earliest metal objects to be found in the UK and may have been worn by a first-generation metal worker who could have travelled to Britain from overseas in search of gold and copper.

The intricately decorated tress ring, which dates back to about 2,300 BC, a period known as the Copper Age

(pre-Bronze Age), was found in a burial mound alongside three beautiful flint arrowheads and a jet button.

These tress rings are very rare, only ten finds have ever been made in Britain, and this one is the partner of a matching one discovered at Kirkhaugh during an excavation lead by Herbert Maryon in 1935. That dig also uncovered a 'cushion stone', a portable anvil used for working gold and copper.

Paul Frodsham, who leads Altogether Archaeology project for the AONB Partnership, and a band of about 50 volunteers, spent nine days excavating the land under the watchful eye of Professor Andrew Fitzpatrick, assisted by professional archaeologists from the Archaeological Practice, Newcastle upon Tyne. Andrew led a famous dig near Stonehenge which unearthed the remains of the man now known as The Amesbury Archer. The Amesbury Archer and Kirkhaugh both

have gold ornaments and cushion stones, and are currently the only known examples of early metalworkers' graves in Britain.

Both Andrew and Paul had hoped to recover bones and teeth from the Kirkhaugh grave, which could have given information about the burial, but time and soil conditions meant none have survived.

The head tress, along with the arrowheads and the button, will now be analysed by various specialists. Paul said: "We hope the newly found ornament will eventually find its way to the Great North Museum in Newcastle, where it can be reunited with its long-lost partner from the 1935 dig."



Shennongjia Global Geopark Reinforces International Communication

Cheng Enhua, Chen Jinxin. Administration Bureau of Shennongjia Global Geopark



KNPS and Shennongjia representatives in front of the geopark main monument

In September 2013, Shennongjia Geopark joined the Global Geoparks Network at the 3rd Symposium of the Asian-Pacific Geoparks Network held in Jeju, Korea. Shennongjia Geopark introduced itself to the world for the first time and won recognition and attention from the participating geoparks. During the Symposium, Shennongjia delegation made contact and achieved initial agreement on cooperation with Korea National Park Service (KNPS).

Since the Jeju Symposium Shennongjia Geopark had made communications with KNPS and reached a consensus on the schedule and program of KNPS's visit in Shennongjia Geopark.

On July 7th, 2014, Chairman Park Bo-Hwan and other 6 delegates of KNPS started a 5-day visit in Shennongjia Geopark. Accompanied by the government leaders of Shennongjia Forestry District and the

main staff members of Shennongjia Global Geopark, they visited Guanmenshan, Shennongding and Dajiuhe subareas of the geopark.

On July 10th, the meeting on cooperation between Shennongjia Geopark and KNPS was held. A series of important issues, such as geopark management, science research, tourism cooperation, etc., were discussed, and the Memorandum of Understanding

between Administration Bureau of Shennongjia Global Geopark and National Geoparks Secretariat of Korea on cooperation in management, research and resource conservation of Geoparks was signed. Both sides agreed to keep long-term communication and cooperation on exchanges of scientific, technical and environmental information and materials; joint promotion of public relations activities; reciprocal visits and exchange (short-term or longer-term) of administrators or experts; planning, development and

implementation of joint projects and programs; and setting up the sisterhood relationship, etc.

Korean national park system has a development history of over 50 years. As the administrative organization of Korean national parks and geoparks, KNPS is very experienced and has made great achievements in construction and management of national parks. Jeju Island owns the titles of World Heritage, "Man & the Biosphere" Reserve and Global Geopark and it is the world's only UNESCO "Triple-crown" site.

Shennongjia already has the titles of "Man & the Biosphere" Reserve and Global Geopark and is now endeavoring to become a World Heritage site. The partnership between Shennongjia and KNPS will help mutual communication and experience exchange on protection, research, development and management of geoparks, protected areas and natural heritages and facilitate achievement sharing, mutual improvement and common development.



