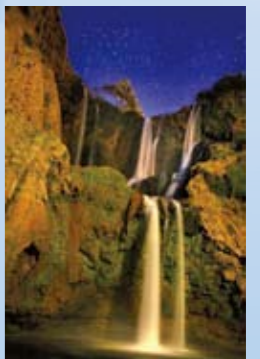




## Morocco:

the first country of Arab and African Region to join the Global Geoparks Network.



## Geopark M'Goun:

located in the middle of the Central High Atlas, Tadla Azilal Region, Morocco, a founding member of the future Arab and African Geoparks Network.



**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:

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## UNESCO

Eleven new sites were added to the Global Geoparks Network at the 6<sup>th</sup> Global Geoparks Conference, held in the Stonehammer Global Geopark, Canada from 18 to 22 September.

Global Geoparks are sites affiliated with UNESCO and which promote their geo-diversity through community-led initiatives to enhance regional sustainable development. They promote awareness of geological hazards and many help local communities prepare disaster mitigation strategies. They celebrate the 4.6 billion years of Earth's history, and the geo-diversity that has shaped every aspect of our lives and of our societies.

The Global Geoparks Network now includes 111 sites in 32 countries.

## Ore of the Alps Global Geopark (Austria)

Situated 50 kilometres south of Salzburg, in the so-called "Inner Mountains", the Geopark covers 211 km<sup>2</sup> and belongs to the communities of Bischofshofen, St. Veit, Hüttau and Mühlbach am Hochkönig. The human history of this region goes back to the Copper and Bronze-Age, and is closely linked with the area's mineral resources, specially iron ore and gold. Ore of the Alps is mainly situated in the Graywacke Zone, consisting of clastic rocks about 541 to 252 million years old that are rich in mineral deposits. The northern fringe belongs to the Northern Calcareous Alps, the southern one to the Central Alps. The site is characterized by carbonate cliffs, waterfalls, gorges, springs, rock fall terraces, cirque



lakes, and roches moutonnées. The plateau of the highest peak in the Geopark, the Hochkönig (2,941 m), is covered by a glacier.

### Tumbler Ridge Global Geopark (Canada)

Tumbler Ridge Global Geopark is notable for its remote, wilderness location. It is the first Global Geopark in western North America, and the first to represent the plate tectonics that led to the formation of the Rocky Mountains. Mountain and foothill geology spans a Precambrian to Cretaceous time range (4600 to 66 million years ago). The site also contains Pleistocene deposits (2,588,000 to 11,700 years ago), and preserves part of the Triassic Pangea shoreline (about 250 to 200 million years ago) as well as the interchanging marine and terrestrial intervals of a fluctuating Western Interior Seaway. This is complemented by an abundance of palaeontological phenomena, which form the basis for ongoing scientific research. Cretaceous dinosaur tracks (many of which are of global significance), a Cretaceous dinosaur bone bed with unusual features, and Triassic fish and marine reptiles are of particular importance. The Dinosaur Discovery Gallery in Tumbler Ridge is a major attraction,



while a network of hiking trails leads to numerous geosites, including spectacular waterfalls, dinosaur tracks, mountain summits, sedimentary rock formations, caves and canyons.

### Mount Kunlun Global Geopark (China)

Mount Kunlun Global Geopark is 90 km from Golmud City in Qinghai Province. It covers an area of 1,403 km<sup>2</sup> with an elevation of 3,540 to 6,178.6 m and consists of three scenic areas, including Naj Tal, Xidatan and Jade Pool. The Geopark is endowed with abundant geological relics providing evidence of complicated crustal movements and ocean-land conversions. The 2001, 8.1 magnitude earthquake at Mount Kunlun - China's most powerful earthquake in six decades - caused a 426 km fracture zone, described as "nature's classroom" by researchers. With magnificent glacier and permafrost landforms, the Geopark is an ideal place for research on landscapes. It was one of the areas from where human beings began to explore the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau. The Qinghai-Tibet Railway, the world's highest, with the longest section built on permafrost, runs across the Geopark. Mount Kunlun, known as "the ancestor of mountains", holds a special place in Chinese mythology and culture.



### Dali Mount Cangshan Global Geopark (China)

Located in western Yunnan Province at the southern end of the lofty Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, Mt Cangshan is a young mountain formed only 50 million years ago. But the rocks that make up the mountain are more than 2 billion years old. Mt Cangshan is

mainly composed of metamorphic rocks, including marble renowned for its beautiful colour and structure. It is the southernmost mountain in Asia reached by the latest glaciation period and many glacial landforms are well preserved and displayed.

Mt Cangshan is a sacred mountain and displays unusual natural beauty. The unique and colourful traditions of the Bai indigenous people have helped make the site a popular tourist destination.

