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2017 ISSUE 2

NEWSLETTER

The International Year
of Sustainable Tourism
and Geoparks.

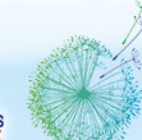
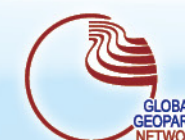


Mühlbach with the Hochkönig mountain range (2941 m)
of Ore of the Alps UGG, Austria © Horst Ibetsberger



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◆ Jeju Island UGG, Korea

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Huanggang Dabieshan Geopark Stimulates the Development of Local Communities

Huanggang Dabieshan National Geopark, China

On the 2015 Meeting for Global Geopark Candidates Recommendation, Huanggang Dabieshan National Geopark successfully became one of the two Chinese candidates, which both launched the application for the membership of UNESCO Global Geoparks in 2017. Characterized by the continental orogenic belt structure and granite mountain landscape, Huanggang Dabieshan Geopark boasts rich geosites, unique natural and culture heritage. Covering an area of 2625.54 square kilometers, Huanggang Dabieshan Geopark has a population of 9.3 million and is distributed in 452 villages of 23

townships.

In order to strengthen relationship between geopark and communities, and raise awareness of the need to protect the precious and unique geological and cultural heritage of the area, with the theme of Geopark Develops Local Community, focusing on geoscience education popularization, series of geo-education activities, including geoscientific education lectures, brochures delivery, contests were held by Administration Committee of Huanggang Dabieshan Geopark among local communities. After lectures concerning about the concept of UNESCO Global Geopark

and geo-science knowledge concerning with outstanding landscape and high scientific value were given, local residents were actively involved in, which helps enable local residents to understand about their hometown as well as to foster proud and love towards the region. Local residents declare that they will help to protect the nonrenewable natural and cultural heritages in their surrounding areas. At the end, all residents signed voluntarily on the banner--We look forward to become a member of UNESCO Global Geoparks.

Chunhua Xiao, who has been lived Shengrentang village in Luotian

county for 20 years, said that there are totally 175 households in her town, with the development of Huanggang Dabieshan Geopark, 120 among which including herself are directly involved in providing tourism-related services within the geopark, for example by providing accommodation or contributing to the tourism industry in another way.

Farmers Hongzhong Chen, age of 54, and Shouchong Wang, age of 71, from Yingshan county, said the changes are most noticeable in the improvement of the surrounding environment, including wider roads and better ecosystem. The wider roads have opened up infinite opportunities for local residents, as they can now sell their agricultural products to a much larger market with the development of better road facilities. The communities involved in Huanggang Dabieshan Geopark have been benefited immensely from the business that the Geopark has brought.

Huanggang Dabieshan Geopark has just received the field evaluation by UNESCO from 17th to 21st July, 2017. According to the regulation, the application and the report of the field evaluation will be discussed at the UNESCO Global Geoparks Council Meeting between September 16-17, 2017. And the decision of final endorsement will be officially released at the 204th meeting of the Executive Board of UNESCO in the spring of 2018.

Feng Li

Administration Committee of Huanggang Dabieshan National Geopark
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✦ Popularization in Jiuzihe Community



✦ Field mission in Yusansheng Square



✦ Group photo in Yangtze community



✦ Signature in desired banner



✦ Spiecemen interpretation



✦ Popularization in Guifeng Community



UNESCO Revalidates Xingwen UNESCO Global Geopark for the Third Time

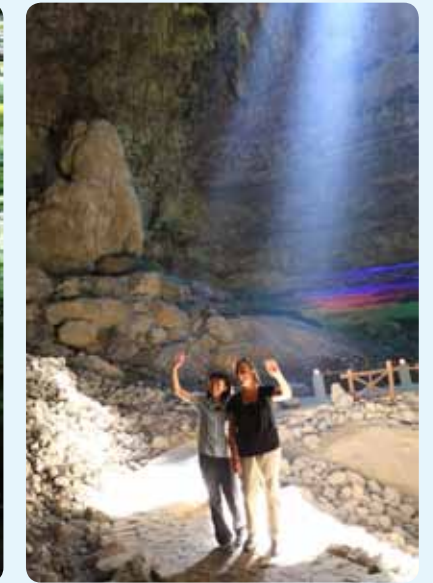
Xingwen UNESCO Global Geopark, China

On July 21-23, 2017, GGN evaluation expert team, composed of Ms. Alessia Amorfini from Italy and Ms. Hiroko Torigoe from Japan, revalidated Xingwen UNESCO Global Geopark in all aspects for the third time.

During the three-day revalidation, the two experts listened carefully to the report on work progress from 2013 to 2017 made by Xingwen UNESCO Global Geopark Administration and reviewed the relevant documents. In addition, they visited Xingwen UNESCO Global Geopark

Museum, Xiaoyanwan Scenic Area, Mount Bowang Scenic Area, the geoscience popularization school—Fu'an Primary School, cooperative partners—Shiju Gudi and Chunzheng Oil Mill, and discussed with the community residents in the Xiaoyanwan Scenic Area.

During the evaluation feedback meeting, evaluation experts fully affirmed the efforts of Xingwen UNESCO Global Geopark over the last four years and spoke highly of the efforts made by Xingwen UNESCO Global Geopark