Visiting Shennongjia Nature Museum



Visiting Guanmenshan Subarea



Forum on cooperation



Signing MOU

Itoigawa Geopark and Hong Kong Geopark Use E-classrooms for Geopark Exchange

Using the Internet to bring geoparks closer together
Itoigawa Global Geopark, Itoigawa, Japan

Every year, Itoigawa Global Geopark conducts various exchange programs with its Sister Geopark, Hong Kong Global Geopark of China. As part of this exchange, Itoigawa sends a delegation of junior high school students to visit the Hong Kong Geopark and participate in exchange activities with Hong Kong students while they learn more about their sister geopark and its activities.

Over the course of their summer vacation, the students met to prepare for their exchange. During their meetings, they learned more about the Hong Kong Geopark, brushed up their English language skills, and prepared presentations to share with Hong Kong students about Itoigawa, its geopark, and its culture. These meetings culminated in a special e-classroom meeting with staff of the Hong Kong Geopark.

The students connected with staff in Hong Kong through video conferencing software. Using this setup, students could meet and interact directly with the people who will be helping them throughout their time in Hong Kong. After meeting the staff, the students were given a presentation on the characteristics of

Hong Kong, its Geopark, and a summary of the itinerary for their exchange.

By making full use of available technology, Global Geoparks are able to bridge the distance between each other to conduct exchange activities. The e-classroom gave the students a chance to interact with staff from the Hong Kong Geopark before they leave, helping to put them at ease and make their upcoming exchange as smooth as possible.

During their meeting, participating students had a chance to express their goals for the exchange. Many students want to learn more about other cultures and share their own culture with students in Hong Kong. Others want to improve their communication skills and strengthen ties between Itoigawa and Hong Kong. Global Geoparks, with their holistic approach to regional promotion and sustained development, provide excellent opportunities for local communities to exchange on a global level. The Itoigawa Global Geopark looks forward to continued exchange over a variety of media between geoparks all over the world and a strengthening of

the Global Geopark Network through the use of the Internet and other telecommunication technologies.



Students prepare for their exchange



The e-classroom begins



A staff member from the Hong Kong Geopark delivers a presentation to students in Itoigawa

Training Course on Geoheritage Protection and Geopark Construction

Fueling Development of Geoparks in African Countries
Source: Chinese Geoparks Network



Mr. Lian Changyun, Director of Department of Science and Technology & International Cooperation of CGS, Prof. Wu Zhenhan, Vice-President of CAGS and Ms. Zhang Suzhi, Deputy Head of Yanqing County, Beijing attending the Opening Ceremony of the Training Course

“Training Course on Geoheritage Protection and Geopark Construction” was held in China on October 28th to November 12th, 2013. Fifteen trainees from 12 African countries, including Tanzania, Morocco and Kenya have completed this 16-days training course successfully.

This training course was jointly organized by Chinese Academy of Geological Sciences (CAGS), Chinese Geoparks Network (CGN), Beijing Office of Global Geopark Network (GGN) and UNESCO Nairobi Office. Training course was conducted in 3 Global Geoparks in China, including Yanqing Global Geopark in Beijing, Yuntaishan Global Geopark in central China's Henan Province and Shilin Global Geopark in southwestern China's Yunnan Province. The training course has efficiently supported the main work of UNESCO and enables African colleagues to witness the role Geoparks have played in making sustainable development strategy. This training course provides Chinese

Geoparks an opportunity to present themselves and participate in international exchange and communication. Department of Geological Environment of Ministry of Land and Resources (MLR), Department of Science and Technology & International Cooperation of MLR, China Geological Survey (CGS) and China Institute for Geo-Environmental Monitoring (CIGEM), as well as the above mentioned Chinese Geoparks have offered effective support to the training course.