### Odsherred Global Geopark (Denmark)

The Odsherred Peninsula landscape, situated about 100 kilometres from Denmark, was formed only 17,000 years ago during the latter part of the Weichselian era. The Odsherred arches are key localities to understanding the principles of glacial landscape formations from this period. They are also a classic geomorphological example of glacial depressions, end moraines and melt-water flood plains. The glacial series of Odsherred, with its variety of distinct shapes, is surrounded by the sea to the east, north and west. The Geopark also features active, ongoing postglacial coastal processes like lagoon formation, bogs, and sand migration. Today, the area is a leading Danish holiday destination.



### Monts d'Ardèche Global Geopark (France)

Monts d'Ardèche is France's fifth Global Geopark and the first one outside the Alps. It is located on the eastern edge of the Massif Central at the interface between the Rhône valley and the uplands of the Massif. It covers 2,200 square kilometers of low mountains with steep slopes. Landscapes are marked by dry-stone terraces and cultivated chestnut trees. The Monts d'Ardèche is representative of the long-term geological and geomorphological history of South-Eastern France. The Earth history visible in the Geopark dates back to the constitution of the Variscan Chain, some 500 million years ago and includes marine and reef episodes. But volcanism is the major feature here, and the Geopark includes two distinct and major sets of volcanism-issued landscapes: the "Sucs" (Miocene 23 to 5.3 million years ago) and the so-called "Ardèche young volcanoes" (Pleistocene 126,000 to 11,000 years ago).



### M'Goun Global Geopark (Morocco)

M'Goun Geopark is located in the middle of the Central High Atlas Mountains in Morocco. The Central High Atlas is the highest and largest of mountain ranges in the country. The geological heritage of the Geopark includes outstanding mineralogical and paleontological features, like abundant dinosaur trackways of theropods and sauropods, geomorphologic sites like the Jurassic limestone bridge Pont d'Imin Ifri, or waterfalls, and impressive conglomerate cliffs.

There is also ample evidence of human occupation since prehistoric times including rock art and artifacts. Its rich cultural heritage bears witness to the centuries-old presence of the Amazigh (Berber) people with typical traditional architecture and granaries.



### Aso Global Geopark (Japan)

Aso Global Geopark is located in the centre of Kyushu, the south east island of Japan. The Geopark possesses a giant caldera (18km East-West, 25km South-North) formed by four super eruptions about 270,000 to 90,000 years ago, central cones and an active crater. The Aso volcano was the centre of an ancient volcano-related religion and some of its folk traditions continue today. About 50,000 people live inside the caldera. Stabilised infrastructure and controlled monitoring systems for volcanic activity allow visitors to explore the area and observe the caldera topography easily. The major part of the Geopark lies within Aso Kuju National Park, the first Japanese National Park designated in 1934. Remains of Stone Age settlements about 30,000 years ago have been found on the peaks surrounding the caldera.

### Lands of Knights Global Geopark (Portugal)

Located in the Trás-os-Montes region in northern Portugal, the Terras de Cavaleiros Global Geopark covers an area of 700 km<sup>2</sup>. It includes geosites that document an important stage of the history of planet Earth, including a sequence of rocks from an old continent dating back more than 500 million years that overlapped rocks of oceanic crust. Furthermore sediments are found there that prove the

existence of an ancient fluvial network that once drained into the interior of the Iberian Peninsula, as well as active faults, such as the Vilarica fault which crosses the whole territory of the Geopark. The cultural highlight of the area is the Careto religious ritual during the carnival feast, which dates back to prehistoric times, and is characterized by diabolic and mysterious figures.



### El Hierro Global Geopark (Spain, Canary Islands Autonomous Region)



The Geopark covers the entire island of El Hierro, the smallest, westernmost and youngest of the Canary Islands archipelago, formed

less than 1.12 million years. It is among the best representations of a single volcanic island and includes three authentic landscapes

of major geological significance. Many volcanic features of scientific, scenic and educational interest are distributed across the island including fault systems, tuff rings and maars, lava tubes, dykes, tree moulds, mineral water springs, fresh volcanic craters and associated recent lava flows, as well as landslide features, some in the form of arch-shaped mega-structures. The volcanic geology is clearly visible and facilitates study and tourism.

### Molina and Alto Tajo Global Geopark (Spain)

The Geopark is located in Castile - La Mancha region, in Guadalajara Province, about 200 km north-east of Madrid. Geographically, the region of Molina is part of the southern Iberian plateau between, the river Ebro to the north and the Tagus River to the south. These rivers strongly marked the Geopark's landscape, flora, fauna, and human

settlement. The geological heritage interest of the Geopark is based on large continuous sedimentary series, ranging from the Ordovician to the present. They constitute a record of major events from the last 400 million years of Earth history. More than 20 sections of archetypical geological formations telling this story have been identified by scientists,

with geological stratotypes and boundaries of international interest. The area has been inhabited since ancient times, and includes important samples of Palaeolithic rock art and Celtiberian fortresses that have provided valuable information about the Celtiberian culture.