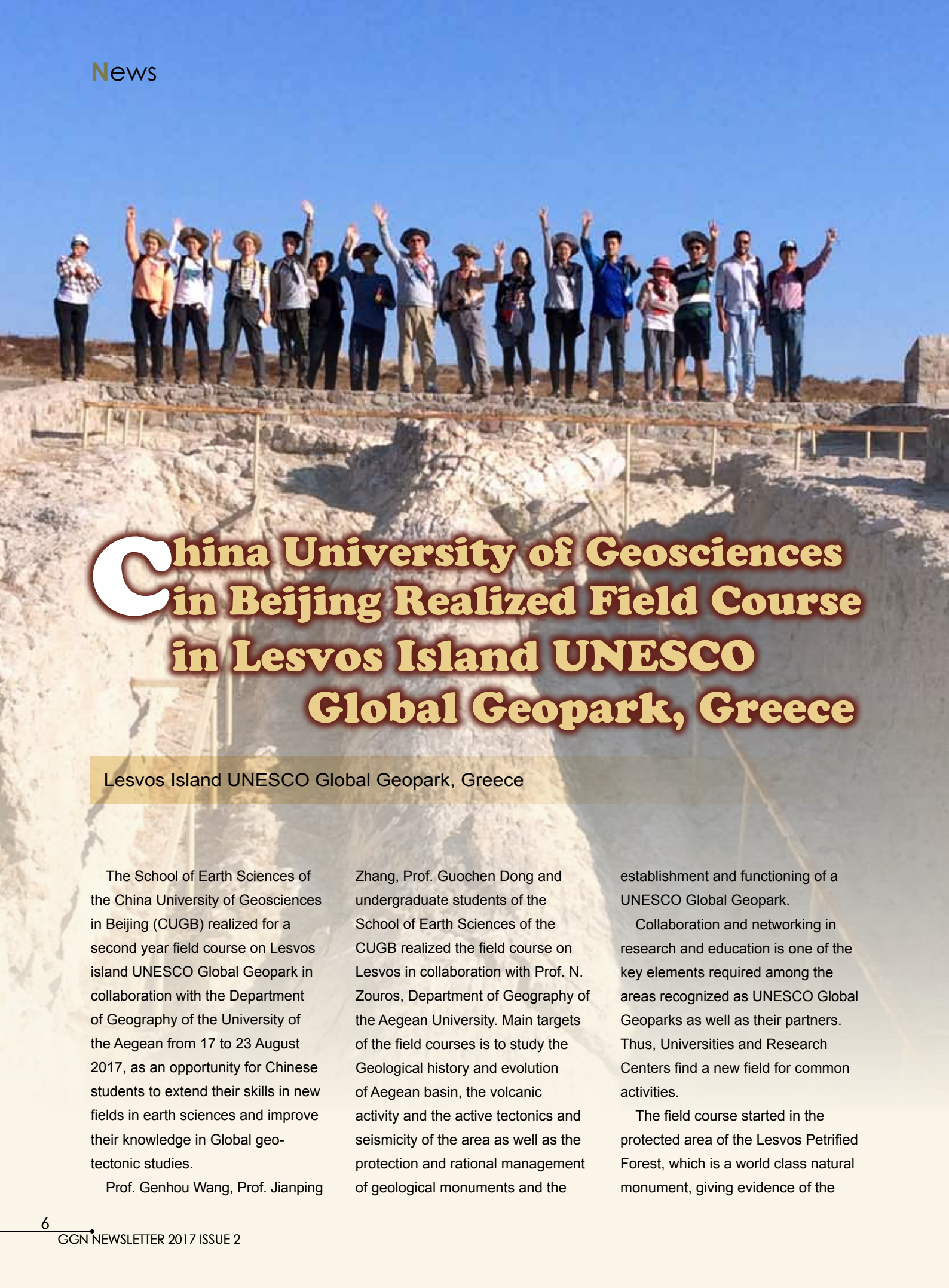
in geological relics conservation, construction management, scientific research, science popularization as well as community development promotion. In addition, the two experts gave detailed suggestions for improvement in terms of promoting garbage classification and the content of signboards, increasing the number of cooperative partners and strengthening the employee training of cooperative partners. Gang Tao, Director of Xingwen UNESCO Global Geopark Administration, said that continual improvements will be made in comply with requirements and suggestions of the two experts.

Yuemei Xu

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Xingwen UNESCO Global Geopark





China University of Geosciences in Beijing Realized Field Course in Lesvos Island UNESCO Global Geopark, Greece

Lesvos Island UNESCO Global Geopark, Greece

The School of Earth Sciences of the China University of Geosciences in Beijing (CUGB) realized for a second year field course on Lesvos island UNESCO Global Geopark in collaboration with the Department of Geography of the University of the Aegean from 17 to 23 August 2017, as an opportunity for Chinese students to extend their skills in new fields in earth sciences and improve their knowledge in Global geotectonic studies.

Prof. Genhou Wang, Prof. Jianping

Zhang, Prof. Guochen Dong and undergraduate students of the School of Earth Sciences of the CUGB realized the field course on Lesvos in collaboration with Prof. N. Zouros, Department of Geography of the Aegean University. Main targets of the field courses is to study the Geological history and evolution of Aegean basin, the volcanic activity and the active tectonics and seismicity of the area as well as the protection and rational management of geological monuments and the

establishment and functioning of a UNESCO Global Geopark.

Collaboration and networking in research and education is one of the key elements required among the areas recognized as UNESCO Global Geoparks as well as their partners. Thus, Universities and Research Centers find a new field for common activities.

The field course started in the protected area of the Lesvos Petrified Forest, which is a world class natural monument, giving evidence of the

geological evolution during the last 25 million years. The Natural History Museum of the Lesvos Petrified Forest, located in Sigri at the western most edge of Lesvos island provided an impressive exhibition of the paleontological excavation research finds as well as an overview of the geological evolution of the Aegean. The open air parks of the Petrified Forest give them the opportunity to study the results of the past climate changes and to admire unique standing fossil trees reaching 7 meters of more than 50 different species!

The students visited also the Nissiopi islet Petrified Forest Marine Park which includes fascinating concentrations of petrified trees found along the seashore and on the seabed. They visited the main fossil localities such as the impressive fossil cove on the west coast as well as the new excavation sites including up to 17 meter long giant Sequoia trees. Besides the dozens of impressive fossil sites of upright and downed trees, they also encountered the flora and fauna of the island with its 62 species of birds, mammals and invertebrates in the midst of intriguing volcanic, tectonic and coastal landforms. They were especially interested in the conservation and protection of the marine and coastal fossil sites as well as the holistic management of the natural resources of the Marine Park.

The field course also included field study on the geological history and evolution of Lesvos, the Miocene volcanoes of Lesvos island as well as the active faults and earthquake

hazard in the region.

The CUGB, China and the University of the Aegean, Greece have already launched a broad collaboration in research and education in Earth sciences and especially in Geoparks. In the frame of a memorandum of understanding signed in Lesvos in July 2015 among

the Universities, research projects on geoconservation and a common course on UNESCO Global Geoparks management were also launched.

Nickolas Zouros
Lesvos Island UNESCO Global Geopark





◆ Nowroz –e- Sayyad ceremony in Salakh village © Asghar Besharti



◆ Traditional music on Nowroz-e- Sayyad day, Salakh village © Mostafa Cheshmberah

Fisherman New Year: *a day for nature*

Qeshm Island UNESCO Global Geopark, Iran

Qeshm Island UNESCO Global Geopark, the first geopark in the Middle East with a total area of 2063 km² is located in south of Iran. This island is the intersection of important international maritime routes, and for this reason its culture is mixture of the most global cultures such as Persian, Arabian, African, Indian subcontinent, European, etc. Also, being an Island and remote from mainland have led to the formation of a unique culture in this region. The livelihood of the inhabitants of the island is dependent on the sea, which is seen in their culture and customs. Islander fishermen have their own calendar and 18th of July is beginning of fisherman's new year, known as Nowruz Sayyad in Persian (Nowruz= new day, sayyad= fisherman). Actually, this day is the first day of summer and coincided with the end of fisheries season. On this day, no fisherman catch any fish

or other aquatic organism and the locals don't eat any sea food. Based on the calendar, it is considered as a symbol of the recovery of aquatic life and they believed that it is necessary for continuation of life. The ceremony, involves various rituals, is held in Qeshm Island village annually and dates back to 600 years. People spend most of their time on beach during Nowruz Sayyad. One of the customs of this day is swimming at sea which symbolizes the removal of dirt and impurities. In local belief, swimming on this day makes it possible to stay safe for one year. Other customs of the ceremony include wearing new clothes and painting doors and windows by red natural soil of Hormuz Island. On the occasion of this day, Fisherman Nowrouz Festival has been held annually in collaboration with local authorities in Salakh village since 14 years ago. It is one of the continuing

Qeshm Island UGG activities. Music, traditional game, various shows, related to the customs of the day, are the main parts of the festival. Qeshm Island has various and valuable ecosystems such as coral reef and mangrove forests which local livelihood depends on them. Islander are aware of the importance of these natural resources and have always tried to preserve them and also gained valuable experience and knowledge about them. Reinforcing and using of these experience and traditional knowledge are our goals in Qeshm Island UGG. This is based on the fact that the natural resources remained intact so far is due to the efforts and tact of locals.