This training course was conducted mainly by indoor classes and complemented with real case analysis, exhibition visit and field excursion. During the training course, more than 10 Chinese and foreign experts from UNESCO Nairobi Office, Bureau of Global Geopark Network, Chinese Academy of Geological Sciences, China University of Geosciences, Association for Geoconservation, Hong Kong and Global Geoparks in Hong Kong gave

lectures about: “Guidelines and Criteria for National Geoparks seeking UNESCO's assistance to join the Global Geoparks Network”, developing achievements and management modes of Geoparks in China, plan and construction of Geoparks, survey and evaluation on Geoheritage and its scientific value, scientific interpretation and communication for Geopark promotion, Geotourism and Geoheritage promotion and case study on classical Geoparks construction and management. Warm discussion was also conducted between lecturers and trainees. Managers from Yanqing Global Geopark, Yuntaishan Global Geopark and Shilin Global Geopark have impressed the trainees by their achievements and experience in the conservation, management and construction of Geoheritage.

During the training course, trainees also presented the overview of their countries' Geoheritage and potentialities of their Geoheritage



Prof. S. Felix Toteu, Program Specialist of UNESCO Nairobi Office is giving lecture in Shilin Global Geopark



Prof. Guy Martini, Member of GGN Bureau is giving lecture in Yuntaishan Global Geopark



Trainees are watching the visual animation in Yanqing Geological Museum

protection and exploitation, respectively, combining with the projects they themselves have been engaged in, as well as made further discussion on the ideas and feasibility of establishing Geoparks in Africa with the experts.

Africa is very rich in geological heritages with no geological park. The training course has provided a technical support for the

policy-makers, scientists and managers of natural parks in African countries in the protection of Geoheritage and construction of Geopark. It has also strengthened the capacities of building Geoparks in Africa, which will certainly promote the implementation of the plan for Africa Geopark. The trainees had a strong response, they both thought the training course is very informative far from their expectation, during which they not only had a miracle experience by enjoying the beauty of China and grasping a good knowledge of Geopark, but also opened up their horizons by understanding how to protect and exploit the Geoheritage and recognizing that Geoparks in Africa will have a bright future. The trainees have shown their sincere gratitude and respect to the hosting side of the training course, the volunteer lecturer, and the above mentioned three Global Geoparks. They requested to continue such kind of training in the future and they wanted to further enhance scientific and technological cooperation and exchanges on Geoheritage and Geopark between China and Africa, especially the help from China to establish Geoparks in Africa. "Geoparks should not be established for only one country or one region; they are for the whole world." one trainee said.

At present, countries like Tanzania, Morocco and French Reunion Island have begun to apply for the establishment of Global Geoparks,

which are expected to be the first batch of GGN in African countries in several years.



Moments of the trainees' life in China



Prof. Jin Xiaochi, member of GGN Bureau is giving lecture in Yanqing Global Geopark



Mr. Zheng Yuan, Coordinator of Chinese Geoparks Network is giving lecture in Yanqing Global Geopark



Trainees have completed the training course successfully



The European Geoparks Week 2014, taking place in the period around 23rd May to 9th June 2014, is a European – wide festival of Geoparks aimed at raising public awareness of geoconservation and promotion of the geological heritage as well as events aimed at informing the wide public, about geotouristic and educational activities in geoparks.

Shetland Nature Festival 2014

Source: Geopark Shetland

The 2014 Shetland Nature Festival in partnership with European Geoparks week was held from 5th to 11th July. This year a new partner joined Geopark Shetland, the RSPB, Scottish Natural Heritage and Shetland Arts Development Agency to create a varied programme that mixed old favourites with exciting new opportunities. The Our Dynamic Earth

team from Edinburgh inspired children and adults alike as they explored Earth's 4.6 billion year history in a series of events inspired by James Hutton and Arthur Holmes, 'Scotland's Time Lords'.

A variety of guided walks, and activities at the National Nature Reserves of Noss and Hermaness proved popular, as were more creative ways of engaging with the natural world such as parkour sessions, snorkelling tours, climbing and coastering. Craft workshops using recycled materials were a fun new addition to the festival programme, whilst the Sumburgh

Head open day allowed visitors to explore the brand new visitor centre at the Sumburgh Head Lighthouse and enjoy the spectacular seabird colonies of Shetland's South Mainland.