# Workshop

## "Geoparks in volcanic areas: sustainable development strategies"

Azores Global Geopark

The "Geoparks in volcanic regions: Sustainable Development Strategies" International Workshop took place from October 29th to November 1st 2014, in Terceira and Graciosa islands, in the Azores Global Geopark, Portugal. The public sessions were hosted at the "Os Montanheiros" Association's headquarter and the "Vulcanoespeleológico Fagundes Machado" Museum, in Angra do Heroísmo (Azores Geopark Delegation on Terceira).

The workshop included study visits in Graciosa and Terceira islands and optional study visits in Santa Maria and São Miguel islands, on October 27th and 28th respectively.

### The main objectives of the workshop were to:

1. Promote the exchange of information, experiences and good practices between local stakeholders, professional and managers of volcanic geoparks of the European and Global networks, under the auspices of UNESCO;
  2. Show the importance of scientific knowledge and the interpretation of the volcanic landscape as a tool for its promotion, value and protection at a local scale;
  3. Share experiences on management, education and geotourism in volcanic geoparks;
  4. Organize and promote sustainable development initiatives in volcanic geoparks based on geotourism and innovative geoproducts;
  5. Promote new networking initiatives amongst volcanic geoparks, especially with the Azores Global Geopark.
- Organized by the Azores Global Geopark, this event gathered members from territories that are part of the European and Global Geopark Network (both under the auspices of UNESCO), including Andreas Schueller, from the Vulkaneifel Global Geopark (Germany) - founder of the EGN - ; and Barnabas Korbély, from the Bakony - Balaton Global Geopark (Hungary).

Also a special mention is given to the presence of internationally renowned geotourism experts, such as

✦ Field trip\_Group photo\_Terceira island



✦ Andreas Schüller\_ Geology and tourism – from the first attempts up to a functioning geopark. The Vulkaneifel Geopark as case study

✦ Workshop Geoparks in Volcanic regions Sustainable Development Strategies



✦ Field trip\_Graciosa island

Dr. Jonathan Tourtellot (United States of America), editor of National Geographic Magazine Travel; and Professor Patricia Erfurt-Cooper (Australia) from James Cook University. She is a renowned researcher, consultant and the author of several publications in volcano and geothermal tourism. The speaker panel was completed with Dr. Matteo Garofano who has an extensive experience in geotourism and a deep knowledge of the Azorean tourism market. He has been accompanying groups of Italian tourists in the Azores for about ten years.

This event had the support of the Regional Government through the Regional Directorate for Tourism and featured SATA Group, the official sponsor.

All the information about the workshop is available on: [www.volcanicgeoparks.blogspot.pt](http://www.volcanicgeoparks.blogspot.pt)

# Geoparks contributing in raising awareness against natural disasters

Dr Charalampos Fassoulas

Vice Director Psiloritis Geopark , Crete, Greece  
RACCE project coordinator



Natural disasters appear in our days the major threat for the modern societies. According to United Nation's and World Bank's reports, disasters blame for more than 3.6 million deaths and US\$2.3 trillion in damage (in 2008 US dollars) between 1970 and 2010. It is the increasing population and cities' size (meaning urbanization) that more and more people are exposed to risks and thus to extreme damages caused by disasters without considering possible climate change effects. Just during the past decade several devastating earthquakes, extensive floods and extreme storm events have stroke many countries in Europe, with many victims and serious impact in economy.

Geoparks are those organizations that have the knowledge, through their skilled scientific staff, can communicate any message related to our natural environment directly to citizen, and can contribute in educating people and raising awareness in such cases. Thus, geoparks can play an important role to inform citizens on the natural disaster's threat and mitigate their impact on modern societies saving

lives and money. Three European geoparks, i.e. Psiloritis Natural Park (through the Natural History Museum of Crete) and Lesvos Petrified Forest from Greece, as well as Reserve Geologic Haute Provence from France developed and implemented, together with three other partners from Italy and Bulgaria, a project aiming to support children to overpass the stress and the impact from a seismic or volcanic disaster. The project titled RACCE "Raising awareness and coping with children emotions" resulted in the development of special educational projects in the form of mobile museum kits, temporary and permanent exhibitions, interactive displays, and web based activities as well as training and educational seminars. RACCE lasted two years from 2011 to 2012 and was financially supported by the Civil Protection Financial instrument of European Commission.

The project was fully adapted by the educational community in Greece and is still operating in all geopark's facilities. It has been presented in many international congresses, at the 4th EU Civil Protection Forum

in Brussels, as well as at the headquarters of UNESCO during the March 2013 EGN meeting in Paris. Furthermore, the project was also presented at the San'In Kaigan Geopark 2013 International Academic congress on "Natural Disaster and Regional Resources in Geoparks". All outcomes are hosted at project's webpage (<http://racce.nhmc.uoc.gr/>), in five languages (English, Greek, French, Italian and Bulgarian) and can be downloaded for free. In addition, the geoparks have already designed the follow up of project by developing more web based tools and sharing the training activities to a larger audience like volunteers.