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◆ Swimming at the beach, Nowroz-e-Sayyad day © Asghar Besharati



◆ Shoshi ceremony related to Nowroz-e-Sayyad day © Asghar Besharati



◆ Traditional game on Nowroz-e-Sayyad day © Amin Ebrahimi



Trollpikken

Magma UNESCO Global Geopark, Norway



◆ Anna Omdal, Magma Geopark

The geopark location called "Trollpikken", which in Norwegian is "the Troll's penis", lies between Kjervall and Veshovda in Magma Geopark - Eigersund municipality. Trollpikken is one of the most famous rock formation in the Rogaland County together with other three: The Pullpit "Prekestolen", Kjerag (the rock) and The Troll's tongue "Trolltunga". All four are part of the Regional tourist system for the common strategic promotion of the geological heritage of Rogaland County. Trollpikken are considered to be the funniest of the four tourist "rock" attractions.

Geological history

About 110.000 to 10.000 years ago, most of Norway was covered by a large ice sheet up to several kilometers thick. At the end of the last Ice Age the ice retreated and advanced at different times. Melting water from the retreating glacier ran into existing cracks in the mountains. The pressure that is applied to a rock by the expanding freezing water into ice causes the rock to crack even more. When the ice sheet melted away the overlaying pressure earlier caused by the ice disappeared. This resulted in a release in pressure, which again facilitated even

more cracks to form. These two mechanisms, together with a bit of luck, lead to this special and unique rock formation called Trollpikken. The Trollpikken has been erect since the end of the last Ice Age – almost 10.000 years!

The damage

During the night of Saturday June 24th 2017, the rock formation fell victim to an act of vandalism. It was broken lose at its base with mechanical force and the use of tools. That same morning, the projecting stone boulder, with a weight of 12 tons, was found lying

intact right below its foundation.

The reconstruction, re-erection

To get the formation back in place, three holes were drilled into the block and the foundation. A 10 m high and 2.2 tons' framework was put up around the block to support the hoists. Subsequently, straps were attached around the stone and it was lifted into place. Three iron bars, each 4 m in length, were led through the holes in the block and into the base. In a final step the fracture zone was reinforced with a curing epoxy (glue).

The local people awareness of the Magma Geopark's geological heritage uniqueness, caused the immediate fundraiser campaign which was initiated to raise Trollpikken again. Quickly the target of 25.000 Euro was reached. On July 6th, a local construction firm started the restoration and around 17:00 o'clock the following day Trollpikken was re-erected once more - only 14 days after the vandalism!

The municipality together with the contractor and money from the fundraising has been invested almost 100.000 Euro in order to give back one of the symbol of the Magma Geopark's geological heritage to the community and to the tourist.

This represents one of the most important geological heritage reconstruction in the history of all Norway!

If Trollpikken wasn't known before, it certainly was known now! People came from near and far to get a glimpse of this proud and bristling Magma Geopark's location.

Sara Gentilini
Project Manager
Magma UNESCO Global Geopark



“Geotope of the Year 2017”
– the historical mine “Marie”
as special window into
Earth history of UNESCO
Global Geopark Bergstrasse-
Odenwald

Bergstrasse-Odenwald UNESCO Global Geopark, Germany

On September 17th 2017, an extraordinary window into the Earth history of the Geopark will be awarded as “Geotope of the Year”. After 15 years, this tradition has become a highly appreciated and successful promotional tool for the geological heritage of the territory. The historical lead and silver mining site “Marie” has been reconstructed by the “Historical Mining Association Odenwald” as visitor mine. The volunteer organization cares for the protection of the mining heritage, which goes back to Roman times, and initiates also scientific research. During the Geotope celebration, which starts at 2 pm, the visitors are invited to discover the usually hidden subsurface world of the mine as well as to experience the surrounding historical mining landscape together with the volunteer experts.

Information: www.geo-naturpark.de

Dr. Jutta Weber



Volunteer program in Rebolledo: Rebuilding a cattle passage on a geo-route

Las Loras UNESCO Global Geopark, Spain

Las Loras UNESCO Global Geopark, Spain

Last May, UNESCO ratified the inclusion of Las Loras in the UNESCO Global Geoparks Network. Las Loras Geopark (1.000km²) is located in Spain, to the north of Castilla and Leon Autonomous Community in the north of the Iberian Peninsula.

Firstly, Las Loras is a different

landscape. High limestone moors rise like enormous natural fortresses, closing the extensive Castilian plain towards the north. Among them deep river canyons make the territory a biodiversity Paradise.

From the Triassic red clays to the Upper Cretaceous limestones, Las Loras, and their exceptional

outcrops, tell us about the entire paleogeographic evolution of the western edge of the Basque-Cantabrian Basin throughout the Mesozoic.

Another characteristic that stands out in the Geopark is its exceptional paleontological heritage. Lower Jurassic and Upper Cretaceous

Marine fossils such as ammonites, bivalves, corals, rudists, etc. are found throughout the territory along with magnificent Cretaceous fossilized cycad trunks, dinosaurs bones and perfectly preserved leaves.

Caves, blind valleys, carbonated pavements, ruiniform landscapes and fields of perfectly preserved dolines extend along las Loras forming one of the best karst areas of the Iberian Peninsula.

This geological heritage is complemented by an extraordinary biodiversity. So, the variety of environments caused by the geological characteristics of the region give us a unique flora and fauna, especially birds and reptiles, adapted to each of these so contrasted environments.

There is a rich cultural heritage directly associated with the territory and its geology. Important vestiges of the Paleolithic and Neolithic, some of the best Celtiberian castros (forts) of the Iberian Peninsula, Roman settlements, beautiful

rock hermitages and the highest concentration of Romanesque monuments throughout Europe, which stand out for their extraordinary beauty, make the Geopark a magnificent outdoor museum.

Three broad lines of action are the strategic axes of the Geopark: a conservation and integral management of heritage program (A), a dissemination and scientific research program(B), and a sustainable social and economic development program (C), focused on the generation of new opportunities for entrepreneurship and employment based on the development of a quality ecotourism offer (geotourism).