Robina Barton, Geology Project Officer with Geopark Shetland, and programme coordinator said "It's wonderful to work with people who are experts in their field and have this ability to communicate their knowledge and enthusiasm fun and interesting ways. We already know that the Festival brings visitors into the islands, and now it is providing a means by which local residents can

access and enjoy activities with fantastic organizations such as Our Dynamic Earth"

For information about the Shetland Nature Festival 2015 see www.shetlandnaturefestival.co.uk.



Walk along the Rake water channel

Source: Idrija Geopark, Slovenia

The Week of European Geoparks started on 15 May, 2014, with an organised walk along the Rake water channel for the children of Idrija kindergarten. About one hundred children with about the same number of parents attended this event. We formed three groups of children and

took them to different places along Rake. The mission of getting to know the plants and animals of the area with local geopark guides turned all of them into small explorers. Every child had to pick as many different leaves as possible. In the end there was a surprise for them. Each of the

children had to select one leaf from his/her collection, paint it and imprint it on the tree they had on the poster. The poster was then given to the kindergarten as a memoir of the day.

German-Dutch Geopark Expedition was a great success

Source: Nature park Terra Vita, Germany

Osnabrück. Six adventurous families with participants aged from 6 to 59 years traveled on an adventure tour through the Geoparks TERRA.vita (D) and De Hondsrug (NL). For four days and during the European Geoparks week from 29th of May to 1st of June 2014 they went on foot, by bike, vintage bus or narrow-gauge

railway, canoe, with llamas through the varied and earth heritage rich and historic landscapes of both Geoparks. In parallel the families were competing with each other. They searched for treasures, contested a cooking-challenge, danced with wooden shoes, which were painted by them before, searched for the

most beautiful ancient shark tooth, designed a new Geopark logo, constructed a bridge of bamboo sticks and much more. In the future, an annual continuation of the expedition is planned. Impressions of the Geopark expedition can be found on the TERRA.vita Facebook page.



A new marine park in Lesvos Geopark - New perspectives in tourism developmenta

FROM: LESVOS GLOBAL GEOPARK, GREECE

Lesvos Geopark is launching a new experimental project to protect, promote and geological heritage and biological resources of the western coast of Lesvos island which constitutes the marine part of the Petrified Forest and the Nisiopi islet. The area is protected by the Presidential Degree 443/1985, declaring the area as a national protected natural monument. The area is also characterized as "Area of outstanding natural beauty (2000), it is listed in the Natura 2000 Network (code GR 4110003) and it among the regions protected by the Barcelona Convention (1997).

Impressive fossilized conifers and angiosperms, especially sequoias, ancestral forms of pines, oak-trees and laurels are among the excavation findings. Up to now 116 standing and laying petrified trunks, roots, branches and root systems have been brought to light. Among the impressive findings exists a giant laying sequoia tree trunk uncovered in situ almost intact. The length of this petrified trunk is 17.20 meters and its diameter of 1.70 meters at the base. Besides, in the marine zone around the island, appear dozens of fossilized tree trunks, lying under the sea surface.

Apart from the fossiliferous sites, there are volcanic, tectonic, geomorphological and coastal geosites of great interest. The marine life around the island as well as the island ecosystem is very reach and is the base for the development of nature observation activities.

The necessary infrastructure for visitors is placed in the area of Nisiopi islet where the visitor will have the opportunity to marvel at the marine part of the Petrified Forest located in the coastal zone of Nisiopi. The visitors will pass to the Islet with a glass bottom boat, and will have the opportunity to observe the fossil sites and submarine geosites at the bottom of the sea as well as marine life. The operation of Nisiopi Park will become one major attraction of Lesvos Geopark.

Personalized tourism: GEOvisual and GEOfood

Magma Geopark, Norway

Magma Geopark (MG) has been declared EGN-GGN Geopark in 2010. Since then MG has run several initiatives focus on developing sustainable practices and geo-tourism, supported by the municipalities and external funds.

Recently MG applied and received grants supporting some initiatives. From the Norwegian Government (Economic Value creation programme) MG got support to set up a marketing and tourism strategy from 2013 till the end of 2015. MG right now is developing its personalized tourism offer according with accommodation and activities providers, also developing new activities to attract visitors to the Geopark.