# A knowledge sharing workshop on volcano hosted by Aso Geopark

As Nakadake crater has become more active since a small eruption happened in November 2014, Aso Geopark hosted a knowledge sharing workshop on the volcano for community to understand clearly about the present volcanic activity and characters of Aso volcano in order to reduce anxiety from community and prevent spreading harmful rumors towards tourism in the geopark area. Not only the public, administrative officers, firefighters, self-defense

forces as well as affiliates in education and tourism industries gathered together to share their concerns on the volcanic activities and discuss its strategies together. Shin'ichiro Ikebe, the director of Aso Volcano Museum explained existing condition and characters of the crater while comparing its past activities and its eruption cycle. A delegate from Aso Geopark promotion council also added ideas on volcanic hazards and regional economic development against the harmful rumor related to

recent volcanic activities. The council had distributed hazard maps and leaflets on risk and advice of volcanic ash fall to all the participants. While inviting Dr. Watanabe, an advisor for Aso Geopark, and Mr. Ikeda, the deputy director at Kumamoto Local Meteorological Observatory as advisers, the workshop was followed by Q&A from the participants and became a great opportunity to understand activities of the earth and its bountiful blessings for the region, and share strategies among the community to take action together to live in the volcanic land sustainably.



✦ A deputy director, Ikeda from Kumamoto Local Meteorological Observatory explained relationship between climate and volcanic activity and gave advice for the community.



✦ Q&A from participants

✦ Participants observed volcanic ash and scoria sampled from the recent eruption at Nakadake crater.



✦ The director, Ikebe explained existing condition of Nakadake crater



## Geopark exchange knowledge and experiences

# San'in Kaigan Geopark delegation visit in Lesvos Geopark

LESVOS GLOBAL GEOPARK, GREECE

A Delegation consisting of University Professors and scientific staff of San'in Kaigan Global Geopark, Japan visited Lesvos Geopark, Greece and the Natural History Museum of the Lesvos Petrified Forest from 5th to 8th October 2014.

The delegation consisted of Assoc. Professor Tohru Sakiyama and Dr. Noritaka Matsubara, from the University of Hyogo, Ass. Professor Dr. Atsuko Niina, from the University of Tottori and Mr. Hiroshi Miyata Marketing Director of the San'in Kaigan Geopark. Aim of the visit was a comparative study between the two Geoparks in the fields of protection and maintenance, training, development cooperation, promotion, capacity building and development of tourism. The delegation during the visit held meetings with the Mayor of Lesvos, the President of the Local Council of Sigri, the President of Lesvos Chamber, the President of Travel Agents of Lesvos, the president of the Union of Hoteliers of Lesvos, the owner of Lesvos Scuba Oceanic Diving Centre, the environmental experts for bird watching activities. The delegation also visited the Department of Geography of the University of the Aegean and discussed possibilities of cooperation.



✦ The San'in Kaigan Global Geopark (Japan) delegation during its visit to Nisiopi Lesvos Petrified Forest Park in Lesvos Geopark

The delegation visited the Lesvos Petrified Forest, the Natural History Museum and Prof. Nickolas Zouros, Director of the Natural History Museum of the Lesvos Petrified Forest guided them through the important Geosites, the natural and geological monuments of Lesvos Geopark and the new Nisiopi marine park.

**During the visit, it was decided to strengthen the collaboration in the fields of:**

1. Presentation of the two Geoparks in their respective Museums of Natural History and translation in both languages of the relevant promotional material.
2. Exchange visits and know how

exchange in matters of mutual interest.  
3. Enhance the exchange of school visits.  
4. Promotion of scientific cooperation between the University of the Aegean and the Universities of Hyogo and Tottori.



✦ The San'in Kaigan Global Geopark (Japan) delegation meets the mayor of Lesvos Geopark

# Yandangshan Global Geopark visited EGN members

Qinfei Lu, Mt. Yandangshan Global Geopark, China

To further strengthen the communication and relationship with overseas GGN members, to improve and promote a good image of Mt. Yandangshan Global Geopark, during October 20th-29th in 2014, the Department of Land and Resources of Zhejiang Province and the delegation of Mt. Yandangshan Global Geopark, six people in total paid a visit to some EGN members of the English Riviera Global Geopark in UK, Cabo de Gata-Níjar Global Geopark in Spain and the Rokua Global Geopark in Finland.