The environmental volunteering that we have carried out in the last 5 years with the local population has been one of the most important work tools to value and protect our heritage. The elaboration of the inventory of places of interest of Las Loras Geopark has revealed the existence of many places with a high environmental value and,

in some cases, subject to certain threats. The integral management entails in these cases the attempt of the local population to be involved in the restoration and protection of the patrimony through programs of territory custody. In this way, we have verified that the results are much more effective and efficient in the medium and long term. In this 2017 Sustainable Tourism International year, the volunteering project continues with the inventory of sensitive sites and the development of custody programs in which a detailed description of conservation and management measures will be made. This year we will focus on the Tufa buildings (some with great tourist pressure) and peatlands (little described so far). The ultimate goal is to train the local population in environmental observation and research, providing them with simple tools that allow them to keep track of geosites.

Jose A. Sánchez and Karmah Salman
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Las Loras Geopark, Spain



◆ Volunteer program in Basconillos:
Signaling a geo-route to access a blind valley



◆ Volunteer program in Castrecías:
Recovering an old fountain and traditional laundry



Geopark Trail Set as a Model for other Geopark Trails

Jeju Island UNESCO Global Geopark, Korea

Jeju Island was designated as a UNESCO Global Geopark in 2010, the first in Korea to be designated as a Global Geopark. The whole island is the Geopark, and there are a total of 12 representative attractions on the island. Currently, four of the 12 geological sites have geotrails.

The Suwolbong Geopark Trail was first created in Jeju Island in 2011, along the coast of the Suwolbong Tuff Ring.



Suwolbong is one of numerous volcanic cones and craters in Jeju Island. However, the outcrops of the volcanic deposits exposed along the coastal cliffs to the south have outstanding scientific values. Suwolbong is part of a tuff ring that was deposited mainly by a unique pyroclastic process, called pyroclastic surge, which is a turbulent and swift flow of a mixture of tephra, volcanic gases and steam moving along the ground surface like a desert sandstorm. The continuous outcrops of the volcanic deposits along the coastal cliffs of Suwolbong are recognized as the best exposure of pyroclastic surge deposits in the world.

The course includes diverse ecological, historical and cultural elements of the Tuff Ring as well as the geological heritage such as the cross section, columnar joints, and volcanic bombs. Hardly was the trail known at the time of its creation in 2011. It, however, has been used



for geological field courses for a number of students. In recent years, an average of 300,000 people have visited this trail. There are currently twelve Geopark interpreters, consisting of local residents, who guide the visitors in the Suwolbong geosite.

The 7th Suwolbong Geopark Trail event was held from July 29 to August 11, 2017. During the event, the local residents participated in a



variety of activities. The women's association provided free lunches, and elementary school students also sang in chorus. Local residents also exhibited various traditional performances for visitors. During this period, most tour programs run by experts were fully booked within a day after the start of the reservation.

The Jeju Island Geopark Team is planning to expand the Geopark trails every year, and the geotrails contribute to wide publicity of the Geopark.



Zigong UGG

Continues to Convey Geoscience Knowledge to the Public in 2017

Zigong UNESCO Global Geopark, China

As it always does, Zigong UNESCO Global Geopark pays a great attention on scientific popularization. In 2017, Zigong UGG has organized a variety of activities to disseminate geoscientific knowledge and environmental and cultural concepts to different groups, such as children, undergraduates, local residents and so on.

1. Activities for children and the local residents

On April 21st 2017, Zigong UGG invited more than 60 students which from Jiangjie primary school to take part in the scientific activity of commemorating the 48th World Earth Day. By attending this activity, the pupils had learned lots of knowledge that they never got from the classroom, such as what is the Earth Day, different rocks on the earth, what is a Geopark, dinosaur fossils and the well salt in Zigong. And also, told them that people should try our best to

protect the earth, the environment and the resources.

On May 4th, some experts of Zigong UGG, who were good at paleontology and salt industry historiography, organized a scientific activity in zhujiamiao village. More than 30 local pupils and 20 villagers took part in this activity. By displaying dinosaur models, dinosaur fossils, modern animal bones, paleontologists helped the local people recognizing the dinosaurs





in different period such as the Jurassic period, the Cretaceous period; and also taught them some ways to distinguish a dinosaur fossils. By displaying salt samples and some other beautiful photos,

salt industry historians introduced some ideas about the history of salt industry development, the method of salt extracting and how important the salt to the human body was. At last, more than 80 books such as "The Adventure Journey in Zigong UGG", "100 Scientific Questions and Answers of Zigong UGG", and some other school supplies were presented as gifts.

2. Activities for undergraduates



On March 9th, Zigong UGG invited prof. Yves Girault, from French National Natural History Museum, to make a lecture titled "Development from the Natural Ideology to the Natural History Museum" to the sophomore and junior students from Sichuan University of Science & Engineering whose major is English. This lecture made the undergraduates got a general idea about how the French National Natural History Museum was established and developed. At the same time, it also broadened their horizons.

From May 22nd to 24th, 260 undergraduates who came from Sichuan Normal University, divided into three groups, arrived at Zigong UGG having an extracurricular practice. During the days in Zigong, they not only had a visit to the main scenic area such as the dinosaur museum, the well salt history museum and shenhai well of Zigong UGG, but also had some lectures about the dinosaur fossils, the well salt production, the history of Zigong, provided by the experts of Zigong



UGG. On June 7th, Zigong UGG signed a cooperation agreement with Sichuan University of Science & Engineering, and

became a practice base of Sichuan University of Science & Engineering formally. On the same day, 210 students of this college had an extracurricular practice in

Zigong UGG. **Lingling Wang**
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Zigong UNESCO Global Geopark



The Oldest Racing Race in Europe in the Madonie Park in Castelbuono (Sicily) Each Year

Madonie UNESCO Global Geopark, Italy

The international racing race is an athletic competition taking place every year on July 26th. The race starts and ends in the Margherita daisy square where there is 'The Church with battlements and clock tower and the old medieval prison'.