One of the main attractions will be the pilot exhibition: GEOvisual, financial supported by the Norwegian UNESCO Commission and ready in March 2015. The GEOvisual partners are: Jærmuseet (The Science farm), Dalane Folkemuseum (regional museum), Geanorvegica Global Geopark. GEOvisual aims to offer a virtual trip in MG with the use of the most modern technologies, like the "oculus rift". Visitors will have the chance to explore MG Geosites, Geanorvegica geosite and World Heritage List localities: the Røros mines town has been chosen in the pilot. Information, videos and 3d reconstructions will be mix together by Drivkraft (private company) to

create attractive learning contents for students and kids. MG and partners, from 2015 to 2016 will develop further the pilot project in a main exhibition that will include more Geoparks and more UNESCO WHL sites to give a complete overview of the UNESCO values worldwide.

Another interesting project, started in June 2014, is the GEOfood project financed by the KreaNord-Norden Fund from 2014 to 2016. Partners are: Rokua Global Geopark, Finland, Odsherred Geopark project, Denmark, Reykjanes Geopark project, Iceland, Suðuroy Geopark project in Faroe Islands, Denmark, The Stavanger University, Norway, the Rogaland County Governor, Norway. Associated partners are: Stonehammer Global Geopark, Canada, Shetland Global Geopark, Scotland-UK, Sierras Subbéticas Global Geopark, Spain and Fernando de Noronha Geopark project, Brazil. The project aims to create local GEOmenus supporting SME's in the local food and tourism business. Local food will be combined in several attractive combinations that will enrich the tourism offer that Geoparks have built up in their own

areas. Three workshops will be organized from each Geopark involving the local SME's to create a strong partnership able to choose local food for the menus and agree about the restaurants that will serve that. One of the project goals is to implement the food-guidelines for the EGN set up by Sierras Subbéticas Global Geopark through a detailed Geoparks food protocol for the GEOfood menus.



GEOvisual



GEOfood



Opening of restored mineral water source "Drees of Darscheid" of Vulkaneifel Geopark

Beside scoria cones and maars the numerous carbonated and iron-bearing mineral water sources, locally known as "Drees", are another big feature of Vulkaneifel. Isotope analysis proves evidence that the carbon dioxide is delivered by degassing of magmatic material in the earth crust and upper mantle.

Only few but highest yielding of those sources are still usable for industrial bottling and distribution on regional and international scale. But most of them were only used locally in traditional cooking and as thirst quencher for rural population in the past. With the upcoming of supermarkets and the oblivion of

traditional cooking those sources lost their importance. Vulkaneifel Geopark today is recovering these mineral water sources to bring them back to public awareness and to preserve this testimony of the volcanic genesis of the region. The "Drees of Darscheid" was now restored and made available for the public again in June 2014.



Maintenance-free new "Drees of Darscheid". Mineral water with highest iron content in Vulkaneifel. Contact with atmospheric oxygen forms red coloured ferruginous incrustation.



Public opening at "Drees of Darscheid"



Mr Alan Wong, Director of Agriculture Fisheries and Conservation (right) and Mrs. Jessie Ting, Director of Post Office (left), officiate at the 2014 Hong Kong Definitive Stamps Issuing Ceremony on 24 July 2014

Hong Kong Global Geopark celebrates issue of definitive stamps and philatelic items