During the visit, the delegation met Ms. Melanie Border in the English Riviera Geopark, Mr. Emilio Retawosa in the Cabo de Gata-Níjar Geopark, and Ms. Ritva Okkonen and Mr Mikko Miuttu in the Rokua Geopark respectively. They also had an experience sharing meeting and extensive exchanges in terms of geopark construction, geoheritage preservation, scientific research, science popularization, sustainable development, Geotourism, local community participation, etc. with the supervisors of these three global geoparks. The delegation also visited their representative geoheritage spots, museums, tourist centers, geological research routes, the local exclusive geological features as well as the interpretation systems of geopark. The exhibits of the tourist centers and the museums of these geoparks were of great sense of art and of interactivity, which provided the Mt. Yandangshan Global Geopark with a direction for action and a goal in respect of further carrying out popularization of science and community participation activities.

Lin Wanle, office director of Mt. Yandangshan Global Geopark management committee, gave a detailed introduction to these three global geoparks regarding the construction and development situations of Mt. Yandangshan Geopark, and expressed his willingness to further strengthen cooperation and exchanges with them, which can be beneficial for raising people's awareness of the English Riviera Geopark, Cabo de Gata-Níjar Geopark, the Rokua Geopark and Mt. Yandangshan Geopark, especially for the ethnic Chinese. Mt. Yandangshan Geopark also came to cooperative agreement with the Rokua Geopark in areas of tourism development, exchange of communication, education popularization, geological research, protection, cultural exchange and so on, promoting a long-term development of these two global geoparks in joint efforts.



## Itoigawa Geopark Academic Research Promotion Grant

Using a global geopark to encourage new research in the earth sciences

Itoigawa Global Geopark, Itoigawa, Japan

In 2014, the Itoigawa Global Geopark introduced a new program, the Itoigawa Geopark Academic Research Promotion Grant. This grant, offered to young researchers and students of universities and other academic facilities, is designed to encourage new research into earth sciences and related fields within the Itoigawa Global Geopark. A number of students and researchers have applied to the grant, which helps pay for transportation and accommodation expenses as well as other expenses

related to the research. The research topics include a range of topics from the strictly geological to research into geotourism potential and more. This is Itoigawa Global Geopark's first attempt at offering an academic grant. The Geopark Council will follow the researchers and their research closely and, if the research shows promise, the grant may become an annual program. By engaging the academic community directly, Global Geoparks may reap a number of benefits. Through grant programs like

this one, Global Geoparks have an excellent means of not only encouraging research into the earth sciences and conservation, but also developing a better understanding of the geopark itself and ways to work toward the important goal of continual improvement. As research papers become published, they can also introduce more and more researchers in a variety of fields to Global Geoparks, highlighting their value not only in conservation and geotourism, but also in academic research and education.

## Workshop on Mesoproterozoic stratigraphy Held in Shennongjia

Cheng Enhua and Chen Jinxin

Administration Bureau of the Shennongjia Global Geopark



✦ Workshop on Mesoproterozoic stratigraphy Held in Shennongjia

On October 20-22, 2014, the Workshop on Mesoproterozoic Stratigraphy was held in the Shennongjia Global Geopark in central China. This Workshop was hosted by National Commission on Stratigraphy of China (NCSC), with the collaboration of the Geological Society of Hubei Province (GSHB), Wuhan Center and Tianjin Center of China Geological Survey, and was organized by the Shennongjia Global

Geopark.

On October 20, about 35 experts took part in the workshop, focusing on Mesoproterozoic stratigraphic successions in the Shennongjia area. Mr. Wang Daxing, Director General of the Administration Bureau of the Shennongjia Global Geopark made a welcome address, and Mr. Wang Zejiu, Executive Deputy Director of NCSC gave a keynote speech. Dr. Li Huaikun of Tianjing Geological Survey Center, Mr. Qiu Yansheng, Senior Engineer of Hubei Institute of Geological Survey, and Dr. Deng Qi of Chengdu Geological Survey Center made presentations titled respectively “Progress of Research on ‘the System to be named’ of the Mesoproterozoic in Shennongjia Area”, “Progress of Research on the Macaoyuan Group in the Shennongjia Area”, and “Progress of Research on the Age and tectonic significance of the Macaoyuan Group and Shicaohe Formation on the Northern Margin of the Yangtze Craton”.

Field investigation was conducted on October 21 and 22 along the Highway No. 209 and the roads in the Shennongding Subarea and the Guanmenshan Subarea of the Shennongjia Global Geopark. Different sections of the Mesoproterozoic Shennongjia Group were observed. Hot discussions on the petrographic composition, structure and chronosequence of Shennongjia Group occurred frequently. The experts considered that the Mesoproterozoic stratigraphic sequence exposed in Shennongjia region are fairly complete. Preliminary study shows that they were formed during 1.1-1.5Ga. Further research on their stratigraphic sequence, sedimentary environment, sedimentary structures, and forming age is urgently needed. The stratigraphic succession exposed the Shennongjia area has the potential to become standard profiles of this period in China.