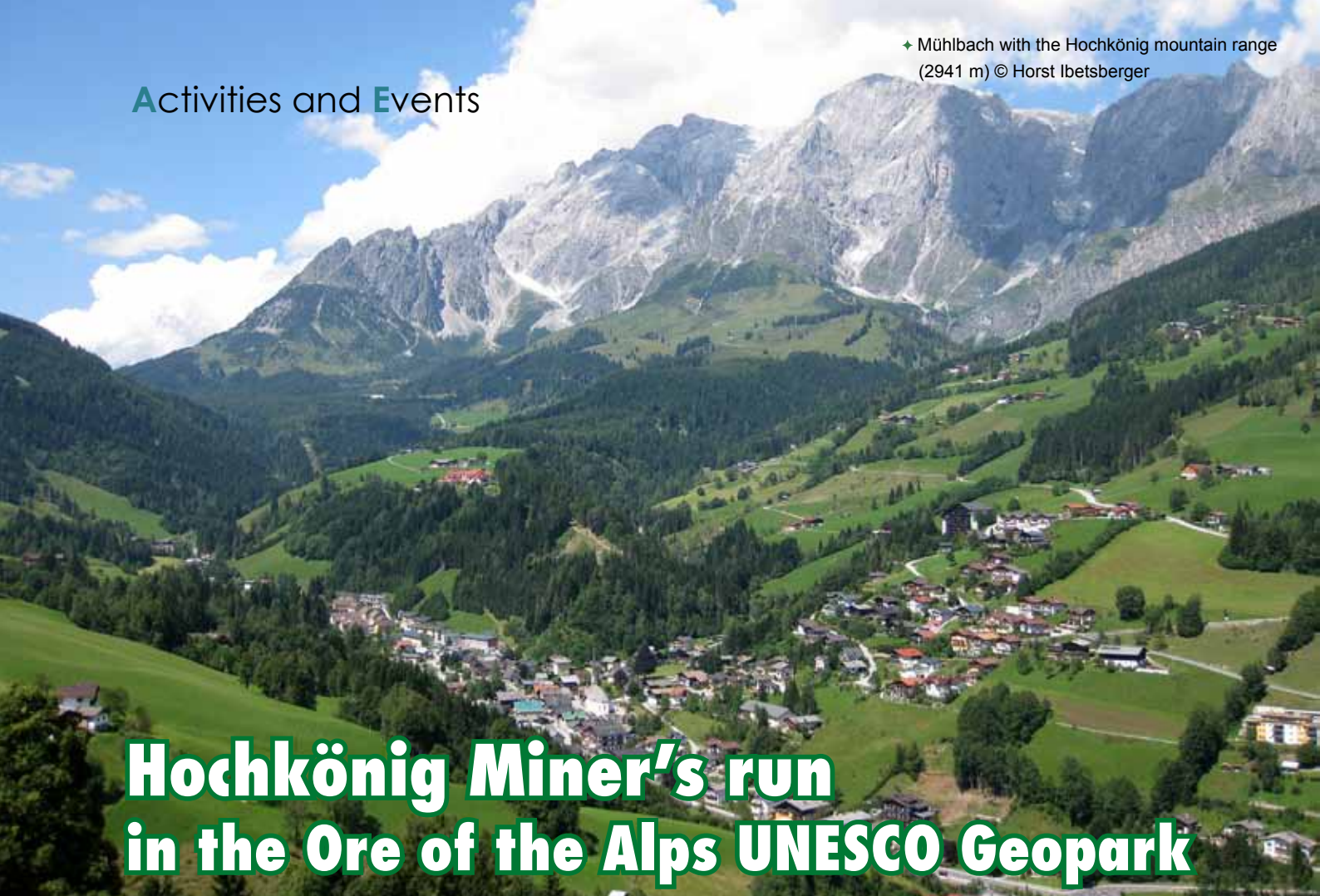
10 km along the ancient streets of Castelbuono run the athletes from all the world on the occasion of the Patron saint. This racing race is the oldest in Europe, the first edition dates back to July 27,1912.

Institution of Madonie Park
info@parcodellemadonie.it



◆ Racing race of Castelbuono © Sicilia Running

✦ Mühlbach with the Hochkönig mountain range (2941 m) © Horst Ibetsberger



Hochkönig Miner's run in the Ore of the Alps UNESCO Geopark

Ore of the Alps UNESCO Global Geopark, Austria

The Hochkönig miner's run (Kumpellauf) highlights again the past mining activities in Mühlbach / Hochkönig. The miner's run was a regular sporting event from the 1950s till the end of the mining operations in the late 1970s. Many miners from other mining regions, along with

top athletes from different countries participated in the competition on the foothills of the Hochkönig mountain range. The broader sense of the event was to encourage miners to make activities beside their strenuous work. Movement and sport helps clear your head and keep your

✦ F1: The trail leads through the Mühlbach public mine



✦ F2: The trail along the tracks of the former mine train

F1, F2, F3 © Erhard Plosky

✦ F3: A real trail run passes also through difficult terrain



body healthy and fit!

After a break of nearly 30 years, the miner's run was restarted in 2004. The running route passes through beautiful scenery with alpine meadows and shady forests, along the way the runners have to cross small creeks and run through 120 metres of the Mühlbach public mine, many spectators watch this race from the farmed alpine lodges beside the route.

The trail route is 26 kilometres long, with 800 metres of ascents and 1400 metres of descents, in 2017 more than 260 competitors took part, individual runners along with relay teams have a lot of fun together!

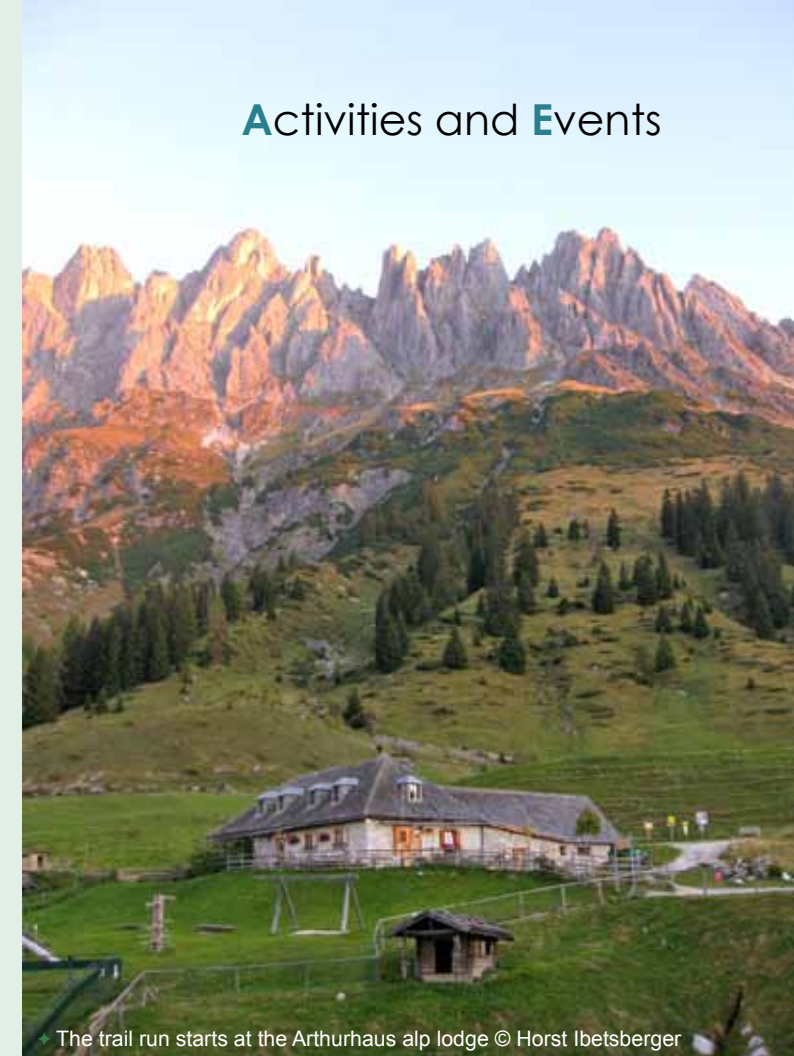
The miner's run is one of the most important summer sporting activities in the Ore of the Alps UNESCO Geopark.