Hong Kong Global Geopark



Hong Kong definitive stamps of 2014



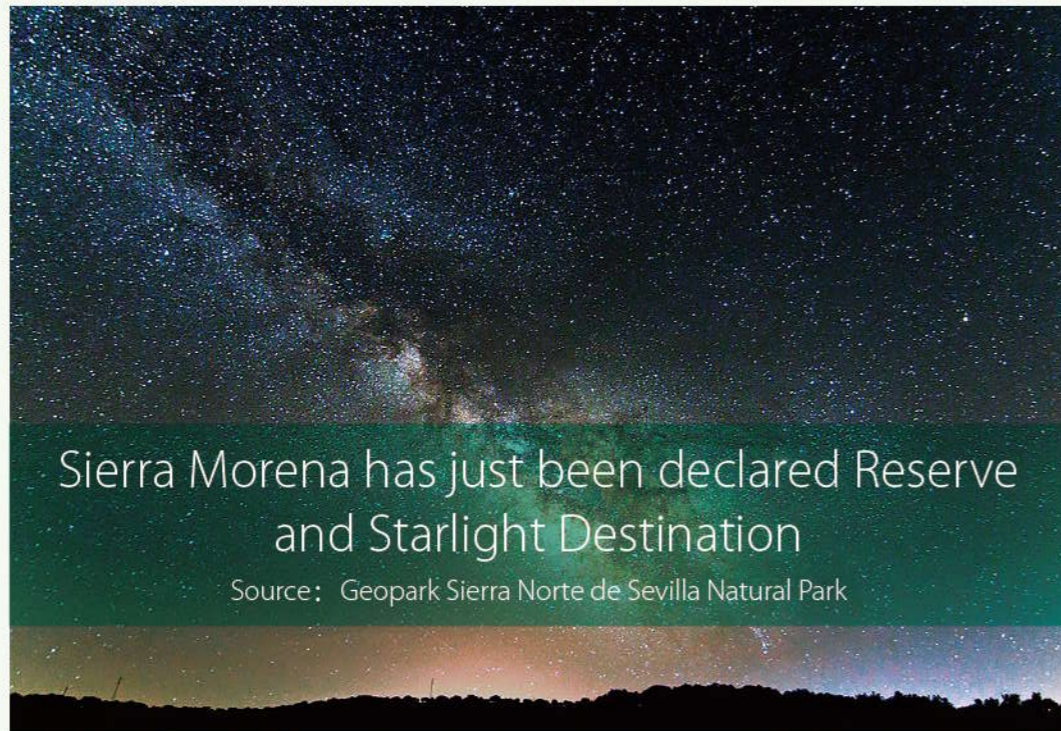
Orange cachet available at the Hong Kong Global Geopark Volcano Discovery Centre from 24 July 2014

On 24 July 2014, Hongkong Post launched a new set of definitive stamps with 16 different denominations with "Hong Kong Global Geopark of China" as the theme. Along with these definitive stamps, other philatelic projects including first-day covers, souvenir pack and an aerogramme will be released. These definitive stamps are the world's first definitive stamp set featuring a global geopark, display the most unquiescent landscapes of all the eight geo-areas in Hong Kong Global Geopark.

To bring new philatelic excitement, special commemorative cachets in orange is concurrently released on 24 July 2014 and available only at Hong

Kong Global Geopark Volcano Discovery Centre at Sai Kung, a gateway linking people to the Hong Kong Global Geopark.

Through the release of these philatelic materials, Hong Kong Geopark wishes to show the unique natural environment of Hong Kong to the world, while popularizing earth science and contributing to the promotion of the global geopark movement.



The Biosphere Reserve Dehesas de Sierra Morena, which integrates the Geopark Sierra Norte de Sevilla Natural Park, has just been declared Reserve and Starlight Destination, a certification that accredits and guarantees the quality of their night skies to practice astronomy and observation of the sky. This award is granted by the Starlight Foundation and is supported by the UNESCO and by the World Tourism Organization.

After 9 months of continuous working, the evaluators of the Starlight Foundation have given their approval to the candidacy of Sierra Morena to be part of this international club of regions. The Starlight certification ensures the visitor a complete offer to enjoy the night sky and the natural environment of this reserve. Sierra Morena has a quality tourism infrastructure to welcome those who come to enjoy astronomy. This Andalusian region offers astronomical outreach activities and specialized services, reaching the highest standards of quality and comfort.

With this certification, Dehesas de Sierra Morena becomes the largest Starlight Reserve with more than 400,000 hectares, positioning as a landmark destination in the tourism sector of the stars watching.