As the first workshop held in the Shennongjia Geopark since it joined in GGN, it is of great importance in the Geopark’s development history.

A long-term partnership has been established between the Shennongjia Global Geopark and NCSC, and a joint project of “Research on the Lithostratigraphic Sequence and Chronostratigraphic Framework of the Shennongjia Group” was proposed, which will have a total investment of RMB 3,500,000. This project will focus on establishing the chronostratigraphic framework and carry out research on lithostratigraphy, biostratigraphy, chemostratigraphy and event-stratigraphy, strengthening the research on key stratigraphic units and clarify the Pre-Cambrian stratigraphic sequence in the Shennongjia area.



→ Field investigation

## Itoigawa Global Geopark Hosts Geopark Certification Seminar

### Helping fellow Geoparks prepare for Geopark Certification and train future Evaluation Teams

Itoigawa Global Geopark, Itoigawa, Japan



→ Like an evaluation tour, the program began with a series of presentations



→ The seminar took representatives on the same tour as the GGN Bureau Evaluators

In late November, the Itoigawa Global Geopark hosted a two-day seminar for Geoparks and Aspiring Regions throughout Japan. Taking the form of a mock evaluation tour, this seminar took representatives from participating Geoparks through a recreation of Itoigawa Global Geopark’s most recent revalidation in 2013.

Representatives from Geoparks and Aspiring Regions from all across Japan gathered in Itoigawa in central Japan to participate. They met in the morning for a welcoming ceremony after which they dove right into the training seminar. The program followed the schedule of Itoigawa Global Geopark’s 2013 revalidation, including a number of presentations about the Geopark and the progress from its initial certification in 2009 and its revalidation in 2013.

Participants took the same tour prepared for the Evaluation Team. During this tour, Itoigawa Global Geopark Staff shared the comments, questions, and concerns raised by the Geopark Evaluators. The Geopark Model is expanding rapidly in Japan, with 35 National Geoparks, of which 7 are Global



→ Seminar participants learn about signage at the Kotakigawa Jade Gorge

Geoparks, and many more regions aspiring to become Geoparks. With many new and up-and-coming Geoparks, seminars like this one are vital to continue to improve the quality of Geoparks in Japan and to assure compliance with the high standards of both the Japanese Geoparks Network as well as the Global Geoparks Network. Participants also improved their abilities to look at Geoparks critically, improving the quality of Geopark Evaluations within Japan, and helping to foster new Global Geopark Network Evaluators. Through this we hope to continue our contributions and support to the GGN Bureau and our fellow Global Geoparks.



# New geological trails launched in Maestrazgo Cultural European & Global Geopark (Teruel, Spain)

Luis Alcalá  
Maestrazgo Cultural European & Global Geopark (Teruel, Spain)

Miravete de la Sierra is one of the 43 municipalities which constitute the Parque Cultural del Maestrazgo, i.e., the official institution that manages the Maestrazgo Cultural European & Global Geopark, according to the procedures of the Law 12/1997, de 3 de diciembre, de Parques Culturales de Aragón (published in the Boletín Oficial de Aragón n. 143, dated 12th December 1997). The landscape surrounding the village of Miravete is driven by the structure of an anticline composed

by Late Jurassic-Early Cretaceous marine and continental sediments. There are two dinosaur track sites in the close vicinity of Miravete's houses. Both sites were listed as Bien de Interés Cultural, Zona Paleontológica, by Gobierno de Aragón, the highest level of Heritage protection according to Spanish legislation. Footprints are attributed to sauropod and theropod (just a footprint) dinosaurs and the limestone layers which include them have been ascribed to Tithonian-

Berriasian Villar del Arzobispo Formation (Upper Jurassic-Lower Cretaceous). After research and preservation activities (conducted by palaeontologists and preparators of Dinópolis-Teruel/Museum of Palaeontology of Aragón), on-site information of the palaeontological features of Miravete 1 track site has been placed and officially promoted. Thus, its opening was celebrated during last European Geoparks Week, informative talks



Delegations of Longhushan and Miravete Geoparks met in Miravete

to local people were scheduled, and even an agreement between Longhushan Global Geopark and Maestrazgo Global Geopark was signed in Miravete. Other similar signposting were installed in the municipalities of Bordón (describing an anticline), Aguaviva (explaining the Bergantes river fluvial dynamics), Alcorisa (featuring a progressive angular unconformity), and Molinos (introducing geological setting).



The new trail and signposting launched in Miravete.



Informative talk dealing with dinosaurs and local palaeontological sites directed to the people of Miravete de la Sierra.