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✦ The trail run starts at the Arthurhaus alp lodge © Horst Ibetsberger

The Activities was launched to Commemorate the 48th World Earth Day in Leiqiong UNESCO Global Geopark, China

To deepen the understanding of the relationship between human and the earth, and achieve the harmonious coexistence between human and nature, activities were held in Leiqiong UGG on April 22nd to commemorate the 48th World Earth Day, which attracted representatives from government, enterprises and research institutions.

At the opening ceremony, Committee for the Wellbeing of the Youth in the Department of Land



✦ The opening ceremony was launched in Lakeside square

and Resources of Guangdong presented popular science books for local students. Later, participants

expressed their willingness to protect the environment by signing their names on the poster and then

Activities and Events



Committee for the Wellbeing of the Youth in the Department of Land and Resources of Guangdong presented popular science books for local school students



Citizens participated in activities in environmental science popularization area



Participants signed on the poster



Participants took part in Lake-round hiking

joined in the lake-around hiking. In the museum, the park demonstrated the importance of caring the earth and protecting the environment by presenting photos about land and resource, geology, geomorphology and geological hazard. Besides, there were a series of further commemorations, including eco-tourism and LNT (Leave No Trace) outdoor teaching in Leiqiong UGG.

In the afternoon, the geopark invited Dr. Yue Guiming, an expert from National Satellite Meteorological Center to deliver a lecture in Guangdong Ocean University. His speech covered high energy particle detonation, space nuclear explosion, magnetic storm, and their harm as well as the procedures that space weather affects human activities,

giving participants a very lively lesson about space science. To add interest and encourage more students to get involved, we prepared an award-winning quiz for Guangdong Ocean University students, which enlivened the atmosphere.

In these activities of the Earth Day, the geopark worked to arouse people's awareness on caring for the earth and calling for the abstemious usage of natural resource and the conservation of local environment. We must attach great importance to the balance between tourism development and environmental conservation in park management.

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On the afternoon of April 22, lectures were held at the Academic Auditorium of the Marine Biology Museum in Guangdong Ocean University



Local school students actively participated in the Earth Day science knowledge quiz



Popularization Activities on World Earth Day in Lushan Global Geopark

Lushan UNESCO Global Geopark, China

On April 22nd, which is the 48th World Earth Day, Lushan UGG carried out a series of popularization activities with the theme of Utilizing resources economically and intensively, initiating green and simple life—telling the stories of our earth.

Based on the good previous cooperation with Fenggui Manor, Lushan UGG awarded the board titled Lushan UNESCO Global Geopark Scientific Popularization Base, meanwhile two parts

cooperated to hold nature education activities. Participants experienced the interesting stories about geology, history and culture in Lushan UGG through the activities like painting competition, planting trees and so on.

Scientific Popularization Lecture titled "Telling the stories of our earth" was held in Scientific Popularization Base of Fenggui Manor. Foreign teachers and experts from 7 countries (America, Canada, Romania, Bangladesh, Nepal, Nigeria, Ukraine) participated in the

lecture and listened to the stories of Lushan UGG. After the lecture, the managers, foreigners and experts had interactive discussions to enhance their understanding of Mt. Lushan and Global Geopark and participants also discussed how to promote the popularization of Lushan UGG.

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Cheongsong UNESCO Global Geopark Makes Harmony with Music

Cheongsong UNESCO Global Geopark, Korea

Cheongsong, which is located in the central eastern area of the Republic of Korea, is newly listed as one of the UNESCO Global Geoparks. The slogan of its town is 'Song of Nature, Cheongsong' which is taken from the second syllable of Cheongsong.

In order to raise the brand awareness of its town, one of the geopark guides got an idea of the word 'song', suggesting

a special project called 'Youth GeoMusic Camp', which was held in Cheongsong Cultural Center based on the theme of 'the four seasons' from July 31st to August 5th. It is a wonderful chance for the youth to learn music, explore the beautiful nature, and share what they have experienced with parents and the citizens of Cheongsong through music. Music has the power to attract people and gather people together.

The enthusiasm for education in Korea is really high and parents know the importance of music education as well. In summer, there are many different kinds of camps around

the country. However, few camps offer music education and tourism together. Cheongsong has great geosites already. Then, combining tourism with music education makes children and parents come and even draw their attention to the beautiful nature of Cheongsong. It makes this camp more competitive.

The collaboration during the camp is pretty important. The participants have the opportunity to make new friends and to be part of the team, creating music is also a very collaborative act, and the campers learn to be a part of the whole, creating something beautiful together.

This camp was also derived from the collaboration with Singing Tree which is the nonprofit organization of music education, Geopark Tour Guide Cooperative Association, Local Youth Center, and Cheongsong County. During the camp, the volunteers from the local residents participated in providing the students with food and snacks. This collaboration makes this event more meaningful and has given strong convictions for the positive role of GeoMusic Tourism.

2017 Youth GeoMusic Camp



◆ The students practicing the violins on the stage

them a big round of applause.

Music can be a wonderful partner of Cheongsong UNESCO Global Geopark.

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Cheongsong UNESCO Global Geopark – Korea, Republic of



◆ Having a special experience to make the white porcelain cups with friends

offered a wonderfully creative and fun atmosphere for the youth to explore the nature of Mt. Juwang and Baekseoktan with white rocks. Specially, all of the campers were amazed by the beauty of the flowerstones when they visited the flowerstone museum. On third day, the campers had a special experience to make white porcelain firsthand and got their works of art on the last day.

On the final concert day, the campers performed great music with the impressions they had in nature in front of the audiences. Everyone was deeply moved by the music and gave



◆ To be part of the orchestra, creating beautiful harmony



◆ Touring with the geopark tour guide at Mt. Juwang and Baekseoktan with white rocks



◆ Concert in Shennong Altar

Shennongjia UGG Hosts International Forest Music Festival

Shennongjia UNESCO Global Geopark, China

On July 26th – 30th, 2017, with the theme “caring about the growth of the children in remote mountain area, caring about the heritage of Shennongjia”, Shennongjia UNESCO Global Geopark hosts the 2nd International Forest Music Festival co-organized by the Culture and Sports Bureau of Shennongjia, the Education Bureau of Shennongjia, Shennongjia Enjoy English & Music Education Center and Shennongjia Red Cross Society.