Links to Geopark Sierra Norte de Sevilla Natural Park:

www.juntadeandalucia.es/medioambiente/sierranortedesevillageopark
geosierranorte.capma@juntadeandalucia.es

A new identity for the first Spanish dinosaur

Source: Maestrazgo Cultural European & Global Geopark



Digging the Aragosaurus type-locality in Galve (summer 2014)



The new tibia of Aragosaurus.



Visitors centre of Dinópolis in Galve.

The first new dinosaur ever described in Spain was found in the small municipality of Galve (Teruel, Aragón, Spain), which forms part of the Maestrazgo Cultural European & Global Geopark. A team of Spanish palaeontologists from Madrid and Barcelona gave the new sauropod dinosaur the name of the region: Aragosaurus.

Almost three decades later, the worldwide progress in sauropods knowledge, the improved details of the geology in the area, and the availability of new fossils, have allowed a research team (including representatives of the Geopark) some new hypothesis dealing with the Aragosaurus identity. The results have been recently published in the scientific journal Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society, introducing six new exclusive anatomical features in the axial and appendicular skeleton, while phylogenetic analyses support the view that Aragosaurus is a basal macronarian sauropod, lying outside of Titanosauriformes. Concerning the age of the fossil site where Aragosaurus was found, it has been moved some 15 million years backwards (from 130 Ma to 145 Ma) after geological studies.

Moreover, a new digging is right now in process and some new Aragosaurus fossils have already been recovered, highlighting a tibia (a bone which was previously unknown for this dinosaur). Fossils of Aragosaurus are on display at a Dinópolis (Aragón Government) facility in Galve.



Life reconstruction of Aragosaurus ischiaticus by Óscar Sanisidro.

Tianzhushan Global Geopark Implements the Conservation Project of Paleocene Mammalian Fauna Fossil Sites

Guosheng Yu, Wen Huang, Tianzhushan Global Geopark



Tianzhushan Global Geopark has produced abundant Paleocene mammalian fossils. So far, 31 species of Paleocene mammalian fossils, including 30 new species, have been discovered and researched within the geopark. The Paleocene mammalian fossils found in the Tianzhushan Geopark are of large quantity, abundant species, distinct regional characteristics, relatively collective distribution, prominent scientific research value and are of typicality and representativeness, having great significance in understanding the evolution of early Cenozoic mammals, and the geopark is thus considered as "one of the origin places of Asian mammals and a

treasure land of Paleocene vertebrates".

In 2013, Tianzhushan Global Geopark drew up and declared the conservation project of Paleocene mammalian fauna fossil sites. The project includes the research, appraisal and scientific research of Paleocene fossils, the conservation works of Paleocene fossils, the scientific popularization of Paleocene fossils, the collection and exhibition of fossil specimen, etc. The project was started in August 2013, and to be completed in two years with total investment of 80 million RMB (about 13 million USD). This project was ratified by the Land and Resources Ministry and has got great support.

So far, the survey of Paleocene fossils, the planning and formation of conservation, boundary settlement of the fossil conservation districts, the outdoor interpretation signs, the data base construction, the design of geo-museum are almost completed, and each work is promoted steadily as planned. The implementation of this project shall help further strengthen the protection of geological heritages, promote the cooperation of geo-scientific research, publicize the scientific popularization, improve supporting science and education facilities, and propel the development of geo-science, with remarkable comprehensive benefits.

Conferences

First Circular

The 4th Asia-Pacific Geoparks Network San'in Kaigan Symposium

First circular for APGN 2015 Symposium is now available on the website.
http://sanin-geo.jp/modules/geopark/index.php/symposium2015_en.html

We look forward to many people taking this opportunity to attend and visit San'in Kaigan.

Title: The 4th Asia-Pacific Geoparks Network San'in Kaigan Symposium
 Theme: "Geoparks : Networking and Society"
 Date: September 16 (Wed) ~ 20 (Sun)

San'in Kaigan Geopark Promotion Council
 7-11, Saiwai-cho, Toyooka City, Hyogo, 668-0025, JAPAN
 E-mail: geopark@pref.hyogo.lg.jp

The 6th International UNESCO Conference on Global Geoparks

Stonehammer Geopark is preparing to welcome delegates from around the globe to the Saint John region in September 2014 for the 6th International UNESCO Conference on Global Geoparks.