Research and preservation tasks developed in a dinosaur ichnite site in Miravete de la Sierra



New signposting installed in Alcorisa



# Jingpohu

will Host the 'Future Star'

## 2015 National Teenager Winter Sports Game

Chonghua Fu  
Jingpohu Administrative Committee

After the UNESCO revalidation, Jingpohu is going to host "Future Star" 2015 national teenager winter sports game" in mid February 2015, authorized by State Physical Culture Administration. It is co-sponsored by State Physical Culture Administration, Ministry of Education and the Central Committee of Communist Youth League. It will be jointly hosted by Winter Sport Management Center of the State General Administration of Sports, People's Government of Mudanjiang City, Sports Bureau of Heilongjiang Province and Jingpohu Administrative Committee. Students' teams from middle and primary schools, which are from 32 territories of the country, will attend this event. In 2014, the Jingpohu Administrative Committee and State Physical Culture Administration successfully

hosted national teenager winter camp for outdoor sports. The theme of 2015 sports game is "Welcome the Winter Olympic, Show our physical demeanor, Enjoy sunshine, Play with ice and snow", aiming at strengthening sports, science, cultural exchange among youth, so as to support Beijing and Zhangjiakou to

apply for hosting the Winter Olympic. We design many competition items in snow and ice environment, such as football, ice hockey, figure skating, hiking, dragon boat racing and snow barriers; some ice and snow entertainments are consist of the snow slide and ice slide, motorized snow circle, ice fishing, ice diving



✦ Dragon-boat Racing

and so on. Besides, we will arrange publicity activities about Olympic game, technology and science of sports and other culture exchanges. The host place, Jingpohu Global Geopark, is located about 80 km southwest of Mudanjiang City. There is a lake called Jingpo Lake in the geopark, covering an area of 79.3 km<sup>2</sup>. It usually freezes for 5 months because of the cold winter and its snow-cover can be as thick as 1.3m, therefore Jingpohu Geopark is an excellent place to hold winter sports activities. From 2012 to 2014, Jingpohu Geopark has been successfully hosting three sessions of Winter Tourism Festival and Winter Fishing Festival. The fourth Winter Tourism Festival and the winter fishing opening ceremony will take place on 27th, December, 2015, when the special tourism activities, such as ice-diving watching, rime seeing, and spa will be provided.



✦ Football



✦ Hiking



✦ Winter Fishing Opening Ceremony



✦ Ice Fishing

# The 1<sup>st</sup> Volcanic Hiking Race was held at Wudalianchi Global Geopark



Wudalianchi Global Geopark

✦ Riders drove into Laohei Volcano Scenic Area



✦ Group photo

✦ The top three winners

As a geopark located at the northernmost part of China, Wudalianchi attracted tourists by vast volcanic lava and white snow in Winter. On Dec. 6, the first volcanic hiking race was held at Laohei Volcano Scenic Area.

The first volcanic hiking race themed with beautiful Wudalianchi was jointly hosted by Wudalianchi Global Geopark and Northeast Website, and more than 50 riders from Harbin attended.

The hiking race is a new method

to promote Wudalianchi and increase its visibility. More and more tourists will come here to enjoy snow scenery and taste cold mineral spring through organizing activities, distributing free tickets and souvenirs.

## SHORT REPORT



### on the 6<sup>th</sup> Working Group on Geoparks Meeting at UNESCO

On January 9th 2015, 9 representatives of “Geoparks team” from GGN Bureau, APGN, EGN, IGCP and IUGS, 3 members of UNESCO Secretariat, and representatives of more than 40 countries were present the UNESCO 6th Working Group on Geoparks chaired again by the UK Ambassador Matthew Sudders and Lutz Möller of the German Nat Comm. from Germany.

#### The main issues agreed during the meeting are:

- A. The UNESCO Global Geoparks Council: the composition, the basic requirement of ordinary members, the term of office of ordinary members, the duties.
- B. The UNESCO Global Geoparks Bureau: the composition and duties.
- C. Evaluation Teams: their responsibility, a roster of evaluators, the requirement for field evaluators.

#### The WG agreed also on the items for the next meeting of the WG which will take place on February 24th

1. UNESCO Global Geoparks Statutes
2. UNESCO Global Geoparks Operational Guidelines
3. Partnership Agreement between UNESCO and GGN
4. UNESCO Global Geoparks Budget
5. Transition decision - Handling of the existing 111 Global Geoparks

All documents must be ready for the 2015 Spring Meeting of the UNESCO Executive Board to be submitted at the 2015 General Conference for approval.

This was one of the most important and most successive meetings of the Working group, and brought us much forward towards UNESCO Global Geoparks.



# The 13<sup>th</sup> European Geoparks Conference

Conference theme:  
Responsible Use of Natural and Cultural Heritage

✦ Taken by Markus Sirkka

Rokua Geopark has the honour of hosting the next European Geoparks Conference. The conference will be held in Finland at Rokua Geopark and in the city of Oulu from 3rd to 6th of September 2015. The conference is expected to attract more than 300 participants interested in Geoparks, tourism and sustainable development.