During this music festival, one musical and five concerts were performed in Songbai Town, Hongping Town, Dajiuhe Town, Muyu Town and Shennongjia Airport respectively by invited



◆ Sending music to school



◆ Donations from enterprises



◆ Concert in Dajiuhe

musicians, a symphony orchestra, a women band, foreign teachers and volunteers from Wuhan and Yichang, etc., as well as a children’s choir consisting of foreign students and local kids.

Activities such as sending music to school, visiting poverty students’ homes, book donations and etc. were also conducted by the musicians, volunteers and choir members in local communities.

Shennongjia International Forest Music Festival aims to build an integrated education platform of English and music to improve the English level and musical accomplishment of the children in local community, broaden the vision of the children from both urban and rural areas through exchange and offer them fairer learning opportunities. And, on the other hand, by combining the appreciation of the scenery and the music, the festival tries to promote the public awareness of cherishing the natural heritage and protecting the environment.

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◆ Book donation activity



◆ Children's choir



◆ Children's choir



Community cast final rehearsals - In many ways for the participants and performers, the creative process, the process over time of making Earth Echoes, was as important, if not more important, than the thing that was being made. Within that journey, people changed. Confidence grew, layer by layer over time. Friendships were made, minds broadened, new knowledge gained.



Community cast rehearsal in the Spanish Barn, Torre Abbey.



Geology brought together a diverse group of people and organisations to enable the creation, development and performance of Earth Echoes.



"The rock connects us"

7th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks – The Legacy

English Riviera UNESCO Global Geopark, England

The English Riviera UNESCO Global Geopark is delighted to share the Earth Echoes film. This film documents the development of the incredible community-led opening ceremony of the 7th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks in Torquay, September 2016.

The film, found at www.englishrivierageopark.org.uk, is also accompanied by the Earth Echoes Learning Pack. This resource provides the script, music score, mp3's, as well as the project

evaluation report. The Earth Echoes Learning Pack is a wonderful legacy from the conference that allows access to best practise for those seeking to engage with local communities and volunteers around a common creative purpose. It will be of great benefit to organisations, around the world interested in replicating any type of community engagement activity.

Thanks in part to Arts Council funding and providing a key message that "the rock connects us", the community-led performance told

the story of the planet through all of the geological ages through to asking a fundamental question of today; what will we leave behind? The performance involved over 100 members of the local community, aged 8 to 80. Performers included students from South Devon College, the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, Doorstep and the Barbican Plymouth. The performance received a standing ovation from the international delegates who were truly enthralled.

Patrick McKeever, Chief of Section at the Global Earth Observation Section and as Secretary of the International Geoscience Programme UNESCO said "None of us knew what to expect from the opening ceremony of the conference. All we knew as it was a kind of musical. But as the performance started, we realised this was something much more. This was something deeply rooted in the local community. It was a celebration. It was a celebration of the people of the English Riviera UNESCO Global Geopark of their area, it was a celebration of the community of Geoparks. But, by the end, it was clear that this was a celebration of everything that has ever lived on this planet. Because across the amazing time-span of 4,600 million years, this performance was a celebration that is the rocks

which connect us today to everything that has shared this planet with us from the time life first appeared. And through our UNESCO Global Geoparks – the Earth echoes to us that it is the rocks which connect us."

Melanie Border, English Riviera Geopark Coordinator said "Sharing is inherent within the nature of all UNESCO Global Geoparks and a wealth of information, materials and resources were being compiled in the background as the performance was being developed, from the musical score and script, to the costumes and set. In addition to the short documentary film and Learning Pack an Earth Echoes Project Report provides the findings of an evaluation that took place from beginning to end assessing against the conference theme of 'Health and Wellbeing through Creative and Active

Engagement'. Thanks to the help and support of all partners involved this information has now been compiled and a full Learning Pack developed."

Nick Powe, chair of the English Riviera Geopark said: "The Earth Echoes opening ceremony, performed in front of a distinguished international UNESCO audience at the Riviera Conference Centre in September 2016, was another great example of local people coming together for a community-led project under the theme of the outstanding geological heritage found here. It is projects like this, committed to making a difference in the community, that maintain Torbay's position as a highly respected member of the Global Geoparks Network."

Melanie Border

English Riviera UNESCO Global Geopark Coordinator



Earth Echoes received a standing ovation from the audience of international delegates attending the conference.

The Earth Echoes film and Learning Pack is a wonderful legacy from the 7th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks for all to use.



Sustaining and Promoting Local Products in the Framework of the Beigua UNESCO Global Geopark Activities

Beigua UNESCO Global Geopark, Italy

Located in the north-western part of Italy, the Beigua UNESCO Global Geopark is the only Geopark recognized in the Liguria Region. It is a territory of outstanding importance not only because of geodiversity and biodiversity excellences and values but also because of the fascinating history and local traditional products. In the last years the Geopark Authority has developed several actions to support the local activities with a great attention for the rural areas. A special effort has been realized to build a strong and effective partnership with local entrepreneurs involved in the field of the agri-food production.

Many delicacies can be tasted in the Beigua Geopark, starting from the very ancient confectionery industry ("amaretti" of Sassello, over the world, the "crumiri" of Masone and "canestrelli" of Sambuco). The wide range of dairy products (milk, cheese and yogurt) is not to be missed, and so

are beef and sheep meat processed in many different ways, the colourful and tasty berries, chestnuts and all the fine dishes prepared with them, mushrooms, scented fruit jams, all the delicious honey varieties, which are valuable environmental indicators of the Geopark's territory... and much more!

To underline the connection between the Geopark's area and the local agri-food processing, promoting how the latter belongs to tradition and is linked to specific seasons, and

acknowledging its role in enriching local biodiversity, the Beigua Geopark has created the label "Naturally Tasty". The label is assigned to fresh or processed local products, coming from one of the Municipalities of the Beigua Geopark. Cheese, sausages, bakery and confectionery products, preserves, and all the other unique Beigua delicacies thus become representatives of biodiversity and keepers of ancient local traditions. The producers, on their side, together with the Geopark Authority, help to promote the natural, cultural and historical heritages of this area in all its manifold facets, including the culinary one. The label "Naturally Tasty" is assigned according to

specific regulation and the Geopark Authority manages periodical controls to targets of the guaranteed.

Maurizio Burlando
Director of Beigua UGG
Member of the UGG Council



Funiushan and Naturtejo UNESCO Global Geoparks Sign Cooperation Agreement

Funiushan UNESCO Global Geopark, China

A cooperation agreement between Funiushan (P.R. China) and Naturtejo (Portugal) UNESCO Global Geoparks was signed in Nanyang this July. At the administration bureau of Funiushan Geopark, Mr. Jun Li, the director of the Funiushan Geopark welcomed Mr. Carlos Neto de Carvalho, scientific coordinator of Naturtejo Geopark, together with some of his staffs and signed the agreement.