Conference dates are September 19-22, 2014 with pre and post field trips available to registered delegates including an exciting and interactive community event the evening of Thursday, September 18, 2014.

The program of the conference is as follows:

Tuesday, September 16

8 am	Option 1 - Stonehammer Geopark In Depth, Multi Day Field Trip Begins
8 am	Option 2 - Northern New Brunswick & Gaspé Region, Multi Day Field Trip Begins

Thursday, September 18

8:30 am - 4 pm	Workshop by University of New Brunswick Saint John (extra cost) Registration starts at 8:30 am, Workshop at 9 am Pre-registration required by Sept 12
12 pm - 9 pm	Registration Available
1 pm	Uptown Geowalk (extra cost) - Meet @ New Brunswick Museum
5 pm - 8 pm	Community & Delegate Event, Market Square



Friday, September 19

8 am - 5 pm	Registration
9 am - 10:30 am	Opening Ceremonies
10:30 am - 11 am	Networking Break
11 am - 11:45 am	Keynote
12 pm - 1:30 pm	Delegate Luncheon
2 pm - 2:45 pm	Concurrent Theme Introductions
3 pm - 4:30 pm	Concurrent Theme Presentations
5 pm - 7 pm	Conference Reception, New Brunswick Museum

Saturday, September 20

8 am - 9 am	Delegate Breakfast - Themed Topic Tables for Discussion
9 am - 10:30 am	Concurrent Theme Presentations
10:30 am - 11 am	Poster Session & Networking Break
11 am - 12 pm	Concurrent Theme Presentations
12 pm - 1:30 pm	Delegate Luncheon & Keynote
2:00 pm - 3:30 pm	Mature Geopark Panel
3:30 pm - 4 pm	Networking Break
4 pm - 6 pm	Global Geopark Network Annual General Meeting Member Geoparks only

Sunday, September 21

7:30 am - 8:30 am	Delegate Breakfast - Themed Topic Tables for Discussion
Various AM	Full Day Field Trips (Lunch included) Check Tour Tickets for departure times
Evening	On Own

Monday, September 22

8 am - 9 am	Delegate Breakfast - Themed Topic Tables for Discussion
9 am - 11:30 am	Concurrent Theme Presentations
11:30 am - 12 pm	Poster Session & Networking Break
12 pm - 1:30 pm	Delegate Luncheon & Cruise Panel Hosted by Port Saint John
1:30 pm - 3 pm	UNESCO Family Panel
3 pm - 5 pm	Concurrent Theme Presentations
7 pm - 10 pm	Gala Award Dinner
10 pm - 1 am	Dance

Tuesday, September 23

10 am	Option 4 - Stonehammer Geopark In Depth, Multi Day Field Trip Begins
10 am	Option 5 - New Brunswick & Nova Scotia, Multi Day Field Trip Begins

International Intensive Course on Geoparks 2015

Geoeducation in action: geoconservation, geotourism and sustainable development
FROM: LESVOS GLOBAL GEOPARK, GREECE

The principle of networking is part of the core philosophy of Global Geoparks. Recognising the very strong role networking has played in the success of the Geoparks movement and recognizing the valuable role it plays in facilitating the sharing of experience among Geoparks the GGN Bureau supports the International Intensive Course on Geoparks.

The Intensive Course 2015, will be held on Lesvos Island, Greece, from June 23rd to July 3rd, 2015.

The Course will take place on Lesvos Island, Greece at the premises of the Lesvos Geopark. It is co-organized by the University of the Aegean - Department of Geography and the Natural History Museum of the Lesvos Petrified Forest.

The International Intensive Course on Geoparks 2015 is coorganized in close cooperation with the Global Geoparks Network Bureau.

Lectures will be given by top Geopark experts and academic staff with long experience on geoconservation and geoheritage protection, management and sustainable tourism.

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.

For further information: <http://www.petrifiedforest.gr/geoconservation/>
Contact details: lesvopf@otenet.gr, tel: +30 2251047033