## Rokua Geopark

Rokua Geopark is located in Northern Finland, about 200 kilometres south of the Arctic Circle and is the northernmost Geopark in the world. The closest airport, the Oulu Airport, is situated less than an hour's drive

from the Geopark. The Geopark is also easily accessible by train or car. The Geopark's theme, Heritage of the Ice Age, reflects the territory's exceptional record of glacial deposits and landforms created during the last Ice Age. The underlying bedrock, which is up to 2.7 billion years old, includes some of the oldest rocks in Europe. Besides the geology the area has a significant cultural and biological heritage.

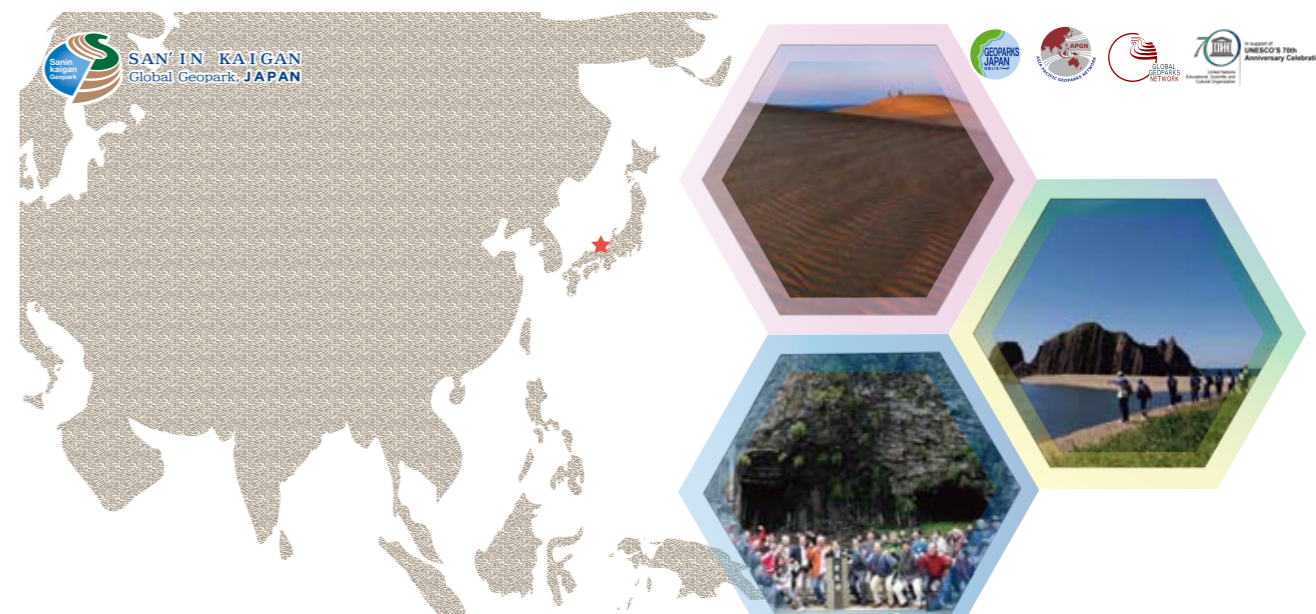
## Finland

Finland is a land of forests and lakes with four distinct seasons of the year. It is situated in Northern Europe bordering on Sweden to the west,

Norway to the north and Russia to the east. The capital city, Helsinki in Southern Finland, has an airport with numerous daily internal flights and international flights to Asia, Europe and North America. Finland is very sparsely populated, of the five million inhabitants more than one million people live in the area of the capital city Helsinki. The City of Oulu is the capital of northern Finland. The Oulu Region has over 200,000 inhabitants and it is the most rapidly growing region in Finland. Transport connections and times are direct and convenient, regardless of the means of transport or direction. All main roads meet in Oulu.

Conference registration opens February 1st 2015 at [www.egnconference2015.com](http://www.egnconference2015.com)

Warm Welcome to Finland!



The 4<sup>th</sup> Asia-Pacific Geoparks Network San'in Kaigan Symposium

# APGN 2015

San'in Kaigan Symposium



September 16 **Wed** – 20 **Sun**, 2015

Theme **Geoparks, Networking and Society**

Venue **Kyoto Prefecture (Kyotango City)  
Hyogo Prefecture (Toyooka City, Kami Town, Shin'onsen Town)  
Tottori Prefecture (Tottori City, Iwami Town)**



**[Hosts]** The 4th Asia-Pacific Geoparks Network San'in Kaigan Symposium Organizing Committee, Asia-Pacific Geoparks Network (APGN)

**[Supported By]** Global Geoparks Network (GGN), Japan Geoparks Network (JGN)

## APGN2015 Symposium Secretariat

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