This cooperation agreement includes exchanges of know-how and networking between the two geoparks through technical visits and staff exchanges. The areas of cooperation include management

and landscape planning, education and public information, geological and nature conservation, and brand promotion. The first practical actions will start in 2018 with promotional cooperation in ITB International Tourism Fair at Berlin, the most important tourism fair in the world, and the participation in common events will be co-organized by both geoparks.

Mr. Carlos Neto de Carvalho had the opportunity to visit Yamun Historical Site in Neixiang County, declared as National Monument, and included in the proposed area of extension of the Funiushan UNESCO Global Geopark.



A good relationship in Lanzarote and Chinijo Islands UNESCO Global Geopark

—Specialized course "Lanzarote Planetary Guide" for Tourist Guides

Lanzarote and Chinijo Islands UNESCO Global Geopark, Spain

Lanzarote and Chinijo Islands UNESCO Global Geopark included the northernmost islands in the Canary Islands (Spain), separated from African continent by a belt of sea of about 100 km distance between the nearest points. One of the main objectives of the Geopark is the transfer of the knowledge obtained by the realization of scientific studies and research towards the population and the tourist sector, that has a great economic importance in our territory. An example of these studies and research is the development of very peculiar planetary studies.

No area on our planet is really like Mars, not even as it was in the

past. But it is possible to select certain areas on Earth that, because of their uniqueness and geological importance, can serve as models as natural laboratories for planetary exploration and research. Lanzarote is one of those places and for this reason it has been developing through a specific collaboration agreement with the Geosciences Institute (IGEO) for several years a series of studies on the search of places of scientific, geo-educational and geoturistic interest in Lanzarote as natural laboratories and for the exploration and investigation of Mars.

One of the activities that has taken place within the frame of

this agreement has been the first course for guides of the tourism sector, called "Planetary Guide of Lanzarote". The objective has been the identification of interested places and routes based on the analogy of Lanzarote with Mars. In that way is possible that these tourism professionals obtain more resources of knowledge when carrying out their work, thus achieving a step towards excellence in the destination.

This specialized course was taught by Professor Jesús Martínez-Frías, (IGEO) a scientist who is an international expert on meteorites and planetary geology. In addition, it had a great success of assistance

Training in Timanfaya National Park

on the part of the Guides of the Tourism Sector. It was carried out in a theoretical and training way about the planetary relevance of Lanzarote, explaining the main geological and astrobiological features that make the geopark of Lanzarote and Chinijo Islands an exceptional territory for

research and exploration of other planetary bodies (mainly, but not only, Mars).

The transfer of this knowledge and the research and actions that are being carried out towards the Guides of the Tourism Sector, will have a multiplier effect, since these,

in turn, will transfer it to the citizens emphasizing the importance of these themes in the Global context of the geopark.

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Family Picture



Training in Timanfaya National Park



Yuntaishan Global Geopark Museum Opens

Yuntaishan UNESCO Global Geopark, China

The new Yuntaishan Global Geopark museum which is located on the southeast side of the theme monument of Yuntaishan and is divided into three layers, opened on May 16, 2017. The construction area of the main building is 3328 square meters, its shape based on the Chinese character "mountain" and crustal movement, and consists of 11 exhibition halls based on 5 themes such as Meeting in Yuntaishan, Recognizing Yuntaishan, Understanding Yuntaishan, Exploring Yuntaishan and Booming Yuntaishan.

The museum is a brand of Yuntaishan UGG and it makes full

use of the pictures, texts, models, samples, medium, virtual reality and other diversified ways to display the Geopark's geomorphic evolution, geological features, typical geological



relics and regional culture for the visitors. As of the end of July, the museum had received more than 10,000 visitors from all over the world and has made a deep impression on

them.

The museum is also an important science popularization base of Yuntaishan UGG, not only has 156 boards, 328 pieces of specimens and other technical means to popularize geological science and protection knowledge to visitors, but also carry out the geological popular science activities on different levels. For example, for the primary school students, the science popularization work will focus on expanding horizons, learning natural knowledge, and enhancing the protection awareness. At present, science popularization activities

have been carried out for nearly 400 undergraduates, middle and primary school students.



Cooperation with Geopark Partners and Local Media in the Promotion of Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark

Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark, China

Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark (Hong Kong Geopark) adopted a new branding system,



3-D mural paintings at major entrances of the Geopark

which was required after the UNESCO formalization, to clearly indicate that Hong Kong Geopark is a UNESCO Global Geopark and a member of the Global Geoparks Network, Asia Pacific Geoparks Network and China Geoparks Network. This includes installation of UNESCO Global Geopark-themed road signs, visitor panels and 3-D mural paintings at the gateways and major transport hubs including Sai Kung, Sam Mun Tsai and Pak Tam Chung of the Hong Kong Geopark.

In parallel, to publicize the unique and diversified experiences Hong

Kong Geopark offers and to bring you the best of Hong Kong Geopark in geological, ecological, cultural and historical terms, a local media group has been commissioned to produce and distribute a geo-tourism magazine starting from July 2017.

Written in both Chinese and English, the new geo-tourism magazine covers Hong Kong Geopark's top sights, photo spots and must see attractions, local community activities and local products, geo-tour packages, guide maps, transportation and geopark-themed accommodation, which we



Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark New Road Sign



and the geopark communities jointly suggested. E-version of the magazine is available in Hong Kong Geopark's

website: http://www.geopark.gov.hk/en_s5d.htm
Do check it out before exploring

Hong Kong Geopark and its spectacular natural and cultural heritage!



The Tiberio Gorges are Accessible to Disabled with Motor Problems

In the Madonie Park in Italy – Sicily the gorges of Tiberio are the result of millennial and endless digging of the river Pollina into limestone rocks, forming the current canyon. This geological site is accessible to the disabled, with the use of a special wheelchair. The canyon is about 300 m

long and wind through the vegetation and limestone cliff towering over 20 m, it is navigable by rowing boats.

Information: www.parcodellemadonie.it

Institution of Madonie Park
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Staff of the service organization for the disabled ©Madonie a Passolento Associazione



Gorges of Tiberio ©Typical Sicily

International Intensive Course on Geoparks 2018

“UNESCO Global Geoparks and Geoheritage Management”

Lesvos Island UNESCO Global Geopark, Greece

The Intensive Course on Geoparks 2018 “UNESCO Global Geoparks and Geoheritage Management” will be held on Lesvos Island, Greece, from June 6th to 15th, 2018 at the premises of the Lesvos Geopark.

The Intensive Course on Geoparks is co-organized by UNESCO and the Global Geoparks Network as well as by the University of the Aegean - Department of Geography and the Natural History Museum of the Lesvos Petrified Forest in Lesvos island Greece.

It is a capacity building activity of Global Geoparks Network aiming training of Geopark managers and staff in UNESCO Global Geoparks management and activities building through sharing of best practice between existing Global Geoparks and aspiring geoparks.

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

New Global Geoparks and aspiring Geoparks are strongly encouraged to participate and gain experiences and best practice on Geopark building and aspiring.

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

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